

Editors' Notes

EDITORS' REPORT, SEPTEMBER 1988

Two events marked the life of the *JOURNAL* over the past twelve months: the implementation of our agreement with the Cambridge University Press and a transfer of one editorial office from the University of Pennsylvania to the University of Kansas as Tom Weiss took over from Claudia Goldin. Both changes appear to have gone smoothly. The first has little impact, at least to date, on the editorial process. The second involves a simultaneous transfer of the home editorial office to Rensselaer.

Our agreement to have Cambridge publish the *JOURNAL* has already yielded two promotional mailings. While advertising is necessary, I think all of us, from publisher to contributors and certainly including the editors and the editorial board, must always bear in mind the need to sustain and develop readership. That applies to every aspect of producing the *JOURNAL*, from writing to meeting deadlines. I would go further and include the regular readership. It may be a novel idea that we the members of the profession bear responsibility for the *JOURNAL*, that its quality, prestige, and readership reflect on us collectively and on economic history generally. We grow up thinking of the big, powerful, arrogant journals that hold our fate in their capricious hands. Yet only we can make the *JOURNAL* compelling to read, indispensable to cite, and a pleasure to browse through. A well-read and oft-cited journal, on the other hand, is also one that will draw the best research and commentary and be able to call on the full range of talents for reviews of manuscripts and books.

Editorial offices belong to the large class of bodies whose work is noticed only when it is done badly. I might add that business offices of scholarly associations are in the same boat. To return to the former, I make the point because it might be easy to overlook the contribution of Claudia and her assistant editor Carol Petraitis, along with Robert Whaples, sometime factotum, over the past two years. Of course, their fine editorial work has gone on for four years, but I refer specifically to the myriad aspects of making sure the *JOURNAL* actually gets out with everything right. Having just inherited the task, or rather watching Margaret Mirabelli, assistant editor non-pareil, coming to grips with it, I can begin to appreciate that effort. And I know that Tom Weiss and his assistant editor, Donna Gullett, realize that Claudia Goldin plus the computer age add up to a head start in terms of organization, records, and systems of an editorial office.

Quantification being the shrine at which we worship, let me give you a few numbers to summarize the work of the "un-American" office from July 1987 through June 1988, with the idea that these may serve to proxy the state of at least a part of the discipline. That state could be better. We handled 50 papers plus 11 from the Meetings that were submitted for the Tasks issue (June 1988). By comparison, the Philadelphia office received about 62 papers in addition to their share of those from the Meetings. Of our half-hundred, only two full-scale papers and three comments were accepted, while 26 were rejected. Thirteen were returned for revision and six were pending at the time of writing. It should be said that the line between rejection and encouragement to revise is a fine one, the latter category including a wide *ex ante* range of probabilities that the author will meet the standard set by the referees and the editor. As regards fields, again with some arbitrary classifications, our 61 papers (including the Meetings submissions) break down as follows:

Money, finance, macro	17	Labor	6
Technology and industry	9	Demography	3
Urban and regional	8	Thought	2
Growth	7	International trade	2
Agriculture	6	Public finance	1

The extremes of the distribution are noteworthy, I think. The place of urban and regional topics reflects the theme of the 1987 Meetings, but I must confess some personal malaise at the disproportion between the attention given the “veil of money” in contrast, for example, to the concrete realities of trade.

I could, with more time or help, have given you a breakdown by geographic area and time period, since our turf goes from Austria to Zanzibar and from ancient Greece to what an aging editor thinks of as barely stale news. The twentieth century, even post-1939, is getting increasing attention, or more precisely is beginning to be categorized as history. Fewer surprises as regards geography: Britain will always figure prominently, but the continents and even the seas between them are not neglected.

All that is left to wish for is more lenient, and—dare I say it—sometimes more prompt, referees so that the backlog of accepted articles can grow. Of course, the first of these wishes is tongue-in-cheek, since the quality of the *JOURNAL* matters most and I seldom feel less Scrooge-like than my invaluable experts. But to those who do submit papers, please temper them first in the fire of a reading by experienced colleagues, and then take the time to organize and polish before pushing these intellectual offspring out of the nest. If proofreading seems an intolerable extra step, remember that no reader will believe an author careless only in spelling. And to those who do not, or seldom, please send us your favored fledglings.

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:

Robert Allen, University of British Columbia
 Lee Alston, University of Illinois
 Fred Bateman, Indiana University
 Michael Bernstein, University of California, San Diego
 Kathleen A. Biddick, University of Notre Dame
 Allen Bogue, University of Wisconsin
 George Borts, Brown University
 George R. Boyer, Cornell University
 Malcolm Burns, University of Kansas
 Charles W. Calomiris, Northwestern University
 Susan Carter, Smith College
 Gregory Clark, Stanford University
 Peter Clark, College of William and Mary
 David Crew, University of Texas
 Lance E. Davis, California Institute of Technology
 Trevor J. O. Dick, University of Lethbridge
 Martin Eisenberg, Knox College
 Stanley Engerman, University of Rochester
 Joseph Ernst, York University
 Gerald Friedman, University of Massachusetts
 David Galenson, University of Texas, Austin, and University of Chicago
 Robert E. Gallman, University of North Carolina
 Peter George, McMasters University
 Claudia Goldin, University of Pennsylvania
 David Good, Temple University
 Gary Gorton, University of Pennsylvania
 Farley Grubb, University of Delaware
 Gay Gullickson, University of Maryland
 C. Knick Harley, University of Western Ontario
 Elizabeth Hoffman, University of Arizona
 Philip Hoffman, California Institute of Technology

Jonathan Hughes, Northwestern University
John A. James, University of Virginia
Peter Kilby, Wesleyan University
C.P. Kindleberger, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Morgan Kousser, California Institute of Technology
Ann Kussmaul, Glendon College, York University
William Lazonick, Barnard
Nathaniel Leff, Columbia University
David Levine, The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education
Peter Lindert, University of California, Davis
Diane Lindstrom, University of Wisconsin
Susan J. Linz, Michigan State University
John Lyons, Miami University
Marvin McInnis, Queen's University
David Meyer, Brown University
Ron Michener, University of Virginia
Philip Mirowski, Tufts University
Gary Nash, University of California, Los Angeles
Daniel Nelson, University of Akron
Douglass C. North, Washington University
Kerry Odell, Scripps College
Alan L. Olmstead, University of California, Davis
Donald Paterson, University of British Columbia
Hugh T. Patrick, Columbia University
Edwin Perkins, University of Southern California
Clayne Pope, Brigham Young University
Jacob M. Price, University of Michigan
Roger L. Ransom, University of California, Riverside
Joseph Reid, George Mason University
David R. Ringrose, University of California, San Diego
Jennifer Roback, George Mason University
Hugh Rockoff, Rutgers University
Richard Roehl, University of Michigan at Dearborn
Charles Rosenberg, University of Pennsylvania
Joshua Rosenbloom, University of Kansas
Henry Rosovsky, Harvard University
Elyce J. Rotella, Indiana University
Lars Sandberg, Ohio State University
Morris Silver, City College of City University of New York
Kenneth Sokoloff, University of California, Los Angeles
Martin C. Spechler, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis
Robert C. Stacey, University of Washington
Richard H. Steckel, Ohio State University
Rick Sullivan, University of Colorado
Richard Sutch, University of California, Berkeley
Richard Sylla, North Carolina State University
Robert Taggart, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Peter Temin, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Robert Tollison, George Mason University
Thomas S. Ulen, University of Illinois
John Joseph Wallis, University of Maryland
David Weiman, Yale University
Michael Weinstein, Haverford College

Warren Whatley, University of Michigan
 Eugene White, Rutgers University
 Jeffrey Williamson, Harvard University
 Martin Wolfe, University of Pennsylvania
 Arthur Woolf, University of Vermont
 Gavin Wright, Stanford University
 Kozo Yamamura, University of Washington
 Mary Young, University of Rochester

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 1989 "Chaire Quetelet" Seminar, entitled "Revolution and Population: Demographic Aspects of Main Political Revolutions," will be held in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium) during three days (yet to be selected) between October 16 and 20, 1989. Dedicated to commemoration of the bicentennial of the French Revolution, the seminar will focus on three topics: the direct demographic effects of revolutions, the importance and role of demographic factors in the making of revolutions, and demographic concerns in revolutionary (or counterrevolutionary) ideologies. The organizers welcome papers dealing with "the main political revolutions," which have brought a radical change in the structures of societies and in the way of life. They will also favor comparative studies. For further information, write Eric Vilquin, President, Organizing Committee, Chaire Quetelet 1989, Institut de Démographie UCL, 1 Place Montesquieu, B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

A colloquium on "Economic Thought During the French Revolution" will be held at the Chateau de Vizille, near Grenoble, France, on September 6–8, 1989. Those wishing to submit papers or requiring further information should contact either Gilbert Faccarello, Université du Maine, BP 535, 72017 Le Mans cedex, or Paul Vidonne, Université des sciences sociales de Grenoble, 47X, 38040 Grenoble cedex, France.

The Eleventh Annual North American Labor History Conference will be held at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, on October 19–21, 1989. The program committee is now soliciting papers or sessions dealing with American, Canadian, and European labor history. The deadline for submissions is June 1, 1989. Please contact Professor Philip P. Mason, Director, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202; telephone (313) 577-4024.

NEW RESEARCH FILES

The Hagley Museum and Library has opened the records of the Pennsylvania Railroad for research. The collection includes minutes, board files, and other corporate records of the Pennsylvania Railroad proper (1846 to 1968) and nearly 400 of its predecessor and subsidiary firms (1810 to 1968). Major bodies of correspondence and case files are available from Vice President Samuel Rea (1898 to 1912), the Financial Department (1900 to 1968), the Operating Department (1893 to 1968), the Motive Power Department (1881 to 1950), the Test Department (1903 to 1935), the Engineering Department (1913 to 1955), the Personnel Department (1910 to 1968), the Safety Department (1927 to 1956), and the Legal Department records relating to labor and technology (1910 to 1968). Substantial information is also available on the origins and workings of the Relief and Pension Departments (1886 to 1960), the full records of which are housed at the Urban Archives at Temple University. The records of the Pennsylvania Railroad constitute a major resource for the study of railroad corporate strategy, technology, labor relations, and operating practices.

For further information, contact Manuscript and Archives Department, Hagley Museum and Library, P. O. Box 3630, Greenville, DE 19807; telephone (302) 658-2400, ext. 330.