

# *Editors' Notes*

## EDITORS' REPORT

This has been a year of change at the *JOURNAL*. With the June 1984 issue Richard Sylla officially ended his long and productive term as editor and Claudia Goldin took over the American side of the *JOURNAL*. The senior editorship devolved upon Donald McCloskey, whose office became responsible for the numerous details that result in the *JOURNAL*'s publication. By vote of the trustees the Tasks issue will for the first time this year become one of selected papers from the Association's meetings. And for those of you more finely tuned to the idiosyncracies of the *JOURNAL*'s style, the formats of our footnotes, tables, and equations have been altered in many small ways.

The *JOURNAL* could never be published without the assistance of our able staff and without the financial support of two universities. Donald McCloskey's office at the University of Iowa is headed by Assistant Editor Ginalie Swaim, who has been helped by Kellie Mulford and proofreaders Anne Tremmel and Barbara Danley. At the University of Pennsylvania Carol Petraitis is Assistant Editor, and Robert Whaples, a graduate student in the Department of Economics, was the Acting Assistant Editor during the summer. Robert also performed the research on which this report is based. The careful and reliable work of the Business Office of the Association has enabled the smooth operation of the *JOURNAL*'s publication. We are all indebted to Lynn and Richmond Williams for taking such good care of the Association's finances and organization.

The *JOURNAL* may have changed hands and been altered here and there in form, but its vital signs are stable. Between July 1, 1984 and June 30, 1985 the *JOURNAL* received 92 submissions, not including those for the Tasks issue. This number is somewhat lower than that of previous years, but submissions last year were very high. Eleven of the submissions have been accepted and published, 10 have been accepted and will be published, 35 were rejected, and 36 are pending. The *JOURNAL* published 19 articles, 11 notes and discussions, and 3 review articles in the September, December, and March issues. Of these pieces 24.2 percent (21.3 including the Tasks issue) were coauthored. Between 1941 and 1956 only 1.6 percent of the articles in the *JOURNAL* had more than one author; from 1957 to 1968 the share increased to 5.1 percent, and an abrupt jump brought the 1969 to 1984 average to 16.5 percent. Only 8 of the 43 authors in these three 1984/85 issues were non-economists. The editors repeat their request of previous years that non-economists, particularly historians, submit articles to the *JOURNAL*. In 1984/85 we published 131 book reviews: 3 on Medieval and Ancient subjects, 46 Modern European, 9 on Asia, Africa and Latin America, 62 dealing with the United States and Canada, and 11 General and Miscellaneous. The number of book reviews continues its downward trend, and we ask our readers to call to our attention books of interest that we should review.

The *JOURNAL* has maintained and even exceeded its reputation for rapid decisions on manuscript submissions. The average time between receipt and first decision is about 11 weeks; about 12 percent of the manuscripts required more than 4 months to first decision and fully 40 percent took under 2 months. We owe our quick turnaround to the speedy but conscientious aid that members of the editorial board and outside referees give the editors.

The subject matter of the articles and notes in the four issues in 1984/85 continues recent trends in the *JOURNAL*. Table 1 lists the percentages of all articles and notes in each of 17 fields published in the *JOURNAL* from 1941 to 1985. Several trends in these data are apparent, more obviously so when the data are grouped as in Table 2. Historical studies of labor, income distribution, and wealth have increased since the inception of

TABLE I  
SHARES OF FIELDS IN THE *JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC HISTORY*, 1941-1985

	1941-1950	1951-1960	1961-1970	1971-1980	1981-1985	1984-1985
Field						
Agriculture	2.6	1.2	7.5	10.9	12.0	6.6
Business	16.7	8.7	1.8	1.3	0	0
Demography	2.1	1.2	3.3	6.6	5.2	6.6
Government and regulation	5.2	1.2	0.9	1.8	2.1	3.3
History of economic thought	9.9	4.4	1.2	0.5	0.3	0
Income and wealth distribution	1.0	1.6	1.2	4.6	7.9	8.2
Industrial organization	3.6	3.2	0.9	1.5	4.5	0
Labor	3.6	4.4	1.8	3.8	12.0	13.1
Macroeconomics <sup>a</sup>	6.8	15.9	12.9	12.2	13.4	13.1
Manufacturing	2.6	7.9	5.1	5.1	6.5	9.8
Methodology	8.7	3.6	5.4	6.9	1.5	1.6
Money and banking	9.9	7.9	9.9	11.7	8.2	11.5
Political, social, and cultural	6.3	8.3	4.2	1.8	1.7	1.6
Servitude and race	1.6	0.8	3.0	4.8	5.2	3.3
Technology	2.1	0.8	5.7	4.6	3.8	3.3
Trade	2.6	5.6	10.2	8.9	7.6	8.2
Transportation	2.6	6.0	5.1	4.1	0.3	0
Residual	12.1	17.3	19.9	8.9	7.8	10.8
Number of articles	172	252	333	394	336	61
Concentration ratios						
Top four fields	45.2	40.8	40.7	43.7	45.6	
Top eight fields	67.1	64.7	62.0	67.1	72.8	
Herfindahl-Hirschman index	.0736	.0549	.0588	.0715	.0816	
Editors' terms						
E. A. J. Johnson	1940-43					
Frederic Lane	1943-52					
Thomas C. Cochran	1947-55					
George Rogers Taylor		1955-61				
Douglass C. North			1961-66			
William Parker			1961-66			
Hugh G. J. Aitken				1966-69		
Robert Gallman					1969-72	
Nathan Rosenberg						1972-74
Ralph Andreano						1974-75
Rondo Cameron						1975-81
Louis Galambos						1975-78
Richard Sylla						1978-85
Donald McCloskey						1981-present
Claudia Goldin						1984-present

<sup>a</sup> Macroeconomics includes primarily articles on economic growth and development.

the *JOURNAL*. Their combined field, called population in the table, ranks ahead of all others today and includes 28 percent of all articles. Interest in agricultural history grew in the 1960s, and the field increased in rank over the four decades from last to second. At the same time, the study of businesses lost the most ground over time, falling from first place to last. Macroeconomics, commerce, industry, and methodology all have maintained their relative positions. While the topics covered have changed considerably over time, indices measuring concentration (see Table 1) indicate that the *JOURNAL*'s coverage has remained about equally concentrated. The top four fields account for 46 percent of all publications in 1981/85 and the top eight account for 73 percent. Fields come and go in an absolute and relative sense.

TABLE 2  
RANKINGS OF AGGREGATED FIELDS

Aggregate Field	1941-1950	1951-1960	1961-1970	1971-1980	1981-1985
Population	7	6	5	4	1
Sectors					
Agriculture	10	9*	4	2	2
Commerce	2	3	1	1	3
Industry	3	1	2	3	4
Macroeconomics	6	2	3	5	5
Government and regulation	9	10*	10*	7*	6
Political, social, and cultural	8	5	7	7*	7*
Methodology	4	8	6	6	8*
History of economic thought	5	7	9*	10*	9*
Firms	1	4	8*	9*	10*

\* Denotes a field containing less than 2 percent of the articles.

Notes: Population = labor + (income and wealth distribution) + demography. Firms = business. Agriculture = agriculture + servitude and race. Industry = manufacturing + technology + transportation + industrial organization. Commerce = money and banking + trade.

Source: Table 1.

What determines the topics published by a journal? Are they primarily under the control of scholars in the field or are they altered somewhat by editors who select from a larger group of papers? Are such changes correlated with broader trends in the two fields whose subject matter comprises our own discipline, and if so, with what lags?

We have run regressions on yearly data with a field's share as the dependent variable and time, time squared, and dummies for the editors as the independent variables. Editorship was found to have a significant effect on the fields that have been published. While some editors promote their fields, others appear to have critically judged their own research topics. Unfortunately, we cannot answer all of the penetrating questions with which we began, and, like our authors, we cloak our ignorance in the claim that there is an absence of available data, a lack of NSF support, and work still in progress.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to the members of the editorial board, we are greatly indebted to the following outside referees for their generous assistance during the year.

Derek Aldcroft, University of Leicester  
 Lee Alston, Williams College and University of California, Davis  
 Terry Anderson, Montana State University  
 Richard Arnott, Queen's University, Ontario  
 Jeremy Atack, University of Illinois  
 Mark Blaug, University of London  
 Allan Bogue, University of Wisconsin, Madison  
 George Boyer, Cornell University  
 Charles Calomiris, Northwestern University  
 John Coatsworth, University of Chicago  
 Lance Davis, California Institute of Technology  
 Warren Devine, Oak Ridge Associated Universities  
 Stephen Easton, Simon Fraser University  
 Barry Eichengreen, Harvard University  
 Stanley Engerman, University of Rochester

<sup>1</sup> For those desiring to pursue this research further, the raw data can be obtained from Robert Whaples, Department of Economics, University of Pennsylvania, who did the research on which Tables 1 and 2 are based.

Malcolm Falkus, London School of Economics  
Alexander Field, Santa Clara University  
Albert Fishlow, University of California, Berkeley  
Gerald Friedman, University of Massachusetts  
Robert Gallman, University of North Carolina  
Michael Haines, Wayne State University  
Ellis Hawley, University of Iowa  
Robert Higgs, Lafayette College  
Glenn Hueckel, Purdue University  
Jonathan Hughes, Northwestern University  
Ann Kussmaul, York University  
Nathaniel Leff, Columbia University  
Peter Lindert, University of California, Davis  
Susan Linz, University of California, Irvine  
Jackson Turner Main, University of Colorado  
Robert Margo, University of Pennsylvania  
Thomas Mayer, University of California, Davis  
Jacob Metzger, Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Cathy McHugh, University of North Carolina  
Marvin McInnis, Queen's University, Ontario  
Douglass North, Washington University  
Cormac Ó Gráda, University College, Dublin and University of British Columbia  
Alan Olmstead, University of California, Davis  
Frederic Pryor, Swarthmore College  
Roger Ransom, University of California, Riverside  
Joseph Reid, George Mason University  
Richard Rudolph, University of Minnesota  
Lars Sandberg, Ohio State University  
James Shepherd, Whitman College  
Kenneth Sokoloff, University of California, Los Angeles  
Richard Sutch, University of California, Berkeley  
Richard Sylla, North Carolina State University  
Peter Temin, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Thomas Ulen, University of Illinois  
David Weiman, Yale University  
Michael Weinstein, Haverford College  
Roger Weiss, University of Chicago  
Thomas Weiss, University of Kansas  
Warren Whatley, University of North Carolina and University of Michigan  
Eugene White, Rutgers University  
Gavin Wright, Stanford University

#### E.H.A. DISSERTATION SESSION

Graduate students expecting to receive their doctoral degrees in the 1985/86 academic year are encouraged to submit their dissertations for review and possible inclusion in the session to be held in Hartford, Connecticut, in connection with the Annual Meeting of the Economic History Association, September 26–28, 1986. Dissertations in American economic history are eligible for the Allen Nevins Prize of \$1,000. Dissertations on non-American economic history are eligible for the Alexander Gerschenkron Prize of \$1,000. Dissertations must be received no later than May 15, by Glenn Porter, Hagley Museum and Library, P.O. Box 3630, Wilmington, Delaware 19807. Porter and Larry Neal (Department of Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois 61801) are convenors of the dissertation session.

## ERROR IN BOOK REVIEW

The wrong name of a French manufacturing center was given in a book review in the September JOURNAL. In the review of *Clermont-de-Lodève, 1633–1789: Fluctuations in the Prosperity of a Languedocian Cloth-Making Town*, Barbézieux is listed as a Languedoc town. The correct name is Bédarieux. The editors regret any confusion this may have caused readers, and thank the author, J.K.J. Thomson, for alerting them to the error.

## INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

A four-day course in the research uses of primary sources will be given May 27–30, 1986, in the National Archives. The lecture-workshop, now in its tenth year, is designed to fit the research needs of professional researchers, social scientists, and historians. Sessions will deal with locating and gaining access to primary sources in any archives or manuscript collection, with the printed aids available that describe records, and with the process of research in archival institutions including the National Archives. This year's offering will also include a session on automated systems. Enrollment is limited to thirty. The cost (including all materials) is \$75. To register contact Elsie Freeman, Chief, Educational Branch, National Archives, Washington, D.C. 20408. Telephone (202) 523-3298.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

*The Eighth Annual Conference on the History of Massachusetts* will be held in Springfield on October 24 and 25, 1986. Papers related to any aspect of Massachusetts history will be considered for the conference. In addition to general sessions, there will be two special sessions, one related to the history of Springfield and the other to Massachusetts during the "critical period," 1783 to 1789. Complete papers (not abstracts) should be sent to Dr. John W. Ifkovic, Institute for Massachusetts Studies, Westfield State College, Westfield, Massachusetts 01086. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for possible return of your manuscript. The deadline for submission is May 15, 1986. Papers selected for presentation at the conference will be published by the Institute for Massachusetts Studies.

*The Institute for Massachusetts Studies* is planning a series of symposia on "Urban Massachusetts," to be held in the spring of 1987 at a site to be announced. Papers related to the history of any city in Massachusetts, during any time period from colonial days to the present, will be considered for presentation and for subsequent publication in the proceedings of the series. Complete papers (not abstracts) should be sent to Dr. Michael F. Konig, Institute for Massachusetts Studies, Westfield State College, Westfield, Massachusetts 01086. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for possible return of your manuscript. The deadline for submission is May 1, 1986.

## AWARDS

*The Edwin W. Rickert Award in Political Economy* provides a \$5,000 prize and publication by the Columbia University Press for an outstanding book-length manuscript in English in the field of political economy. Submissions for the 1986 competition will be accepted from January 1 until April 1, 1986. Announcement of the award will be made in the fall of 1986. Three copies of works submitted for the competition should be sent to the Edwin W. Rickert Award, Columbia University Press, 562 West 113th Street, New York, New York 10025. Submissions should be accompanied by a covering note with return address to facilitate acknowledgment of manuscripts received.

## RECORDS AVAILABLE ON MICROFILM

*The James Jerome Hill Papers*, edited by W. Thomas White, Robert M. Frame III, and Kathryn J. Gutzman, are located in a reference library established by his heirs in St. Paul, Minnesota. Hill kept meticulous records of his many dealings with business, political, and religious leaders. His correspondence, preserved in letterpress books, covering the years 1866 to 1916 and now available on microfilm, shows Hill's influence and interest in many areas: development of Minnesota and the Northwest, organization of the Northern Securities Company (the predecessor of the Burlington Northern), steamboating trade on the Mississippi and Red rivers, along with warehousing and the fuel business, development of the mining industries of Iowa, Montana, and Washington, an experimental farm, charitable activities, and international affairs. Toward the end of his life Hill was a major figure in J. P. Morgan's efforts with the Anglo-French bond drive of 1915.

*Personal and Private Series*, 1874, 1877–1916. 17 reels with printed guide.

*Pre-Railroad Business Series*, 1866–1878. 4 reels with printed guide.

*Railroads Series*, 1877–1898. 27 reels with printed guide.

Direct inquiries to University Publications of America, 44 North Market Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701. Telephone (800) 692-6300.

*Black Workers in the Era of the Great Migration, 1916–1929*, edited by James Grossman, is a collection of primary sources compiled from the records of U.S. government wartime agencies. The collection (on 25 reels with printed guide) is part of an ongoing series, *Black Studies Research Sources: Microfilms from Major Archival and Manuscript Collections*. The collection was compiled from records of the following agencies: War Labor Policies Board, National War Labor Board (case files of labor disputes involving blacks), War Department (Army's efforts to place black veterans in civilian employment), Department of Labor (Division of Negro Employment, 1917–1919), Records of the U.S. House of Representatives (hearings about proposed Federal Negro Industrial Commission), U.S. Conciliation Service (26 case files for black labor disputes in various industries), Records of the U.S. Secretary of War, Committee on Public Information (wartime propaganda aimed at blacks), U.S. Coal Commission (mining conditions in areas with heavy black populations), U.S. Children's Bureau (black children in Baltimore), Bureau of Agriculture Economics (agricultural conditions affecting southern blacks), National Mediation Board (discrimination and violence against black workers on southern railroads), U.S. Railroad Administration (employment discrimination and labor conditions of female workers), Department of Agriculture, U.S. Census Bureau (gain/loss of blacks by county in every state, 1910 and 1920), U.S. Shipping Board, Department of Justice (northern migration, labor agents, and race riots), and Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor (female laborers in various occupations). Direct inquiries to: University Publications of America, 44 North Market Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701. Telephone (800) 692-6300.

*American Federation of Labor Records, Part 1: Strikes and Agreements File, 1898–1953* affords an inside look at the conduct, operations, and strategy of over 2,000 union locals from every region of the United States and Canada. A typical file contains a running record of union reports and correspondence showing the inner workings and growth of a major part of the organized labor movement. There are extensive records of membership rolls and dues payment, and detailed reports of job actions and negotiations regarding labor conflict including case histories of hundreds of major strikes. The collection is indexed by city and state and was filmed (onto 55 reels) from the holdings of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Available from University Publications of America, 44 North Market Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701. Telephone (800) 692-6300.

*Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution Through the Civil War* is a collection of original records from more than a dozen archives throughout the South. Under the general editorship of Kenneth M. Stampp, the publisher plans to cover all geographic areas in which plantations flourished, adding about four collections annually. Family correspondence, personal diaries, plantation journals, farm books, crop books, medical record books, overseers' journals, and business papers elucidate cultural values, sexual roles, race relations, family business interests, agricultural and slave management, plantation costs, profits and losses, and health conditions. Of particular interest to economic historians are slave lists which contain vital and occupational data, including births, deaths, work experience, and market values. Special effort is given to compiling records of slaveholding farms and to material from the last quarter of the eighteenth century.

Series A. *Selections from the South Carolina Library*, University of South Carolina. Part I, 15 reels. Part II, 10 reels.

Series B. *Selections from the South Carolina Historical Society*. 10 reels.

Series C. *Selections from the Library of Congress*. Part I, 8 reels. Part II, 5 reels.

Series D. *Selections from the Maryland Historical Society*. 14 reels.

The publisher is University Publications of America, 44 North Market Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701. Telephone (800) 692-6300.

#### CIVIL WAR QUESTIONNAIRES

*The Tennessee Civil War Veterans Questionnaires*, edited by Colleen Morse Elliott and Louis Armstrong Moxley, a five-volume set published in 1985, is available at \$60.00 per volume and \$250.00 for the entire set from the Southern Historical Press, Inc., P.O. Box 738, Easley, South Carolina 29641-0738. The editors note: "In 1914 and 1915 questionnaire forms were sent to all known living Tennessee Civil War Veterans by Dr. Gus Dyer, who was then serving as Archivist of Tennessee. . . . In 1920 Mr. John Trotwood Moore, Director of the Tennessee Historical Commission, sent a revised form which covered essentially the same data. . . . All the completed forms were returned by 1922 and contain such information as date and place of birth; date and place of enlistment; war service, including descriptions of battles, prison life and hospital experiences; rosters of the Company of which the veteran was a member; comments on the economic and social status of the veteran; opinions on slavery; genealogical data; educational and religious data; his and his father's occupation both before and after the war, and many incidental facts. The veterans were encouraged to write fully of their experiences and to give as much family history as they remembered. . . . These interviewed veterans came from all social classes, and their answers varied from short and barely literate annals of the poor farmer to perceptive assessments of pre-war social conditions and detailed autobiographies of well-educated sons of planters, artisans and merchants."

Economic historians will find the inclusion of information on property (acreage, value), slave ownership, schooling (length of year, attendance, distance, male or female teachers), mother's home duties, and occupation (detailed information for the respondent and his father) to be of special interest. Attitudinal information about slavery, politics, social relations, work, and the Civil War was also elicited. The five volumes contain the responses of 1,650 Union and Confederate veterans arranged alphabetically; their answers to the almost 50 questions are clearly set forth in this unique and informative resource.