

Editors' Notes

IN MEMORIAM: JONATHAN HUGHES, 1928–1992



ERIC CHU

Jonathan R. T. Hughes, former president of the Economic History Association, passed away on May 30, 1992. One of the most original and influential economic historians of our time, Jonathan was a member of the Association for more than three decades and served as its president in 1980/81. Educated at Utah State and the University of Washington, he became a Rhodes scholar and received an Oxford D.Phil. in 1955. Hughes taught at Purdue from 1955 to 1966, where he was a member of a group of young economists who played a pivotal role in the rejuvenation of economic history and the beginning of cliometrics. Hughes moved to Northwestern University in 1966, and in 1989 was named the first Robert E. and Emily King Professor of Business Institutions.

Hughes's professional contributions reflect the three main influences in his life: his Oxford education, the intellectual influences of the Purdue group, and his origins as a westerner. His doctoral thesis and most conventional work, *Fluctuations in Trade, Industry and Finance*, is an example of meticulous and exhaustive scholarship, and earned him recognition as the leading specialist on the British economy in the 1850s. After arriving at Purdue, he published a string of papers that helped launch quantitative economic history and the use of computers in the processing of historical data. The westerner in him made him an inveterate pioneer, and he was forever rebelling against the conventional, turning to the unfamiliar and untried. He soon moved away from quantification and departed from the natural inclination of the economist to deal with representative agents and aggregates. Instead, Hughes turned to the study of individuals and their role in economic history. The result was *The Vital Few*, a classic study in biography spiced with the insights of economics. The same intellectual restlessness led him to investigate the role of government in America's history, and again he ventured into an area in which he predated the profession by many years—namely, the legal foundations of economic change and regulation. The result was two major books, *Social Control and the Colonial Economy* and his celebrated *The Governmental Habit* (republished in 1991 as *The Governmental Habit Redux*). In addition, Hughes wrote two works of synthesis, *Industrialization and Economic Growth* and *American Economic History* (currently in its third edition).

In his writing as in his conversation, Jonathan's vitality, ebullience, and wit as well as his vast knowledge and clarity of thinking shone through—as did his impatience with fools and ideologues. Above all, he admired competence: he insisted that one know thoroughly what one is talking about and express it with elegance. A complex person, he often combined contradictions with a grace that would have seemed presumptuous in a lesser man: A lover of simple American food, he was a brilliant clarinet player and an admirer of the string quartets of Shostakovich. Suspicious of authority and contemptuous of liberalism, he was equally critical of private enterprise and the free market. An American loyalist, even patriot, he was one of the first to join the antiwar movement at Northwestern in the late 1960s. A believer in individualism and in the role of great personalities in history, he fully sensed the moral repulsiveness of the robber barons of whom he wrote so well.

Learned, exuberant, generous, warm, loyal . . . Jonathan Hughes was as fine a

person as he was distinguished a scholar. Those who knew him for fleeting periods were fortunate. Those, like me, who were his colleagues for 18 years were blessed.

JOEL MOKYR

CALL FOR PAPERS AND DISSERTATIONS

The thirty-ninth annual meeting of the Business History Conference will be held in Boston, Massachusetts, at the Harvard Business School and the Guest Quarters Hotel on March 19, 20, and 21, 1993. In accordance with its theme—"Theory and Business History"—the conference will focus on the interplay between research in business history and the ideas and theories developed in other disciplines: including but not limited to business administration, economics, political science, history, and sociology. The premise is that because business history entails the study of institutional arrangements as well as of people, it has much to both offer and learn from related disciplines. Proposals for sessions or individual papers should be submitted by October 1, 1992. A one-page abstract of the session should identify authors (two or three per session), commentator, session theme, and each paper's subject. Brief curricula vitae of participants should be included. The program will be announced by October 25, 1992. Papers must be completed and circulated to all members of the session, to conference organizer Richard H. K. Vietor, and to proceedings editor Will Hausman no later than February 25, 1993. Proposals should be sent to Richard H. K. Vietor, Harvard Business School, Soldiers Field, Boston, MA 02163. Telephone: (617) 495-6460.

The conference will feature a dissertation session, in which authors of recently completed dissertations (within the years 1990, 1991, and 1992) will present overviews of their research. The Herman E. Krooss Prize of \$250 will be awarded to the best dissertation presented. Those wishing to be considered for inclusion should send a one-page abstract and a copy of their dissertation to David Hounshell, Department of History, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890. Telephone: (412) 268-3753.

The eighteenth annual meeting of the Economic and Business Historical Society will be held April 22, 23, and 24, 1993, in Nashville, Tennessee. The Society encourages interdisciplinary scholarship in economic and business history. Its international membership includes men and women with interests in economics, history, business, social science, geography, and related disciplines. Members and nonmembers are invited to submit papers, offer their services as session chairs and discussants, and/or make program suggestions. Please enclose a two-page abstract with proposals for papers. The deadline for abstracts is January 15, 1993; for papers, March 1, 1993. Address correspondence, abstracts, and papers to EBHS president and program chair Lynne Pierson Doti, Department of Economics, Chapman College, Orange, CA 92666. Telephone: (714) 997-6805; FAX: (714) 532-6081.

SUMMER INSTITUTE

The 1993 Summer Institute in Italian Archival Sciences will be led by Professor Armando Petrucci of the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa, Italy, between June 28 and August 6, 1993. Assisted by Dr. Franca Nardelli, Professor Petrucci will provide intensive training in the reading, transcribing, and editing of Italian vernacular manuscripts (1300-1650). He will also offer a thorough orientation to the organization of Italian archives, libraries, and manuscript collections. *The course will be conducted in Italian.* Full-time faculty members and librarians with instructional responsibilities employed in American institutions of higher learning are eligible to apply for stipends of \$1500, plus travel expenses and a \$1200 allowance for room and board (for nonlocal

scholars only). Faculty, research scholars, and advanced graduate students at universities affiliated with either the Newberry Library Center for Renaissance Studies or the Folger Institute are eligible to apply for special funds available to attend the institute. The deadline for applications is March 1, 1993. For further information and application materials, contact the Newberry Library Center for Renaissance Studies, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610-3380. Telephone: (312) 943-9090.