

# Editors' Notes

EDITORS' REPORT, OCTOBER, 1994

It has become traditional to begin the editors' report with an account of the changes in personnel that occurred during the past year. Last October, if you will recall, Peter Lindert reported that Pamela Evans, assistant editor at the non-American office, had resigned to take another job, and I am happy to be able to report that Barbara Meierhenry stepped into the job on short notice and ably took her place. This summer, of course, marked another period of transition. The non-American office made its scheduled move to Northwestern, and a new editorial team—Joel Mokyr and his assistant editor, Steven Reich—are now in place and busy handling submissions. The Brown office of the JOURNAL has experienced no comparable changes, and assistant editor Larry Carney continues to run operations there with skill and dedication.

It is also traditional to include a number of statistics in the editors' report. Turnaround time for articles continues to be low. For the period July 1, 1993 to June 30, 1994, the average time from submission to decision was 79.7 days with a median of 71 days and a range of 1 to 269 days. A full analysis of submissions broken down by topic, geographical area, and time period is displayed in Tables 1 through 3. The most intriguing pattern in the tables is the dramatic increase in the proportion of submissions dealing with non-North American subjects. Last year Peter reported that the number of submissions handled by the international office had for the first time surpassed those handled by the American office. This year the non-American lead has widened, though the bulk of the articles received by that office still treat Great Britain, Western Europe, and the modern period. From July 1993 through June 1994, 60 percent of submissions were handled by the international office, as opposed to 52 percent the preceding year. On the other hand, 51 percent of the articles published during the past year have dealt

TABLE 1  
REGULAR-ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS HANDLED BY EACH OFFICE, BROKEN DOWN  
BY TOPIC, JULY 1988–JUNE 1994

	Totals for Four years, July 1988–June 1992		Totals for July 1992–June 1993		Totals for July 1993– June 1994	
	American	Non- American	American	Non- American	American	Non- American
Agriculture	24	25	7	10	5	3
Demography	13	17	5	3	3	8
Growth	9	16	2	5	1	7
Industry	30	22	6	5	2	9
Technology	8	9	2	0	4	2
Labor	62	21	12	3	5	7
Money and macro	61	46	10	12	8	5
Public finance	9	4	0	4	3	6
History of thought	8	5	0	3	1	4
International trade, finance	7	18	1	10	1	3
Urban and regional	14	3	3	1	3	3
Political economy	38	19	6	3	5	7
Private finance, capital markets	1	2	3	2	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>66</b>

Note: Excluding resubmissions and the June TASKS issue.

TABLE 2  
REGULAR-ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS BY REGION, JULY 1, 1993–JUNE 30, 1994  
(totals)

Region	Submissions
United States/Canada	52
Great Britain	23
Western Europe	20
Asia	6
Latin America	5
Eastern Europe/Russia	4
Africa	2
Middle East	1
Not applicable or unknown	11

*Note:* Articles that deal with more than one region are counted for each region.

with North American topics. Unless we are to believe that authors of North American articles are more talented than those writing on the rest of the world, the spreads would suggest that there are some unexploited arbitrage opportunities here.

Seriously, though, we do seem to be picking up an important shift in the research interests of members of our profession, a shift that is affecting the book literature as well. The number of books sent to the Brown office for review is also down—to about 80 for the first three quarters of 1994, compared to more than 100 for the comparable period last year and nearly 125 for the year before. We do not think the change can be explained by publishers' confusion about where to send books for review or by their decision to save money by reducing the number of journals to which they send review copies. We monitor publishers' catalogs and advertisements and request review copies of any books relevant to our interests that publishers neglected to send us on their own. The books just do not seem to be out there.

We thought we would use the rest of this report to try to explain to you what it means to have an editor who is an historian. First of all, we would like to reassure you that it probably does not affect you much in any way. We believe that the JOURNAL should be responsive to the needs and interests of all the groups that make up the field of economic history and that it should foster communication among them. Therefore, even though the North American editor is not an economist, she has no aversion to publishing articles that are heavily econometric, and some good examples have appeared in the JOURNAL in recent issues. We do, however, expect the econometrics to be set up in such a way that it is possible for the uninitiated reader to understand intuitively the hypotheses being tested and what big issues are at stake. We also try to ensure that the articles we publish are as clearly and effectively written as they possibly can be.

TABLE 3  
REGULAR-ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS BY PERIOD, JULY 1, 1993–JUNE 30, 1994  
(totals)

Period	Submissions
Twentieth century	45
Nineteenth century	44
Seventeenth/eighteenth century	12
Pre-seventeenth century	7
Not applicable or unknown	11

*Note:* Articles that deal equally with more than one period are counted for each period.

At the same time as we are committed to maintaining the JOURNAL's traditional strengths, however, we are also trying to attract more submissions from historians. The North American office, for example, has been sending out reprints of articles that are likely to be appealing to historians. The aim is both to advertise the JOURNAL and to urge historians working in these areas to consider submitting articles themselves or advise their colleagues and students to submit to us. We cannot say that this strategy has as yet paid off, but we suspect that not enough time has passed to judge the effectiveness of the effort.

We are also interested in building readership for the JOURNAL by ensuring that every issue contains at least some material of general interest to the profession. The articles we publish are all of high quality, but they often deal with very specialized subjects. We would like to encourage submissions that raise broad issues in a provocative way and are pleased to have been able to publish some recently. We are also now making a point of soliciting review essays on books that we consider particularly important. You will see more of these in the JOURNAL in the not too distant future. If any of you have additional ideas about how we can broaden the appeal of the JOURNAL without sacrificing its traditional mission, we would very much like to hear them.

We would like to conclude our report by welcoming to the editorial board our four new members, Gerald Friedman, Jacob Metzger, Warren Whatley, and Vera Zamagni, and by thanking outgoing members Michael Bernstein, Price Fishback, Carol Heim, and Gary Saxonhouse for their years of hard work for the JOURNAL. Finally, we would like to thank all the members of the profession who have helped us out by refereeing articles and reviewing books. The JOURNAL could not exist without your willingness to serve the scholarly community in this way. In addition to the members of the editorial board, the following referees generously responded to our request to review articles submitted to the JOURNAL during the past year:

Robert C. Allen, *University of British Columbia*

George Alter, *Indiana University*

Terry Anderson, *Montana State University*

Jeremy Atack, *Vanderbilt University*

Maxine Berg, *University of Warwick*

Michael Bernstein, *University of California, San Diego*

Richard Blanton, *Purdue University*

Howard Bodenhorn, *Lafayette University*

Michael Bordo, *Rutgers University*

S. N. Broadberry, *University of Warwick*

John Brown, *Clark University*

Louis P. Cain, *Loyola University*

Bruce M. S. Campbell, *The Queen's University of Belfast*

Susan Carter, *University of California, Riverside*

Mark Casson, *University of Reading*

Kang Chao, *University of Wisconsin, Madison*

Larry Cristiano, *Northwestern University*

Gregory Clark, *University of California, Davis*

Susan Collins, *Georgetown University*

Walter H. Conser, Jr., *University of North Carolina, Wilmington*

Lee Craig, *North Carolina State University*

Jan de Vries, *University of California, Berkeley*

Wayne Durrill, *University of Maryland*

Michael Edelstein, *Queens College*

Stanley Engerman, *University of Rochester*

Gary Feinman, *University of Wisconsin, Madison*

James Foreman-Peck, *St. Anthony's College, Oxford*

Price Fishback, *University of Arizona*

David Gabel, *Queens College*

William Gienapp, *Harvard University*

Christopher Grandy, *University of Hawaii*

Brian Gratton, *Arizona State University*

Timothy Guinnane, *Yale University*

Myron Gutman, *University of Texas, Austin*

- Michael R. Haines, *Colgate University*  
 Christopher Hanes, *University of Pennsylvania*  
 Joan Hannon, *St. Mary's College, California*  
 John R. Hanson II, *Texas A&M University*  
 J. William Harris, *University of New Hampshire*  
 William J. Hausman, *College of William and Mary*  
 Carol Heim, *University of Massachusetts, Amherst*  
 Richard Herr, *University of California, Berkeley*  
 J. D. Herson, *Liverpool Polytechnic*  
 Alan Heston, *University of Pennsylvania*  
 Barry Higman, *University of the West Indies*  
 Philip T. Hoffman, *California Institute of Technology*  
 Carl-Ludwig Holtfrerich, *J. F. Kennedy Institut, Berlin*  
 Michael Huberman, *University of Montreal*  
 John James, *University of Virginia*  
 Jane Humphries, *Cambridge University*  
 Shawn E. Kantor, *University of Arizona*  
 William Kennedy, *London School of Economics*  
 Herbert S. Klein, *Columbia University*  
 Jane Knodell, *University of Vermont*  
 John Komlos, *Volkswirtschaftliches Institut der Univ., Munich*  
 John R. Lampe, *University of Maryland*  
 John Langdon, *University of Alberta*  
 Clark Larsen, *University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill*  
 Ronald D. Lee, *University of California, Berkeley*  
 Margaret Levenstein, *University of Michigan*  
 Frank Lewis, *Queen's University*  
 Gary Libecap, *University of Arizona*  
 John S. Lyons, *Miami University of Ohio*  
 Donald McCloskey, *University of Iowa*  
 Thomas McGraw, *Harvard University*  
 Mary MacKinnon, *McGill University*  
 Bruce H. Mann, *University of Pennsylvania*  
 David R. Meyer, *Brown University*  
 Charles Miles, *Williams College*  
 A. S. Milward, *London School of Economics*  
 Clark Nardinelli, *University of Maryland, Baltimore County*  
 Stephan Nicholas, *University of Melbourne*  
 Douglass C. North, *Washington University*  
 John V. C. Nye, *Washington University*  
 Anthony P. O'Brien, *Lehigh University*  
 Patrick O'Brien, *Institute of Historical Research, London*  
 Kevin O'Rourke, *University College, Dublin*  
 Sidney Pollard, *University of Sheffield*  
 Clayne Pope, *Brigham Young University*  
 Frederic Pryor, *Swathmore College*  
 Daniel Raff, *University of Pennsylvania*  
 Peter Razzell, *Oxford University*  
 Paul Rhode, *University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill*  
 James Riley, *Indiana University*  
 Hugh T. Rockoff, *Rutgers University*  
 Steven Rosefielde, *University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill*  
 Elyce Rotella, *Indiana University*  
 Thomas Russell, *University of Texas, Austin*  
 Richard Salvucci, *Trinity University*  
 Barbara Sands, *University of Arizona*  
 Donald Schaefer, *Washington State University*  
 David Sicilia, *University of Maryland*  
 Terry Sicular, *University of Western Ontario*  
 Mark Siegler, *University of California, Davis*  
 Peter Solar, *Vesalius College, Brussels*  
 Martin Spechler, *Indiana University*  
 Richard H. Steckel, *Ohio State University*  
 Gil Stein, *School of American Research*  
 Richard Sullivan, *Federal Reserve Bank, Kansas City*  
 William A. Sundstrom, *Santa Clara University*  
 Richard Sylla, *New York University*  
 Richard Szostak, *University of Alberta*  
 Alan Taylor, *Northwestern University*  
 Peter Temin, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*  
 Ross Thomson, *University of Vermont*  
 Richard Tilly, *Institut für Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte, Munster*  
 Mark Toma, *Virginia Polytechnic and State University*

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| Steven Topik, <i>University of California, Irvine</i>           | Robert Whaples, <i>Wake Forest University</i>             |
| Gabriel Tortella, <i>Universidad de Alcalá</i>                  | Susan Wolcott, <i>Temple University</i>                   |
| Carolyn Tuttle, <i>Lake Forest College</i>                      | Ed Wolff, <i>New York University</i>                      |
| Steven Usselman, <i>University of North Carolina, Charlotte</i> | Wing Thyee Woo, <i>University of California, Davis</i>    |
| Liana Vardi, <i>McMaster University</i>                         | Gavin Wright, <i>Stanford University</i>                  |
| G. N. von Tunzelman, <i>University of Sussex</i>                | Mary Yeager, <i>University of California, Los Angeles</i> |
| David Weiman, <i>Queens College</i>                             | Wang Yeh-chien, <i>Kent State University</i>              |
| David Weir, <i>University of Chicago</i>                        | Robert B. Zevin, <i>Barclay Asset Management</i>          |

## NEW JEH STYLE SHEET

With this issue, the JOURNAL introduces a new style sheet for the preparation of manuscripts by contributors. The sheet makes some changes in past editorial practice, but also provides a wider range of information to authors that should improve (and, we hope, hasten) the processing of their manuscripts. The style sheet is printed at the front of this issue. Specific examples of acceptable formatting for tables and figures are available from the Editorial Office of the JOURNAL on request. The new style will go into effect in the September 1995 issue.

## DOUGLASS C. NORTH, FIRST HUGHES PRIZE WINNER

The following are comments by Douglass C. North, first recipient (1994) of the Jonathan Hughes Prize for Excellence in Teaching Economic History.

I think the challenge of teaching economic history is to get the students to learn for themselves, but in a particular context of learning to think for themselves as a part of understanding the process of historical change. It is very difficult for students to learn how to make a good explanation and, indeed, what I do is to usually make them write a term paper in which they state a hypothesis in economic history and then show how they could test the hypothesis. That forces them to understand how complex and difficult it is to make good explanations not just in economic history but in everyday life.

The rewards of teaching in economic history are to see if you have made modest inroads towards accomplishing and meeting that challenge. I always begin my classes by telling the students that they should never believe a word that I or, indeed, any other professor says. They should evaluate critically the assertions, statements, and hypotheses we make. I expect them to challenge me at every turn. The rewards come if by the end of the semester they have begun to think for themselves and to evaluate critically not only what I say, but what the text says, and, indeed, what the rest of the faculty say. If by the end of the semester you begin to get some glimmering that they have begun to think for themselves, then one can feel satisfied that the class has been worthwhile to them and to you.

## NOMINATIONS FOR JONATHAN HUGHES TEACHING PRIZE

The Committee on Education and Teaching of the Economic History Association is now inviting nominations for the 1995 awarding of the Jonathan Hughes Prize for Excellence in Teaching Economic History. The Prize was established by the Economic History Association in 1993 in memory of Jonathan Hughes. Jonathan Hughes was an outstanding scholar and a committed and influential teacher of economic history. The

prize includes a \$1,000 cash award. The winner is selected by the EHA Committee on Education and Teaching. For 1994–1995, the Committee is composed of Mary Schweitzer, Villanova University (chair); Hugh Rockoff, Rutgers University; and David Mitch, University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Anyone may submit a nomination, and teachers of economic history at any level of instruction are eligible for nomination. The basic requirement for nomination is a statement on how the nominee has exemplified excellence in the teaching of economic history. The committee will select a list of finalists from the nomination statements submitted, based on their cogency. The list of finalists for 1995 may also include candidates nominated for the 1994 award. Deadline for nominations is March 20, 1995. Nominating statements (3 copies) and inquiries about the Hughes Prize should be directed to: Professor Mary Schweitzer, Department of History, Villanova University, Villanova, PA 19085. E-mail: Schweitz@UCIS.Vill.EDU; fax: (610) 519-6913.

#### ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM

Information about the National Endowment for the Humanities is now available through an electronic bulletin board system (bbs). Created by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent agency that supports research, education, preservation projects, and public programs in the humanities. The bbs system can be used to access agency guidelines, deadlines, grant information, recent awards lists, humanities events, and grant recipient information. To access the system, a user needs a computer with a modem. The bbs is available at 202/606-8688 (8-N-1). Connection to the Internet or a commercial network is not necessary. For questions about accessing the bbs, call 202/606-8400.