



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 30, 2022

Dear T'ang Studies Society Members:

I am writing to report on the activities of the Society over the past year. 2021 proved to be another challenging year for many of us, and the Society once again had to adjust its operations to compensate. Nevertheless, we did manage to accomplish valuable work, and I am hopeful that the coming year will see a gradual return to a fuller array of academic and research activities.

First, the Society continues to be fortunate in having members willing to stand for election to the Board of Directors and willing to serve. Let me then begin with the results of last spring's election. We welcomed two new members to their first terms on the Board: Megan Bryson and James Benn. Michelle Wang was re-elected to a new three-year term. One sign that we have become better at adjusting to the exigencies of the ongoing pandemic is that we did hold our Annual Meeting in conjunction with the virtual AAS conference, so all three members took up their terms on the usual calendar. Since they opted to step down from the Board when their terms ended, I was also able to extend the Society's thanks to both Jack Chen and Ding Xiang Warner for their long service.

Now, on to our other 2021 activities.

Let me begin with news of the journal. As you know, 2020's issue 38 was delayed due to pandemic-related production issues but did eventually arrive in mailboxes. That was the final issue published under our contract with Taylor & Francis. The transition to our new publisher, Johns Hopkins University Press, is now complete, and our journal editor, Nick Williams, shepherded its first issue (number 39) through the production process. It should be arriving in your mailboxes as I write this letter. You will also notice that the physical properties of the journal have changed with the new publishing arrangement. We hope that you are as satisfied with the changes as we are. As I mentioned in my letter to you last year, in addition to the new physical look of the journal, we are anticipating the journal reaching a wider audience since the move to JHUP has also meant *Tang Studies* now appears in the Project MUSE database. Of course, as always, if you paid dues for 2021 and have not received your copy of the journal, please let us know as soon as possible.

The Society's commitment to supporting scholarly activities also continued during 2021. Thanks to the continuing generosity of the Elling O. Eide Center and the Tang Research Foundation, not only were we able to continue our Research Grant program, we were also able to initiate a new Scholarly Production Grant program. The former supports expenses leading to the creation of scholarly works, while the latter supports their dissemination by subsidizing needs such as illustration fees, publication subventions, and conference organization. In the 2021 cycle, we awarded four Research Grants, and two Scholarly Production Grants. Although the necessary public health restrictions on research travel meant that we were again unable to offer our Travel Grant program in 2021, we did expand the number of panels to four that we sponsored at the AAS conference. The Board anticipates that we will offer all our grant programs in 2022.

For the same reason that the Travel Grant program was suspended, we did not attempt to organize a summer workshop this past year. The Board is actively discussing our options for a workshop of some kind in the coming year and continues to work on long-range planning for a full-field conference in the not-too-distant future. I hope to have more details to announce at our upcoming Annual Meeting.

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Public health conditions permitting, I am very much looking forward to our return to an in-person Annual Meeting in conjunction with the upcoming AAS in Honolulu. We are, of course, monitoring the situation closely and will adjust as needed. But as of now, we will once again meet during our traditional Saturday night slot. The Tang Studies Society Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 26, 2022, at 9:00 p.m. in the Honolulu I meeting room of the Hilton Hawaiian Village Tapa Conference Center. If you will be in Honolulu, I hope to see you there.

In addition to the Annual Meeting at AAS, the Society will again sponsor panels during the conference. This time we are sponsoring two panels: (1) "The Pragmatic Art of Governance: Alternative Strategies of Chinese Medieval Rulership"; and (2) "Vibrant Matters: Multiplying Fields of Buddhist Merit in Medieval China." 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, 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 Monday, January 31 at 7:00 a.m. until Monday, February 14 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 2022 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 2022. 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 2022, which will also ensure that you receive volume 40 when it is published toward the end of 2022. 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

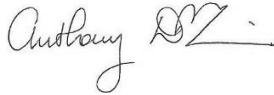
Other correspondence and inquiries should be sent to the Secretary, Jonathan Skaff, at the following address:

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 26, 2022, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony DeBlasi", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anthony DeBlasi
President