

**** Sino-Japanese News ****

Meeting of the Sino-Japanese Studies Group. The Sino-Japanese Studies Group met briefly this past April in conjunction with the Association for Asian Studies conference in Honolulu, Hawaii. It was late at night and few attended. We did, though, plan an event for next year's meeting in Chicago. Based on the successful results of several years ago, when many of us read a book in our field (Douglas Reynolds' work), we decided to read Joshua Fogel's recently published, *The Literature of Travel in the Japanese Rediscovery of China, 1862-1945* (Stanford University Press, 1996). It will then be the focus of a discussion and perhaps the launching point for discussion of related issues as well. *SJS* subscribers who would like to purchase this book at a discount may send a check for US \$31 to Joshua Fogel at the address opposite page 1 of this issue of *SJS*. To get this discounted price (list price is \$45), however, checks must be received prior to May 25.

International Symposium. Vancouver, British Columbia played host this past December 16-19 to a fascinating conference entitled: "Reassessing the Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945): New Sources and Interpretations." It was organized by Larry Shyu 徐乃力, president of the Historical Society for 20th Century China in North America, and professor of history at the University of New Brunswick. In the works for several years, Professor Shyu managed to invite a large number of scholars from China, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Europe, the United States, and Canada. The level of papers was extraordinary high and, I believe, new summits were reached in scholarly discussions.

The primary language of the conference was English, but a few Chinese participants delivered their papers in Chinese, and some of the questions and answers were conducted in Chinese as well. What follows is the program of panels, papers, and authors:

Larry Shyu, "Welcoming Speech"

Marilyn Levine, Lewis and Clark State College, "Report on the Society's Recent Activities"

Session I. Wartime International Relations

Co-chairs: Diana Lary and Mingsheng Chen

Wang Ke-wen 王克文, St. Michael's College, "Wang Jingwei and Sino-Japanese Relations, 1931-1937: The Policy Origins and the Peace Movement"

Huang Meizhen 黃美真, Fudan University, "Relations between the Wang Regime and Japan during the War"

Etô Shinkichi 衛藤藩吉, Ajia University (retired), "Japanese Maneuvers for Peace with China, 1937-1940"

Guido Samarani, University of Venice, "Italy's Policy towards the Wang Regime during the Sino-Japanese War"

Chen Jian 陳兼, Southern Illinois University, "The Communist Policy toward the United States during the War of Resistance, 1937-1945"

Chen Qianping 陳謙平, Nanjing University, "Sino-British Negotiations Concerning Tibet in 1943"

Discussants: Roger Jeans and Peter Seybolt

Session II: Resistance and Collaboration

Co-chairs: Etô Shinkichi and Wang Young-tsu

Timothy Brook, University of Toronto, "The Empty Stage: The Creation and Dissolution of the Reform Government, 1938-1940"

Peter J. Seybolt, University of Vermont, "War within a War: Internal Struggle in China during the War of Resistance against Japan, a Case Study of a County on the North China Plain"

Parks M. Coble, University of Nebraska, "Japan's New Order and the Shanghai Capitalists: Collaboration and Conflict, 1937-1945"

Lo Jiu-jung 羅久蓉, Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, "Survival and the Wang Jingwei Government's Rationale for Collaboration"

David Barrett, McMaster University, "The Wang Jingwei Regime, 1940-1945: Continuities and Discontinuities with Nationalist China"

Roger B. Jeans, Washington and Lee University, "Third-Party Traitors in Wartime China: The Case of the National Socialist Party of China"

Discussants: Stephen MacKinnon, Wang Ke-wen, and Peter Zarrow

Session III: The Origins and Early Development of the War

Chair: Peter Seybolt

Marjorie Dryburgh, University of Sheffield, "Regional Office and the National Interest: Song Zheyuan and the Road to the Second Sino-Japanese War"

Wong Young-tsu, Virginia Polytechnic College and State University, "The Xi'an Incident and the Coming of the War of Resistance"

Stephen MacKinnon, Arizona State University, "The Promise of Wuhan, 1938"

Joshua A. Fogel, University of California, Santa Barbara, "Japanese Travelers in Wartime China"

Discussants: Odoric Wou and Larry Shyu

Session IV: Warfare, War Crimes, and Responsibility

Chair: Roger Jeans

Qi Fulin 齊福霖, Institute of Modern History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, "Japanese Military Atrocities in China: An Archival Study"

Himeta Mitsuyoshi 姬田光義, Chûô University, "The 'Three-All' Campaigns Reconsidered: Facts and Images"

Shen Yu 沈于, University of Indiana, South Bend, "Guerrilla Warfare in the Guomindang-Controlled Regions"

Hui-yu Caroline Ts'ai 蔡慧玉, Institute of Taiwan History, Academia Sinica, "Japan's War Responsibilities Reconsidered: The War Compensation Movement"

Robert Perrins, Acadia University, "'Liberation' and Repatriation: The End of Japan's Colonial Adventure in the Guandong Leasehold, 1945-1946"

Discussants: Peter Zarrow, David Barrett, and Lo Jiu-jung

Session V, Part I: Wartime Economy and Society

Co-Chairs: Stephen MacKinnon and Marilyn Levine

Jin Pusen 金普森, Hangzhou University, "China's Grain Problems during the Anti-Japanese War"

Nakamura Takafusa 中村隆英, Tôyô Eiwa Women's University, "The Establishment and Activities of the North China Development Corporation"

Douglas R. Reynolds, Georgia State University, "The Chinese Industrial Cooperative Movement, 1938-1945: Old Questions, New Answers"

Session V, Part 2: Wartime Economy and Society

Co-chairs: Stephen MacKinnon and Marilyn Levine

Ka-che Yip 葉嘉熾, University of Maryland, Baltimore, "Health, National Resistance, and National Reconstruction in China during the Sino-Japanese War: A Research Agenda"

Chang Li 張力, Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, "Grain Supply vs. State Revenues: Wartime China's Liquor Production in a Dilemma"

Chen Hongmin 陳紅民, Nanjing University, "A Study of the Wartime Postal System and the CCP's 'Great Production Movement'"

Discussants: Parks Coble, Richard Chu, and Jie Yang

Sessions VI: Culture, Art, and Ideology

Chair: Joshua Fogel

Chen Mingsheng 陳明生, Lakehead University, "Fung Yu-lan and His Concept of the Sino-Japanese War as the 'Fourth Southern Crossing of the River' in Chinese History"

Poshek Fu 傅葆石, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, "To Defend China: The Cultural Politics of Wartime Hong Kong Cinema"

Liang Kan 梁侃, Seattle University, "Expectation and Disillusion: Writers' Life in Wartime Chongqing, 1937-1945"

Donald F. McCallum, University of California, Los Angeles, "Japanese Visualizations of China during the Sino-Japanese War: Aesthetics, Politics, and Ideology"

De-min Tao 陶德民, Bridgewater State University/Kansai University, "Japan's War in China: Perspectives of the Leading Japanese Sinologists in Wartime"

Odoric Wou 吳應銑, Rutgers University, "Communist Sources and Localizing of the Study of the Sino-Japanese War"

Discussants: Marilyn Levine, Wong Young-tsu, Douglas Reynolds

Concluding Comments: Steven I. Levine, University of North Carolina

One of the most fascinating and, ironically, productive aspects of this conference was the almost total absence of extended discussion of the Chinese Communist Movement. The discussion of the war years and events leading up to them were couched in other terms. This fact only dawned upon the gathered participants on the last day of the meetings, and it drew a collective smile (and a quieter sigh of relief) from many. It was also the first time this participant witnessed a balanced, well-documented, and genuinely scholarly discussion of Wang Jingwei and his government.

We struggled to find unbiased language to describe the various Japanese-sponsored regimes in China, after "puppet" was rejected by most. "Collaborationist" was also felt to be a loaded term, although apparently in British English it carries less of the pejorative sense North American English affixes to it. In fact, one discussant boldly suggested that what we may have, if viewed from the ground up, is a series of governments that seize control over the body politic in China beginning with warlords and proceeding through other warlords, the Nationalists, the Japanese and their Chinese allies, and later the Communists. In certain areas of China, of course, the Communists held brief control of the terrain before 1949 as well. This inability to tie down the Wang Jingwei and other "collaborationist" regimes or to paint them neatly as evil incarnate was exceedingly refreshing, and Larry Shyu is, at least in large part, responsible for making this all possible. He is planning to prepare a volume of conference papers which should be available later this year or early next year.