

# The Historical Society for Twentieth Century China

October 2009

HSTCC Newsletter #28

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.

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## President's Memo

October 2009

Dear HSTCC members,

Hello and welcome, belatedly, to another academic year. I apologize for the long silence since our last newsletter. Rest assured that it has not been because HSTCC is lying fallow; rather, we have had a number of pressing issues that have required resolution, and I thought it best to wait for clarity rather than write prematurely. My thanks to the HSTCC Board and officers for their help and guidance throughout the recent months.

HSTCC was affected by two dramatic financial events in a short period of time. First, the affiliation with the journal *Twentieth-Century China* caused important changes in our accounting and expenses. Second, the global financial downturn put our fiscal outlook in a much more uncertain light. As both processes have played out, the Board has responded in ways that it deems essential to the survival and prosperity of the organization. I am happy to report that, so far, we appear to be weathering the storm and even thriving.

Specifically, these two changes have affected our bi-annual conference and the status of lifetime members of HSTCC.

The bi-annual meeting, which I hope you are all planning to attend, is now scheduled for June 26-27 in Philadelphia. Saint Joseph's University will be hosting the event, and the University's College of Arts and Sciences and, especially, the James and Bernadette Nealis Program in Asian Studies, have offered generous financial support, making it possible for HSTCC members to incur no registration costs and at the same time to greatly reduce the costs to HSTCC. Details about the conference are available at the website, and the call for papers is reproduced here. I am happy to report that proposals have already started to arrive, in response to Calls for Papers posted on H-Net and MCLC.

I recall, of course, that in earlier discussions of the 2010 meeting we had hoped to return to Europe, where we have not been since the 2004 Vienna meeting. However, the tightening of purse-strings across the world and the uncertainty of HSTCC finances with the journal merger made the Board feel that fiscal conservatism was an appropriate course of action at this time, and the possibility of substantial funding from Saint Joseph's made meeting in Philadelphia an attractive option.

As for lifetime members, we have had to resolve a significant question left open following the affiliation/merger of HSTCC and TCC in 2008. A new policy for lifetime members was necessitated by the addition of a significant and costly benefit: the subscription to *Twentieth-Century China*. According to our by-laws the Executive Board is empowered to establish and adjust membership dues, and so the Board set out to determine an equitable solution for our members that was sustainable for HSTCC's finances.

The new policy for lifetime members approved by the HSTCC Executive Board is as follows. New lifetime members will pay one-time dues of \$1000. Existing lifetime members can upgrade their membership for a one-time dues adjustment of \$350. If any existing lifetime members do not wish to upgrade their membership, their "lifetime" membership will expire in six years (i.e., in 2015). During that time, they will receive all the benefits of membership in the society, including the subscription to *Twentieth-Century China*.

I believe—and the Board concurs—that this is a fair solution to the question. If you have any questions about this policy, or any other matter, please write to me at [jcarter@sju.edu](mailto:jcarter@sju.edu). Finally, we have in the past year supported two workshops with our "micro-grant" program, one on Chinese science that was held at the Claremont Colleges last spring, and another focusing on Chiang Kai-shek, which took place in Ontario a few months ago. HSTCC support has been vital to bringing scholars from abroad, and I believe that the program is serving its goal of facilitating discussion among scholars from across the world.

Also, *Twentieth-Century China* has continued to receive high-quality submissions from around the globe. I urge you to consider TCC as you seek outlets for your scholarship. We are currently in the process of having the journal indexed in social science and humanities indices, to

further solidify the journal's presence in the field.

Finally, I want to give special thanks to Wang Ke-wen, Secretary-Treasurer of the HSTCC. This has been an extraordinarily complex time for the organization's finances, and Ke-wen has been generous of his time and knowledge.

I look forward to receiving your proposals for the spring meeting, and hope to welcome you all to Saint Joseph's at that time. In the meantime, good luck with mid-terms or whatever academic chores await you.

James Carter  
President

#### **Call For Papers:**

The Historical Society for Twentieth Century China (HSTCC) will host its bi-annual meeting June 26-27, 2010. In keeping with our tradition of rotating among North America, Europe, and Asia, the 2010 meeting will take place at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

The theme of the conference will be "A Century of Change Since the 1911 Revolution: Crises and Responses in 20th Century China." All interested participants are encouraged to submit panel proposals (no more than 2 pages or 500 words) or individual paper proposals (no more than 1 page or 250 words), as well as current CV, by December 1, 2009.

Inquiries and paper submissions may be directed to James Carter ([jcarter@sju.edu](mailto:jcarter@sju.edu)), and additional information, including registration and accommodation details, will be posted on the HSTCC website:

<http://www.towson.edu/hstcc/>.

**Workshop on  
"Re-assessing Chiang Kai-shek: An  
International Dialogue,"  
Queen's University, Canada,  
August 7-10, 2009**

A number of HSTCC members participated in an invitational workshop held last August in Kingston, Ontario, for the purpose of integrating new views of Chiang Kai-shek (Jiang Jieshi, 1887-1975). The eighteen authors who presented papers included two biographers (Jay Taylor of Washington D.C, and Yang Tianshi of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing), several scholars now engaged in research focusing on Chiang (including Lü Fang-shang of Tung Hai University in Taiwan, Steven Tsang of Oxford University, and HSTCC member Chen Hongmin of Hangzhou University), and a number of other contributors, including Parks Coble, Donald Jordan, and Kristin Stapleton, who have well-established expertise on the context of Chiang Kai-shek's career.

Research on Chiang Kai-shek has been stimulated by the recent opening of the diaries that Chiang kept for fifty-four years, now held in the Hoover Institution Archives at Stanford University (<http://www.hoover.org/hila/collections/19400629.html>). Thanks also to changing perspectives on the history of the Republic of China before and after 1949, new interpretations are emerging on Chiang Kai-shek's roles, decisions, motivations, and personality. The organizers are now preparing a book based on the workshop participants' findings and analyses. Their edited volume will present a composite portrait of Chiang, framed with the help of current advances in the China field and the social sciences.

The organizers' collaboration in the project originated in a panel called "Chiang Kai-shek: The Unknown Story," formed for the 2008 Annual Meeting of the AAS in Atlanta (<http://www.aasianst.org/absts/2008abst/China/C-120.htm>). The workshop in Canada was

supported partly by funding awarded by HSTCC. The organizers are also grateful to several other funding agencies, namely the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, the China and Inner Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies, and sources at Queen's University.

Copies of the workshop program and other details are available upon request from one of the organizers ([Emily.Hill@queensu.ca](mailto:Emily.Hill@queensu.ca); Grace Huang <[g Huang@stlawu.edu](mailto:g Huang@stlawu.edu)> ; or [Jeremy.Taylor@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:Jeremy.Taylor@sheffield.ac.uk) ).

*Submitted by Emily Hill, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada*

### **Member News**

*David Pong* is a visiting professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong on a Fulbright Fellowship.

*Hui-yu Caroline Ts'ai* was promoted to the rank of research fellow at Academia Sinica in April 2009. She is currently residing in Kyoto as a research fellow at Nichibunken, April 2009-March 2010.

*Xiaoqun Xu* has been appointed Reader in Chinese History at Durham University in the UK starting September 2009.

### **Member Publications**

*James Carter*

James Carter and Cynthia J. Paces, 1989: *End of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2010.

*Jack Meng-Tat Chia*

"Buddhism in Singapore: A State of the Field Review." *Asian Culture* 33 (June 2009): 81-93.

“Standardizing the Gods in the Chinese Diaspora: Nan’an Migrants and the Cult of Guangze Zunwang in Singapore, 1836-1926.” *South and Southeast Asia Culture and Religion: The SSEASR Journal* 3 (2009): 137-156.

*Taiwan in Japan’s Empire Building: An Institutional Analysis of Colonial Engineering* (London, UK: Routledge, 2009)

“Teaching Dharma, Grooming Sangha: The Buddhist College of Singapore.” *SOJOURN: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia* 24, 1 (April 2009): 122-138.

“Buddhism in Singapore-China Relations: Venerable Hong Choon and his Visits, 1982-1990.” *The China Quarterly* 196 (December 2008): 864-883.

*Roger Jeans*

Roger B. Jeans, Terasaki Hidenari, Pearl Harbor, and Occupied Japan: A Bridge to Reality (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2009)

*David Pong*

Editor-in-Chief, *The Encyclopedia of Modern China*. 4 vols. Gale/Cengage Learning/Scribners Sons, August 2009.

“Salt for the Tables of Hubei: The Battle for Salt Sales in the Aftermath of the Taiping Rebellion,” in Bingren Sung, et al., eds. *Shixue yu shishi: Wang Ermin jiaoshou bazhi gaoshou rongqing xueshu lunwenji* In English. (Taibei: Guangwen Shuju, June 2009), pp. 467-480.

*Larry Shyu*

“Diplomatic relations through wartime alliance: the Republic of China’s relations with Canada,” in *The Journal Of Modern Chinese History*, Volume 2, Number 2, December 2008. (Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group)

*Hui-yu Caroline Ts’ai*