

**CHIUNGTZE C. TSEN (1898-1940)
AND TSEN'S THEOREMS**

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1. Introduction. Around the beginning of this century, the western education system was introduced into China to replace the traditional one. In 1917, Mingfu T. Hu (1891–1927) got his Ph.D. degree from Harvard University under the direction of W.A. Hurwitz [33]. He was the first person in China to obtain a Ph.D. degree in mathematics.¹ Subsequently, several persons who held Ph.D. degrees or were trained in some master programs in the United States, Europe or Japan returned to China and established university curriculums of modern mathematics. During 1928–1937 there arose a new generation of budding mathematicians with rather solid preparation as undergraduate students.² After graduation most of them went abroad for advanced studies. Among them, the most famous ones were Tsai-han Kiang (Zehan Jiang 1902–1994), Shiing-Shen Chern (born in 1911), Pao-lu Hsu (Baolu Xu, 1910–1970), etc. Although Loo-Keng Hua (Luogeng Hua, 1910–1985) and Wei-Liang Chow (1911–1995) were of the same age group, Hua was essentially self-taught and Chow had his undergraduate education outside of China, i.e., in the physics department of the University of Chicago. Chiungtze C. Tsen (1898–1940) belonged to this generation also.³

Somewhat older than other persons of this generation, Tsen got the bachelor degree two years before this period (1926). At the end of 1928 he went to Germany with a fellowship from the Chinese government. From the summer semester of 1929, he matriculated at Göttingen University. His mentor was Emmy Noether, one of the founders of modern algebra. The subject of his Ph.D. dissertation [T2] is central simple algebras. One of the main results of this dissertation is:

Theorem. *There is no nontrivial central division algebra over an algebraic function field in one variable over an algebraically closed field.*

Received by the editors on November 3, 1997, and in revised form on February 23, 1998.