

Beijing Forum 2019

Contributing and Melding: The Dissemination of Sinitic Civilization (III)

On the afternoon of November 2nd, the panel session “Contributing and Melding: The Dissemination of Sinitic Civilization” held its fourth session at the Grand Hall, Stanford Center, Peking University. Three speakers gave speeches on the topic “Contributing and Melding: The Dissemination of Sinitic Civilization”. Professor Cheng Zhangcan from Nanjing University chaired the presentation.

Professor Kim Soo-Youn from Ewha Womans University started the first session with her academic report “The Formation of the Commercial Standard Novel Journey to the West in East Asia”. She introduced the basic situation of Xingshiyan型世言: in China, it was lost but inherited in Korea. Then, she introduced the shape of Kui Zhang Ge pavilion and its original shape. She also mentioned signets, signatures, and comments on pages and their owners in her research.

Professor Chen Jie from University of Tokyo started the second session with his academic report “A Brief Discussion on the Research of Natural History of Edo Period and Nomenclature of the Book of Songs”. As the earliest collection of poetry in China, the Book of Songs has always been a basic textbook for beginners in traditional Chinese education. Professor Chen Jie reviewed the history of the nomenclature of the Book of Songs, especially during Edo period, not only the written version, but also the pictures. In conclusion, after the middle period of the Edo period, the genealogy of the nomenclature of the Book of Songs was gradually formed. The nomenclature of the Book of Songs was disseminated by private education and public exhibitions, and eliminated the study of Confucian classics.

Professor Pan Jianguo from Peking University started the final session with his academic report “The Dissemination of Chinese Classical Novel Journey to the West in East Asia”. Xuan Zang's story has been quoted and written about in many early Japanese classics, providing a rich theme for Japanese classical literature and art. Professor Pan introduced the spread and evolution of Xuan Zang's story in Japan. He also concluded that Japanese monks who came to Song dynasty, Buddhist believers and businessmen of the Song dynasty were the three main routes of transmission.