

# Note from the Editor

By the time this issue reaches subscribers, I will be in Ankara, Turkey, where I will spend a semester teaching a seminar on the Gilded Age and Progressive Era at Bilkent University, a program described by Russell L. Johnson in a thoughtful essay in the October 2002 issue of this journal (Vol. 1, no. 4). Bilkent's American history and American Studies programs have recently intertwined with this journal and its sponsoring society in a variety of ways. Arrangements for my trip were set in motion by the late and much-missed member of Bilkent's faculty and SHGAPE's council, Thomas Winter. A future colleague in teaching United States history at Bilkent, Edward Kohn, happens to have an article in this issue revisiting the events in 1884 that first brought Theodore Roosevelt to national prominence and started to his alliance with Henry Cabot Lodge. And a former Bilkent faculty member, Kate Sampsell, who now teaches at the United Arab Emirates University, has begun doing occasional copyediting for us. Dr. Sampsell brings needed experience to this task; while a doctoral student at Georgetown, she worked as copyeditor and editorial associate for *American Quarterly*.

Internet, of course, makes it possible for Kate to edit manuscripts from the Persian Gulf and indeed for me to oversee the journal from the Anatolian plain. Having been on the road for research and for presentations most of the time from August through November, I had occasion to mull over how much the combination of internet and airborne express speeds and smooths processes, such as publishing a journal, that require much back-and-forth correspondence. Late-nineteenth-century magazines maintained tight writing and publishing schedules using the post, telegraph, and express services. Peripatetic authors such as Henry James counted on proofs being sent ahead to French or Italian hotels pending their arrival. Internet means that a minimal office staff can maintain a travelling author or editor. Still, colleagues and spouse took turns during the fall watching for incoming mail, and our spring semester in Ankara would be impossible without the fort being held, as it were, by the journal's editorial assistant, JoAnne Geigner, and student intern, Kurt Weisenburger. In any case, neither subscribers nor contributors should notice an interruption.

With this issue, three new members join the editorial board, William Becker, an expert in business, economic, and governmental history at George Washington University, John Enyeart, a historian of labor, radicalism, and the West at Bucknell University, and Katherine Osburn, a scholar *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 5:1 (January 2006)

of Native American and environmental history at Tennessee Tech University. Meanwhile, the journal invites contributions for one recurring feature that has been in abeyance and for a new feature that other journals have tried and we hope to try as well. Lately we have not received any manuscripts for our occasional “classic texts” series, the last example of which was John McClymer’s essay on the historical background of an allusion in James’s *The Bostonians* in April 2003 (Vol. 2, no. 2). To reiterate the goal, we are looking for essays—length may vary—that re-examine documents from the period covered by the journal and that have lately been overlooked or that perhaps are so familiar as to be wrongly taken for granted. Also, we hereby invite short manuscripts—approximately 2,500 words or less—that interpret or explicate one or a small number of photos, prints, or other examples of visual or material culture. Interested authors should direct ideas or inquiries to me, most immediately through <ahlesso@ilstu.edu>, though regular mail will quickly catch up.

Alan Lessoff