

The Historical Society for Twentieth Century China

September 2005

HSTCC Newsletter #22

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 in 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

Conference at National University of Singapore (NUS), June 25-27, 2006:

The HSTCC has been invited by NUS to participate in the conference, "**Chinese Nation, Chinese State, 1850-2000**," to be held at NUS, June 25-27, 2006. Members of the HSTCC are invited to submit proposals for panels or individual papers on or related to the following themes:

(1) *The Changing Face of Nationalism:* Political, social and economic dynamics of nationalism and nationalist activism at various times and locations;

(2) *Race and Nationality:* Biological concepts of belonging, racial categorization, theories of racial determinism and dominance, perceptions and treatment of Chinese abroad;

(3) *Civilization and Ideology:* The creation of conceptions of Chinese uniqueness and cultural centrality by Confucianism or other traditions;

4) *The People's Republic and World Socialism:* The influence of the PRC in providing a model for political and social movements, third world revolution and the non-aligned movement;

(5) *New China and the World:* The response at various times, including the present, to China's emergence as a regional or global power, and its reflection in policies, strategies and images with respect to China.

Deadline for proposals: October 30, 2005

A 500 word outline is required, and in the case of panel submissions, an accompanying explanation of the panel. Proposals which have been selected will be announced in November. Deadline for submission of conference papers is May 15, 2006.

To submit a proposal or obtain further information, please contact Dr. Thomas DuBois, Department of History, NUS: email: histdd@nus.edu.sg (and include the subject line attn:HSTCC).

Further information is on the website:

<http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/conf2006/hstcc25-26June06.htm>.

Membership News

Marilyn Levine has taken up the position of Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) at Eastern State Oregon University in La Grande, Oregon, a public liberal arts university and pioneer in distance education, in which Marilyn is particularly interested.

Recent Publications

Morris Linan Bian, *The Making of the State Enterprise System in Modern China: The Dynamics of Institutional Change* (Harvard 2005).

Morris Linan Bian, "Building State Structure: Guomindang Institutional Rationalization during the Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945," *Modern China* 31 (January 2005).

John M. Carroll, *Edge of Empires: Chinese Elites and British Colonials in Hong Kong* (Harvard, 2005).

Joshua H. Howard, *Workers at War: Labor in China's Arsenal, 1937-1953* (Stanford, 2004).

William C. Kirby, ed., *Realms of Freedom in Modern China* (Stanford, 2003).

Christopher A. Reed. *Gutenberg in Shanghai: Chinese Print Capitalism, 1876-1937* (UBC and Columbia, 2004).

Xiaoqun Xu, "Cosmopolitanism, Nationalism, and Transnational Networks: The Chenbao Fujian, 1921-1928," *China Review* (CUHK), 4: 1 (Spring 2004).

Publication Award

Chris Reed was awarded the 2003-05 Book Prize (Humanities) at the August meeting in Shanghai of the International Convention of Asian Scholars (ICAS) for *Gutenberg in Shanghai* (see above).

Newsletter Editor Needs Help

Please send news of books, major articles, professional honors, and any other matters of note to Newsletter Editor David Barrett (dpbarrett@sympatico.ca) or to President Elisabeth Koll (elisabeth.koll@case.edu).

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Historical Society for Twentieth Century China: April 2, 2005, Hyatt Regency, Chicago

Presiding: Keith Schoppa, vice-president.
Attending: Board members Parks Coble, John Fitzgerald, Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik and ten members.
The meeting was convened at 1:00 pm.

1. The minutes, previously circulated, of last year's business meeting in San Diego, were approved.

2. The president's report was delivered by vice-president Schoppa. Two items of special interest were the HSTCC website and the 2004 Vienna conference, which was the major HSTCC event of that year.

In a written report, Marilyn Levine noted the continuing popularity of the HSTCC website, with more than 4,000 visitors in 2004-05, and a total presently reaching 11,000. Pictures and a report from the Vienna conference are needed. She asked HSTCC members to provide professional updates for the website, as in many cases information is out of date. Her new address is (mlevine@EOU.edu). There was a consensus that a "Useful Asian Websites" section should be added, as key sites such as the WWW Virtual Library and Asia for Educators could be linked to it.

The chair then invited Vienna conference convenor Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik to give a report. The conference, "As China Meets the World, 1840-2000," attracted one hundred papers by scholars from Europe, Asia, North and South America, and Australasia, among which were thirty by HSTCC members. The conference was successful as well in attracting external funding and securing support for publication of selected papers. The chair congratulated the convenor and the University of Vienna for an outstanding conference.

3. The financial report by secretary-treasurer David Barrett was read by the chair. The bank balance as of March 15, 2005 was \$5,740. Since the Newsletter was now sent out electronically, postage for those unreachable by email came to about \$15. There were no other payments or expenses. Membership stands at approximately 90 paid up as of or beyond October 2004 and about 15 paid up to to 2003 (and who have been sent regular reminders). The report was approved unanimously.

The chair then invited the meeting to discuss the secretary-treasurer's recommendation "that due dates of all members' dues be advanced for a year." Members agreed that it would be wise for the Society to adopt regular procedures for the collection of members' fees which currently fall due at different times of the year and which do not appear to be collected systematically when they fall due. Members present were reluctant to the adopt the motion as it would mean foregoing the collection of dues for one year, especially in light of the need of past and future conference convenors to access additional discretionary funds through HSTCC conference contributions. The recommendation was defeated unanimously.

4. The chair presented a report from Thomas DuBois on preparations for the HSTCC conference scheduled for Singapore in mid-late May 2006. The proposed theme, "Chinese nation, Chinese state," made allowance for a range of topics and disciplines. The meeting wished the host and convenor well in efforts to secure ASEF and other funding, and agreed that the convenor was best equipped to judge appropriate means for doing so. Members wished to convey to the convenor a strong preference for holding the conference in June rather than May in order to accommodate teaching commitments in their home institutions.

The chair noted that Guido Samarani has offered to host another HSTCC conference in Venice or at another site in northern Italy, probably in 2009.

The chair invited members to engage in email discussions about the ideal frequency for conferences (annual, biannual etc).

5. As for future directions for the HSTCC, the chair invited Christopher Reed, editor of *Twentieth-Century China*, to discuss the question of formal relations between the TCC Board and the HSTCC. Reed noted that the two had converged since their separate establishment in 1983, as illustrated by the journal's change of title from *Republican China* to *Twentieth-Century China*. A number of TCC Board members were concurrently on the HSTCC executive. It was an opportune time to consider options for "working together to our mutual benefit." Members responded warmly to the invitation to consider some form of co-operation in the near future and offered support for a proposal to initiate discussion between the two boards leading to production of an options paper within one year, preferably to be submitted to the next HSTCC business meeting at the 2006 San Francisco AAS conference.

6. There was no further business and meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.