



Lu Xun and left-wing literati used to meet at the bookshop, pictured in this historical photo. — Ting Gong



Above: The restored table and cane chairs where Lu Xun used to sit in the bookstore.



Left: A Japanese doll given to Lu Xun's son by Uchiyama is among the memorabilia on display. — Yang Jian



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November 26 on Shanyin Road. The event also marks the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and China.

“My grandmother often told me stories about the bookstore and the profound friendship between Lu and Uchiyama,” Zhou said.

In 1959, Uchiyama died during a visit to Beijing. He is buried in Shanghai’s Wanguo Cemetery, where Lu was initially buried. Lu’s tomb, however, was later relocated to Luxun Park near his former residence.

“We pay tribute to their close relationship that endured despite the war between the two countries,” Zhou said. “Close ties between our two families have never ended.”

Lu’s wife Xu Guangping donated part of the royalties from Lu’s books to Uchiyama when she heard he was in financial difficulties.

Zhou and a nephew of Uchiyama visited the former site of the bookstore, then a bank, in 2017. They were photographed shaking hands in front of the shop.

“My father often thought about the possibility of restoring the bookstore,”

Zhou said. “Now his wish has been realized.”

He added, “I hope this bookstore will become a new bridge of communication between the people of our two countries. Lu in one of his books wrote that ‘humans should not isolate themselves, but rather should take better care of one another.’ The best way to communicate is through culture and art.”

The old bookshop is a heritage-protected building. In more recent years, it served as branches for the People’s Bank of China and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.

The renovation combines the bank site and the nearby Xinhua Bookstore into a memorial and bookshop.

“We used historical photos to restore the original look of the bookstore,” said Shen Xiaoming, chief designer of renovation project.

Mementos of the bookshop’s history and era were collected from Lu’s family and nearby residents, including the ladder, doll and a bicycle once ridden by Lu, Shen said.

Invoices listing the books that Lu bought in the shop are displayed alongside an antique clock and cash



Lu Xun (left) and Kanzo Uchiyama in Shanghai in 1933 — Ting Gong

register. A wooden table and cane chairs used by Lu and friends — who included writers Xiao Hong (1922-42) and Yu Dafu (1896-1945), and Tian Han (1898-1968), lyricist of China’s national anthem — were replicated according to old photos.

Other parts of the bookstore are divided into subject areas such as social sciences, philosophy, fine arts, literature and films. Each section has a special name from Lu’s works.

Some woodcut tools and paintings that Lu promoted to inspire the Chinese public are on display, along with vinyl records and classic movie posters — both hobbies of the great man of letters.

The original wooden beams of the bookshop have been preserved on the top floor, which has been turned into a reading room.

The newly unveiled bookshop is part of the one-kilometer-long Lu Xun Trail, a walking tour initiated by the Hongkou government in 2019. It takes in the sites of Lu’s life and works.

The tour passes a typical *shikumen* (stone-gate house) on Hengbang Road where Lu lived with his wife Xu in 1927. Their son Zhou Haiying was born there in 1929.

Other celebrated Chinese writers and scholars included Chen Wangdao (1891-1977), Mao Dun (1896-1981), Ye Shengtao (1894-1988) and Rou Shi (1902-31) also lived in the same lane.