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# Permanent Exhibit of The Li Ang Archive (李昂文藏館)

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Exhibition Banner—Li Ang Archive

On February 25, 2019, the Li Ang Archive exhibit officially opened at the National Chung Hsing University in Taiwan. The exhibit is permanently located on the fifth floor of the university library. The renowned Taiwanese architect C.Y. Lee designed the exhibit space. Following the opening ceremony speech given by the president of the university, Fuh-Sheng Shieu, Li Ang herself introduced the collection and the idea behind the exhibit. The exhibit includes a collection of Li Ang's manuscripts, published books including various translations of her works, her literary accomplishments from France's Minister of French Culture and Communication, memorabilia from other countries, important documents from her writing career, and family treasures from Li Ang's household. Later that same day, professor Fujii

Shozo from University of Tokyo delivered a speech, entitled "Li Ang's Literary Works in Japan," describing the significant impact of Li's works in current Japanese academia. Many distinguished scholars, including her sister, Shih Shu-ching, another famous Taiwanese writer, attended this event.



The Girl Shrine

The exhibit features three unique displays, the Girl Shrine (姑娘廟), Li's family treasures, and the Virtual Reality (VR) environment. The first display, the Girl Shrine (see left), provides an interesting way for the visitors to interact with Li's works. Its purpose is to allow people to discover their romantic fortunes. In front of the altar, there is a wooden chest containing sixty fortune slips (愛情靈籤). Each slip is an excerpt from one of Li's literary works and is accompanied by an interpretation of the excerpt.

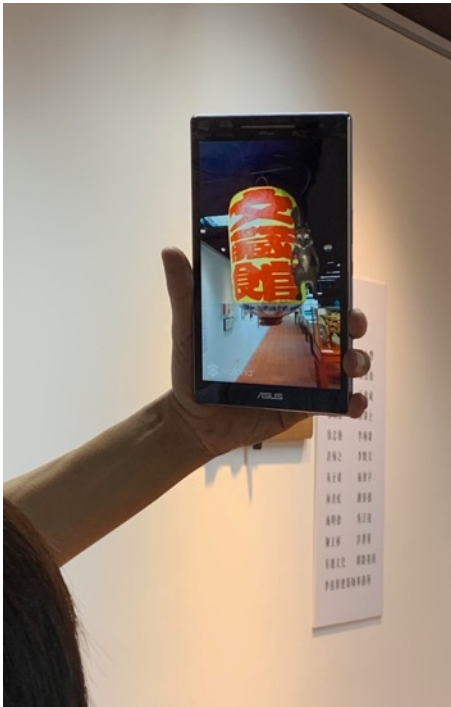
The second display, that of Li's family treasures, tells the story of her family history, especially the red cedar bed. The cedar bed (see right), designed and hand-made by Li's father, is a mixture of both Chinese and Japanese styles. The bed has many secret compartments for games and the jewelry drawers under the bed play music. Li and her sisters were all born on this bed, and all three sisters have established their places in Taiwan's literary circles. The third display, the VR environment, is where literature meets technology. Each piece shown in the exhibit is embedded with



Red Cedar Bed

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technology. Visitors can download an app to experience the interactive tour of the exhibit. Holding up a smart phone aimed at a displayed item triggers an animated figure to appear in the app and explain the history of the object to visitors. Through the narration of the animated figure, the inanimate object's hidden information is revealed, and visitors are able to understand more about Li's creating process and her unique writing style. With the help of advanced Augmented Reality and VR technologies, Li's written words also come to life in a VR environment of various scenes from Li's famous novel, *Lost Garden*, where visitors can an experience of visual representations of Li's words as they are read aloud.



The VR environment was a collaboration between Professor Kuei-Fen Chiu from the Graduate Institute of Taiwan Literature and Transnational Cultural Studies, Professor Ming-Der Yang from the Department of Civil Engineering, Professor Shuen-shing Lee from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, and Li Ang.

Professor Chiu believes that Taiwanese literature is a significant part of Taiwanese culture, and the way it is passed down should not be limited only to preservation and display in a traditional setting. She quotes the French philosopher Jacques Derrida, saying “it means not simply accepting this heritage but relaunching it otherwise and keeping it alive.” An indigenous writer of Taiwan, Neqou-Sokluman, also says that, “[w]e need to continue to tell our stories...however, [we] must find a more creative way to tell stories and find a new representation to re-launch our stories in this new era.” Professor Chiu thinks that this exhibit tells the story of Li Ang, but the way of the telling is very different from the traditional biographical and documentary films. This exhibit is a maker space for interdisciplinary studies. The representations of literature in the future will be very different. It will be three-dimensional, interactive, with sounds and images. Professor Chiu hopes that experiments exploring new representations of literature will take place in this space.



Li Ang Manuscripts



Family Treasures

Information for this article is gathered from news reports from National Chung Hsing University, Research Center for Humanities and Social Science,  
<http://rchss.nchu.edu.tw/2019/03/vr.html>

And an article written by Professor Kuei-Fen Chiu, “Exhibit of The Li Ang Archive: Exploring The Future Representations of Literature.”

<https://ent.ltn.com.tw/news/paper/1269587>



Li Ang and Min-Min Liang