



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 22, 2024

Dear T'ang Studies Society Members:

I am writing to report on the activities of the Society during 2023. The past year has seen our continued return to the ordinary operation of the Society. To be sure, the current environment still presents us all with challenges, but the Board of Directors and the Society officers are committed to staging ambitious activities in the service of Tang and Tang-adjacent research in the coming two years. One very auspicious omen is that once again, through the efforts of our officers and board, Society membership reached another record of 149 members in 2023.

Let me 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 a new member to a first term on the Board: Xin WEN. In addition, Jessey CHOO and Keith KNAPP were re-elected to new three-year terms. As they began their terms, I was also able to extend the Society's gratitude to Tracy Miller for her service as she stepped down from the Board.

The Tang Studies Society Annual Meeting and Reception at AAS in Boston was as well attended as ever. I was glad to have the opportunity to see so many of you and converse with you on matters both serious and fun. The Society was also happy to sponsor two Tang-related panels at the AAS annual meeting.

Of course, the core activity of the Society remains the publication of the journal. Issue 41 has appeared, so it is now available on Project Muse. For those of you receiving the hard copy, it should have reached your mailboxes by this point. If you paid dues for 2023 and have not received your copy of the journal, please let us know as soon as possible, so we can remedy the situation.

The Society's commitment to supporting scholarly activities also continued during 2023. 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 2023: Research Grants, Scholarly Production Grants, and Conference Travel grants. 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 for all grant programs in 2024, especially as research costs remain higher than in the past.

In addition to the grant programs, the Board is still working on restarting our workshop series, but we have prioritized planning for the next TSS full-field conference. Practical considerations have meant that we are currently looking at a date in late spring of 2025. Please keep your eyes open for a call for paper proposals in the coming months.

The 2024 TSS Annual Meeting and Reception will once again be held in conjunction with AAS in Seattle this coming March. We will meet during our traditional Saturday night slot: Saturday, March 16, 2024, from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. in the Willow B meeting room of the Sheraton Grand Seattle. If you will be in Seattle, I hope to see you there.

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

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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 29 at 7:00 a.m. until Monday, February 5 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 2024 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 by not sharing your username and password.

We are now also beginning the collection of dues for 2024. 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 2024, which will also ensure that you receive volume 42 when it is published toward the end of the year. 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 North Eagleson 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.

As with last year, 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 16, 2024, at 9:00 p.m. We strongly encourage you to attend to learn more about the activities we have planned for the coming year (not to mention spending convivial time with colleagues). We will send a reminder as the date approaches. We hope to see you all there!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anthony DeBlasi".

Anthony DeBlasi
President