

Editors' Notes

IN MEMORIAM

William Nelson Parker, 1919–2000

Economic history lost an intellectual leader and one of its most inspiring teachers on 29 April 2000, when William N. Parker died in Hamden, Connecticut, after a lengthy illness. Renowned for his graceful, witty, and incisive prose, Bill's presence at gatherings of economic historians will be greatly missed. His last appearance at the EHA meetings was in September, 1998, at Durham, North Carolina, where Bill spoke from a wheelchair and brought the crowd to its feet. We have been doubly hit by the loss within a two-year span of Bill and his longtime friend and collaborator Bob Gallman, pioneers in the application of quantitative methods to economic history who were also beloved for their generosity and devotion to their students.

William Parker was born in Columbus, Ohio, in 1919. He attended Harvard College, graduating in 1939 with Richard Ruggles and James Tobin, later to become his colleagues at Yale University. Unlike his friends Ruggles and Tobin, Parker majored in English, a background that he always counted as one of his great assets as an economic historian. Much to their surprise, he switched to economics in graduate school, only to leave for the mobilization effort in Washington, in the summer of 1941. Parker served in the O.S.S. during the war and continued in government service until 1948, when he returned to Harvard to complete his graduate work. After two years of research on coal and steel in France and Germany, Parker received his Ph.D. in 1951.

Only at that point did Bill Parker become an American economic historian, turning from mining and manufacturing to agricultural productivity and regional development. His landmark achievement was the "Parker-Gallman sample" of 5,229 farms drawn from the U.S. manuscript census of 1859. The project entailed a painstaking "matching" of observations on three census schedules: Free Population, Slave Population, and Agriculture. Originally designed to measure the extent of inter-regional trade, the sample has been used for many other purposes, such as testing hypotheses about the efficiency and productivity of slave labor. The project is described in William N. Parker (ed.), *The Structure of the Cotton Economy in the Antebellum South*, published by the Agricultural History Society in 1970.

Parker taught at Williams College and the University of North Carolina, before coming in 1963 to Yale University, where he later became the Philip Golden Bartlett Professor of Economics and Economic History. As co-editor (with Doug North) of the *JEH* in the early 1960s, Parker presided over the flowering of quantitative research in economic history. Bill liked to joke that he was the "oldest new economic historian." And yet he was a skeptical pioneer, believing that the history of material life could only be understood in the full context of society, polity, and culture. His synthetic interpretive essays were masterful. The best of these were collected and published by Cambridge University Press in two volumes, jointly titled: *Europe, America and the Wider World*. Volume 1 dealt with *Europe and the World Economy* (1984), while Volume 2 covered *America and the Wider World* (1991).

But it is as a teacher in the broadest sense that Bill Parker will be remembered. The editors of a 1984 *festschrift* in his honor (Gary Saxonhouse and Gavin Wright, eds., *Technique, Spirit and Form in the Making of the Modern Economies*) noted that "no other economic historian has so many admirers and well-wishers." In his review, Lance Davis called the volume "a superb tribute to perhaps the most influential economic historian of the postwar era." Parker called attention to this legacy when he wrote that his "five-foot shelf of great books" consisted of the works of his "album full of Ph.D. students." As an indication of the regard in which he is held by his students, the EHA awarded Bill Parker the Jonathan R. T. Hughes Prize for Excellence in Teaching in 1995.

GAVIN WRIGHT, *Stanford University*

1999 ECONOMIC HISTORY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The editors and the Association wish to thank the following individuals who were program committee members, chairs, or discussants at the 1999 Economic History Association Meetings:

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2000 ECONOMIC HISTORY ASSOCIATION MEETING
8–10 SEPTEMBER 2000

The sixtieth annual meeting of the Economic History Association will be held at the Hotel InterContinental Plaza, Los Angeles, California, 8–10 September 2000. The preliminary program follows:

PLENARY SESSION

Jared Diamond, University of California, Los Angeles
Jeffrey Sachs, Harvard University

OTHER SESSIONS

Inequality and Economic Progress

James Heckman, University of Chicago, and Petra Todd, University of Pennsylvania,
“Understanding The Sources of Black Economic Progress in the Twentieth Century:
Social Action vs Private Choice.”

William Collins, Vanderbilt University, and Robert Margo, Vanderbilt University, “Race
and Home Ownership: A Century’s View.”

Values and Economic Growth

William Easterly, The World Bank, “The Middle Class Consensus and Economic Development.”

Richard Easterlin, University of Southern California, “America’s Differential Impact on
World Culture.”

David Dollar, The World Bank, and Aart Kraay, The World Bank, “Property Rights, Political
Rights, and the Development of Poor Countries in the Post-Colonial Period”

Geography and the Organization of Economic Activity

Sukkoo Kim, Washington University, “The Rise and Decline of Density in Economic
Activities.”

Paul Rhode, University of North Carolina, “America’s Century and the Rise of California
as a Center of Economic Activity.”

Price Fishback, University of Arizona, and Shawn Kantor, University of Arizona, “The
Impact of the New Deal on Geographic Mobility.”

Wars and the Structure of Governments

Philip Hoffman, California Institute of Technology, and Jean-Laurent Rosenthal, University of
California, Los Angeles, “Wars and the Evolution of Fiscal Regimes in Europe, 1700–2000”

Jani Eloranta, European University, “Filling the Void? Implications of the Lack of American
Military Leadership on the Military Spending of European Democracies, 1920–1938.”

Michael Edelman, Queens College, CUNY, “The Size of U.S. Armed Forces During World
War II.”

Economic Warfare

Lance Davis, California Institute of Technology, and Stanley Engerman, University of
Rochester, “International Law and Naval Blockades: The United States, Great Britain,
and Germany in World War I, World War II, and the Cold War.”

Hugh Rockoff, Rutgers University, and Leonardo Caruana, CEU San Pablo University, “A
Wolfram in Sheep’s Clothing: Economic Warfare in Spain and Portugal, 1939–1944.”

Productivity

Paul David, Oxford University and Stanford University, and Gavin Wright, Stanford Uni-
versity, “Early Twentieth Century American Productivity Growth Dynamics.”

Stephen Broadberry, University of Warwick, and Sayantan Ghosal, University of Warwick, "Explaining Comparative Productivity Levels in Services: Technology, Organization, and Social Capabilities in Britain, the United States, and Germany."

Technology and Business History

Zorina Khan, Bowdoin College, "Copyrights: The Infringement of Intellectual Property, and American Economic Development, 1790–1910."

Steven Usselman, Georgia Institute of Technology, "Government and the American Computer Industry: Public Policies, Private Platforms."

Naomi Lamoreaux, University of California, Los Angeles, Daniel Raff, University of Pennsylvania, and Peter Temin, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "The Evolving Structure of Coordination: Towards a New Synthesis of American Business History."

Institutions and Economic Growth

Daron Acemoglu, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Simon Johnson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and James Robinson, University of California, Berkeley, "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation."

Stephen Haber, Stanford University, Armando Razo, Stanford University, and Noel Maurer, ITAM, "Credible Commitments and Economic Growth Under Political Instability: Evidence from Revolutionary Mexico."

Cynthia Taft Morris, Smith College, "World Capitalist Growth Patterns: The Myth that Neoclassical Growth Models Apply Worldwide."

Foreign Trade and Policy During the American Century

Hideaki Miyajima, Waseda University, "Transformation of the Japanese Economic System: A Reappraisal of the Occupation."

Jennifer Frankl, Williams College, "Reducing Transaction Risk in Trade Between Japan and the United States: The Role of General Trading Companies, 1915–1941."

Alan Dye, Barnard College, and Richard Sicotte, University of Calgary, "Governing Foreign Trade: The Effects of Sugar Legislation on U.S.–Cuban Relations."

The Great Depression

Joseph Mason, Drexel University, Ali Anari, Texas A & M, and James Kolan, Texas A & M, "The Role of Failed-Bank Liquidation Rates in the Propagation of the Great Depression."

Pierre Siklos, Wilfred Laurier University, "Understanding the Great Depression in the United States versus Canada."

Alan Taylor, University of California, Davis, and Gerardo della Paolera, Universidad Torcuato di Tella, "Internal versus External Convertibility and Developing Country Financial Crises: Lessons from the Argentine Bailouts of the 1930s."

Industry Studies and Structures

Emily Mechner, Bates College, "The Closing of the Frontier in Barbados: Economies of Scale and the Distributional Impact of the Sugar Revolution."

Sally Clarke, University of Texas, "Meeting Your Car Dealer in Court: Lawsuits in the Early Auto Industry."

Karen Clay, Carnegie Mellon University, and Werner Troesken, University of Pittsburgh, "The Puzzling Demise of the Whiskey Trust."

Celluloid Capitalism: A Roundtable and a Screen

Mary Yeager, University of California, Los Angeles

David Ansen, Newsweek

Mary Corey, University of California, Los Angeles

John Lithgow