

Editors' Notes

EDITORS' REPORT

Richard Sylla laid down his burdens as editor this year and Claudia Goldin took them up. The head office of the JOURNAL therefore moved from Raleigh to Iowa City. The transition was smooth, partly because Sylla (among the longest-serving editors in our history) volunteered to keep on working while it happened. It is a puzzle for the economist's view of the world that people do more work than is necessary, but the work is certainly necessary for the world. Our assistant editors—Ginalie Swaim in Iowa City, Carol Petraitis in Philadelphia, and Genevieve Gwynne and Ann Phillips in Raleigh—do more work than their pay, of a quality that makes the editors' work much easier. A similar exception to the marginal productivity theory of distribution is required to explain the excellence of the editorial assistants, Erin Newton, Cindy Olsen, and Judy Gregory in Raleigh and Ann Tremmel in Iowa City. The efforts of Dick and Lynn Williams at the business office of the Association, which give the editors time to think about editing, are requited at derisory rates. And the editorial board and the ad hoc referees, of course, work for nothing at all. To all these people the members of the Association, and other students of the economic past, owe handsome pay in other coin.

From July 1, 1983 to June 30, 1984 some 113 essays were submitted for publication in our three regular issues (excepting, that is, the *Tasks* issue of the September meetings, which is now published each year in June). This is 2.21 standard deviations above the mean of the past 7 years. Like the Department of Commerce, however, we had better wait a while before announcing a new trend. Of the 113, some 64 were rejected, 7 were accepted and published, 22 were accepted and are to be published (though often with substantial revision), 19 are pending, and 1 was withdrawn. The pattern of submission shows a rise in the percentage concerning the United States and Canada (56 percent as against a tightly clustered average of 45 percent in the three previous years). Modern European subjects were treated in 26 percent of the submissions, medieval and ancient Europe (for which the Iowa editor admits a special fondness) 4 percent, other parts of the world 4 percent, and method and n.e.c. 10 percent.

A statistic well worth knowing is that of the 37 articles, comments, and review articles published in the three regular issues of September 1983, December 1983, and March 1984 only 8, or a little over one-fifth, were written by scholars associated with departments of history. Making all allowances for the astonishing growth of historical economics, the figure nonetheless does not reflect the pattern of work being done in economic history. I repeat what we have been saying in various ways for many years: we intend to be a journal of economic history *tout court*, not of American cliometrics. We welcome submissions by historians; indeed, we go so far as to look with favor on submissions even by medievalists and classicists. If economic history is to fulfill its promise as a bridge between the culture of numbers and the culture of words—not to speak of its immediate job of understanding what really happened yesterday—we must keep conversing, and the JOURNAL is a good place to do it.

The big issue arising from the annual meetings could fit only two book reviews: otherwise the total number of reviews for the year would have been about normal, at 150. Here again our ambition is to be the journal of record, a *New York Times* of the field. Readers can help us by drawing attention to books we have missed. We cannot with our small staff do more than react to books sent to us.

At this stage in such reports it is customary for the editors to exploit the rhetorical convention that someone is still reading to make a Bigger Philosophical or a Lesser Personal Point. Ours today is both. Being the editors of a journal in history or economics today is splendid fun in all but one respect: the low average level of care in style. (We

are humbly grateful for the deviation above the average, and claim only the ability to detect it, not to do it.) It is indeed a matter of simple care. Ernest Hemingway said, "Easy writing makes hard reading." There is an easy theory that clarity and grace in writing are merely God's gifts, and that no more can be done about it than about one's disposition or body type. The theory is amateur, unworthy of professional writers of economic history. No one would dare say that archival imagination or analytical power comes only from God. The third great skill of our profession responds at least as well to careful work. Writing is not mere polish; it is the grit and touch of historical thinking.

We beseech writers, then, to reconsider their writing, and to learn. Robert Graves (the same) and Alan Hodge wrote a good book called *The Reader Over Your Shoulder* that any professional writer should read. Many of the articles submitted to the JOURNAL bear no signs of a familiarity with even an elementary treatise on the subject, such as William Strunk, Jr. and E. B. White (the same), *The Elements of Style*. Jacques Barzun has peculiar views of cliometrics but, with Henry F. Graff, wrote an admirable book called *The Modern Researcher* directed especially at historical writing. Economic historians would benefit from a close reading of Walter S. Salant, "Writing and Reading in Economics" in the *Journal of Political Economy* for July/August 1969. There are many others: we should haunt the writing section of the bookstore as much as the history or economics or statistics section. It is our trade.

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:

Louis P. Cain, Loyola University at Chicago
 B. M. S. Campbell, Queen's University
 Fred Carstensen, University of Connecticut
 Robert L. Clark, North Carolina State University
 A. W. Coats, University of Nottingham
 Paul A. David, Stanford University
 Lance E. Davis, California Institute of Technology
 Stephen J. DeCanio, University of California, Santa Barbara
 Marcello DeCecco, European University Institute, Italy
 Jan de Vries, University of California, Berkeley
 John C. Dutton, North Carolina State University
 Barry Eichengreen, Harvard University
 David Eltis, Algonquin College
 Stanley Engerman, University of Rochester
 David Galenson, University of Chicago
 Robert E. Gallman, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
 Nicholas Gianaris, Fordham University
 Paul Gregory, University of Houston
 Michael R. Haines, Wayne State University
 Robert M. Hartwell, University of Pennsylvania
 Alan Heston, University of Pennsylvania
 Paul Hohenberg, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 John A. James, University of Virginia
 James Kearl, Brigham Young University
 Herbert Klein, Columbia University
 Charles R. Knoeber, North Carolina State University
 Stanley Lebergott, Wesleyan University
 Frank Lewis, Queen's University
 Robert Margo, University of Pennsylvania
 Stephen E. Margolis, North Carolina State University
 R. Marvin McInnis, Queen's University

John McKay, University of Illinois
 Philip Mirowski, Tufts University
 D. E. Moggridge, University of Toronto
 Clark Nardinelli, Clemson University
 Stephen Nicholas, University of New South Wales
 Douglass C. North, Washington University
 Alan L. Olmstead, University of California, Davis
 Clayne Pope, Brigham Young University
 Sidney Ratner, Rutgers University
 James Riley, Indiana University
 Warren C. Sanderson, University of Utah
 Gary Saxonhouse, University of Michigan
 Kenneth Sokoloff, University of California, Los Angeles
 Martin Spechler, Indiana University
 Frank Spooner, University of Durham
 Richard H. Steckel, Ohio State University
 Houston Stokes, University of Illinois, Chicago
 Daniel A. Sumner, North Carolina State University
 Richard C. Sutch, University of California, Berkeley
 Richard Sylla, North Carolina State University
 John J. Wallis, University of Maryland
 Steven B. Webb, University of Michigan
 Barry Weingast, Washington University
 Michael M. Weinstein, Haverford College
 David Weir, Yale University
 Eugene N. White, Rutgers University
 Gavin Wright, Stanford University
 Donghyu Yang, Seoul National University

E.H.A. DISSERTATION SESSION

Graduate students expecting to receive their doctoral degrees in the 1984–1985 academic year are encouraged to submit their dissertations for review and possible inclusion in the session to be held in New York City in connection with the Annual Meeting of the Economic History Association. Dissertations in American economic history are eligible for the Nevins Prize; the rest for the Gerschenkron Prize. Dissertations must be received no later than May 15, 1985, by Michael Edelstein, Department of Economics, Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing, New York 11367. Edelstein and W. Elliot Brownlee, Department of History, University of California, Santa Barbara, California 93106, are convenors of the dissertation session.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Economic History Association Board of Trustees, at the 1984 Annual Meeting, instructed the editors of the *JOURNAL* to be extremely selective in publishing papers presented at the forty-fifth and subsequent annual meetings. This reduction in number of papers in the June issue is necessary to contain publishing costs, which have risen dramatically with the doubling of the number of papers presented at annual meetings since 1979. The editors anticipate that a certain number of the papers will be revised or extended and then submitted through the normal review channels for later issues of the *JOURNAL*.

AN OVERSIGHT

Due to an oversight Laurence S. Moss's insightful review of Rudolph C. Blitz's translation of Hermann Henrich Gossen's *The Laws of Human Relations and the Rules of Human Action Derived Therefrom* was inserted in the United States and Canada section in the December 1984 issue. It rightfully belonged in the General and Miscellaneous section of Reviews of Books.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The sixth annual Lowell Conference on Industrial History is being planned around the theme "The Popular Perception of Industrial History." The conference will be held in Lowell, Massachusetts on November 1-3, 1985. It will focus on the ways in which social and economic history, urban history, and the history of technology have been presented by various media (including museums and historic sites, literature, film, television, history textbooks, and more), and how the public has in turn come to understand its industrial past.

Proposals are being accepted for individual papers and full sessions; full sessions are preferable. Sessions should be limited to five participants. Proposals should include a one-to-two-page synopsis of each paper and the session itself (if applicable), as well as background information on individual participants. Accepted proposals will be published in the annual proceedings of the Lowell Conference on Industrial History. The deadline is March 31, 1985.

The conference is able to provide limited subsidies. For further information contact Robert Weible, Lowell National Historical Park, 169 Merrimack Street, Lowell, Massachusetts 01852; phone (617) 459-1027.

The Economic and Business Historical Society will hold its Tenth Annual Meeting in Chicago, April 25-27, 1985. You are invited to submit a competitive paper for presentation. Organized in 1975, the society encourages interdisciplinary scholarship in business and economic history and the application of historical concepts to present-day issues. The international membership includes historians, economists, business persons, social scientists, and others who share these common interests. Send papers or abstracts to Dr. Allen L. Bures, President and Program Chair, Department of Business, Radford University, Radford, Virginia 24141; phone (703) 731-5457/5481 or 731-1814.

SYMPOSIUM

The 200th anniversary of the Land Ordinance of 1785 will be celebrated in part with a symposium. The ordinance established the rectangular Public Lands Surveying System and designated the Bureau of Land Management as the agency responsible for surveying public lands and other federal lands. May 20, 1985, will be the 200th anniversary of the ordinance and September 30, 1985, will be the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the rectangular system.

The Bureau of Land Management has developed a national plan to encourage allied organizations to join in the commemoration. With the tentative cosponsorship of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, the Civil Engineering School of Purdue University, and the Indiana Society of Professional Surveyors, a historical symposium will be held September 10-11, 1985, in Indianapolis, Indiana, in conjunction with the fall meeting of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping.

For further information contact Dr. Jerry A. O'Callaghan, Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C. 20240; phone (202) 653-2496.

RIVISTA DI STORIA ECONOMICA REVIVED

The second series of the Rivista di storia economica was published in June 1984 after a forty-year interruption. The publication will appear at four-monthly intervals. Each issue will be divided into three sections. The first will contain original contributions to our knowledge of past economic events in Italy and in other countries. The second section will contain notes, surveys of the state of the art in various areas of economic history and related fields, interdisciplinary debates, and brief conference reports. The third section will be devoted to book reviews. An international issue will be published yearly with English-language versions of articles from the first section.

The editors of the journal are: Luciano Cafagna, Università di Pisa; Pierluigi Ciocca, Banca d'Italia; and Gianni Toniolo, Ca'Foscari, Università de Venezia.

Material for the editors should be sent to Gianni Toniolo, *Rivista di storia economica*, Dipartimento di Scienze Economiche, Ca'Foscari, Università di Venezia, 30123. Inquiries about subscriptions should be sent to *Rivista di storia economica*, Giulio Einaudi editore in a.s., via Biancamano I, 10121 Torino.