

## >> GREETING FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello dear readers!

The first issue of the NMTL Newsletter received a very warm response, and we sincerely thank you for the huge amount of support.

The National Museum of Taiwan Literature is Taiwan's only national-level literature museum. Our work consists of the research, collection, exhibition, and promotion of the literary history of Taiwan, from its Austronesian origins, through the Spanish, Dutch, Koxinga, Qing, and Japanese colonial periods, up to the present day. We hope that through this newsletter, we can bring you the latest updates about NMTL and trends in Taiwan literary circles.

In our second issue, we are excited to introduce NMTL's base in Taipei – the Taiwan Literature Base, located in a Japanese-era complex of seven historic dwellings. TLB is currently searching for authors and translators to be

writers-in-residence, and we look forward to receiving your applications. Come experience this picturesque, secluded piece of history in the middle of a bustling metropolis!

In this issue, we also discuss the most prestigious annual award organized by NMTL – the Taiwan Literature Awards – as well as two of our current exhibitions: "Illness and Narratives - Illness and Healing in Taiwan Literature" and "Anatomy of a Rumor: Taiwan's Urban Legends". What's more, we've been promoting literature through a series of popular products inspired by literary figures of Taiwan. For instance, in the case of Lai Ho, the "Father of Taiwan Literature", we took the titular symbol of his 1925 work, *The Lever Scale*, and through a process of transcreation, created a special baseball bat.

We hope to tell more of Taiwan's stories through literature, and we hope you will follow along with us!

Director  
**Nikky Lin**

## >> ABOUT NMTL Taipei Branch

The National Museum of Taiwan Literature, located in the southern city of Taiwan, is the only national-level literature museum in Taiwan. There is also a branch in Taipei called the Taiwan Literature Base (TLB). The TLB opened in 2021, and is made up of seven historically preserved Japanese-style dwellings built between 1920 to 1940, which remain the most complete preserved Japanese housing complex in Taipei.

The TLB is a gathering place for writers, critics, publishers, and reading enthusiasts to harness their creative energy. Through various activities such as exhibitions, writers-in-residence programs, lectures, reading tours, and storytelling in local native languages, the TLB expands the definition of reading in all its forms. The TLB hopes to become a place of relaxation and communication, where everyone can interpret and experience literature in their own way,



and further make Taiwan literature a part of everyone's lives.

In addition to the TLB, NMTL will soon open another branch in Taipei, to serve as an international promotion and exchange center for Taiwan literature. In this space, audiences will be able to get closer to Taiwan literature and understand its

relationship with the world. Through exhibitions and performances of translated writings and the work and lectures of writers-and translators-in-residence, TLB strives to stimulate cross-cultural exchange and broaden the horizons of literature in all its forms.

## >> NEWS



### Literary World of Taiwan **The Taiwan Literature Awards Pay Tribute to Outstanding Literary Works of the Year**

by **Chao Ching-Hwa, Meiyang Jin**

NMTL has been hosting the Taiwan Literature Awards since 2005. With a total prize pool of up to NT\$3.7 million (approximately \$120,000 US dollars), this national literary award not only provides exposure for new literary talent, but also provides opportunities for many award-winning writers and works to be recognized in the international literary community.

[read more](#)



### Literature Exhibitions **New Exhibit "Illness and Narratives - Illness and Healing in Taiwan Literature"**

by **Huang Wei-Chih, Gregory Laslo**

NMTL recently opened its new exhibition, "Illness and Narratives - Illness and Healing in Taiwan Literature", showcasing the experiences of illness in Taiwan literature and helping audiences heal spiritually through literature. Illnesses are an unavoidable part of life, and diseases like COVID-19 change not just individual lives, but whole societies. Because of how closely intertwined illness is with human existence, writers have also made experiences with illness into a part of their creative works, prompting empathy for those suffering, and reflection on the significance of life.

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### Transcreation of Literature **From Textbooks to Literary Memes: NMTL Launches Fun Literary Products**

by **Chao Ching-Hwa, Meiyang Jin**

NMTL has launched two new literary products – baseball bats and laptop bags, combining practicality, knowledge, and fun, to promote Taiwan literature in 2023.

As society grows more diverse and the promotion of cultural equality takes center stage, NMTL has been trying various lively and innovative methods to engage with the public and make Taiwan literature more accessible.

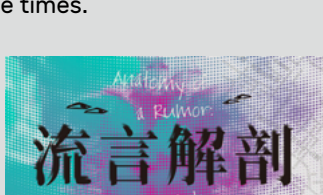
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## >> EVENTS

Literature Exhibition

### "Anatomy of a Rumor: Taiwan's Urban Legends" Literature Exhibition Now Open

NMTL's new exhibition is open until September 3rd at the TLB in Taipei. When urban legends are seen as creative works, they can be deconstructed and reassessed into entirely new forms. This exhibition showcases many reimagined creative works of the last ten years in Taiwan, which take the form of not just literary stories, but also board games, puzzles, and more, demonstrating how urban legends have changed with the times.

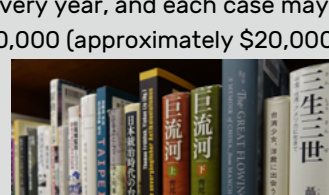


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Awards

### Biannual Grant for the Publication of Taiwanese Works in Translation: Maximum Grant of NT\$600k

The Grant for the Publication of Taiwanese Works in Translation is designed to help the domestic publishing industry expand into the international, non-Mandarin-speaking market and raise the visibility of Taiwan's culture. The Grant is aimed at original literary works from Taiwan that will be published abroad within two years. Applications are open in April and October every year, and each case may receive a grant of up to NT\$600,000 (approximately \$20,000 US dollars).



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### Researchers-in-Residence Program Applications from Researchers, Writers, Translators Welcome



In order to promote NMTL's collections and their application, the Museum operates the Researcher-in-Residence Program. This program is open to any researchers, writers, or translators who are focused on Taiwan literature or culture. NMTL offers resources such as access to cultural relics, literary collections, and designated personal workspaces, encouraging researchers to uncover and discover, and put forth more in-depth observations of cultural and historical materials. The Researcher-in-Residence Program is processed twice a year, with applications accepted in November and May.

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### Taiwan Internationally NMTL to Exhibit Taiwan's Indigenous Literature at Guam Museum



NMTL will hold an exhibition in this fall at the Guam Museum alongside the Taiwan-Guam Austronesian International Art Exhibition: "Sing With a Pen: The Heavenly Voices of Taiwan's Indigenous Literature". The exhibition revolves around the development of modern Austronesian literature in Taiwan, and introduces representative writers and works. NMTL has specially invited Bunun writer Salizyan Takisvilainan to give a speech, in the hopes of providing the public in Guam with a starting point to explore Taiwan literature and understand each other through literature.

[read more](#)

### Taiwan Around the World Wu Ming-Yi's *The Man with the Compound Eyes* Shortlisted for PEN Català Translation Award



The Catalan version of Wu Ming-yi's *The Man with the Compound Eyes*, translated by Professor Mireia Vargas Urpí of the Department of Translation and Interpreting and East Asian Studies at the University of Catalonia, has been shortlisted for PEN Català's Translation Award. This award, first issued in 2016, recognizes authors and professional translators who serve as cultural bridges. The award solicits literary translations from any country published in Catalan within the previous year; the best translated works are chosen after two initial selections.

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## >> BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



### Taiwan Literature in the 21st Century

Edited by Wu Chia-rong, Fan Ming-ju

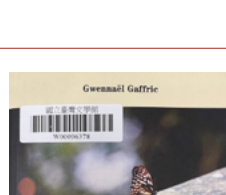
This anthology of research, Professor Wu Chia-rong (University of Canterbury) and Professor Fan Ming-ju (National Chengchi University), focuses on contemporary Taiwan literary figures, exploring the major trends and innovation in 21st century Taiwan literature. A wide range of topics is covered, including historical translation, human rights, social changes, science fiction, gender studies, localization, and globalization, with each chapter written by a prominent researcher of Taiwan literature. This cross-disciplinary, international collection falls under Taiwan studies, literature, and Asian studies.



### The Door to Indigenous Literature of Taiwan

Shimomura Sakujiro

This book, Shimomura Sakujiro's most complete study of Taiwan indigenous literature to date, is the culmination of 30 years of research. Since his 1992 translation of *Mountains of Sorrow - Selected Novels of Indigenous Writers* to fully grasp the background of their works and understand the cultural significance of their creations. It is hoped that through this book, readers will gain an understanding of the unique existence of Taiwan's indigenous peoples, comprehend the relationship between indigenous cultures, their self-conception, and their literary environments, and be inspired to explore new possibilities of coexistence through literature.



### Literature of the Anthropocene: An Ecocritical Study of the Works of Taiwanese Author Wu Ming-Yi

Gwennaél Gaffric

This monograph on Taiwanese author Wu Ming-yi's French scholar Gwennaél Gaffric explores the dialogue between Taiwan's literature and ecocriticism. Gaffric uses Wu Ming-yi's works and practice of writing to discuss on the nature of ecology and the Anthropocene Era, as well as the interaction between ecological issues and contemporary literature, approaching the issue from seven angles: nature, bridges, waters, land, species, disasters, and ecotopias. This book was originally published in French in 2019, and the Chinese edition was published at the end of 2022.

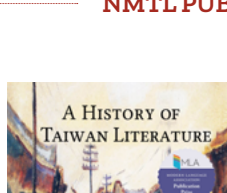
### NMTL PUBLICATIONS



### Formosana: Histoire de démocratie à Taiwan

Walis Nokan, Lay Chih-ying, Yang Chao, Wu, Hui, Lai Hsiang-yin, Chen Yu-suan, Chou Fen-fen, Huang Chong-kai, Wu Ming-yi

Edited by Gwennaél Gaffric  
Translated by Stéphane Corcuff, Gwennaél Gaffric, Coraline Jortay, Matthieu Kolatte, Damien Ligot, Lucie Modde, Emmanuelle Péchenart



### A History of Taiwan Literature

Ye Shitao

Translated by Christopher Lupke  
Winner of the MLA Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature



### The Soul of Jade Mountain

Hustlumana Vava

Translated by Terence Russell



### A Son of Taiwan: Stories of Government Atrocity

Wu Zhuoliu, Ye Shitao, Lay Chih-ying, Li Ang, Lee Yu, Walis Nokan

Edited by Howard Goldblatt, Sylvia Li-chun Lin  
Translated by Sylvia Li-chun Lin, Howard Goldblatt, Craig A. Smith



### Vzpomínky a sny na obratníku Raka

Tchung Wej-ke, Lü Che-zuo, Syman Rapongan, Walis Nokan, Jiang Cao, Li Ji, Cchiou Miao-fin, Luo I-fan, Wu Ming-i, Chuang Chong-kajaj

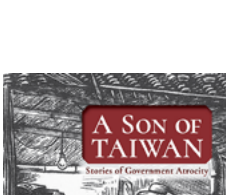
Translated by Pavlína Krámská, Jana Heřmanová, Jana Šimonová, Petr Janda, František Reismüller



### A Taiwanese Literature Reader

Loá Hó, Yang K'uei, Zhu Dianren, Long Yingzong, Wu Yong-fu, Wang Chang-hsiung

Edited by Nikky Lin  
Translated by Chris Wen-chao Li, Kyle Shernuk, Darryl Sterk, Edward Vickers



### 台湾文学ブックカフェ 1: 女性作家集

江鶯、章綠、ラムル、バカウヤン、盧慧心、平路、柯裕蓀、張亦純、陳雪

Edited by 吳佩珍、白水紀子、山口守  
Translated by 白水紀子



### 台湾文学ブックカフェ 2: 中篇小説集

邱常婷、吳定國、周芬伶

Edited by 吳佩珍、白水紀子、山口守  
Translated by 池上貞子



### 台湾文学ブックカフェ 3: 短篇小説集

陳思宏、鍾曼瑤、陳柏言、黃淑群、李桐豪、方清純、陳淑瑤、吳明益、ワリス、ノカン、川貝母、甘耀明

Edited by 吳佩珍、白水紀子、山口守  
Translated by 三須祐介

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## ABOUT NMTL

Founded in 2003, NMTL is Taiwan's first national-level museum dedicated to the literary arts. NMTL records, organizes and interprets Taiwan's literary heritage, from indigenous Austronesian cultures and the Dutch, Koxinga, Qing, and Japanese colonial periods, through to the present day.

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