

Invitation to New Members

CCP Research Newsletter is published by the Chinese Communism Research Group, an informal international network of scholars including the editorial board of the Newsletter, individual subscribers, and readers. The group exists to promote scholarly research on the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and to provide, through the Newsletter, a guide to sources, scholars, and trends in research and teaching.

The group and Newsletter focus on the CCP from its origins to the present. Our interests are, however, not limited to "Party history" alone. We will cover three broad topics: the pre-49 Chinese Communist Movement, the post-49 Party/State in the PRC, and the post-79 reform of the socialist system in China. The Newsletter thus focuses on current research issues in the study of the CCP and its central role in Chinese politics and society.

The Newsletter is not a forum for publishing research findings, but rather one for exchanging information about where to *find sources*, how to *assess them*, and how to *interpret them*. The intended audience is scholars in all fields whose active research includes the CCP. Since the main focus of the Newsletter is primary source materials, we will print Chinese characters when needed for scholarly convenience. The language of the Newsletter is English; the romanization is *pinyin*.

The Newsletter is intended to provide a medium through which a group of scholars can keep in closer touch than is currently the case. Thus, we have tried to make this an international affair, though at present it is based in the United States. We want no unanimity of opinion but strive for scholarly detachment and even handedness. All scholars, world-wide, are welcome and invited to participate by reading and contributing to the Newsletter and by returning the information questionnaire in this issue for the "Research Directory" of scholars, their research interests, and their contact addresses (which will be published in the Newsletter). The Newsletter is a cooperative venture, and its success or failure depends on your active support.

Each Newsletter will try to provide new information on sources, scholars, and trends in research and teaching. We hope to print introductions to major collections, libraries, and reference aids which help us locate **sources**. Three types of sources will be reviewed: original or reprinted documents; other source materials, such as "reminiscences" and reminiscence-style biographical collections, etc.; and particularly informative or insightful books from China and, less frequently, Japanese or Western language studies where they make heavy or insightful use of new sources. We will compile "Working Bibliographies" of major works on topics to do with Party history. For **scholars**, we would like to build and constantly update a guide to each other, our research interests, and the nature of the source materials we use. Under **trends** in research, we would like not only to provide notices of conferences, panels, projects, and other activities, but also discuss *methodological issues*, debate points of contention and generally ward off analytical flab. Sections on teaching will aim to pass along the experience of colleagues in incorporating new findings in university teaching.

One special role for the Newsletter is to facilitate the fair exchange of materials difficult to locate, particularly the *neibu* books. We encourage our colleagues to send their recent "finds" to CCRM--the Center for Chinese Research Materials, Oakton, Virginia--for microfilm publishing and to send a book note or review to the Newsletter to alert colleagues. (See details in the **Book Notes** section in this issue.) The CCRM will provide a free reprint of your choice as well as return your materials.

This first issue of the CCP Research Newsletter includes a survey of current research interests, as well as suggestions for improving the Newsletter. Whether you wish to subscribe or not, please feel free to return the survey and contact information for the directory. New members are invited to join by subscribing to the Newsletter.

Timothy Cheek

Guidelines for Contributors

Contributions are welcomed from scholars world-wide, regardless of institutional affiliation or country of residence. A look at the first issue of the Newsletter and its "Invitation to New Members" will give you an idea of what sort of contributions will be most welcome. Reviews, book notes, teaching experiences, research notes, or commentaries, as well as letters responding to material previously published in the Newsletter, can be sent to the editor or any listed member of the editorial board. Within reason and subject to normal academic revisions, we will publish everything sent to us.

A few particulars to keep in mind: Your review of a source or a book should remind non-specialists of the significance of the topic concerned, very briefly review current research and outline what this new source has to offer. The critique should aim to inform readers by *detailed example* (including page references) about the strengths and weaknesses of the text. Finally, the review should be written in a manner that invites readers to go to that source themselves: give full bibliographic information (including *hanzi* for author, title, publisher); explain technical terms and provide Chinese characters (or whatever original script) for important names or terms (but not for well-known terms such as "Chairman Mao" and "CCP"). We find it particularly helpful to give precise page references to topics or examples cited in such reviews.

Most manuscripts should be between 750-1250 words (3-5 pp. double spaced manuscript). Book notes should be under 100 words. Both must give precise information as to how the text can be located by other scholars. Research activities and other notices should give name and address for a contact person.