

Editors' Notes

Perceptive regular readers will have noted some slight changes in the format in this issue of the JOURNAL. These have been made in the spirit of our motto, *Innovatio et Traditio*, which we are also using for the first time. Our intention is to enhance the utility, convenience, and aesthetic appeal of the JOURNAL. If our innovations are successful, they will become traditions; if not, they will disappear as so many other innovations have. We depend upon our readers to let us know their opinions.

EDITORIAL BOARD

There is no provision in the bylaws of the Economic History Association for an editorial board. In the past, members of the editorial board have been co-opted by the editors of the JOURNAL to serve for varying lengths of time. In the belief that it is desirable to have some rotation among our editorial advisors, we have appointed some new members to the editorial board, and are excusing from further service those members of the former board who have served continuously for five years or more. We extend to them, for ourselves and on behalf of our readers, our sincere expression of appreciation for their conscientious service. Membership on the editorial board implies not merely an honorific title, but commitment to the highest quality of scholarship. Needless to say, members of the board receive no remuneration for their chores—nor do the editors, for that matter.

PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER

Professor Jacob M. Price is editing *Joshua Johnson's Letterbook 1771-4* for publication by the London Record Society in 1979. It contains letters written by Johnson, a Maryland merchant in London, to his partners in Annapolis. The letters are remarkably frank; they are filled with didactic material, mini-lectures on how business was conducted in London; how each commodity desired in Maryland could best be purchased; the advisability of dealing with one firm rather than another; the characteristic credit terms available for each commodity; earnings from the tobacco commission business; how insurance was arranged and how banks were used. In addition, the letters contain more information on competitors than can be found in the surviving records of any other contemporary firm known to the editor.

The volume will be issued to members of the Society in respect of their annual subscriptions, but will also be on sale at \$16 to non-members. Since the publication will be of particular interest to colonial and economic historians, it will be offered at the special pre-publication price of \$12. Those wishing to avail themselves of this offer should send a check before 1 March 1979 to the Hon. Secretary, London Record Society, c/o Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, London SC1E 7HU.

COUNCIL FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

The Council for European Studies will convene its first conference of Europeanists at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC, on March 29-31, 1979. These dates are different from the ones originally announced. The major theme of the 1979 conference is "Institutional Change or Institutional Decay? Transitional Epochs in Europe." Readers desiring further information should address Marion A. Kaplan, Executive Secretary, Council for European Studies, Columbia University, 1429 International Affairs Building, New York, New York 10027.

PHILIP TAFT LABOR HISTORY AWARD

Friends and colleagues of the late Philip Taft are honoring him by establishing the Philip Taft Labor History Award. The monetary Award will be made periodically for the best publication in the United States about American working class history. The Committee designated to make the Award consists initially of Professor James O. Morris, A. Gerd Korman, and Cletus E. Daniel of the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University, and Professors Irving Bernstein of the University of California at Los Angeles and Sidney Fine of the University of Michigan.

The first Award will be made in 1979 for the best work about American working class history published during the 1978 calendar year. Inquiries about the Award may be sent to Professor James O. Morris, New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University, P.O. Box 1000, Ithaca, New York 14853.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE AND HISTORY

The conference will take place at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, England, July 8-14, 1979. The purpose of this conference is to bring together climatologists, historians, and archaeologists from throughout the world to discuss climate and its possible impact on past and present societies. Some financial assistance may become available to the organizing committee to facilitate travel and/or subsistence of a limited number of participants. Potential contributors and participants are requested to notify as soon as possible and, in any case, not later than December 31, 1978: The Conference Secretary (Climate and History Conference), Climatic Research Unit, School of Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ, United Kingdom.

JOURNAL OFFER

The University of Birmingham Historical Journal was published annually from 1947 to 1970. It is recognized as an important source of articles on the economic history of the English Midlands, the Black Country, and Birmingham. A stock of the *Journal* held by the University is now being disposed of at nominal prices: £0.50p. per annual number (£0.75p. for overseas customers) including postage and packing. Inquiries and orders (with prepayment)

to Dr. R. C. Simmons, School of History, The University, P.O. Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The New Jersey Historical Commission is seeking papers for a conference in October 1979 in Newark, New Jersey, on Thomas A. Edison and the recent history of science and technology. Those interested should submit proposals to Richard Waldron, Associate Director of the Historical Commission, 113 W. State St., Trenton, NJ 08625. The deadline is January 1, 1979. We welcome complete panels and the two-paper, two-discussant type panel. General topics under consideration include the nature of discovery or invention and inventors' responsibility to society. More specific topics include Edison's impact on the growth of American business and the development of the "systems approach" to technology, as well as Edison as folk hero.

DISSERTATIONS IN EUROPEAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

The Arno Press, publisher of the series "Dissertations in American Economic History," has now published a companion series, "Dissertations in European Economic History." Stuart Bruchey is the advisory editor for both series. The editorial board for the European series includes Rondo Cameron, Carlo Cipolla, François Cruzet, Wolfram Fischer, Ira A. Glazier, Peter Mathias, and William N. Parker.

The books have been reproduced by photo-offset from the best available copy of the typewritten dissertations. Thirty titles have appeared so far. In addition to American doctoral dissertations, they include several from universities in France, Great Britain, and Germany. The majority date from the 1970s, but there is one (James B. Jeffreys, *Business Organization in Great Britain, 1856-1914*) from 1938. This JOURNAL will review all of the volumes, but because of logistical problems the reviews may not appear before June 1979.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Regional Economic History Research Center, Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation will sponsor a conference on "Economy and Society: Philadelphia and Its Hinterland," to take place October 13, 1978 at 2:15 p.m. Stuart Blumin, Cornell University, will chair the conference and comment on papers by David E. Dauer, University of Pennsylvania, "The Hinterland Economy in Pre-Revolutionary Pennsylvania"; Diane Lindstrom, University of Wisconsin at Madison, "The Industrialization of the Lower Delaware Valley in the Antebellum Period"; and Claudia Dale Goldin, Princeton University, "Family Strategies in Late Nineteenth-Century Philadelphia." For further information contact: William H. Mulligan, Jr., Regional Economic History Research Center, Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, Box 3630, Greenville, Wilmington, DE 19807.