

From the Editor:

You are about to examine the inaugural issue of *The HES Bulletin*. The History of Economics Society is a young organization: It was formally organized in May, 1974 at the first official meeting at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. (This does not count the exploratory meeting held in Chicago in 1973. At that time, there was as yet no History of Economics Society. The Society officially dates, then, from May 1974.) I remember those days in Chapel Hill as the first in a series of lively and interesting meetings, and I remember the feeling of exuberance that predominated once it was realized that the strange interest we all shared in the economics of dead economists (I believe that phrase is attributable to William Allen) was not moribund after all. It was inspiring to learn that historians of economic thought were not really a vanishing breed. Since that first meeting, our Society has grown both in size and in the scope of our activities in promoting interest and research in the history of economics. It has grown so much, in fact, that we now need a regular publication to keep track of all the activities both of the Society and of its members. *The HES Bulletin* is intended to be such a publication. I hope it will come to be regarded both as a means of communication among members of the HES and as a clearinghouse of current research in the history of economic thought. That is the vision of what the Bulletin can grow to be which I share with the members of the Executive Committee who asked me to take on the job as editor.

In the following pages, you will find, I hope, a strong beginning to defining *The HES Bulletin*. Included is a lengthy, lively report of the last HES meeting held at the University of Toronto, announcements of several other meetings devoted to the history of economics, excerpts from an article about a famous economics library, a research note on Babbage and monopoly theory, an informational article about word processing equipment for the historian of economic thought and "The Lighter Side" which reflects the sense of humor of some of our members. I think you will find the contents interesting and informative. Future issues can be made even more interesting, informative, and above all, useful, however, if I can enlist your cooperation. In future issues, I would like to include some or all of the following kinds of features: a list of journal articles in non-economics journals which would be of interest to historians of economics, recent dissertations in our field with abstracts, new books in the history of thought with a short summary of the contents and purpose of the book supplied by the author, and notification of research in progress. This kind of bibliographical information would greatly facilitate your own research and help us all to keep up with the literature. However in order for me to acquire such information for publication, I will need your help. Authors, please send me notice of your new books in print; dissertation advisors, please ask your students to notify me when their dissertations are approved; those of us who regularly read non-economics journals, please jot down the titles of interesting articles to share with the rest of the membership. Further, if any of you are engaged in on-going research projects which you would like others to

know about (or if you have discussion papers you would like to comment on) send me a short description for inclusion in the *Bulletin*.

In addition to such bibliographical information, I would also like to start a series of *Queries and Answers*. Do any of you have some research problem the solution to which might be easily forthcoming if you could address the entire HES membership? If so, send it in and it will be published in the next issue. (For instance, who was the first to describe the paradox of value? I can imagine a flood of responses to that one.) Answers can be directed both to the questioner and to the *Bulletin*: If the problem is of general interest, it would be useful to publish the response.

In sum, I hope you will use this publication for its intended purpose; as the bulletin board for the History of Economics Society. Our membership is large and geographically dispersed. We get together as a group only once a year, and then with only slightly more than ten percent of our members in attendance. For many, the *Bulletin* may provide the major source of contact with the rest of the Society. Please take full advantage of it.

One more point. Since this is such a new publication, its form has not yet been set in concrete. If you have suggestions for other kinds of features, or ways to improve the features included, please feel free to write me and tell me your ideas. I am not promising that I will take them to heart, but I will be happy to consider them. All help in making the *Bulletin* a publication worthy of the History of Economics Society is gratefully accepted.

K.I.V.

*Note of thanks: I want to thank all of the contributors to this issue for doing more than their share in helping to make the *Bulletin* a reality.