

## Editors' Notes

EDITORS' REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2003

*The Journal of Economic History* completed another successful year in 2002/03, marked (for a change) by an absence of dramatic change. Most contributors and some book publishers have by now adapted to our tripod office system: North American materials go to Wright at Stanford, all other geographic areas go to Harley at Western Ontario, with Susan Isaac handling production editing tasks at Florida State. If your paper or book does not fit neatly into this classification system, you can send it wherever you want, but we reserve the right to reallocate afterwards.

Next year will bring significant changes. Gavin Wright will complete his term as co-editor for North American topics in June, 2004. His successor will be Jeremy Atack of Vanderbilt University. Knick Harley continues as co-editor for all other parts of the world. But the location of Knick's office will change over the course of the year from Western Ontario to Oxford University. Continuity will be provided by Susan Isaac, who thankfully will stay at Florida State.

The accompanying figure and tables show that the trends of previous years have also been maintained. Figure 1 reports that new submissions have increased for the fourth consecutive year, putting us above the modestly-declining trend line of the past 20 years. From this point forward, we can look ahead to reversing the direction of the trend itself.

As always, there are interesting patterns to be found in the composition of submissions to the journal (Tables 1–3). Tables 1 and 2 suggest that the downward slide on the North American side has been reversed, the share going to that office rising from 37 to 46 percent. The largest topical area at both offices was Political Economy, replacing last year's enthusiasm for International Trade and Finance. Table 3 shows that distribution of submissions by

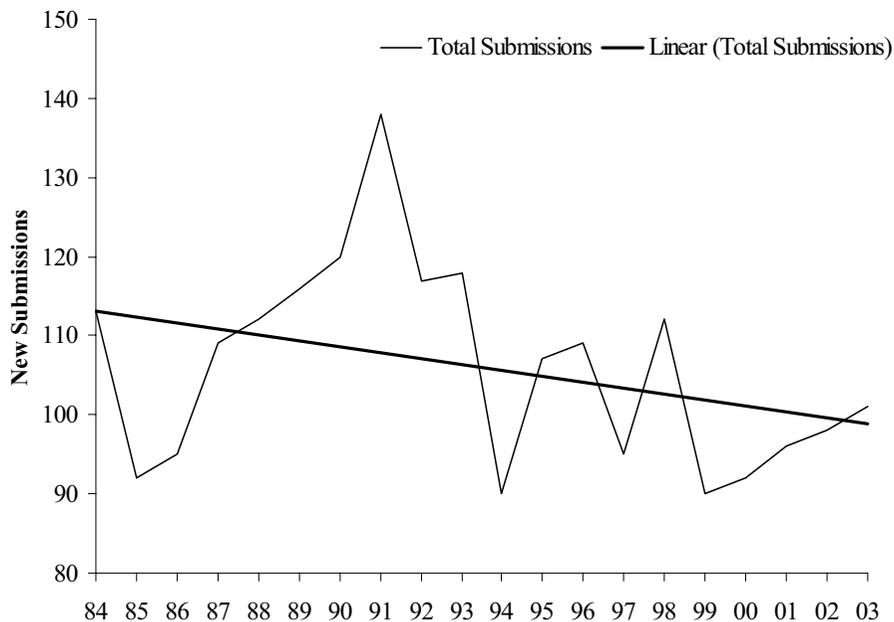


FIGURE 1  
TREND IN NEW SUBMISSIONS, 1983/84–2002/03

Source: The yearly totals were taken from the published Editors' Notes.

historical time period is stubbornly persistent. Is this a confirmation of path dependence in our own discipline? Perhaps, but it is difficult to say because of the inexplicable appearance of five papers whose historical coverage was “not applicable or unknown.”

Table 4 suggests that the JOURNAL continues to operate both efficiently and selectively. The rejection rate fell from 53 percent to 40 percent, but this apparent drift towards leniency was mainly attributable to an increase in revise-and-resubmits. As we always take care to write and as many of you know from experience, there is no assurance that a resubmission will be accepted the second time around. Overall, only about one-third of new submissions are ultimately published in the JOURNAL.

Hardhearted as we may be as editors, we try not to waste your time excessively. We note with reassurance that last year we kept the median time to decision for new submissions at 91 days, statistically equal to our 90-day target.

Much of the credit for this performance goes to the referees, particularly the hard-working members of the editorial board. We continue to be impressed by the dedicated care and thought that go into the majority of referee reports, with no reward other than the satisfactions and stimulation of participating in academic dialogue and trying to maintain intellectual standards in our interdisciplinary field. We extend special thanks to the outgoing members of the board: Margaret Levenstein, Joshua Rosenbloom, Jean-Laurent Rosenthal, and Alan M. Taylor. And we welcome those added during the past year: Zorina Khan, Steven Quinn, Paul Rhode, Nathan Sussman, Werner Troesken, Joachim Voth, and Susan Wolcott.

Knick Harley  
Gavin Wright

TABLE 1  
ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS BY WORLD AREA, BROKEN DOWN BY TOPIC,  
JULY 2000–JUNE 2003 (totals)

Topic	July 2000–June 2001		July 2001–June 2002		July 2002–June 2003	
	North America	All Other Regions	North America	All Other Regions	North America	All Other Regions
Agriculture	3	13	1	5	2	8
Demography	5	2	4	0	4	6
Growth	0	6	1	9	0	2
Industry	4	5	4	4	2	5
Technology	1	1	0	1	2	0
Labor	5	5	3	3	5	4
Money and macro	3	10	2	3	5	3
Public finance	0	0	1	5	1	6
History of thought	0	0	1	1	0	0
International trade, finance	2	7	5	15	3	4
Urban and regional	1	4	1	4	2	0
Political economy	8	0	4	7	15	9
Private finance, capital markets	6	5	7	5	5	5
Other	0	0	2	0	0	3
Total	38	58	36	62	46	55

*Note:* The numbers include new submissions only. The totals equal the number of new submissions received because a paper is classified in only one topic category. In the latest year, the North American office had 66 total submissions, 46 new and 20 resubmitted. The International office had 76 total submissions, 55 new and 21 resubmitted.

TABLE 2  
ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS BY REGION, 1 JULY–30 JUNE

Region	Submissions			
	1999–2000	2000–2001	2001–2002	2002–2003
Australia	0	1	0	0
United States and Canada	45	38	41	45
Non-Spanish speaking Caribbean	0	0	0	0
Great Britain	15	16	15	14
Western Europe	25	21	21	17
Asia	6	13	12	1
Latin America	2	3	4	8
Eastern Europe/Russia	2	6	6	1
Africa	1	1	2	3
Middle East	0	2	5	5
Not applicable or unknown	0	7	2	6

*Note:* The numbers include new submissions only. Totals exceed new submissions because a paper can be classified as pertaining to more than one region.

TABLE 3  
ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS BY PERIOD, 1 JULY–30 JUNE 2000/01, 2001/02, AND 2002/03

Period	Submissions		
	2000–2001	2001–2002	2002–2003
Twentieth century	57	50	53
Nineteenth century	53	50	41
Seventeenth and eighteenth centuries	22	21	18
Pre-seventeenth century	15	14	13
Not applicable or unknown	0	0	5

*Note:* The numbers include new submissions only. Totals exceed submissions because a paper can be classified as pertaining to more than one period.

TABLE 4  
ACCEPTANCE AND TURNAROUND

	North American Office		International Office		Total	
	2001/02	2002/03	2001/02	2002/03	2001/02	2002/03
Accepted	11	17	18	17	29	34
Revise and resubmit	13	23	20	27	33	50
Rejected or withdrawn	28	26	43	32	71	58
Total	52	66	81	76	133	142

Decision Lags (in days)

Year	minimum	maximum	mean	median
All submissions				
2000/2001	8	273	108	103
2001/2002	1	339	86	85
2002/2003	1	322	92	85
New submissions only				
2001/2002	1	233	87	91
2002/2003	1	322	98	91

*Note:* The acceptance figures include new submissions and resubmissions.

Our referees for the last year were:

- Brian A'Hearn, *Franklin and Marshall College*  
 Pablo Martín Aceña, *Universidad de Alcalá*  
 Mark Aldrich, *Smith College*  
 Douglas Allen, *Simon Fraser University*  
 Robert Allen, *University of Oxford*  
 Steven G. Allen, *North Carolina State University*  
 Lee Alston, *University of Colorado*  
 George Alter, *Indiana University*  
 Morris Altman, *University of Saskatchewan*  
 Jeremy Atack, *Vanderbilt University*  
 Gary B. Gorton, *Wharton School*  
 Dudley Baines, *London School of Economics*  
 Jean Meyer Barth, *Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, Mexico*  
 Stefan Battilossi, *Universidad Carlos III de Madrid*  
 Richard Beason, *University of Alberta*  
 Greg Besharov, *Duke University*  
 Kathleen Biddick, *University of Notre Dame*  
 Howard Bodenhorn, *Lafayette College*  
 Dan Bogart, *University of California, Los Angeles*  
 Peter Boomgaard, *Free University of Amsterdam*  
 Michael Bordo, *Rutgers University*  
 George Boyer, *Cornell University*  
 Colleen Callahan, *American University*  
 Ann Carlos, *University of Colorado*  
 Gregory Clark, *University of California, Davis*  
 Sally Clarke, *University of Texas at Austin*  
 John Coatsworth, *Harvard University*  
 Peter Coclanis, *University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill*  
 Philip Coelho, *Ball State University*  
 William Collins, *Vanderbilt University*  
 Jon Conrad, *Cornell University*  
 Metin Coşgel, *University of Connecticut*  
 Antonio Cubel, *Universidad de Valencia*  
 Lance Davis, *California Institute of Technology*  
 Jan de Vries, *University of California, Berkeley*  
 Nicholas H. Dimsdale, *University of Oxford*  
 Rafael Dobado, *Universidad Complutense de Madrid*  
 Richard Duncan-Jones, *Trinity College, Cambridge*  
 Ruth Dupre, *Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales*  
 Christopher Dyer, *University of Leicester*  
 Joseph E. Inikori, *University of Rochester*  
 Michael Edelstein, *Queens College, City University of New York*  
 Barry Eichengreen, *University of California, Berkeley*  
 Robert Ellickson, *Yale University*  
 Robert Elson, *Griffith University*  
 Pieter Emmer, *Leiden University*  
 Stanley Engerman, *University of Rochester*  
 Gerald Feldman, *University of California, Berkeley*  
 Stefano Fenoaltea, *Università de Roma "Tor Vergata"*  
 Adam Fforde, *Adam Fforde and Associates Pty Ltd*  
 Alexander Field, *Santa Clara University*  
 Price Fishback, *University of Arizona*  
 Robert Fleck, *Montana State University*  
 Caroline Fohlin, *Johns Hopkins University*  
 Giovanni Frederico, *European University Institute*  
 Rainer Fremdling, *University of Groningen*  
 Francesco Galassi, *University of Warwick*  
 Gustavo Gorni, *Università degli studi di Trento*  
 Margrit Grabas, *Universität des Saarlandes*  
 George Grantham, *McGill University*  
 Shane Greenstein, *Kellogg School, Northwestern University*  
 Avner Greif, *Stanford University*  
 Richard Grossman, *Wesleyan University*  
 Timothy Guinnane, *Yale University*  
 Stephen Haber, *Stanford University*  
 Michael Haines, *Colgate University*  
 Brian Hamnett, *University of Essex*  
 Christopher Hanes, *State University of New York, Binghamton*

- Gelina Harlaftis, *Ionian University*  
 John Hatcher, *Cambridge University*  
 Tim Hatton, *University of Essex*  
 Santhi Hejeebu, *University of Iowa*  
 Ingrid Henriksen, *University of Copenhagen*  
 John Hobson, *University of Sydney*  
 Julian Hoppit, *University College, London*  
 Christopher Howgego, *The Ashmolean Museum*  
 Susan Howson, *University of Toronto*  
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 Michael Hueberman, *University of Montreal*  
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 Sanford Jacoby, *University of California, Los Angeles*  
 Adam Jaffe, *Brandeis University*  
 Harold James, *Princeton University*  
 John James, *University of Virginia*  
 Mark Kanazawa, *Carleton College*  
 Eona Karakacili, *University of Western Ontario*  
 Zorina Khan, *Bowdoin College*  
 John Komlos, *University of Munich*  
 Sandra Kuntz Ficker, *Autonoma Metropolitana, Mexico*  
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 Naomi Lamoreaux, *University of California, Los Angeles*  
 Richard Langlois, *University of Connecticut*  
 Margaret Levenstein, *University of Michigan*  
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 Frank Lewis, *Queen's University*  
 Lillian Li, *Swarthmore College*  
 Gary Libecap, *University of Arizona*  
 Thomas Lindblad, *Leiden University*  
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- David Weiman, *Barnard College, Columbia University*
- David Wheelock, *Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis*
- Eugene White, *Rutgers University*
- Susan Wolcott, *State University of New York, Binghamton*
- Willem Zwolve, *Leiden University*

ANNOUNCING A CONFERENCE  
WOMEN'S ECONOMIES IN COLONIAL BRITISH AMERICA

Sponsored by the Program in Early American Economy and Society

Friday, 1 October 2004

At the Library Company of Philadelphia, 1314 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA

The theme of this conference reflects a recent flourishing of scholarship about the role of women in shaping the early North American economy during a time of both unprecedented economic development and significant changes in traditional family, household, and market economies. These changes were evinced everywhere European peoples settled in mainland North America during the early modern era, and recent scholarly work on women's experiences makes it imperative for us to rethink many long-standing generalizations about such topics as frontier and urban female economies; family strategies for dividing labor and creating economic efficiencies within the household; shaping new economic identities out of varied European, African, West Indian, and Native American cultures; the nature of women's retailing and entrepreneurship aside from household roles; the varieties of negotiation of race and class in economic contexts; comparative women's economies from region to region, plantation to farm, or across generations and social origins; and much more.

The papers and comments at this conference include some of the finest of this new work, including that by Ellen Hartigan-O'Connor, Serena Zabin, Carole Shammas, Marla Miller, Mary Beth Sievens, Stephanie Grauman Wolf, Kristi Rutz-Robbins, Kate Fawver, and others.

The papers prepared for this conference will be posted on the PEAES web pages by 1 September 2004. We encourage everyone coming to the conference to read them in advance, and then join us for a lively discussion about the authors' findings and arguments. This conference is free and open to everyone interested in this topic. For further questions, please contact Cathy Matson, PEAES Director, at [cmatson@udel.edu](mailto:cmatson@udel.edu).