



The bookshop at the heart of the Lu Xun-Uchiyama friendship is in Hongkou District. — Yang Jian



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I hope this bookstore will become a new bridge of communication between the people of our two countries.

**Zhou Lingfei, 69**

Chairman of the Lu Xun Cultural Foundation

## ENDURING FRIENDS: a famed Chinese author, a Japanese bookseller

**Yang Jian**

**Z**hou Lingfei sits in a chair in the newly reopened Uchiyama Bookstore, transported back to the 1920s and 30s when his grandfather, the celebrated writer Lu Xun (1881-1936), often came there to visit Kanzo Uchiyama (1885-1959), the Japanese owner and close friend.

Some artifacts displayed in the Hongkou District shop are familiar to Zhou. There is a wooden ladder that was a childhood toy of his father Zhou Haiying, Lu's only son, and a Japanese doll of the legendary folk hero Kintaro given to Haiying by Uchiyama.

"The decades-old dream of my family has finally come true," said Zhou, 69, chairman of the Lu Xun Cultural Foundation. "This is a fitting way to

commemorate the friendship between Lu Xun and Uchiyama."

Lu Xun, born Zhou Shuren in 1881, was a left-wing novelist, essayist, poet and literary critic. His short story "Diary of a Madman," published in 1918, was the first work written in vernacular Chinese and became a cornerstone of the New Culture Movement.

"The True Story of Ah Q," a serial novella published in 1921 and 1922, is considered a masterpiece of Chinese literature. Chairman Mao Zedong called Lu the "the saint of modern China."

Three days after moving to Shanghai in 1927, Lu, who studied medicine in Japan in 1902, visited the Uchiyama Bookstore near his home in Hongkou. The shop specialized in Japanese and

left-wing books and hosted regular get-togethers related to literature and art.

The shop became a favorite hangout for Lu and other left-wing intellectuals, and in time became a symbol of Sino-Japanese friendship.

By 1932, Uchiyama had become the sole seller of Lu's works. In the last decade of his life, Lu bought more than 1,000 books there, and the two men remained close friends until Lu's death from tuberculosis in 1936.

Uchiyama closed his bookstore and returned to Japan in 1945 after the death of his wife. After the war, he was the first head of the Japan-China Friendship Association.

The three-story renovated bookshop, renamed the "1927 Lu Xun and Uchiyama Memorial Bookstore," opened on