

Editors' Notes

EDITORS' REPORT, SEPTEMBER 1987

Compared with past years, this has been a quiet one at the *Journal of Economic History*. There have been no changes in editors, offices, style, or staff (although I am reminded that Thomas Weiss, of the University of Kansas, has agreed to be my successor come June 1988), and the period of calm has allowed us to take stock. I report to you some journal facts, once again compiled with the help of my indefatigable research assistant, Robert Whaples.

The JOURNAL is brought to you by a group of dedicated workers, and we thank all of them and our universities, the University of Pennsylvania and the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, for making it all possible. Carol Petraitis heads the home office at Pennsylvania and has been Assistant Editor ever since I began three years ago. She is joined by Robert Whaples, editorial assistant and graduate student in the Department of Economics at Pennsylvania, who, among other tasks, tends the American portion of the book review section. Margaret Mirabelli is Assistant Editor in the Troy office. We are all indebted to Lynn and Richmond Williams for taking care of the Association's finances and organization.

Submissions from July 1, 1986 to June 30, 1987 totaled 109 (134 including the Tasks issue), up by 15 percent from the previous year, and more recent data suggest an even greater increase will be reported next year. Of the 109 submissions there have been so far 10 acceptances and 65 rejections; the remaining 34 are still pending. There were twenty-five published articles and one note in the September, December, and March issues. Almost two-thirds of the submissions come from those affiliated with economics departments; only 14 percent are from those in history departments, and we repeat our request of previous years that historians increase their submissions to the JOURNAL. Three-fourths of all submissions are from United States residents, with the states of California, North Carolina, and Ohio taking the first three places. A surprising seasonality in submissions has been uncovered: peaks occur in March, May, June, and October, and troughs fall in February, April, and December. With the exception of the March figure the pattern precisely fits that of marriages in eighteenth-century France.

The time to first decision has remained roughly the same since last year—I am pleased to report that about one-third occurred within just two months of submission, and less than one-tenth occurred in over four months time. This, we proudly claim, is an extremely fine record.

The book review section, which had declining numbers since its peak with the editorship of Rondo Cameron, has now regained its 1980/81 position. There were 246 reviews in 1986/87, with 48 percent on the United States and Canada, and 26 percent on Modern Europe.

Two years ago I reported the results of a project (actually a term paper in the history of economic thought) done by Robert Whaples on the changing nature of the JOURNAL over its history. In that report I showed the way in which certain fields emerged and disappeared over time, and the possible correlation with the general scholarly trends and editors' discretion. That report contained information on published papers only, not on all submissions, and suffered, I must admit, from sample-selection bias. Editors are constrained by the content of their submissions, and thus I turn now to an analysis of submitted and accepted papers. The sample used is the last two years of data in the Pennsylvania office, so it includes only the American half of the journal. Two areas will be detailed: first, the age distribution of potential and actual authors and, second, the topics submitted and published.

For the period since January 1, 1986, we categorized each author as either young, middle-aged, or esteemed, that is clearly "wizzened." I cannot reveal the exact

TABLE 1
SUBMITTED AND PUBLISHED PAPERS BY FIELD

	Percent Submitted	Percent Published
Agriculture	22.0%	23.8%
Money and banking	18.7	16.3
Population	16.7	16.2
Economic growth	7.7	13.7
Industry	11.0	10.0
Government and regulation	9.3	10.0
Political, social, and cultural	3.0	7.5
Trade	7.3	2.5
Methodology	2.0	0.0
History of economic thought	1.0	0.0
Firms	1.3	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0

Notes: The sample includes all papers submitted from January 1986 to September 1987 that were processed by the Pennsylvania office of the JOURNAL. Agriculture also includes servitude. Industry = manufacturing + technology + transportation + industrial organization. Population = labor + demography + education. Economic growth = (income and wealth) + macroeconomics. Government and regulation also includes property rights. If a paper was in more than one field, each received equal weight.

characteristics used except that young meant the author had received the Ph.D. within three years of the submission, and I would have put myself in the middle-aged bracket, so anyone younger had to be there as well. In any event, 38 percent of all submissions came from the young group—a substantial percentage. More impressive was that 50 percent of all publications came from them. While the numbers for the publication sample are small, the implication seems clear—we are publishing substantial numbers of papers by young economic historians. Only 6 percent of all submissions, I regret to report, came from the wizzened.

We have organized submissions by fields in Table 1 to be directly comparable to those in the March 1986 Editors' Notes. The percentages by publication are similar to those of submissions, with the possible exceptions of the greater publication probabilities for papers in economic growth and in the combined political, social, and cultural field, and the smaller probability for those in trade. Note, as well, the extremely large proportion of submissions in both agriculture, and money and banking. The American South has been of continued interest to economic historians, providing 9 percent of all submissions, and the field of money and banking has been buoyed by a recent interest in the Great Depression, which also provided 9 percent. Among the papers submitted to the non-American side of the JOURNAL, we note that fully 39 percent were on ancient, medieval, Asian, and African history, that is non-Modern European history.

What conclusions can be drawn from our research? The JOURNAL continues to be eclectic in subject matter and time period; submissions, not its editors, appear to influence its subject matter, and while it is receiving submissions that greatly exceed those published, it could use more from noneconomists and the "wizzened" crowd (whose sage commentary often appears in the nonrefereed press).

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:

Lee Alston, Williams College
George Alter, Indiana University

Terry Anderson, University of Montana
Jeremy Atack, University of Illinois
Ralph Austen, University of Chicago
George Boyer, Cornell University
Judith Brown, Stanford University
Charles Calomiris, Northwestern University
Susan Carter, Smith College
Gregory Clark, Stanford University
Philip Curtin, Johns Hopkins University
Paul David, Stanford University
Lance Davis, California Institute of Technology
Rudiger Dornbusch, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Charles Feinstein, Harvard University
Stanley Fischer, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Price Fishback, University of Georgia
Douglas Fisher, North Carolina State University
Denis Flynn, College of the Pacific
Gerald Friedman, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Robert Gallman, University of North Carolina
David Galenson, University of Chicago
David Good, Temple University
Gary Gorton, University of Pennsylvania
Thomas Gottschang, Holy Cross
Farley Grubb, University of Delaware
Gerald Gunderson, Trinity College
Dennis Halcoussis, University of Pennsylvania
C. Knick Harley, University of Western Ontario
Elizabeth Hoffman, University of Wyoming
R. P-C. Hsia, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Charles Issawi, Princeton University
John James, University of Virginia
L. E. Johnson, Bemidji State University
Charles Kindleberger, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
David Laidler, University of Western Ontario
David Landes, Harvard University
Stanley Lebergott, Wesleyan University
Lynn Hollen Lees, University of Pennsylvania
T.J.A. LeGoff, York University
Walter Licht, University of Pennsylvania
Peter Lindert, University of California, Davis
Diane Lindstrom, University of Wisconsin
Robert Lipsey, National Bureau of Economic Research
Donald McCloskey, University of Iowa
Marvin McInnis, Queen's University
Jacob Metzer, Hebrew University, Jerusalem
Philip Mirowski, Tufts University
Anthony Molho, Brown University
Cynthia Taft Morris, Smith College
Douglass North, Washington University
J. Odling-Smee, Her Majesty's Treasury, London
Lawrence Officer, University of Illinois, Chicago
Alan Olmstead, University of California, Davis
Martha Olney, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Mancur Olsen, University of Maryland
 Edwin Perkins, University of Southern California
 Robert Potash, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
 Thomas Rawski, University of Pittsburgh
 Richard Roehl, University of Michigan, Dearborn
 Hilton Root, University of Pennsylvania
 Nathan Rosenberg, Stanford University
 Elyce Rotella, Indiana University
 Winifred Rothenberg, Tufts University
 Morton Rothstein, University of California, Davis
 Sharon Salinger, University of California, Riverside
 Warren Sanderson, SUNY, Stony Brook
 Domenico Sella, University of Wisconsin
 Carole Shammass, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
 Bruce D. Smith, University of Western Ontario
 Kenneth Sokoloff, University of California, Los Angeles
 Martin C. Spechler, Indiana University
 Richard Steckel, Ohio State University
 Stanley Stein, Princeton University
 Richard Sutch, University of California, Berkeley
 Richard Sylla, North Carolina State University
 Koji Taira, University of Illinois
 Peter Temin, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Elias Tuma, University of California, Davis
 Thomas Ulen, University of Illinois
 Paula Voos, University of Wisconsin
 John Wallis, University of Maryland
 Susan Watkins, University of Pennsylvania
 Elmus Wicker, Indiana University
 Jeffrey Williamson, Harvard University
 Harold Woodman, Purdue University
 Arthur Woolf, University of Vermont
 Gavin Wright, Stanford University
 Kozo Yamamura, University of Washington

OUR ASSOCIATION WITH CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

With this issue, our Readers will begin to notice some subtle changes in the JOURNAL brought about by our association with the Cambridge University Press. Note, for instance, the cover of this issue. We will keep you apprised as the changes gradually come into effect.

For our authors, Cambridge University Press will now be handling offprint requests. We are happy to report that their offprint policy is to give each author twenty-five free copies. We wish that each change would have such happy economic consequences.

ERRATA

In a review of Roger Biles's *Memphis in the Great Depression*, which appears in the September 1987 issue and was written by Michael V. Namorato, the Editors incorrectly spelled out the abbreviation for CIO as Confederation of Industrial Organizations rather than Congress of Industrial Organizations. We blush at the error, and apologize to our reviewer.

Robert L. Bennett wrote a review of *Democracy and Capitalism: Property, Community, and Contradictions of Modern Social Thought* by Samuel Bowles and Herbert Gintis that appeared in the September 1987 issue. The last paragraph should read:

Thus after gaining a better understanding from the authors of how societies and individuals develop, we are left with an agenda of working for democracy and against capitalism if we like democracy and want it to spread or working against democracy's encroachment if we like capitalism more. Only if we have no preference would we stand by and let more or less random selection determine the course of events.

FELLOWSHIP HONORING ALICE HANSON JONES

A substantial bequest has permitted Columbia University to establish a fellowship in the name of the late Alice Hanson Jones to encourage the study of American economic history, especially the history of the colonial period. While the fellowship is available only to graduate students at Columbia, Jones's extensive papers in the university's Rare Book and Manuscripts collection are open to scholars everywhere, especially to a person interested in writing the biography of this remarkable scholar. Jones's long-term interest in the distribution of wealth is richly reflected in her papers. For ten years she worked at the Bureau of Labor Statistics where, as Assistant Chief of the Cost of Living Division, she helped direct field studies of workers' family expenditures in order to revise what was to become the Consumer Price Index. In 1977 Arno Press published in three volumes the 919 probate inventories of estates, dated circa 1774, which were to serve as the principal bases on which she erected her monumental study of the *Wealth of a Nation to Be*, published in 1980 by Columbia University Press.

TENTH INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC HISTORY CONGRESS

The congress will meet August 19–24, 1990 in Leuven, Belgium and will be divided into four sections. Section A will contain five themes, and each will have an organizer who will arrange a pre-conference colloquium. Section B will contain 12 to 15 themes, and to facilitate discussion, Section B papers will be published in advance. The final list of Section C themes will be decided at Leuven in 1988. Section D will offer young researchers the opportunity to present their work. The candidates, proposed by the economic historians of each national association, will be selected by the committee in 1989. There will be about 16 presentations. For more information concerning the congress, contact Professor Herman van der Wee, Center for Economic Studies, Leuven University, 2b, Van Evenstaat, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium.

The organizer of "Unemployment and Underemployment in Historical Perspective," a B Session, would like persons interested in participating to describe their proposed paper in a letter to the session chair, Barry Eichengreen, Department of Economics, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720. He is particularly interested in prospectuses for papers on regions other than North America and Western Europe on periods other than the interwar years.

MUSICAL DATABASE FROM LONDON NEWSPAPERS, 1660–1800

The Royal Holloway and Bedford New College are developing a database about music in London from 1660 to 1800. The database will be composed of two sets of files: those relating to the text base and those relating to the set of indexes available. For further information contact: Dr. Rosamond McGuinness, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, University of London, Egham Hill, Egham, Surrey TW20 OEX, United Kingdom.