

A Short History of the American Association for Chinese Studies

Cal Clark*

ABSTRACT

The American Association for Chinese Studies (AACS) can trace its intellectual heritage back to the philosopher and diplomat Hu Shih who formed a group of Chinese sinologists during 1938-1942 when he was ambassador to the United States. When the Association for Chinese Studies (ACS) was formed in 1958, it was primarily composed of Chinese language teachers and a few historians. During the late 1960s and 1970s, a movement successfully brought many social scientists into the association to create a truly multi-disciplinary organization. In the early 1980s, it merged with another scholarly organization to found the current AACS. Beginning in the mid-1980s, the association started to sponsor several publications, most prominently the *American Journal of Chinese Studies*. In the early 21st century, AACS has had significant growth in both membership and annual meeting participation and has become an international organization.

Keywords: American Association for Chinese Studies, *American Journal of Chinese Studies*, humanities, social sciences

The American Association for Chinese Studies (AACS) celebrated its 60th anniversary at its annual meeting at the University of Maryland's Law School in Baltimore in early October 2018. Many long-time members were present for this event, including Professor James C. Hsiung of New York University, who has been a member for fifty years! The Association can trace its intellectual roots back to the eminent modern Chinese philosopher and diplomat Hu Shih. Hu was the leader of the movement to modernize Chinese culture in the first half of the 20th century. In particular, he successfully advocated replacing classical Chinese with the popular vernacular in Chinese writing and literature and was a champion of the pragmatic philosophy of John Dewey, under whom he studied at Columbia University. His thought is presented in such books as *The Chinese Renaissance*¹ and *The Development of the Logical Method in China*.² He also was a champion of democracy, human

* Cal Clark is a Professor of Political Science at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama. He is a long-time member and former President of the American Association for Chinese Studies. Professor Clark wishes to express his gratitude for the contributions by Thomas Bellows, Peter Chow, June Teufel Dreyer, John Hsieh, James Hsiung, Choyun Hsu, Edward McCord, Vincent Wang, and Chih-Yu T. Wu which made this article possible.

¹ Hu Shih, *The Chinese Renaissance: The Haskell Lectures, 1933*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1934.

² Hu Shih, *The Development of the Logical Method in China*. London: Forgotten Books, 2012.

rights, and mass education and literacy for China. He served as the Republic of China's Ambassador to the United States from 1938 to 1942.³

Table 1 summarizes the major events in AACCS's history. While he was ambassador to the United States, Hu Shih invited a group of Chinese scholars to meet periodically in what was then called the Baltimore Forum. The group ceased to function when Hu was recalled to China, but when he returned to the U.S. in 1949, it began to meet again, albeit more infrequently. The original Association for Chinese Studies (ACS) was formed in 1958, primarily by Chinese language teachers, an area that reflected a major interest of Hu, along with a few historians. The prominent participants included C. P. Cheng, Paul K. T. Sih, Arthur W. Hummel, Theodore Chen, and Tien-yi Li. Starting in the late 1960, a movement emerged to bring more social scientists into the association to create a truly multidisciplinary academic organization. Some of the leading scholars in this movement included Theodore Chen, Hungdah Chiu, James Hsiung, Winberg Chai, Wen Lang Li, Michael Kau and Paul Tai. As a result, many of the Chinese language teachers left to form a separate organization. The ACS was originally headquartered in New York at The China Institute in America under the leadership of C. P. Cheng, the Institute's Director. When Dr. Cheng retired in the late 1960s, he was succeeded by Paul K. T. Sih of St. John's University. (See Table 2 for a list of the Association's Executive Secretaries and Secretariat locations).⁴

TABLE 1
TIMELINE OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN AACCS HISTORY

Late 1940s-1950s	-Informal group of Chinese scholars centered on Hu Shih
1958	-Association for Chinese Studies (ACS) formed: primarily language teachers with a few historians
Late 1960s & 1970s	-Transition to a multidisciplinary Association with emphasis on the social sciences. Leaders included Theodore Chen, Hungdah Chiu, Winberg Chai, James Hsiung, and Michael Ying-mau Kao
Early 1980s	-Two organizations merge to form American Association for Chinese Studies (AACCS)
1980s-early 1990s	AACCS develops publications (see Table 3)
21st Century	-Expanding size of membership and Annual Meetings -Grant from Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation (2012-2014) promotes organizational growth and greater emphasis on humanities -Constitutional Amendment in 2016 declares that AACCS is an international academic organization for China and Taiwan Studies

3 Jerome B. Greider, *Hu Shih and the Chinese Renaissance: Liberalism in the Chinese Revolution, 1917-1937*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1970.

4 Chu-yuan Cheng, "Presidential Address: AACCS at 40 – In Retrospect and Prospect, *The AACCS Bulletin*, Winter 1998, pp. 1-3, reprinted in Appendix A; James C. Hsiung, "AACCS History." Baltimore: Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Chinese Studies, 2018; James C. Hsiung, "Letter on AACCS History," Appendix B; Choyun Hsu, "Letter on AACCS History," Appendix C.

TABLE 2
AACS SECRETARIATS

-The China Center in America, C. P. Cheng, Executive Secretary, 1950s
-St. John's University, Paul K.T. Sih, Executive Secretary, 1960s-1970s
-Ohio State University, Wen Lang Li, Executive Secretary, 1980s-1995
-University of Maryland at College Park, Marcus Franda, Executive Secretary, 1996-1997
-City University of New York, Peter Chow, Executive Director, 1998-present

The next major period of change occurred in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The switch in America's diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing brought in a significant number of new members as interest in China grew in the U.S. Organizationally, the ACS headquarters moved to Ohio State University when Wen Lang Li became Executive Secretary. In 1996, it moved again the University of Maryland, College Park with Marcus Franda as Executive Secretary. Two years later, Peter C.Y. Chow moved the Secretariat to the City University of New York where he has now served as the association's first Executive Director for twenty years. The nature and name of the organization changed as well. In the early 1980s, Hungdah Chiu and Cho-yun Hsu integrated two scholarly organizations, the renamed American Association for Chinese Studies (AACS) and the North American Association for Chinese Social Scientists (NAACSS). Starting in the early 1980s, the two associations held their annual meetings in conjunction with each other. The NAACSS held its convention the day before the two- or three-day meetings of the AACS. AACS also commenced to sponsor academic publications (see Table 3). One was the *Digest of Chinese Studies*, which specialized in book reviews of works in Chinese published in Taiwan under the editorships of first Lisa C. Woo of the University of Pittsburgh and then Rebecca McGinnes of the University of Maryland. The other was the *Journal of Chinese Studies*, an academic journal, which was published from 1984 to 1987 with Tien-yi Li as the Chair of the Editorial Board. Then in 1992, AACS sponsored a new academic journal, the *American Journal of Chinese Studies*, under the editorship of Paul Hung-chao Tai of the University of Detroit, Mercy. Upon his retirement in 1998, Thomas Bellows of the University of Texas, San Antonio became editor and served in that position until 2017. Edward McCord of George Washington University then became the *Journals* third editor.

During the late 1980s and 1990s, some of the prominent participants in AACS included veteran scholars, such as Martin Wilbur, Robert A. Scalapino, Franz Michael, Benjamin Schwartz, Richard L. Walker, Ying-shih Yu, Cho-yun Hsu, James C. Hsiung, Yuan-li Wu, Tony Shao-chuan Leng, Hungdah Chiu, Michael Ying-mau Kau, Ramon Myers, Thomas A. Metzger, A. James Gregor, Jan Prybyla, Tao-tai Hsia, and King Chen. Younger scholars frequently attending the meetings included Thomas Bellows, Cal Clark, John F. Copper, Nancy B. Tucker, Catherine Woo, Stephen Uhalley, Jr., Tai Hung-chao, Li Ta-ling, Wang Ping, Richard Chu, Chu Kwang-wen, Kiang Yu-lung, Lin Shuen-fu, Ling Yu-long, Li Wen Lang, Tsai Wen-hui, Tang De-piao, Keng Ching-wu, James T. Myers, Francis C. Tuan, and Maria H. Chang. Veteran

diplomats, such as Arthur Hummel, Nat Bellocchi, David Dean, Harvey Feldman, and James R. Lilley, also joined the Association.⁵

TABLE 3
AACS PUBLICATIONS

<p><i>Digest of Social Science Research on China</i>, 1984 <i>Digest of Chinese Studies</i>, 1988-1997 <i>Journal of Chinese Studies</i>, 1984-1987 <i>American Journal of Chinese Studies</i>, 1992-present</p>

Hungdah Chiu of the University of Maryland's School of Law was one of the central leaders of the AACS for a quarter of a century. He served as the president of the association and, perhaps more importantly, was involved in a number of vital initiatives involving the association and Chinese studies. First, he was among the group of young social scientists who turned the association from an organization of Chinese languages teachers into a truly multidisciplinary association through his strong commitment to expanding diversity in both disciplinary and ethnic terms. Second, he raised funds to support AACS over an extended period of time which led to a greater emphasis on Taiwan since that country was the source of much of this financial support. Third, he founded the *Maryland Series in Contemporary Asian Studies* at the East Asian Legal Studies Program of the University of Maryland School of Law in 1977. The series has been devoted to publishing scholarly articles and monographs on the significant political, economic, social, and legal issues concerning the East Asian region, with particular emphasis on China and Taiwan and their relationship with the United States. Fourth, he was one of the key leaders in coordinating the relationship between our Association and the North American Association of Chinese Social Scientists in the early 1980s. Fifth, he mentored younger scholars, such as June Teufel Dreyer, and recruited them to AACS. Last but certainly not least, he recruited Peter Chow to be the Executive Director of AACS in 1998, leading to the expansion in the activities and responsibilities of this position and the conclusion by fifty-year member James Hsiung that Dr. Chow is the best executive director the Association has had in its history.⁶

Also among the towering figures in AACS was the indomitable Richard L. (Dixie) Walker, who served as president of the association from 1995 to 1997. Born into an old missionary family, Dixie had native-speaker fluency in Mandarin, as did his parents. Dixie once told Dr. Dreyer that his father had served as Sun Yat-sen's interpreter. Seeing her puzzled expression—Sun had taken second prize in English at Honolulu's prestigious Iolani School, despite knowing only Cantonese when he arrived—Dixie explained that his father had translated Sun's English into Mandarin; and that an exquisitely embroidered Qing dynasty robe displayed on the wall of the Walker home had been a gift from the grateful Sun. Dixie, who received his Ph.D. from Yale, taught there until forced out for his perceived anti-Communist China bias. Undaunted, he decamped to the University of South Carolina, where he

⁵ Cheng, *op. cit.*; Hsiung, "AACS History;" Hsiung, "Letter on AACS History;" Hsu, *op. cit.*

⁶ Cheng, *op. cit.*; Hsiung, "AACS History;" Hsiung, "Letter on AACS History;" Hsu, *op. cit.*; Chih-Yu T. Wu, "Comments on Dr. Hungdah Chiu," 2018."

founded the Institute of International Studies. He could be merciless to less-than-diligent graduate students, yet avuncularly patient with undergraduates from rural southern families who were largely ignorant of the world outside their area. Successful graduates of USC master's program include a future foreign minister and a future defense minister, Jason Chang-chih Hu and Andrew Nien-tsu Yang, respectively, of the Republic of China on Taiwan. From 1981 to 1986, Dixie served as U.S. ambassador to South Korea, with President Reagan later remarking that Walker had elevated the practice of quiet diplomacy to a high art. Those of us who knew him were much amused, since "quiet" was not a word we associated with Dixie. He had a marvelous sense of humor, much of it related to his fellow Scots' fondness for a "wee drap" of the sauce and also to the foibles of academia. Dixie's essay on how to serve as a discussant without actually reading the paper is a classic send-up of scholarly procrastination. In 1996, the University of South Carolina renamed the Institute of International Studies as the Richard L. Walker Institute in his honor.⁷

In 1992, the *American Journal of Chinese Studies* (AJCS) was initiated as an official publication of the AACS. Thomas Bellows of the University of Texas, San Antonio assumed the duties as AJCS editor in 1999. He promoted the *Journal* by sending announcements to the mailing list for Taiwan/China of the Association for Asian Studies. Nearly 300 letters describing AJCS and inviting subscriptions were also sent to think tanks, university libraries, and research centers. Subsequently, subscriptions increased, as did submissions. The journal now has institutional subscribers in Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan, and Europe, in addition to the many in U.S and Canadian libraries and institutions, giving the AJCS and the AACS considerable visibility. The AJCS is now indexed and/or abstracted in *America: History & Life*, *Historical Abstracts*, *International Political Science Abstracts*, *Bibliography of Asian Studies*, *Public Affairs Information Service*, and *Standard Periodical Directory*. The journal (embargoed for one year) is also included in the following databases: *JSTOR*, *Historical Abstracts with Full Texts*, *Academic OneFile*, and *World History Collection*. Finally, the *Journal* greatly increased the humanities representation in its articles and book reviews with support from the association's 2013-2015 grant from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation. As a result of such efforts, AJCS is now a solid scholastic journal with a respectable circulation.⁸

The new AJCS editor, Edward McCord of George Washington University, believes the AJCS's primary goal should be to continue making the *Journal* an attractive site for quality publications in all fields of Chinese studies. In essence, this means creating a virtuous cycle where the publication of high quality scholarship will increase the reputation of the *Journal*, and where by the increasing the reputation the *Journal* will attract even more top quality articles. There are several initiatives that might be pursued to help us to achieve this goal. First, AACS President John Hsieh has revived the proposal, advocated previously by former president Wen-hui Tsai and Peter Chow, that AJCS work toward joining the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI), or other relevant indices used in various disciplines to measure scholarly visibility and influence. A second initiative is to consider the comparative advantages of continued in-house publication or working through a publisher, such as Tay-

⁷ June Teufel Dreyer, "AACS History." Baltimore: Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Chinese Studies, 2018.

⁸ Thomas Bellows, "The AJCS in the 21st Century," 2018.

lor & Francis, who could market the *Journal* to a wider audience. It might also make it possible to increase accessibility and visibility through an electronic version. Finally, *AJCS* will continue efforts to expand the content of the *Journal* beyond its traditional strengths in political science and policy scholarship to other disciplines—particularly in the humanities. This would not only increase the pool of quality scholarship the *Journal* could draw on but also expand the audience for the *Journal*. In particular, the editor's primary goals are to: 1) maintain the multi-disciplinary focus of the *Journal* but 2) ensure that the strength in policy-relevant research is not sacrificed; 3) keep a strong Taiwan presence; 4) create an attractive site for publication by graduate students and junior scholars; and 5) allow both footnote and MLA styles to serve different discipline standards.⁹

AACS has grown considerably during the 21st century. The sites of the association's annual meetings in the 21st century have been fairly diverse as ten were on the east coast, 5 on the west coast, and 4 in the mid-west (See Table 4). The membership has grown tremendously from several dozen 60 years ago to approximately 500 today, although less than half pay dues continuously. In terms of disciplinary representation, however, members with political science and policy expertise continue to provide the main core of AACS membership, with relatively fewer anthropologists, economists, historians and sociologists. In the humanities, though, the participation of literary and media scholars has increased considerably over the last decade. Finally, the association adopted a constitutional amendment identifying itself as an international organization—recognizing and encouraging increasing international membership.

TABLE 4
SITES OF AACS ANNUAL MEETINGS

2018	University of Maryland, School of Law, Baltimore
2017	University of South Carolina
2016	Pepperdine University, Los Angeles
2015	University of St. Thomas, Houston
2014	George Washington University
2013	Rutgers University
2012	Georgia Institute of Technology
2011	University of Pennsylvania
2010	Wake Forest University
2009	Rollins College, Florida
2008	California State University, Fullerton
2007	University of Richmond, Virginia
2006	University of California, Riverside
2005	Vanderbilt University
2004	College of William and Mary
2003	Franklin College & University of Indianapolis
2002	University of Southern California
2001	University of Chicago
2000	University of San Francisco
1999	Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, Washington, DC

⁹ Edward McCord, "Goals for the *American Journal of Chinese Studies*," 2018.

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1998 The City College of New York, New York (40th anniversary)
1997 Pennsylvania State University,
1996 University of Maryland, College park
1995 University of Las Vegas, Reno
1993 University of South Carolina
1992 Mercy University, Detroit
1991 University of Maryland
1990 California State University, Fullerton
1989 University of Wyoming
1987 Washington, DC
1986 University of Pittsburgh
1984 or 85 University of California, Santa Barbara
1984 or 85 University of Delaware
1983 University of California, Berkeley
Ohio State University, 1960s
University of Michigan, 1960s
University of Maryland, College Park, 1963

A major stimulus for growth came from a prestigious three-year grant (2013-1205) that the association received from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation of approximately \$20,000 per year. AACS President Paul Hung-chao Tai of the University of Detroit, Mercy, applied and received the initial one-year grant, which was announced at the 2012 annual meeting during the presidency of Shelley Rigger of Davidson College. President Vincent Wang then of the University of Richmond then applied for and received two follow-up grants for the second and third years; and President Hans Stockton of the University of St. Thomas administered the grant in its final year (see Table 5 for a list of AACS presidents). The grant activities had two major objectives. One was to help AACS undertake new activities that could help expand its membership—and the other, which was suggested by CCKF Board Chairman Cho-yun Hsu, was to enhance the role of the humanities in the association and its journal. In particular, there was a substantial increase in the number of humanity scholars who presented keynote addresses and papers at the annual meetings and contributed articles to *AJCS*; and back issues of the journal were made available in a digitalized format to expand its accessibility. Shelley Rigger assumed the editorship of our *Newsletter* (formerly the *Bulletin*), which she quickly upgraded in terms of the content and quality of production. To reach out scholars in all fields of Chinese studies, the AACS ordered the mailing list from the AAS for the announcement of calls for papers and other conference information. In addition, travel grants were provided for junior scholars, humanities scholars, and participants on several selected panels on Taiwan. As an indicator of success, the 2014 annual meeting at George Washington's Sigur Center was the largest ever in the association's history.¹⁰

10 Peter C.Y. Chow, "AACS History." Baltimore: Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Chinese Studies, 2018; Vincent Wang, "Application for the Renewal of a Grant by the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation to the American Association for Chinese Studies," 2013; Vincent Wang, "Application for the Renewal of a Grant by the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation to the American Association for Chinese Studies," 2014.

TABLE 5
AACS PRESIDENTS

1995-1996 Richard “Dixie” Walker	<u>Earlier Presidents:</u>
1997-1998 Chu-Yuan Cheng	C. P. Cheng
1999-2000 Thomas Bellows	Paul K. T. Sih
2001-2002 Wen-hui Tsai	Tien-yi Li
2003-2004 Cal Clark	Hungdah Chiu
2005-2006 Yu-Long Ling	
2007-2008 Jerry McBeath	
2009-2010 Paul Hung-chao Tai	
2011-2012 Shelley Rigger	
2013-2014 Vincent Wang	
2015-2016 Hans Stockton	
2017-2018 John Hsieh	
2019-2020 June Teufel Dreyer	

The experience of the secretariat reflects the growth of our association during the 21st century. When the AACS Office moved to the City College of New York on January 1, 1998, the Secretariat Office received a “zero balance” from its predecessor. The AACS then negotiated a loan of \$5,000 from another academic organization to expedite the functions of the organization and to prepare for its 40th annual meeting in New York City. With generous support from its donors, the AACS was able to invite Professor Lawrence Klein, Nobel Laureate in Economics, to deliver the keynote speech at the 40th anniversary meeting hosted by the City College of New York. In the following year, with a conference grant, the AACS held its annual meeting in April 1999 in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation.

Over the past two decades, the AACS has been trying to diversify to attract more participation from several disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. One of its efforts is to recruit more humanities scholars to its board of directors. Another is to recruit more economists and sociologists to AACS conferences. It has been less successful in attracting economics papers primarily because the field in economics has become increasingly quantitative, reducing attendance at economics panels except those taking political economy approaches. Continued efforts are also needed to invite more scholars in other fields such as anthropology, sociology, religion, gender, ethnic studies, and studies on diasporas.

With the three-year grant from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, the AACS was able to offer essay awards to those conference papers on topics related to Taiwan (ROC) as stipulated by the grant contract. The grant also encouraged more publication of humanities articles in the *AJCS*. Under the editorial leadership of first Thomas Bellows and then Edward McCord, the number of humanities articles has been steadily increasing. The AACS constitution was amended twice since 1998. In addition to revising the governance structure, Article 2 on the purpose of the AACS specifies that “The purpose of the Association is to encourage the study of subjects related to China and Taiwan . . .” to reflect the research interests of AACS constituencies.

With declining travel budgets in many universities, it has become harder for junior scholars to present their papers at the AACS conference. Thus, the association set up a “junior scholar travel” program to subsidize their participation. Many of their conference papers have been published either by the *AJCS* or other academic journals. In fact, the AACS office has sent out numerous letters of recommendation to various universities to support the tenure and promotion for some of these junior scholars. At least three or four of our board members were recipients of a junior scholar travel grant.

As the AACS approaches the third decade of the 21st century, the organization has attained a sound financial foundation and become an international academic organization with conference participants not only from the U.S. and Canada, but also from Europe, China, India, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, and many other countries.¹¹

APPENDIX A

Chu-yuan Cheng, “Presidential Address: AACS at 40—In Retrospect and Prospect,” *The AACS Bulletin*, Winter 1998, pp. 1-3.

(Many thanks to Chih-Yu T. Wu, the Executive Editor of the *Maryland Series in Contemporary Asian Studies*, for unearthing this interesting document)

This year’s annual conference marks the 40th anniversary of AACS. Two thousand years ago, Confucius described a scholar’s growth in terms of decades. The master remarked that when he reached the age of 30 he was well-grounded and established in scholarship, and when he reached the age of 40, he was free of doubt. For an individual, 40 is the middle point of life. But for an academic organization, 40 is still very young. For instance, the American Economic Association was organized in 1885 and is now in its 113th year.

From an organization of several dozen sinologists in 1959 to an association of a couple of hundred members today, the American Association has grown steadily. I was a graduate student at Georgetown University in the Spring of 1963 when I was invited to attend the fifth annual meeting of AACS at the College Park campus of the University of Maryland. It was then a young association with very few members, mostly senior scholars in the field of Chinese languages, history and philosophy. The organizer of the Conference was Dr. C. P. Cheng, the Director of the China Institute in America in New York City. Prominent participants included Paul K. T. Sih, Director of Asian Studies at St. John’s University, Arthur W. Hummel, Curator of the Chinese Division of the Library of Congress, Theodore Chen, Professor at the University of Southern California, and Tien-yi Li, Professor of Chinese Literature at Ohio State University. The meeting lasted only half a day. Since 1963, I have attended most of the AACS annual conferences and witnessed its growth.

Throughout the 1960s, most of the annual meetings convened on the east coast, rotating among New York City, Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh, and Baltimore. When Dr. C. P. Cheng retired in the late 1960s, Professor Paul Sih assumed the presidency. In the early 1980s under Professor Tien-yi Li’s initiation a new journal, the *Journal of Chinese Studies*, was born. The headquarters of the Association moved to Ohio State University at Columbus, Ohio, with Professor Wen Lang Li as the Executive Secretary. Membership has expanded to include social scientists in economics, political science, interna-

11 Peter Chow, “The AACS Secretariat in the 21st Century,” 2018.

tional relations, and sociology. Annual meetings were also expanded from one day to two- or three days. The locations of the meetings shifted from the east coast to the mid-west and west coast, including Stanford, Santa Barbara, San Antonio, and Reno.

Ten years ago, hosted by the University of Wyoming and at the invitation of Winberg Chai, the annual meeting was convened at Laramie, Wyoming. After the meeting, more than 200 participants boarded three buses for a two-day tour of Yellowstone Park. It was one of the most memorial events of the annual meetings. During the 1980s, the Association expanded from an east-coast regional organization to become a national organization.

In the 1980's, panelists and paper presenters at the annual meetings included scholars from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Australia. In the 1990s, more scholars from Mainland China were also included. Prominent participants included veteran scholars, such as Martin Wilbur, Robert A. Scalapino, Franz Michael, Benjamin Schwartz, Richard L. Walker, Ying-shih Yu, Cho-yun Hsu, Yuan-li Wu, Tony Shao-chuan Leng, Hungdah Chiu, Michael Ying-mau Kau, Ramon Myers, Thomas A. Metzger, A. James Gregor, Jan Prybyla, Tao-tai Hsia, and King Chen. Younger scholars frequently attending the meetings included Thomas Bellows, Cal Clark, John F. Copper, Nancy B. Tucker, Catherine Woo, Stephen Uhalley, Jr., Tai Hung-chao, Li Ta-ling, Wang Ping, Richard Chu, James C. Hsiung, Chu Kwang-wen, Kiang Yu-lung, Lin Shuen-fu, Ling Yu-long, Li Wen Lang, Tsai Wen-hui, Tang Depiao, Keng Ching-wu, James T. Myers, Francis C. Tuan, and Maria H. Chang. Veteran diplomats, such as Arthur Hummel, Nat Bellocchi, David Dean, Harvey Feldman, and James R. Lilley, also joined the Association.

In the mid-1980s, the Association started a new publication, the *Digest of Chinese Studies*, which specialized in book reviews of newly published works written in Chinese and published in Taiwan. The journal has been published annually. The editorial board includes Chu-yuan Cheng (Economics), Cho-yun Hsu (History), Wen Lang Li (Sociology), and Hung-chao Tai (Political Science) with Lisa Woo of the University of Pittsburgh serving as editor until 1997 when Rebecca McGinnes of the University of Maryland became the new editor.

In 1997 when Wen Lang Li relinquished his position as executive secretary, the secretariat moved to the University of Maryland with Marcus Franda as the new executive secretary. The board of directors was expanded, and a bulletin was added. Membership grew to more than 500 with some 300 attending the 1996 annual meeting at College Park, Maryland.

Professor Franda served two years as executive secretary. His departure led to the move of the secretarial office to the City University of New York with Professor Peter C. Y. Chow as his replacement. We hope that the new secretarial office will remain there for several years to come. Under Professor Chow's leadership, this year's annual meeting offers 24 panels and promises another successful conference.

Two years ago, while accepting the presidency, I outlined three goals to orient our concerted efforts recruiting new members, revitalizing publications, and strengthening the financial foundation. A review of membership reveals that many active members are senior scholars. They are either retired or approaching retirement. While this group constitutes the longtime supporters and backbone of the Association, the continued growth of the Association requires the participation of new blood. With the concerted efforts of the board members and the executive secretary, new members have in-

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creased in the last two years. In this year's annual meeting, 25 papers were presented by young scholars.

Our second goal is to strengthen our three publications: *American Journal for Chinese Studies*, *Bulletin*, and *Digest of Chinese Studies*. An association's strength is primarily reflected in its official publications. During the past two years under the editorship of Professor Hung-chao Tai, not only has the *Journal* been published regularly, but its content has improved substantially. However, there is still a paucity of high-quality articles. We hope that members could submit their research papers for consideration. Moreover, more efforts are needed to enlarge the circulation of the *Journal*. The *Bulletin*, which serves as a vehicle of communication among the members, needs news and short articles from the members. Everyone attending this meeting is encouraged to submit your activities, publications, and new ideas to the *Bulletin*.

The third idea is to strengthen the financial foundation of the Association. Although the membership is growing, not all members paid their dues regularly. This year with generous support from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, we were able to provide limited travel grants to 15 junior scholars. But the financial base of the association is rather weak. A fundraising campaign is indispensable for the future growth of the AACS.

In view of the transformation from a small association in the 1960's to an organization with national and international stature, the 40th anniversary is indeed a landmark occasion to be celebrated. It will be the beginning of a new chapter for the Association. As China increases in global economic and political importance, studies in various fields regarding China are bound to gain prominence in the 21st century. More scholars are expected to join the Association to solidify its role as a leading organization in Chinese Studies.

APPENDIX B

James C. Hsiung, "Letter on AACS History"

Dear AACS brethren,

If there is going to be a workshop on AACS history, as I understand there is, then the next thing we should do as an organization is to find out who are the people who joined the AACS the longest and are still around and active (should I say "kicking"?). They might serve as the living historians *qua* witnesses.

Vaguely, I remember I joined the AACS, in the late 1960s, when it was an association consisting mainly of Chinese language teachers, with the exception of a very few from the history discipline. At the time, however, it was in the beginning of a slow transition to become an interdisciplinary organization, such as it later became.

At the time, the association was seated at the Center of Asian Studies, St. John's University, New York., and Director Paul K.T. Sih's staff at the Center doubled as the association's Secretariat.

I was drafted at the suggestion of Teddy Chen of USC, an influential Board member who urged the association to recruit more social-science academics who studied China. After becoming a member, I became a strong supporter (as a new, elected Board member) of Teddy's crusade to make the association inter-disciplinary. The former language-teaching members simply dropped out.

In the spirit of that crusade, I remember I was responsible for recruiting Hungdah Chiu (who later served briefly as President of AACS), Michael Kao, Winberg Chai, etc. They in turn reached out and recruited others to join. Some of these recruits (and others they recruited) have continued till this day, making AACS a truly respectable inter-disciplinary association.

APPENDIX C

Choyun Hsu, "Letter on AACS History"

Dear Friends:

Now about the history of AACS:

I was a member of this organization in 70's/80's of the 20th century. Now being old and having no personal record kept, I only am able to provide rather vaguely some of the history of AACS.

The remote background: Dr. Hu Shi organized a Baltimore Round Table, when he served as an Ambassador of the Rep. of China in the USA during the WW II years, whereby he invited Sinologists in the USA to meet periodically.

After his returning to China, this organization ceased to meet. Then, after 1949 when he resided in New York, the same group of senior sinologists resumed meeting infrequently, while there were a new generation of "China Watchers" who were not involved at all.

By that time, such an organization of some elder sinologists and some Chinese scholars who taught Chinese as language teachers received no support from anywhere. The funding was raised by Hu Shi himself by donations occasionally from some wealthy Chinese in the USA.

By 1960, when Dr. Hu returned to Taiwan to head Academia Sinica, Paul K.T. Sih of the St John's University took over Dr. Hu's role to convene such a group to form an organization.

During that time a good number of Chinese scholars in humanities and social sciences studying in the USA, who preferred to stay on instead of returning to either side of the two Chinas, often found there was no job other than teaching Chinese language and literature. That is the reason the AACS was remembered by James Hsiung as a language teachers' organization.

By the early 1970's, Sih had returned to Taiwan. A group of Chinese scholars in humanities and social sciences, led by Hungdah Chiu, Wen Lang Li, Paul Tai, Ying-mau Kau, etc. already had organized an American Society of Chinese Scholars. The members of this learned organization mainly were younger social scientists on Chinese studies in American institutes of high education.

Approximately in the early 1980's, one of my Pit colleagues, Professor Chu Wenchang, who taught Chinese Literature, came to my office for a chat. He was concerned about the withering of Sih's organization of Chinese Studies after Sih had returned to Taiwan for health reason. He proposed to persuade both organizations mentioned above to merge into one so that a new learned organization on Chinese Studies might function rather viably.

After I forwarded this message to Hungdah and the core members mentioned above, they promptly arranged merger of these two bodies. A new name was adopted: AACS. From there on, this learned institute consisted of scholars, Chinese as well as non-Chinese, who chose Chinese Studies as their life vocation.

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During early years of the new AACS., Wen Lang served as its Executive Director in order to maintain stability, while the Presidents were rotated by election. When Wen Lang returned to Tunghai University, Peter Chow assumed the job of the CEO of AACS.

Two decades ago, I myself ceased to attend AACS activities, as well as those of AAS. due to degeneration of my physical condition that my physician ordered to reduce activities.

I wish my recollections may supplement the information provided by my colleagues in several rounds of emails exchanges.

APPENDIX D

Chia-lin Pao Tao, "Letter on AACS History"

I remember I first attended the AACS conference in the 1960s. One Annual Meeting was in Columbus, Ohio when Prof. Tien-yi Li in Chinese Literature was President, and another Annual Meeting in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

I had a good time in these two conferences. As a junior scholar I had the chance of meeting professors in many different fields of Chinese studies — history, literature, sociology, linguistics, etc. Once I sat at the same table with Chao Yuan-ren and Yang Bu-wei for dinner. I also met junior scholars such as Ou-fan Lee (Chinese literature) who later became well-known scholars.

I remember meeting Prof. Tai Hung-chao there, so he might be able to tell you more. From 1968 to 1976 I returned to Taiwan to teach history at National Taiwan University. For many years I did not attend AACS conferences.

