GREETING FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear readers,

The year is coming to a close. It's the season for gratefulness, for reflecting on the past, and looking ahead to the future. Over the past year, as the world has come out of the pandemic and life has gradually returned to normal, we've been able to take off our masks and see each other's smiling faces. Streams of visitors have returned to NMTL as well, and for this, we would like to express our deepest gratitude. We are extremely grateful to all our friends who have supported the research, collections, exhibitions, and other literary activities of NMTL. It is thanks to you that we can make NMTL better every year!

In this edition of the NMTL Newsletter, we're bringing news of the Taiwan Literature Awards for Books, a very prestigious series of awards in Taiwan's literary circles, recognizing published literary works. This year, a total of 191 works were under consideration, and 8 won awards. Themes covered in this year's writings were highly diverse, with winning writers describing national history, family sagas, relationships with the land, social movements, and personal, inner worlds in penetrating prose, combining honest explorations of their own lives with keen observations on society and human nature. We hope that these exceptional creations can be appreciated by more people, both as original works and as material for the cultural industry, and even gain a global presence as world literature and be marketed internationally.

NMTL has always strived to reinterpret and experiment with the possibilities of literature in all its forms, so that literature can grow beyond the simple act of reading, to encompass an array of sensory and physical experiences. This year, with the support of the National Languages Development Act, NMTL has teamed up with poet Hung Hung (鴻鴻) to transform novels, poetry, and picture books into physical performances and experiences. The result is the "Literature-Dance Adaptation Project: Literature is in Your Veins," in which Hung Hung helps us interpret Taiwan literature through the media of dance and theater, and feel how literature can be written with not just the pen, but with the body as well.

Starting with this issue, every edition of the NMTL Newsletter will invite a writer to share recent developments in his or her life and creative process. This time, we've invited Berlin-based Kevin Chen. His recent novel, *Ghost Town* , has drawn quite a bit of attention, with 14 published editions to date and earning the annual million-NTD TLA Annual Golden Grand Laurel Award in 2020. The English translation also received many honors, and was listed among *Library Journal's* Best World Literature of 2022. Aside from English, *Ghost Town* has also been published in Greek, Polish, Thai, Korean, Japanese, Italian, Vietnamese, and French. The piece that Chen has contributed to this issue gives us a chance to learn more about the author of this critically acclaimed work.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone a warm and cheerful winter holiday and a happy New Year!

Director
Nikky Lin

NEW

Museum of Czech Literature Director Visits, Signs MOU with NMTL

by Chien Hung-Yi, Chen Yu-Chen, Melanie A. Leng

On October 16th, NMTL and the Museum of Czech Literature signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) at the Taiwan Literature Base. The MOU was signed by NMTL Director Nikky Lin and Museum of Czech Literature Director Zdeněk Freisleben with the goal of promoting further literary exchange between Taiwan and the Czech Republic.

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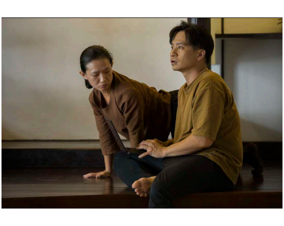

TLB Launches Literature-Dance Adaptation Project: Literature is in Your Veins

by Wen Hsi-Hsin, Gregory Laslo

NMTL and poet Hung Hung (鴻鴻) have teamed up to launch "Literature-Dance Adaptation Project: Literature is in Your Veins" at our Taipei location, the Taiwan Literature Base. Extending novels, poetry, and picture books into the realm of physical performance and experience invites us to explore the intimate relationship between literature and the body, and feel the appeal of literature in a whole new way. This project received an enthusiastic reception as soon as it was launched!

read more

Abundance in Literature —— Eight Works Receive 2023 Taiwan Literature Awards for Books

by Chao Ching-Hwa, Melanie A. Leng

The Taiwan Literature Awards (TLA) for Books, which has received much attention from readers of Taiwan literature, announced this year's winners on October 30th and held an awards ceremony on November 11th. From this year's total of 191 works, the seven-judge panel first shortlisted 30 works before selecting a final winner for the TLA Annual Golden Grand Laurel Award and a prize of NT$1 million (approximately $120,000 US dollars). Seven works were also selected for the TLA Golden Book Award, and three for the TLA New Bud Award.

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Writer Around the World

Traveling Far and Wide with My Stories

by Kevin Chen
Translated by Melanie A. Leng

Close my bank account, do the laundry, pack, go online and check-in for the flight—tomorrow I'll be leaving Iowa City, where I've lived for almost three months. I miss my home back in Berlin, but I can't go back yet; I have to go to Texas—three cities, four hotels, and five events. All of this is for my novel, *Ghost Town.*

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EVENTS

Shining Stars of Modernism – American and Taiwan Literature

Modernism is a series of trends in thought that appeared after the rise of urbanization and touches upon philosophy, art, and literature. This exhibition will be held from December to April, introducing works, publications, audiovisual artifacts, and manuscripts from authors familiar to readers in Taiwan, such as Fitzgerald, Faulkner, and Hemingway, alongside those of modernist writers of 1960s Taiwan. Visitors will be able to dive into the wildly experimental, subversive world of modernist literature through this multimedia exhibition of artifacts from abroad.

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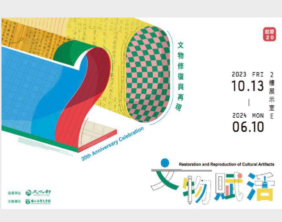
Special Exhibition Marking the 20th Anniversary Celebration: Restoration and Reproduction of Cultural Artifacts



NMTL hosts a collection of over 120,000 precious cultural artifacts, including manuscripts, calligraphy, paintings, art utensils, and other objects. This exhibition shows off how NMTL has carefully protected writers' painstaking labors over the past 20 years. The exhibition explains the entire history of the artifacts, starting with the stories of the writers and how their artifacts were acquired, through how science and technology were rigorously applied to preserve them, and finally how the lives of these cultural artifacts have been presented to the public – in digitized collections, games adapted from literature, experiences, products, and in other forms.

read more

Bonjour! French Picture Book Storytelling

Alliance Française de Taiwan's highly acclaimed picture book storytelling event is coming to TLB! This event will be conducted in French, with Mandarin interpretation available. Whether you like French picture books, are learning French, or want to see how French and Mandarin texts are translated, guests of all ages are welcome to enjoy this wonderful event on December 23rd. To celebrate the upcoming holidays, the event will also feature special Christmas surprises.

read more

2023 Youth-Elder Writer's Workshop "Encounters with Austronesia in Poetry and Song"

NMTL will be holding this creative writing workshop on December 2nd and 3rd at the Paiwan village in Taimali, Taitung. Elders from indigenous groups in Taiwan and Hawaii have been invited to share the meaning behind their land and poetry. Through listening and experiencing ancient Austronesian poetry and songs, cultural nourishment and inspiration can be passed on to a new generation of indigenous artists. This creative interaction between the youth and the elderly can deepen their sense of indigenous identity and encourage further innovation.

read more

New Entries in the LiFT Series: Books in Polish Released in November

In cooperation with Soochow University, NMTL launched its Polish Translation and Publishing Program in December of 2021. NMTL partnered with Polish publishing house Officyna for the first time, working for nearly two years to compile and release two translated works in Polish: *Tajwan na końcu języka* (A Taste of Taiwan: Selected Contemporary Novels of Taiwan) and *Przewodnik po historii literatury Tajwanu* (A Guide to Cultivating Well-Read Youth: A Taiwan Literary History Textbook). Alongside the release, writer Min-de Ang (洪明道) traveled to many universities in Poland as a literary ambassador to hold book lectures, poster exhibits, and book exhibitions. To purchase new copies of the translation, please contact the publisher, Officyna.

read more

Translated Works by Taiwan Writers Win International Awards

The autumn and winter of 2023 have seen Taiwan writers make glittering achievements on the world literary scene. Chang Kuei-hsing (張貴興) won the American Newman Prize for Chinese Literature, and Kevin Chen (陳思宏) received grant from the U.S. Department of State, allowing him to participate in the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa as a writer-in-residence. The English translation of his work, *Ghost Town*, which had been previously selected as one of *Library Journal's* Best World Literature of 2022, was longlisted for the American PEN Translation Prize 2023. The Catalan edition of Wu Ming-yi's (吳明益) " *The Man with the Compound Eyes* " translated by Mireia Vargas-Urpí, won the 2023 PEN Català Translation Award. In addition, the French version of Syaman Rapongan's *Les Yeux de l'océan* was a finalist for the Pierre-François Caillé Prize for Translation.

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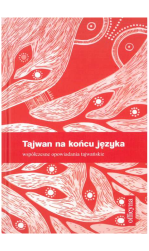
BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



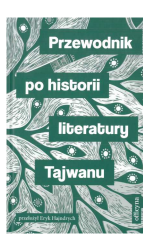
Tajwan na końcu języka

Lin Hai Ying, Julia Hsiao, Tzeng, Ching-Wen, Lin Erh-Lang, Li Ang, Huang Chong-Kai, Ming-de Ang

Edited by Maciej Gaca
Translated by Hanna Gau, Katarzyna Proctor, Katarzyna Sarek, Maciej Szatkowski

This book has been co-published by NMTL and the Polish publisher Officyna. The selected works focus on the themes of food, culture, and urban space in post-WWII Taiwan. The life experiences of various social circles highlight the diversity of Taiwan as a subject matter and the complex realities of the lives of different groups and societies. The cover features the artwork *Me and You* by Etan Pavavalung, a Paiwan artist from Taiwan.

For more information



Przewodnik po historii literatury Tajwanu

Translated by Eryk Hajndrych

This book is an extension of NMTL's permanent exhibition "The Power of Literature: Writing Our Taiwan," and the achievements in literary history research made by NMTL's Virtual Museum of Taiwan Literature. It presents an overview of the various stages of Taiwan's literary development, spanning several centuries, from indigenous oral tradition to the newest generation of Taiwan literature. Written in an easy-to-understand style, it is the best entry-level textbook for understanding the history of Taiwan literature.

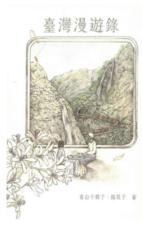
For more information

Můj Mravenčí otec

Hsieh Kai-Te (謝凱特)
Translated by František Reismüller

This is the Polish translation of writer Hsieh Kai-te's memoir, *His Gay Son* (我的蟻人父親). With gentle, delicate wording, Hsieh probes into his pursuit and naming of emotions felt throughout his life, as well as his complex feelings towards family and kinship. In this biography of personal growth, Hsieh strives for a sense of balance and stability amidst the paradoxes and coexistence of love and pain.

For more information



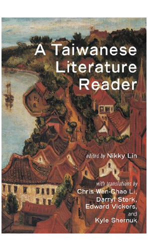
台湾漫遊鉄道のふたり

Yang Shuang-Tsu (楊双子)
Translated by Miura Yuko

This is the Japanese translation of *Taiwan Travel Chronicles* (臺灣漫遊錄). Set in 1938–39, author Chizuko Aoyama from Kyushu, Japan travels to Taiwan to deliver talks and conduct interviews. Accompanied by interpreter Wang Chizuru, the two travel along Taiwan's main railway line, exploring local street markets, tasting delicious cuisine, and experiencing everyday culture in Taiwan. The ambiguous relationship between the two mirrors the inevitably unequal dynamic between the colonizer and the colonized.

For more information

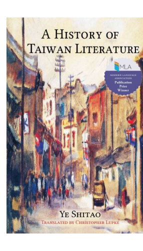
NMTL PUBLICATIONS



A Taiwanese Literature Reader

Loā Hô、Yang K'uei、Zhu Dianren、Long Yingzong、Wu Yong-fu、Wang Chang-hsiung

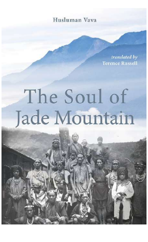
Edited by Nikky Lin
Translated by Chris Wen-Chao Li, Kyle Shernuk, Darryl Sterk, Edward Vickers



A History of Taiwan Literature

Ye Shitao

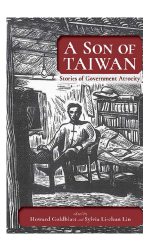
Translated by Christopher Lupke



The Soul of Jade Mountain

Husluman Vava

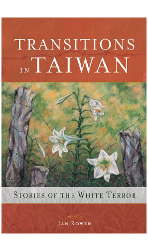
Translated by Terence Russell



A Son of Taiwan: Stories of Government Atrocity

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

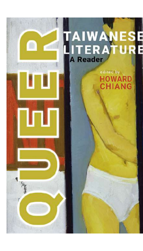
Edited by Howard Goldblatt, Sylvia Li-chun Lin
Translated by Sylvia Li-chun Lin , Howard Goldblatt, Craig A. Smith, Darryl Sterk, Jewel Lo, Dafydd Fell, Chris Wen-chao Li, Edward Vickers



Transitions in Taiwan: Stories of the White Terror

Chu Tien-hsin、Huang Chun-ming、Sung Tse-lai、Huang Chong-kai、Li Ang、Wu Chin-fa、Wu He

Edited by Ian Rowen
Translated by Sylvia Li-chun Lin, Howard Goldblatt, Ian Rowen, Brian Skerratt, Chris Wen-chao Li, Terence Russell



Queer Taiwanese Literature: A Reader

Li Ang、Tsao Li-chuan、Ta-wei Chi、Dadelavan Ibau、Hsu Yu-chen、Lin Yu-hsuan、Chen Xue

Edited by Howard Chiang
Translated by Yichun Liu, Jamie Tse, Yahia Zhengtang Ma, Kyle Shernuk, Howard Chiang, Shengchi Hsu, Wen-chi Li, Colin Bramwell

台湾文学ブックカフェ１：女性作家集　蝶のしるし

江鵝、章緣、ラムル・パカウヤン、盧慧心、平路、柯裕棻、張亦絢、陳雪

dited by 呉佩珍、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　バナナの木殺し

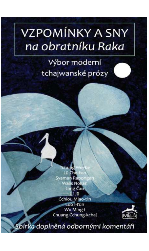
邱常婷、王定国、周芬伶

Edited by 呉佩珍、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　プールサイド

陳思宏、鍾旻瑞、陳柏言、黃麗群、李桐豪、方清純、陳淑瑤、呉明益、ワリス・ノカン、川貝母、甘耀明

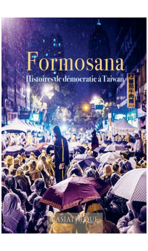
Edited by 呉佩珍、白水紀子、山口守
Translated by 三須祐介



Vzpomínky a sny na obratníku Raka

Tchung Wej-ke, Lü Che-žuo, Syaman Rapongan, Walis Nokan, Jang Čao, Li Jü, Čchiou Miao-ťin, Luo I-ťün, Wu Ming-i, Chuang Čchung-kchaj

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



Formosana: Histoires de démocratie à Taiwan

Walis Nokan、Lay Chih-ying、Yang Chao、Wuhe、Lai Hsiang-yin、Chen Yu-hsuan、Chou Fen-ling、Huang Chong-kai、Wu Ming-yi

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

Von Wahrsagern und Technofrauen: Erzählungen zeitgenössischer Autorinnen aus Taiwan

Chen Youjin、Huang Liqu、Ke Yufen、Lai Xiangyi、Lin Xinhui、Qiu Changting、Zhang Yixuan、Zhong Wenyi

Edited by Hsu An-Nie
Translated by Marc Hermann, Brigitte Höhenrieder und Hans Peter Hoffmann

Warten auf den Zug

Cheng Ying-shu

Edited by Hans Peter Hoffmann
und Brigitte Höhenrieder
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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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