



T'ang Studies Society

Founded in 1983
Website: www.tangstudies.org
EIN: 35-1534995

President: Anthony DeBlasi
Treasurer: Manling Luo
Secretary: Jonathan Skaff
Journal Editor: Nicholas M. Williams

January 23, 2023

Dear T'ang Studies Society Members:

I am writing to report on the activities of the Society over the past year. Although 2022 continued to present us with challenges, I am happy to report that we continued the restoration of our pre-pandemic programs and activities. I am anticipating even more ambitious events in the coming two years.

Let me then begin my round-up of the year with the results of last spring's election. The Society continues to have a committed membership, which once again translated into members willing to stand for election to the Board of Directors. We welcomed two new members to their first terms on the Board: Alexei Ditter and Don Wyatt. In addition, Wang Ping was re-elected to a new three-year term. As they began their terms, I was also able to extend the Society's gratitude for their service to Sarah Allen and Beverly Bossler, who chose to step down from the Board when their terms ended.

One important sign of the gradual return to our usual activities was that I was able to extend the Society's welcome and thanks in person. We once again were able to meet physically in conjunction with the Association for Asian Studies in Honolulu last March. Our Society Annual Meeting and Reception was a happy and well-attended affair.

One important Society activity that has continued throughout the pandemic has been the publication of the journal. Our collaboration with Johns Hopkins University Press has been everything we hoped for with improvements in the physical appearance of the journal itself, and improved distribution of the journal's scholarship through its inclusion in the Project Muse database. The first JHUP issue (number 39) arrived in member mailboxes in late December and early January last year. As I write this letter, we are celebrating another milestone for the journal: issue 40 has arrived. If you have not already received your copy, it should be arriving soon. Of course, as always, if you paid dues for 2022 and have not received your copy of the journal, please let us know as soon as possible, so we can remedy the situation. One thing I would draw your attention to in issue 40 is Jonathan Skaff's remembrance of Harry Rothschild, whom the field lost far too soon.

The Society's commitment to supporting scholarly activities also continued during 2022. Thanks to the continuing generosity of the Elling O. Eide Center and the Tang Research Foundation, we were able to run all our grant programs in 2022: Research Grants, Scholarly Production Grants, Conference Travel grants, and Conference panel sponsorships. We know that the return to normal research activities is still a work in progress, but we hope that more of you will submit applications for these programs as the calls for proposals are issued this year since we will once again offer all four programs.

In addition to the grant programs, the Board is currently working on restarting our workshop series this year. We have also begun the planning work for a full-field conference tentatively scheduled for 2024. I hope to have more details to announce about both these initiatives at our upcoming annual meeting.

The 2023 TSS Annual Meeting will once again be held in conjunction with AAS in Boston this coming March. We will meet during our traditional Saturday night slot: Saturday, March 18, 2023, from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. in the Public Garden meeting room of the Sheraton Hotel. If you will be in Boston, I hope to see you there.

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In addition to the Annual Meeting at AAS, the Society will again sponsor two panels:

“Boundaries of the Human in Medieval China”

And

“Putting Frontiers at the Center of Medieval Chinese Literature”

Please consult the AAS program for details and make time available for these in your conference schedule.

Before the Annual Meeting, there is another important contribution you can make to the Society. Member participation in the selection of the Board of Directors is crucial to our work. This year we will once again use an all-electronic voting procedure. The election will employ the secure ElectionRunner online election website. To help you prepare for voting, I am including with this message the candidates' short biographies for your reference. You will receive an email notification at the beginning of the voting period. When you click on the log-in button in that email, you will be sent directly to the website, where you will be logged in automatically and see the ballot with the candidates. You can also click on the Info (“i”) icon to the right of the candidate's name to see each candidate bio. As usual, please choose THREE candidates (there is also space for write-in-candidates) and submit your vote. The election will run from Tuesday, January 24 at 7:00 a.m. until Tuesday, February 7 at 11:55 p.m. Eastern time. Please be sure to cast your vote before that end date. If you have any questions, feel free to email the Secretary, Jonathan Skaff at jkskaf@ship.edu.

As always, we ask that you please consider submitting your work for publication in *Tang Studies*. The Society's website has submission guidelines and procedures: <http://tangstudies.org/Journal.html>. Submissions should be sent to Nick Williams at editor@tangstudies.org. If your institution's library does not currently subscribe to the journal, please encourage it to do so. Information on institutional subscriptions with JHUP can be found at the following URL: <https://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/tang-studies>. Remember that all current members have access to the journal's contents online. Members will receive instructions for activating their account along with the 2023 online access code when they renew their memberships. As always, we ask that you respect the copyright interests of the Society and its publishing partners and not share your username and password.

We are now also beginning the collection of dues for 2023. Timely renewal of your membership enables us to maintain contact with you and provides for uninterrupted access to the benefits of the Society, including your journal subscription, eligibility for grants, and the opportunity to participate in Society elections. Please take a few moments at your earliest convenience to renew your membership for 2023, which will also ensure that you receive volume 41 when it is published toward the end of 2023. Also, if you have colleagues or graduate students working in the field who are not members, please encourage them to join the Society now. The larger the membership, the more vibrant the Society will be and the more it can do to promote the field. If you are not sure about the current status of your membership, please email Secretary Jonathan Skaff.

Dues may be paid via PayPal, using the link on the Society's website, or checks drawn on U.S. banks via mail. Regular membership is \$35 per year, and student membership is \$20 per year. Regular members can opt to renew for one, two or three years. Of course, Life Memberships remain an option if you can consider that. Because of U.S. banking laws, we cannot accept checks or money orders drawn on non-U.S. banks, so most non-U.S. members will want to use the PayPal option. If your contact information has changed, be sure to notify us. For more information on membership and payment, see:

<http://www.tangstudies.org/Membership.html>

Dues payments by check should be mailed to the Treasurer, Manling LUO, at the following address:

Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Indiana University
355 N. Jordan Avenue, GISB 2058, Bloomington, IN 47405 USA

If you choose to renew by mail, please also send an e-mail to the Treasurer (luom@indiana.edu) to alert her of that fact so we can process your renewal and get your online access to the journal registered as quickly as possible. Check processing time can be a bit slow, and we do not want your membership delayed by that fact.

This year we are initiating a new option for member journal subscriptions. As indicated above, membership in the Society brings with it a subscription to the journal *Tang Studies*. Members receive a hard copy of the journal as well as digital access through the Project Muse platform. Members who would prefer to limit their access to the digital platform and forego the hard copy may choose “Digital Only” in the Journal Option drop down menu when paying their dues via PayPal. If you are paying by check, you may indicate “Digital Only” on the check memo line.

Other correspondence and inquiries should be sent to the Secretary, Jonathan Skaff, at the following address:
History/Philosophy Department, Shippensburg University
1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257 USA jkskaf@ship.edu

You can also reach us at admin@tangstudies.org

Once again please note the date of the upcoming Annual Meeting on March 18, 2023, at 9:00 p.m. We strongly encourage you to attend to learn more about the activities we have planned for the coming year. We will send a reminder as the date approaches. We hope to see you all there!

Sincerely,



Anthony DeBlasi
President