

## *Editors' Notes*

EDITORS' REPORT SEPTEMBER 2012

The JOURNAL's editorial team has gone through its biennial hemi-metamorphosis. Price Fishback, after four years of sterling service as editor, has retired to the hallowed position of executive director of the Economic History Association. Paul Rhode has taken over as editor for the Americas with nary a hiccup. Martha Bailey is taking his place as book review editor for the Americas. In the fall of 2012, Timothy Guinnane succeeded Philip Hoffman as book review editor for the Rest of the World.

Editing the JOURNAL with Price or Paul could not be done without the most excellent staff. Sabrina Boschetti at Caltech has been our Production Editor and the Rest of the World editor's assistant for six years now. Her patience and care are all over the pages of the JOURNAL. Taylor Jaworski, provided yeoman services to Price Fishback, and Fan Fei, a graduate student at the University of Michigan, will replace him and work for Paul Rhode. We also benefit from the advice and tireless refereeing of our editorial board (and the nearly 200 referees that contributed their expertise). This year, we lost Shawn Kantor and Christopher Meissner to the Iron Law of fixed terms. We are grateful that Leah Boustan, Benjamin Chabot, Tom Nicholas, Francesca Trivellato, and Nikolaus Wolf will join our distinguished board. They will each serve a four-year term. Gillian Greenough continues as our liaison with Cambridge University Press and her help in the editing and distribution process is keenly felt.

We are making changes and boldly stepping into the twenty-first century. Starting with the March 2013 issue, the JOURNAL will use the text author-date system (in text referencing) with full bibliography. Yes! We are eliminating the short footnote referencing style that has characterized the journal for so long. Our long-standing policy was that short-footnote was a signal of our interdisciplinary (History and Economics) commitment. But there are better ways of doing so. Moreover, nearly all articles submitted to the JEH include in text referencing and then are converted by groaning though grateful authors. This editorial changes would save on the production editor's time (the placement of footnote is a persistent headache) and allow the production editor to free some time for the growing number of online appendices that authors wish posted to the JOURNAL's website.

The number of submissions to the JOURNAL (Figure 1) rose slightly to 126 from 118 last year. Both numbers fall comfortably between 98 the nadir of 2008/2009 and 158 our 2007/2008 apex. The share of papers handled by the America's office continues to hover at 40 percent. Given that each office published 15 articles a year, acceptance probabilities are rather different.

The distribution of topic areas in Table 1 continues to broaden. A Herfindahl index for topics has fallen from 1,460 in 2006/2007 to below 1,000 for the past three years. The distribution of articles by topic remains quite similar to that of the recent years. Two striking patterns are worthy of note, in the Rest of the World, agriculture and private finance together account for almost 25 percent of submissions while in the America's these topic together garner only 6 percent of submissions. In terms of regions of interest, North America continues what seems to be an inexorable decline in submission shares. The share of papers covering this continent has now fallen to 25 percent. One might take joy that the JOURNAL is becoming more global, but I suspect more U.S. focused papers are finding outlets in mainline economics journal in the last few years. This is good news for the discipline if not for the JOURNAL. For the Rest of the World, the Old Continent (Great Britain and Western Europe) is holding its own at 45 percent of all submissions, Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand, Latin America, and the Middle East seem to

be making substantial gains. The nineteenth and twentieth centuries now account three-fourths of the papers in Table 3. As coverage shifts further back in time, the share of papers falls off. There is one caveat about all of these statistics. The editors classified the papers up through 2007/2008, and the classifications have been chosen by the submitting authors since that time.

To put the response-time statistics in Table 4 in context, our goal is to have a decision back to the author within 90 days. Table 5 shows that our average and medians for the past several years have ranged between 70 and 90 days. We can report no progress in these matters, but it is satisfying that our referees are helping us hold the line at a median of three months to decision.

The publication rate in Figure 2 is the number of refereed papers and notes published in the current year divided by the number of new papers submitted in the previous year. The publication rate peaked at 45 percent in 2000 and fell to a low around 20 percent in 2009. In the last two years, acceptances seem to be settling down at about one in four (one in three for the America's bureau and one in five for the Rest of the World). The number of refereed articles and notes published does not change much from year to year, so the publication rate typically fluctuates in the opposite direction of the number of new submissions. As a result, the low publication rate in 2009 in Figure 2 is associated with the spike in the number of new submissions in 2008 in Figure 1. The rise in the 2010 publication rate, for instance, resulted from the sharp drop-off in submissions in 2009.

In light of these matters, it is time for a Treaty of Tordesillas. Starting in the fall of 2012, one editor (Rosenthal) will be in charge of Eurasia and the other (Rhode) will take responsibility for the Americas, Africa, Australasia, and Antarctica. Greenland remains unallocated, and authors who submit papers on the Big Island can opt for either editor.

JEAN-LAURENT ROSENTHAL, *California Institute of Technology*

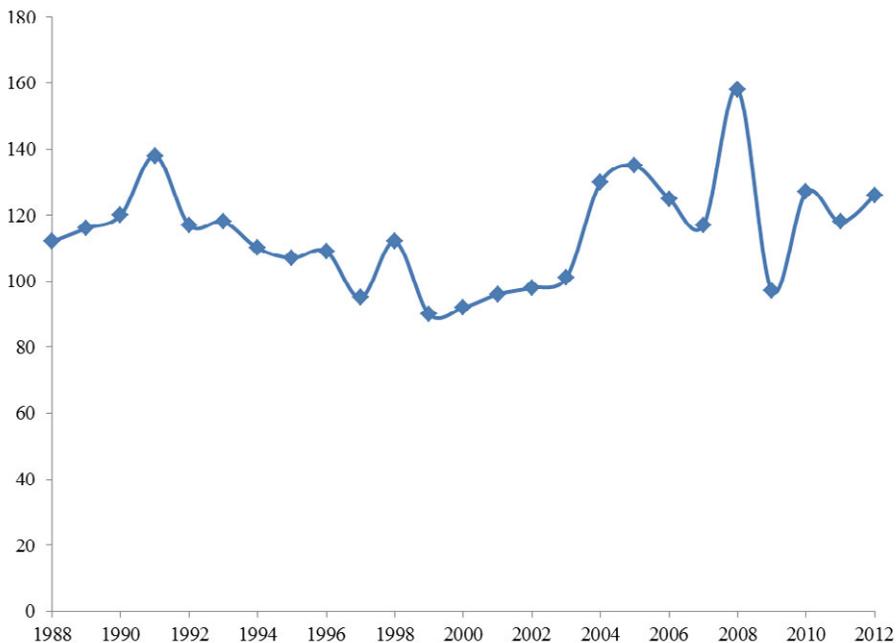


FIGURE 1  
NEW SUBMISSIONS IN YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1988–2012

TABLE 1  
NEW SUBMISSIONS BY WORLD AREA, BROKEN DOWN BY TOPIC,  
JULY 2009–JUNE 2012

Topic	July 2009–June 2010		July 2010–June 2011		July 2011–June 2012	
	North & South America	Rest of the World	North & South America	Rest of the World	North & South America	Rest of the World
Agriculture	5	5	3	5	1	9
Demography	1	9	3	7	4	2
Growth	3	10	7	11	7	13
History of thought	0	0	1	0	0	1
Industry	2	3	2	1	4	4
International trade/finance	4	6	5	4	3	6
Labor	10	8	7	2	4	7
Money and macro	5	5	1	3	7	4
Political economy	5	13	7	8	9	9
Private finance and capital markets	6	5	4	12	2	10
Public finance	1	6	4	1	2	2
Technology	2	5	4	2	1	2
Urban and regional	3	1	1	2	1	4
Other	3	1	4	7	4	4
Total	50	77	53	65	49	77

*Note:* The numbers include new submissions only. The totals equal the number of new submissions received because a paper is classified in only one topic category. In the latest year, the Americas office had 63 total submissions, 49 new and 12 resubmitted. The office for the rest of the world had 93 total submissions, 77 new and 16 resubmitted.

TABLE 2  
REGULAR ARTICLE NEW SUBMISSIONS BY REGION, 1 JULY 2008–30 JUNE 2012

Region	Submissions			
	2008–2009	2009–2010	2010–2011	2011–2012
Africa	4	8	5	6
Asia	5	7	11	15
Australia and New Zealand	0	2	0	2
Eastern Europe/Russia	2	7	7	7
Great Britain	8	22	27	20
Latin America	8	7	6	9
Middle East	3	6	6	4
Non-Spanish speaking Caribbean	1	3	0	0
United States and Canada	38	51	43	39
Western Europe	26	46	41	46
Not applicable	2	3	4	6

*Note:* The numbers include new submissions only. Totals exceed new submissions because a paper can be classified as pertaining to more than one region.

TABLE 3  
REGULAR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS BY PERIOD, 1 JULY–30 JUNE  
2009–2010, 2010–2011, AND 2011–2012

Period	Submissions		
	2009–2010	2010–2011	2011–2012
Twenty-first century	4	2	4
Twentieth century	74	53	47
Nineteenth century	63	53	84
Seventeenth and eighteenth centuries	39	33	25
Pre-seventeenth century	15	15	16
Not applicable or unknown	3	3	2

*Note:* The numbers include new submissions only. Totals exceed submissions because a paper can be classified as pertaining to more than one period.

TABLE 4  
TIME BETWEEN SUBMISSION AND EDITOR'S DECISION  
(in days)

Year	Decision Lags (in days)			
	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Median
All submissions				
2006/2007	1	215	88	92
2007/2008	1	216	72	81
2008/2009	30	193	88	92
2009/2010	13	162	91	90
2010/2011	14	179	90	90
2011/2012	15	206	90	85
New submissions only				
2006/2007	1	215	89	111
2007/2008	1	216	72	80
2008/2009	31	176	87	91
2009/2010	20	162	94	91
2010/2011	14	179	93	92
2011/2012	15	206	94	90

*Notes:* Does not include submissions that were pending as of August 1, 2012.

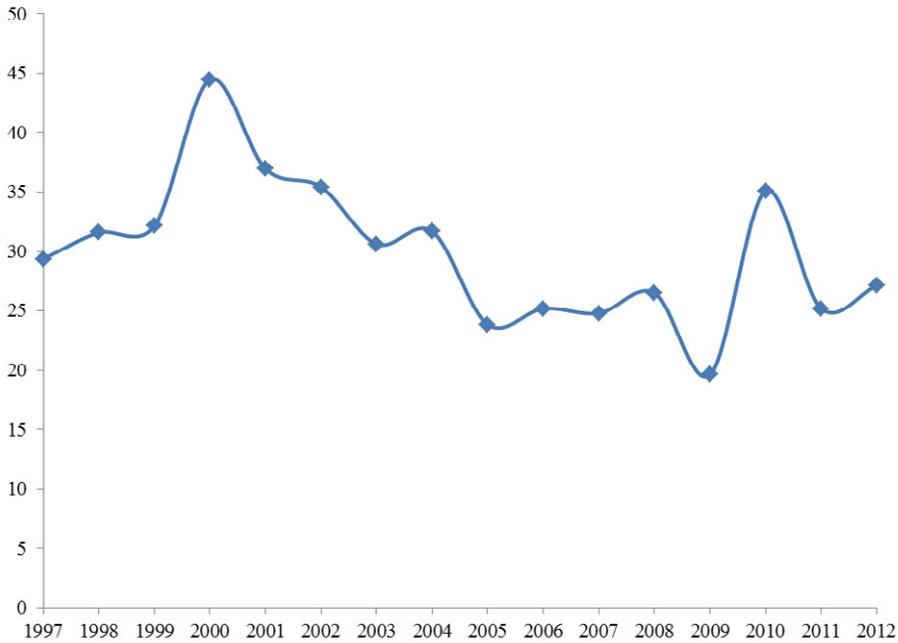


FIGURE 2  
PUBLICATION RATE, 1997–2012

*Notes:* Publication Rate for 2012 is the refereed number of articles and notes published between July 1 and June 30 of 2012 as a percentage of the number of new submissions between July 1 and June 30 of 2011, and similarly for prior years. Presidential addresses and book reviews are not included. In years prior to 1997, the June issue of the *JOURNAL* was devoted to publishing papers presented at the annual Economic History Association meetings, so the meaning of publication rates differed.

Referees for the year were:

Ran Abramitzky  
Olivier Accominotti  
Brian A'Hearn  
Robert Allen  
Lee J. Alston  
Facundo Alvaredo  
Mathieu Arnoux  
Leticia Arroyo Abad  
Jeremy Atack  
Anthony B. Atkinson  
Martha Bailey  
James Bessen  
Bruno Biais

Vincent Bignon  
Hoyt Bleakley  
Howard Bodenhorn  
Dan Bogart  
Michael Bordo  
Maristella Botticini  
Jerome Bourdieu  
Leah Boustan  
Loren Brandt  
John Brown  
Erik Buyst  
Charles Calomiris  
Bruce Campbell

Davide Cantoni	Richard Grossman
Ann Carlos	Timothy Guinnane
Myung Soo Cha	Bishnupriya Gupta
Benjamin Chabot	Theresa Gutberlet
Eric Chaney	Stephen Haber
Latika Chaudhary	Christopher Hanes
Gregory Clark	C. Knick Harley
Karen Clay	Edwyna Harris
Denis Cogneau	Ron Harris
Metin Cosgel	Timothy Hatton
Dora Costa	Pierre-Cyrille Hautcoeur
Nicholas Crafts	Jac Heckelman
Lee A. Craig	Alfonso Herranz-Loncàn
Neil Cummins	Eric Hilt
Tomas Cvrcek	Christopher Hoag
Joseph Davis	Philip Hoffman
Jan De Vries	Sok Chul Hong
Tracy K. Dennison	Richard Hornbeck
Mark Dincecco	David Howell
Jeremiah Dittmar	Michael Huberman
Martin Dribe	Douglas Irwin
Xavier Duran	David Jacks
Michael Edelstein	John James
Barry Eichengreen	Matthew Jaremski
Jari Eloranta	Taylor Jaworski
Stanley Engerman	Robert Jensen
Rui Esteves	Morten Jerven
James Fenske	Saumitra Jha
Daniel Fetter	Ryan Johnson
Price Fishback	Shawn Kantor
Marc Flandreau	Ian Keay
Caroline Fohlin	Lionel Kesztenbaum
James Foreman-Peck	Zorina Khan
Ewout Frankema	Christopher Kingston
Carola Frydman	Carl Kitchens
Oscar Gelderblom	Peter Koudijs
Victor Ginsburgh	Sumner La Croix
George W. Grantham	Pedro Lains
Avner Greif	Naomi Lamoreaux

Markus Lampe  
Chulhee Lee  
Margaret Levenstein  
Peter Lindert  
Trevon Logan  
Jason Long  
Debin Ma  
Joseph Manning  
Patrick Manning  
Robert Margo  
Pablo Martin-Aceña  
Noel Maurer  
Anne E. C. McCants  
Robert McGuire  
Christopher Meissner  
Melinda Miller  
Chris Minns  
David Mitch  
Carolyn Moehling  
Joel Mokyr  
Alexander Moradi  
Bernardo Mueller  
Tomas Murphy  
Aldo Musacchio  
Steven Nafziger  
Suresh Naidu  
Joana Naritomi  
Larry Neal  
Tom Nicholas  
Pilar Nogues-Marco  
Nathan Nunn  
Alessandro Nuvolari  
John Nye  
Cormac Ó Gráda  
Alan L. Olmstead  
Kevin O'Rourke  
Les Oxley  
Suleyman Ozmucur  
Sevket Pamuk  
John Parman  
Florian Ploeckl  
Kenneth Pomeranz  
Keith Poole  
Gilles Postel-Vinay  
Leandro Prados De La Escosura  
Jonathan Pritchett  
Stephen Quinn  
Thomas G. Rawski  
Angela Redish  
Paul Rhode  
Gary Richardson  
Hugh Rockoff  
Joshua Rosenbloom  
Peter Rousseau  
Peter Scott  
George Selgin  
Andrew Seltzer  
James Simpson  
Philip Slavin  
Erik Snowberg  
Kenneth A. Snowden  
David Stasavage  
Richard Steckel  
Jochen Streb  
William Summerhill  
William A. Sundstrom  
Richard Sylla  
Kenneth Sylvester  
Alan M. Taylor  
Jason Taylor  
Peter Temin  
Melissa Thomasson  
Giovanni Toniolo  
Werner Troesken  
John Turner  
Christiaan Van Bochove  
Danielle Van Den Heuvel  
Jan Luiten Van Zanden

Nancy Virts  
Nico Voigtlaender  
Hans-Joachim Voth  
Daniel Waldenstrom  
John Wallis  
Marianne Wanamaker  
Warren Weber  
Simone Wegge  
Marc Weidenmier  
David Weiman  
Jacob Weisdorf  
David C. Wheelock  
Jeffrey G. Williamson  
Susan Wolcott  
Nikolaus Wolf  
R. Bin Wong  
Noam Yuchtman  
Peter Zeitz