

# The Historical Society for Twentieth Century China

October 2008

HSTCC Newsletter #27

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.

## 2006-2008 HSTCC Officers

*President:* James Carter, St. Joseph's University

*Vice-President:* Morris Linan Bian, Auburn University

*Secretary-Treasurer:* Ke-wen Wang, St. Michael's College

## 2006-2008 HSTCC Board

R. Keith Schoppa, Loyola College in Maryland  
So Wai-chor, The Open University of Hong Kong  
Sophia Lee, California State University, East Bay  
Christopher Reed, The Ohio State University

**Website Editor:** Steven Philips, Towson University <http://www.lcsc.edu/hstcc>

**Newsletter Editor:** Elizabeth Littell-Lamb, University of Tampa [elittell@ut.edu](mailto:elittell@ut.edu)

## President's Memo

It's with great excitement and pleasure that I write to formally introduce myself as President of the Historical Society for 20<sup>th</sup> Century China. I don't mind saying I'm a little daunted by the remarkable footsteps in which I follow. Having worked with Keith Schoppa for the last two years, I have seen the results that come from sound leadership. Building on the foundations laid by Elisabeth Köll and other HSTCC presidents, Keith had an impressive tenure. The Honolulu conference was among our most successful meetings, and membership in

the society is strong and stable. Most important for our future, Keith and Christopher Reed, the Chief Editor of *Twentieth Century China*, oversaw the successful merger of these two bodies, so that *TCC* is now the official publication of HSTCC.

Our new dues structure reflects the fact that membership in the Society now includes a subscription to *TCC*. The many opportunities this relationship affords have just begun to be explored, but the future of both entities is much brighter because of this relationship. I encourage, as always, you to consider *Twentieth Century China*, a highly selective journal with a strong international presence, as an outlet for your publications.

In Hawai'i, I also mentioned the new "workshop" initiative we are embarking on. The goal of this program is to help facilitate exchange among scholars by bringing together people working on a specific theme or topic in small workshops. HSTCC is well-positioned to do this given our diverse membership, covering five continents and many disciplines. Our budget is limited, of course, and so our contributions will be modest. However, with matching funds from a host institution or grant agency, we feel that these small, focused grants can help promote scholarly exchange and research. (And looking ahead, such meetings might produce results appropriate for a "special issue" of *Twentieth Century China*, for instance.) We expect to sponsor the first of these workshops later this year, and urge the membership to share their ideas or

suggestions for how to implement and optimize this new initiative.

I am already looking ahead to our next bi-annual meeting, in the spring of 2010. The membership has expressed a strong desire to return to Europe, maintaining our regular rotation among North American, Europe, and Asia. At this stage, I am collecting information about costs at several venues. If any of you have suggestions or opportunities, please let me know.

Finally, I'd like to emphasize that members are the lifeblood of the Society. Although membership has been strong, I feel we have just scratched the surface, and that there is strong potential for growing the membership. I urge you to spread the word about HSTCC, and share your experience of the opportunities and benefits that membership in HSTCC presents, especially now that we have affiliated with *Twentieth Century China*. Reaching out to graduate students, in particular, is a great opportunity for gaining new members.

If any of you have questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me, by email ([jcarter@sju.edu](mailto:jcarter@sju.edu)) or phone (610-660-1988), and also consult our website (<http://www.towson.edu/hstcc/>). I wish you all the best for a successful academic year.

### **Honolulu Conference**

The biennial conference of the HSTCC was held June 16-17, 2008 at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. There were fifty papers and fifty-five participants who focused on the theme "Chinese Identities: Local, Regional,

National, International." Participants came from the PRC, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Canada, and the United States. In addition to the intellectual stimulation and challenges of the sessions, the participants enjoyed the delightful weather and ambiance of Hawaii and a wonderful Chinese banquet.

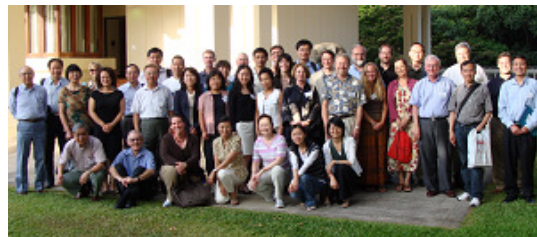


Photo of Honolulu Conference Participants

### ***Twentieth-Century China***

*Twentieth-Century China* is a refereed biannual scholarly journal with issues appearing in November and April. The journal's chief editor since 2004 has been Christopher A. Reed of OSU's Department of History. In 2008, the journal affiliated with HSTCC. Prior to the publication of the November 2009 issue, HSTCC president James Carter will assume the chief editorship.

The journal publishes original scholarly contributions that set forth innovative research and methodologies engaging significant historiographic or interpretive issues regarding China's long twentieth century as seen through mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong, or diasporic activities. It also encourages comparative empirical and/or theoretical studies that are rooted in Chinese experience but touch on non-China-related issues. In addition, the journal also seeks to provide a forum for research notes, scholarly conference, project announcements, and

similar activities that promote the academic pursuits of the journal's readers around the world.

Contributions come from around the world and published authors hail from all academic ranks. In recent years, we have tended to publish one out of every five or so submissions, giving us the same degree of selectivity as *Modern China*, our chief competitor in North America.

### Member News

Robert Antony has taken a teaching position in the Department of History at the University of Macau and is no longer at Western Kentucky University. New email address is [rantony@umac.mo](mailto:rantony@umac.mo).

Xiaoping Cong received a Fulbright Scholar Grant to China, the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, 2008-09 and an American Council of Learned Society-ARHC Research Grant with the sponsorship of the National Endowment of Humanities, 2008-09. Her book *Teachers' Schools and the Making of Modern Chinese Nation-State, 1897-1937* (Toronto: the University of British Columbia Press, 2007) received the 2008 Book Award of Academic Excellence by the Chinese Historians in the US Association (CHUS). In 2007, Xiaoping also received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor at the University of Houston.

Edward McCord (George Washington University) is spending the fall 2008 term as a member of the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton, NJ, under a Starr Foundation East Asian Studies Endowment grant, researching militia in Republican China.

Vincent K. Pollard (University of Hawai'i - Manoa) was a Short-term Visiting Lecturer, [Guoji Lengzhanshi Yanjiu Zhongxin](#) [Center for Cold War International History Studies], [East China Normal University], Shanghai during late May and early June 2008.

Qin Shao received two fellowships: Residential Fellowship, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, 2007-08 and Scholar Grant, Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation, deferred to 2008-09.

Michael Sheng left Missouri State University to be the chair of History Department at University of Akron in Ohio. New email address is: [msheng@uakron.edu](mailto:msheng@uakron.edu).

Hui-yu Caroline Ts'ai received the following honors and fellowships: Overseas Research Fellow, 2008/4-2011/3. Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Co-researchers: Kondō Masami, Komagome Takeshi, and Kitamura Yoshie and Visiting Research Scholar, 2009/4-2010/3. The International Research Center of Japanese Culture (Nichibunken), Kyoto, Japan and

Timothy B. Weston was one of 20 people selected to take part in the 2008-2010 Public Intellectuals Program sponsored by the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. The Public Intellectuals Program (PIP), launched by the National Committee in 2005, "is dedicated to nurturing a new generation of China specialists who, in the tradition of earlier China hands, have the interest and potential to venture outside of academia

and play significant roles as public intellectuals."

### Member Publications

Jack Meng-Tat Chia and Robin Ming-Feng Chee, "Rebranding the Buddhist Faith: Reformist Buddhism and Piety in Contemporary Singapore," *Explorations* 8 (Spring 2008): 1-9.

Xiaoping Cong, "Planting the Seeds for the Rural Revolution—Local Teachers' Schools and the Reemergence of Chinese Communism in the 1930s," *Twentieth Century China*, 32: 2 (April 2007): 135-65 and "From 'Cainü' to 'Nü jiaoxi': Female Normal Schools and the Transformation of Women's Education in Late Qing China, 1895-1911," in Grace Fong, and Richard J. Smith (eds.), *Different Worlds of Discourse: New Views of Gender and Genre in Late Qing and Early Republican China* (Brill Academic Publishers, 2008), 115-44.

Vincent Pollard, "Introduction and Overview: Actors, Obstacles and Social Change in European and Asian State Capitalist Societies," the introduction to a symposium Dr. Pollard edited on in "State Capitalism in Europe and Asia — from Cold War Conflict to Post-Globalization Futures," *Critical Sociology*, vol. 34, no. 4 (July 2008), pp. 525-606.

Qin Shao, "Bridge under Water: The Dilemma of the Chinese Petition System," *China Currents*, China Research Center, Atlanta Vol. 7, No. 1, 2008 (Winter) and "A Community of the Dispersed: the Culture of Neighborhood Stockmarkets in Contemporary Shanghai." *Chinese Historical Review* Vol. 14, No. 2, 2007 (Fall), pp. 212-239.

Michael Sheng, "Mao and China's Relations with the Superpowers in the 1950s: A New Look at the Taiwan Strait Crises," in *Modern China*, available at Modern China's "Online First" website.

Hui-yu Caroline Ts'ai, "Wartime Mobilization of Agricultural Unions in Japan, Korea, and Taiwan: The Case of the Village Revitalization Movement of the 1930s," in *Local Elites and Farmers' Movement in Taiwan*, Taipei: ITH, Academia Sinica, 2007, pp. 431—87; "Rizhi Taiwan wenguan shiyan zhidu: jianlun Riben diguo de rencai liudong, guanliao tixi han zhimin xingzheng" [The System of Civil Service Examinations in Taiwan under Japanese Rule: Talent Flows, the Bureaucratic System, and Colonial Administration in the Empire of Japan], in *Taiwanshi yanjiu* (ITH), 14:4 (2007) :1-65; "Administration, Assimilation, and Ambivalence: "Improved Treatment" (*shogū kaizen*) in Wartime Taiwan, 1944," in *Minzu rentong yu wenhua jiaorong*, ed. Young-tsu Wong and Lin Kuan-ch'un, Chia-yi: RCTH, NCCU 2007, 373-427; "The Study of Salary-Related Legal Codes in Taiwan under Japanese Rule: The Meiji Establishment, Issues Related to the Japanese Bureaucracy, and the Local Administration of Colonial Taiwan," in *Difangshi yanjiuji*, ed. Young-tsu Wong, RCTH, NCCU 2007, 123-88; "Shokuminchi gyōsei to jinji seisaku: hikaku kenkyū to sono shiron -- Taiwan ni okeru bunkan shiken no tōkei bunseki wo rei toshite" [A Preliminary View on (Prewar Japan's) Colonial Administration and Personnel Policy: A Comparative Study on the Statistical Analysis of the Civil Service Examination in Taiwan], in *Nihon no Chōsen/Taiwan shihai to*

*shokuminchi kanryō: kaigi ronbunshū*,  
ed. Matsuda Toshihiko, Kyoto: Kokusai  
Nihon bunka kenkyū sentā 2008, 47-58.

Di Wang, *The Teahouse: Small Business, Everyday Culture, and Public Politics in Chengdu, 1900-1950*. Stanford University Press, 2008; "Mysterious Communication: The Secret Language of the Gowned Brotherhood in Nineteenth-Century Sichuan," *Late Imperial China* 29.1 (June 2008): 77-103; "Teahouses, Theaters, and Popular Education: Entertainment and Leisure Politics in Late-Qing and Early Republican Chengdu," *Journal of Modern Chinese History* 2.1(June 2008): 1-21.

Dong Wang, "Portraying Chinese Christianity: The American Press and U.S.-China Relations since the 1920s," *The Journal of American-East Asian Relations*, vol. 13, 2008.

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*Note regarding Member News and Member Publication columns: Conferences presentations were not included in the Member News column and only members' works published in 2007-2008 were included in the Member Publications column.*