

Editors' Notes

EDITORS' REPORT, SEPTEMBER 1993

There is no reason why tenants have to mistreat their landlords' property. The right combination of carrots and sticks can always control their incentive to deplete the property during their short term. Of course, it always helps to have tenants who positively enjoy taking care of the place.

For all the turnover of tenants, the JOURNAL still brings its owner, the Association, the same old returns, mainly because we tenants enjoy our work. This year the turnover was in the Editorial Assistant position at the head office in Davis. Pamela Evans left the half-time fixed-term *JEH* post for a permanent full-time senior editorship last month. Before going, though, she spruced up the place with a whole set of how-to manuals on the editing process. She has done a fine job. Fortunately, Barbara Meierhenry has ably taken her place and will serve for the last ten months of editing the JOURNAL at Davis. We Co-Editors do get satisfaction out of taking care of the place. The prospects remain bright for good property management: Cambridge University Press and the Association have continued to provide carrots when needed, and there is no danger that the next tenant, Joel Mokyr, will be a sullen shirker.

The flow of manuscripts continues at a steady pace, with the same relatively short turnaround time. The submissions of articles and notes still number about 120 per year without the June Tasks issue, or about 170 to 180 with it. Once again, the acceptance rate seems to be about 16 to 17 percent of regular submissions, or slightly lower if resubmissions are included in the denominator. As shown in Table 1, there is a perceptible drift in topics, both for total submissions and for acceptances. In 1992-93 a new balance has been struck. The number of manuscripts on what we call "American topics"—papers on Canada, the United States, and the Caribbean—has now been overtaken by the flow of what we still like to call "un-American" papers. The two editorial offices are thus in manuscript balance for the first time in seven years. The rise of the un-Americans continues to feature countries other than Britain. As for sectoral topics, economic historians continue to violate Engel's law: papers on food and agriculture are still above one-tenth of the submissions and acceptances, well above its share in the 1950s and 1960s, when business history had a larger share. There are signs of a shift toward the study of private capital markets, though labor, money, and the international economy still dominate.

With the overall machinery working well, we can afford to spend some time on fine tuning. One needed adjustment is to work on redesigning charts and figures. Very few authors have sent figures that take the right camera-ready form. Here we offer no lofty sermon, but only a humble plea to authors, one tempered by the fact that even some of the figures we have been forced to publish lately have taken the wrong form. The problem has two immediate sources: authors are seldom given up-to-date detailed rules for making figures camera ready, and many authors' computer software still lacks the needed versatility.

The informational part of the problem is addressed by Table 2, courtesy of Pamela Evans. Note the main rules: use a serif font, make everything distinct, avoid boldface type, and cut the clutter. The same principles caution against using bar graphs and pie charts. A real picture may be worth a thousand words, but a bar graph is worth less than one number per bar, and a pie chart is worth less than one number per wedge. You can

TABLE 1
REGULAR-ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS AND ACCEPTANCES BY FIELD, JULY 1988-SEPTEMBER 1994

	Totals for four years, July 1988-1992				Totals for July 1992-June 1993				July 1993-Sept. 1994, Some Forthcoming	
	Submissions		Acceptances		Submissions		Acceptances		American	Un-Amer.
	American	Un-Amer.	American	Un-Amer.	American	Un-Amer.	American	Un-Amer.	American	Un-Amer.
Agriculture	24	25	6	6	7	10	0	0	2	1
Demography	13	17	4	4	5	3	0	1	1	3
Growth	9	16	1	3	2	5	0	2	0	1
Industry	30	22	5	8	6	5	0	0	2	0
Technology	8	9	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	0
Labor	62	21	17	1	12	3	2	2	5	2
Money and macro	61	46	7	4	10	12	4	1	1	3
Public finance	9	4	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	1
History of thought	8	5	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
International trade, finance	7	18	3	3	1	10	1	0	0	0
Urban and regional	14	3	1	0	3	1	1	0	0	0
Political economy	38	19	2	1	6	3	0	1	0	0
Private finance, capital markets	1	2	2	0	3	2	2	2	1	1
TOTAL	284	207	50	34	57	61	10	10	13	12

Note: Excluding resubmissions, notes, and the June Tasks issue. The numbers of submissions and acceptances refer to the same periods but not to the same cohorts of manuscripts. Many of the submissions were acted on after the time period covered here, and some of the acceptances were submitted earlier.

TABLE 2
INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS FOR THE PREPARATION OF FIGURES

The art that you submit to *The Journal of Economic History* must be "camera ready"; that is, ready to be photographed and printed "as is," all labels included and of a quality that matches as closely as possible that of the typeset text in *The JOURNAL*. To that end we ask that you do the following (though we realize that your software limitations may undermine our preferences).

1. Do not typewrite, hand draw, or hand letter anything; use computer-generated figures and a laser printer. Use a serif font for all labels (including numbers) that resembles the final, printed text: *The JOURNAL* is printed in the Times Roman font, and most word-processing software offers that (or a similar-sounding) font. If Times is not available, look for the closest match in appearance among the serif fonts. Serif fonts are distinguished from sans serif fonts by tiny elaborations on the characters. For example,

Times is a serif font. So is Bookman. So is Palatino, So is Century Schoolbook.
Helvetica is a sans serif font. So is Chicago. So is Geneva. So is Avant Garde.

2. Do not use a legend outside of the graph to identify the lines within it. We prefer that you label the lines directly whenever possible; when it's not, enclose the legend within the graph. Lines showing different trends, etc., should be quite distinct from one another—i.e., don't choose two dotted lines with just a slightly different pattern. Photographic reduction often obliterates the distinction. If specific points on a line (rather than simply an overall trend) are important, use a line connecting small symbols that make those points clear.

3. Do not print your figures in bold, or they will jump off the page at the reader. The ideal size in which to submit them is $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide, the width of our type page. If the figure is very complex, you may submit a larger version—up to $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide—but your labels must then be proportionately larger so that upon reduction they resemble the size of labels in your other figures. (Necessarily larger and complex figures—maps, for instance—can be printed broadside.) All of your figures should look alike in terms of proportion, font, and the manner in which you arrange the data.

4. We encourage "sideways" labels on the left-hand vertical axis; sometimes the right-hand axis can be labeled as well, for more complex data interactions. Units of measure should be clear from the axis labels, the figure title, or the notes—preferably from the first. Consider whether two or more figures' data can be combined into one figure, to save space; conversely, if your data are hard to "track" due to the complexity of the figure, it may be preferable to make two figures out of one.

5. Each figure must stand alone on a separate page, identified by number with a Post-It or other nonpermanent label. Each figure's number, title, notes, and source (if any) should be typed on a separate page, as they will be typeset. It's OK to group the to-be-typeset material for all figures on one page.

6. On a "Years" axis, we prefer that you tick off only those years (every five, every ten) appropriate to the scale of your data. Marks for unimportant intervening points are distracting. When labeling units of thousands (typically, on a vertical axis), use commas if at all possible: 1,000, not 1000.

deliver more information in less journal space by giving the numbers in a small table. Readers can manipulate the numbers for their own purposes. There is little danger that they will fail to see the drama of the magnitudes in a table of numbers: the *JOURNAL*'s readership differs from the majority of readers of *USA Today*.

Another fine-tuning adjustment, approved by the Board of Trustees, will change the procedures and format for the annual "Tasks of Economic History" issue. The present arrangement yields 10 to 12 papers with a tight length limit of 20 manuscript pages. Starting with the September 1994 meetings, and the June 1995 issue, the *JOURNAL* will publish short abstracts of all papers presented at the meetings, along with about six regular-length articles selected from those presented at the EHA meetings and submitted for publication.

In addition to the members of the editorial board, the following outside referees deserve our thanks for their generous assistance during the year:

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THE SECOND RANKI PRIZE

The Hungarian economic historian Gyorgy Ranki is honored by a prize established in 1989 by the Economic History Association in the amount of \$1,000. The Ranki Prize is awarded in even-numbered years for a book in European economic history. The second award will be made in September 1994 for a book published in 1992 or 1993.

To be eligible, books must be published in English and must, in whole or in substantial part, treat aspects of European economic history in any period from classical antiquity to the present. For purposes of this prize, Europe is understood to include European Russia and the British Isles. Books that compare European experience to other parts of the world, or that use historical information to examine present or anticipate future issues and trends, are also eligible as long as they pay significant attention to European economic history.

Nominations for the prize may be made by the author or authors, the publisher, or anyone else. Authors of nominated books need not be members of the Economic History Association, but books resulting from dissertations that received the Gerschenkron Prize are not eligible. Date of publication rather than of copyright determines eligibility. Translations of books published previously in a language other than English will be eligible in the year of publication in English.

Whoever nominates a book should send a copy to each of the five members of the

Ranki Prize Committee. A curriculum vitae of the author or authors with current address(es) and telephone number(s) should accompany each copy. For the 1994 award, the Ranki Prize Committee members are *Professor James C. Riley (Chair)*, Department of History, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405; *Professor Jon S. Cohen*, School of Graduate Studies, 65 St. George Street, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1, Canada; *Professor David Good*, Department of History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455; *Professor Richard W. Roehl*, Department of Social Science, University of Michigan at Dearborn, Dearborn, MI 48128; and *Professor Jean-Laurent Rosenthal*, Department of Economics, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1477.

SPECIAL HONORS

Wageningen Agricultural University, The Netherlands, has conferred an honorary degree to Dr. Joan Thirsk for her innovative work in agrarian and rural history. In addition, her *Economic Policy and Projects* was commended as a book that stands at the forefront of the new interest in consumption history. She was also praised for her contributions to the new agrarian historical knowledge in the publication of *Agrarian History of England and Wales*.