



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, 2021

Dear T'ang Studies Society Members:

I am writing to report on the activities of the Society over the past year. To state the obvious, 2020 was a difficult and traumatic year on many levels. It is no surprise therefore that the operations of the Society were also affected. Despite the disruption, however, we did carry out our core activities, and some long-term Society projects did come to fruition.

Let me begin with the results of the Board of Directors election last spring. We welcomed Jessey Choo to her first term on the Board. At the same time, Keith Knapp and Tracy Miller were re-elected to new three-year terms. As you may recall, because of the cancellation of the AAS Annual Meeting in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to postpone our own annual meeting until we could arrange a virtual meeting via Zoom in June. As a result, the beginning of the terms of the elected members was delayed until June (since the bylaws stipulate that their terms begin with the Annual Meeting following the completion of the election). Ordinarily, as president, I would have had the privilege of also thanking in person Yao Ping for her service as she stepped down from the Board. I hope that my virtual acknowledgement of her contributions sufficiently expressed our gratitude.

Now, on to our other 2020 activities.

First and foremost, there are significant changes in the offing for the journal. Thanks to the diligent efforts of our journal editor, Nick Williams, the newest issue of *Tang Studies*, number 38, is currently in press. Taylor and Francis are experiencing pandemic-related delays with the physical mailing, but the issue is now available online. If you paid dues for 2020, rest assured that you will receive your hard copy as soon as the delays abate. Of course, we will be monitoring the situation to make sure that happens. Feel free to send us any questions that you have on this.

Issue 38 is the last issue of *Tang Studies* that will be published by Taylor and Francis. As reported last year, that contract has expired, and we have transitioned to a new contract with the Johns Hopkins University Press. The 2021 issue (number 39) will be the first issue to appear from JHUP. We are particularly excited about this development for three reasons. First, JHUP is much more flexible concerning the physical layout of the journal, so some of the formatting problems identified over the past ten years will be corrected. Second, we expect the visibility of TS to improve since it will now be included in the Project MUSE database. Finally, the financial projections that JHUP has done based on the new contract lead us to expect an improvement in the revenue generated by the journal and therefore greater assurance of its long-term stability.

Of course, a transition of this sort will have its share of disruptions. We are anticipating a couple of short-term issues. Initially, the migration of the journal's online content will have to be phased in. JHUP will initially provide the most recent 10 issues (numbers 28 to 38). The conversion of earlier issues will take some time, but we expect them to appear online in the coming months. The second issue that we are currently working on is the actual method of accessing the online content once the migration to JHUP becomes active. We will disseminate the new login instructions as soon as we have them finalized. For the time being, the content remains available on the Taylor and Francis website, and you can use the login information that you have to access it.

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While the journal is the core of the Society's scholarly efforts, its ability to support financially members' research activities more directly is also important. The Society's efforts are made possible by the generous support of the organizations that believe in its mission. The Elling O. Eide Foundation has once again generously donated funds to support the Society's work. I look forward to more collaboration with the Eide Foundation, including workshops and/or conferences at its Research Library. We have also continued work on our collaborative effort with the Tang Research Foundation to provide research grant funds to members and organize scholarly workshops for those working in the field.

Our plans for workshops last year unfortunately had to be postponed because of the pandemic, but we are closely monitoring the situation to organize these as soon as it is safe enough. Nevertheless, we were able to proceed with the research grant program. In response to travel restrictions and the shift to remote work, the Board expanded the scope of the grants to cover a wider array of research activities. As a result, we were able to award several grants to individuals in support of their research projects. We anticipate further calls for grant proposals in 2021 and encourage you to consider applying for support.

Of course, there are other upcoming opportunities for members to engage in the work of the Society. This year we will again resume our tradition of holding our Annual Meeting in conjunction with AAS. Following the lead of AAS, we will hold the meeting virtually. Because the AAS does not coincide with a Saturday this year, the meeting will be held Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. In response to feedback from last year's meeting, we are working on arrangements so that the meeting will allow for us to see each other and interact both formally and informally. Once we have the arrangements set up, we will send out instructions for how to log on.

In addition to the Annual Meeting at AAS, the Society will again sponsor panels during the conference. This time we are sponsoring four panels: (1) "Negotiating Ethnicity and Gender on Imperial Frontiers: A Multidisciplinary Lens"; (2) "After the Heavenly Qaghans: Multi-ethnic Approaches to the Tang-Song Transition"; (3) "Hidden Structures: Data, Social Networks and Politics in Early and Medieval China"; and (4) "The Six Dynasties–Tang Transition." Please consult the AAS program for details and make time available for these in your schedules.

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, we have attached 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 simply 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 February 1 at 6:00 a.m. until February 21 at 11:45 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 who pay their 2021 dues will receive the JHUP access instructions when volume 39 is published later in 2021. 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 2021. 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 2021, which will also ensure that you receive volume 39 when it is published toward the end of 2021. 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 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

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 25, 2021 at 9:00 p.m. We strongly encourage you to attend to learn more about the activities we have planned for the coming year. Ordinarily, we would host a reception to augment the joviality of the event, but perhaps we can each bring our favored beverage to our screens and toast each other remotely. We will send a reminder as the date approaches. We hope to see you all there!

Sincerely,



Anthony DeBlasi
President