

# The Historical Society for Twentieth Century China

March 2005

HSTCC Newsletter #21

The Historical Society for Twentieth Century China (HSTCC) is dedicated to scholarly interchange about modern China. Founded in 1983, the HSTCC has been the organizer or co-organizer of a number of international conferences, as well as the sponsor of numerous panels at national meetings of the Association for Asian Studies and the American Historical Association. The Society is affiliated with both the AAS and the AHA.

## 2004-2006 HSTCC Officers

*President:* Elisabeth Koll, Case Western Reserve University

*Vice-President:* Keith Schoppa, Loyola University of Maryland

## 2004-2006 HSTCC Board

Parks Coble, University of Nebraska

John Fitzgerald, La Trobe University

Ke-wen Wang, St. Michael's College

Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik, University of Vienna

## HSTCC Business Meeting Agenda at 2005 AAS Conference

Date: Saturday, April 2, 2005

Time: 1:00-2:30

Place: Hyatt Regency Chicago,  
Columbus Hall EF

### Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes of March 29, 2004 (see this Newsletter)
2. President's report (delivered by Vice-President)
3. Financial Report
4. Future Conference Proposals
5. Future Directions for the HSTCC
6. Any other business

If you wish to propose further agenda items, would you contact Vice-President Keith Schoppa at [kschoppa@loyala.edu](mailto:kschoppa@loyala.edu).

## *Conference at National University of Singapore, May 2006*

Members of the HSTCC have been invited to hold their next conference at the National University of Singapore, with the date to be determined but likely to be in mid-late May 2006. Thomas DuBois of the NUS Department of History has been the moving spirit behind this generous offer and will be attending to the detailed planning. The theme of the conference has not been finalized, but should be along the lines of "Chinese nation, Chinese state," which will allow for a diverse range of papers examining the changing nature and perceptions of China as a political, cultural, ideological etc entity. It will also allow for discussion of Chinese societies outside China, such as Taiwan and Singapore itself.

Full information about the conference will be circulated to HSTCC members either in the fall Newsletter or by a special Announcements Bulletin.

## *Report on Vienna Conference, May 17-19, 2004*

Some thirty members of the HSTCC were among the one hundred participants in the conference, "As China Meets the World," co-organized by the Depart of East Asian Studies of the University of Vienna and the HSTCC. The question addressed by most panels was that of China's changing position in the international community. A number of panels concentrated on diplomatic history, a field neglected for some time. Others dealt with economic and intellectual history, and the relationship between Chinese culture and the globalizing world. All papers were sent out to panelists and posted on the internet prior to the conference, which made for intensive and well prepared discussions.

The conference was the first of this kind and size in the history of Chinese studies in Austria. It was sponsored by the University of Vienna, the Austrian Ministry for Science and Education, and the city of Vienna (which hosted a splendid dinner for all participants). A conference volume is in process of compilation. Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik wishes to acknowledge the support given by HSTCC president Elisabeth Koll and the financial assistance provided by the HSTCC; in return the HSTCC wishes to compliment Susanne most heartily for the enormous amount of work and expertise she put into making the conference so resoundingly a success.

***Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the HSTCC: March 6, 2004, San Diego, Town and Country***

Presiding: Elisabeth Koll, president  
Attending: Board members Parks Coble and Marilyn Levine and fifteen members.  
The meeting commenced at 1:00 pm and adjourned at 2:10 pm.

1. The minutes of last year's meeting, which were distributed in the Newsletter, were approved without corrections.

2. Elections. President Koll reported the nomination of Keith Schoppa of Loyola University of Maryland for vice-president. No nominations were made from the floor, and the election was carried by unanimous vote. President Koll then reported the nomination of the current Board for an additional two-year term: Parks Coble of the University of Nebraska, John Fitzgerald of LaTrobe University, Ke-wen Wang of St. Michael's College, and Suzanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik of the University of Vienna. No nominations were made from the floor. The Board was reelected by unanimous vote.

3. Vienna conference. President Koll led an informal discussion of both the academic program and the conference arrangements.

She reported that 210 proposals had been submitted and approximately 100 accepted.

4. A report from Secretary-Treasurer David Barrett, who was unable to attend, was distributed. The current bank balance is \$5,360. The major expenditure of the past year was a contribution of \$1,000 to the Vienna conference. Adoption of the report was moved by Parks Coble, seconded by Margherita Zanasi, and carried unanimously.

5. David Pong proposed the electronic distribution of the newsletter in order to save money. The consensus was that electronic distribution should be undertaken in the following year, with notice to members who wished to receive a paper copy.

6. President Koll raised the issue of requiring participants in HSTCC conferences to pay dues to the HSTCC. After considerable discussion, Keith Schoppa moved that individuals be encouraged to pay dues if attending the forthcoming conference, and that they be required to do so at future conferences. Andrea McElderry seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. Future conferences. Caroline Tsai spoke of Taiwan as a possibility, with the Academia Sinica as co-sponsor. Australia and the USA were other possible conference locations. Conference format was also discussed, the debate concerning the merits of large, inclusive conferences such as Vienna as compared to smaller workshops with more specific themes. No resolution was adopted, but the consensus appeared to emphasize flexibility.

8. Marilyn Levine reported on the website and urged members to send her updated information to keep the directory current.

9. Caroline Tsai gave a brief summary of the IAHA conference to be held December 6-10 at the Academia Sinica. The HSTCC will be co-sponsoring one session of the conference.

## **Recent Publications**

Cindy Yik-yi Chu, *The Maryknoll Sisters in Hong Kong, 1921-1969: In Love with China* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2004).

James Flath, "Temple Fairs and the Republican State in North China," *Twentieth-Century China*, Vol. 30, No. 1 (November 2004).

Elisabeth Koll (and William N. Goetzmann), "Paying in Paper: A Government Voucher from the Southern Song," in William N. Goetzmann and K. Geert Rouwenhorst, eds., *Of Interest and Enterprise: Essays in the History of Financial Innovation* (International Center of Finance, Yale University, 2004).

Keith Schoppa, *Twentieth Century China: A History in Documents* (Oxford University Press, 2004).

Timothy B. Weston, *The Power of Position: Beijing University, Intellectuals, and Chinese Political Culture, 1898-1929* (University of California, 2004).

Margherita Zanasi, "Fostering the People's Livelihood: Chinese Political Thought between Empire and Nation," *Twentieth-Century China*, Vol. 30, No. 1 (November 2004).

## **Newsletter Editor Needs Help!**

Send news of books and major articles, professional honours, and any other achievements to Newsletter Editor David Barrett ([barrettd@mcmaster.ca](mailto:barrettd@mcmaster.ca)) or President Elisabeth Koll ([exk21@po.cwru.edu](mailto:exk21@po.cwru.edu)).