

March 20, 2011

Announcing New HSTCC Structure of Membership Dues

Dear HSTCC members,

In my memo published in the HSTCC newsletter #29 (December 2010), I described the new publishing arrangements made between the journal *Twentieth-Century China* (TCC)/HSTCC and Maney Publishing. I explained, among other things, that the TCC-Maney Publishing Agreement and the HSTCC-Maney Publishing Agreement stipulated (a) Maney will be publishing *Twentieth-Century China* for a minimum period of six (6) years from January 2011, increasing the frequency of the journal from two (2) to three (3) issues in 2012, and (b) HSTCC members will have online access to the current volume and any back issues online. Online access for HSTCC members will be provided by a link from Maney's host site on Ingenta to a password-protected area of the HSTCC website.

Now that these publishing agreements are being implemented, the HSTCC Board of Directors decided to develop a dues structure that would take into consideration (1) the need to maintain and strengthen the viability and vitality of the HSTCC as the premier international professional organization for modern Chinese studies, (2) the increased rate of HSTCC subscription of the journal *Twentieth-Century China* under the new publishing arrangements, and (3) the HSTCC commitment to increase student membership. After considerable deliberation at its sixth meeting, the HSTCC Board of Directors adopted a new dues structure for HSTCC members, which takes effect on March 20, 2011. Please note that this new structure only applies to those members who are renewing or becoming members for 2012 and beyond; it does not affect those who have already paid their membership dues under the existing structure. The elements of the new dues structure are as follows: (1) One-year regular membership: \$65.00, (2) Three-year regular membership: \$155.00, (3) One-year student membership: \$35.00, (4) Three-year student membership: \$90.00.

The HSTCC Board of Directors also made two important decisions regarding lifetime membership and payment mechanism. For one, the Board decided to end the category of lifetime membership except for current lifetime members who choose to upgrade their membership by 2015. Under the existing HSTCC policy, existing lifetime members can upgrade their membership for a one-time dues adjustment of \$350.00. If any existing lifetime members do not wish to upgrade their membership, their "lifetime" membership will expire in 2015 (HSTCC newsletter #28, October 2009). Given the uncertainty that seems to pervade contemporary life, the HSTCC Board of Directors decided to eliminate this category of lifetime membership except for current lifetime members who choose to upgrade their membership by 2015. For two, the Board decided to allow members to pay membership dues with check, money order, or PayPal. If members choose to pay their membership dues with PayPal, they will be responsible for paying the accompanying fees. Given the HSTCC's expansion and increasing internationalization, non-US members frequently encounter difficulties paying their membership dues with checks or money orders drawn from non-US banking institutions. Consequently, the HSTCC Board of Directors decided to offer members the option of paying their membership dues with PayPal, although those who choose this mechanism will be responsible for paying the accompanying fees, which currently is 2.9%(member fees)+30 cents.

In conclusion, it is worth pointing out that the dues increase corresponds to substantial increase in member benefits. Under the new arrangements, members are automatically subscribed to our official journal *Twentieth-Century China*, which will increase from two to three issues starting in 2012. Members also have online access to the current volume and any back issues online. Members have the opportunity to present their research at our biennial conferences, which provide a forum for discussing current research in modern Chinese history and related fields and offer an opportunity for people with similar interests to meet and exchange ideas. Members may also organize HSTCC-sponsored panels for the annual meetings of the Association for Asian Studies and the American Historical Association, since panel/session proposals submitted by affiliated societies of the AHA and AAS have a far greater chance of being accepted than those submitted by individual organizers. Finally, graduate students enjoy significant discount under the new dues structure, for we are committed to recruiting new talent into the HSTCC, the premier international professional organization for modern Chinese studies.

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