

## Editors' Notes

EDITORS' REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2004

*The Journal of Economic History* experienced 2003/04 as a year of transitions. Knick Harley left Western Ontario and joined the economics department and St. Antony's College at University of Oxford. In the process he had to relinquish the valuable services of assistant editor Andrew Ross and lean on his better half, Ann Harley, to hold things together while he was in transit. His new assistant, Natalia Mora-Sitja has since ably assumed the role and handled the details of moving offices and straightening out phone lines. Meanwhile, Gavin Wright was passing the North American baton to Jeremy Atack at Vanderbilt. Wright extends heartfelt appreciation to Scott Wilson for his dedication and professionalism through his years as assistant editor. Atack has decided to forego hiring an assistant editor for the present. He is handling papers and all the administrative details involved in recruiting and following up with referees, but has handed off the book reviews to his newly conscripted editorial associate Bill Collins. Following this lead, Harley has tapped Paul Hohenberg to handle the book reviews on the international side.

The accompanying figure and tables show a 29 percent increase in the number of submissions from 101 in 2002/03 to 130 in 2003/04. The international office processed 53 percent and the North American office 47 percent, showing that the restoration of balance between the offices begun last year is continuing. Papers submitted continue to vary widely by region, topic, and era.

The transitions and increased workload over the past year contributed to a lengthening of the mean and median turnaround times for new submissions, adding 15 and 12 days respectively. The *JEH* remains very selective; with a higher percentage of papers being rejected, 61 percent versus 41 percent of last year's submissions.

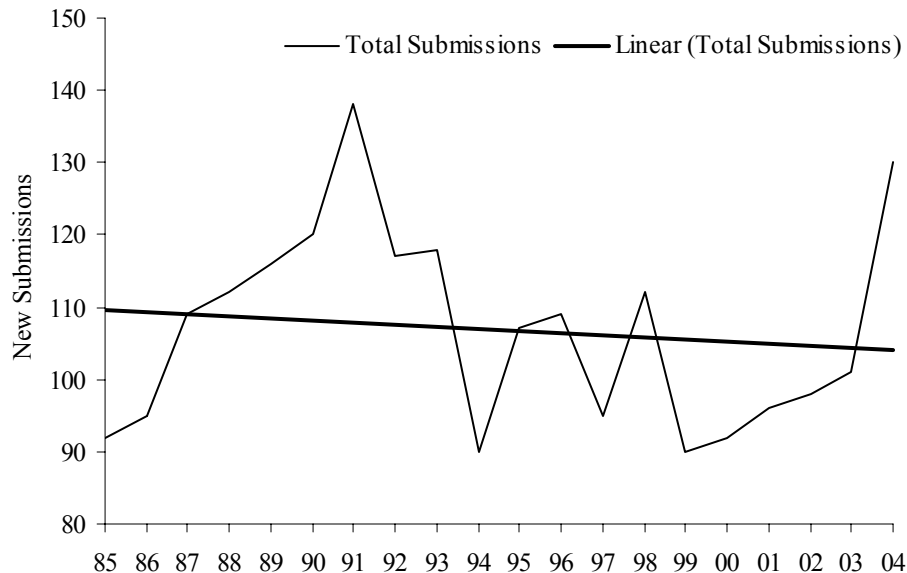


FIGURE 1  
TREND IN NEW SUBMISSIONS, 1984/85–2003/04

Source: The yearly totals were taken from the published Editors' Notes.

TABLE 1  
REGULAR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS BY WORLD AREA, BROKEN DOWN BY TOPIC,  
JULY 2001–JUNE 2004 (totals)

Topic	July 2001–June 2002		July 2002–June 2003		July 2003–June 2004	
	North America	All Other Regions	North America	All Other Regions	North America	All Other Regions
Agriculture	1	5	2	8	5	6
Demography	4	0	4	6	6	3
Growth	1	9	0	2	0	6
Industry	4	4	2	5	5	10
Technology	0	1	2	0	4	1
Labor	3	3	5	4	5	9
Money and macro	2	3	5	3	4	7
Public finance	1	5	1	6	4	4
History of thought	1	1	0	0	1	1
International trade, finance	5	15	3	4	0	5
Urban and regional	1	4	2	0	0	1
Political economy	4	7	15	9	15	5
Private finance, capital markets	7	5	5	5	9	8
Other	2	0	0	3	3	3
Total	36	62	46	55	61	69

*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 North American office had 80 total submissions, 61 new and 19 resubmitted. The International office had 86 total submissions, 69 new and 17 resubmitted.

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

Region	Submissions			
	2000–2001	2001–2002	2002–2003	2003–2004
Australia	1	0	0	2
United States and Canada	38	41	45	60
Non-Spanish speaking Caribbean	0	0	0	0
Great Britain	16	15	14	13
Western Europe	21	21	17	28
Asia	13	12	1	11
Latin America	3	4	8	5
Eastern Europe/Russia	6	6	1	2
Africa	1	2	3	2
Middle East	2	5	5	3
Not applicable or unknown	7	2	6	7

*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  
2001–2002, 2002–2003, AND 2003–2004

Period	Submissions		
	2001–2002	2002–2003	2003–2004
Twentieth century	50	53	67
Nineteenth century	50	41	52
Seventeenth and eighteenth centuries	21	18	18
Pre-seventeenth century	14	13	17
Not applicable or unknown	0	5	0

*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  
ACCEPTANCE AND TURNAROUND

	North American Office		International Office		Total	
	2002/03	2003/04	2002/03	2003/04	2002/03	2003/04
	Accepted	17	16	17	12	34
Revise and resubmit	23	20	27	10	50	30
Rejected or withdrawn	26	43	32	59	58	102
Not yet decided	0	1	0	5	0	6
Total	66	80	76	86	142	166

Year	Decision Lags (in days)			
	minimum	maximum	mean	median
All submissions				
2001/2002	1	339	86	85
2002/2003	1	322	92	85
2003/2004	1	303	110	100
New submissions only				
2001/2002	1	233	87	91
2002/2003	1	322	98	91
2003/2004	1	303	113	103

*Note:* The acceptance figures include new submissions and resubmissions. Decision lags exclude submissions not yet decided. Data were current as of 14 January 2005.

One constant in the life of the *JEH* is the outstanding quality and commitment of its referees, particularly those serving on the editorial board. The editors are indebted to them for their dedication to the peer review process that results in both well informed editorial decisions and, in quite a few cases, published articles that are markedly improved from their original versions. The editors especially wish to thank outgoing board members Richard Grossman, Peter Coclanis, Alex Field, and Anne McCants. We welcome those added this year: Bob Allen, William Collins, Dora Costa, Larry Epstein, Larry Neal, Steve Quinn, Joachim Voth, Paul Rhode, and Susan Wolcott.

Jeremy Atack  
Knick Harley

Our referees for the last year were:

Christopher Abel, *University College London*  
Brian A'Hearn, *Franklin and Marshall College*  
Douglas Allen, *Simon Frasier University*  
Robert C. Allen, *Nuffield, Oxford University*  
Lee J. Alston, *University of Colorado*  
Morris L. Altman, *University of Saskatchewan*  
Lena Andersson-Skog, *Umeå Universitet, Sweden*  
Ouweneel Arij, *University of Amsterdam*  
Jeremy Atack, *Vanderbilt University*  
Dudley S. Baines, *London School of Economics and Political Science*  
Theo Balderston, *University of Manchester*  
Mats Bergman, *Uppsala University*  
Gregory Besharov, *Duke University*  
Howard Bodenhorn, *Lafayette College*  
Michael Bordo, *Rutgers University*  
Maristella Botticini, *Boston University*  
George Boyer, *Cornell University*  
Loren Brandt, *University of Toronto*  
Stephen Broadberry, *University of Warwick*  
John Brown, *Clark University*  
Kristine Bruland, *University of Oslo*  
Roger Burt, *University of Exeter*  
R. A. Cage, *University of Queensland*  
Colleen Callahan, *American University*  
Charles Calomiris, *Columbia University*  
Cameron Campbell, *University of California, Los Angeles*  
Forest Capie, *City University Business School*  
Ann Carlos, *University of Colorado*  
Leonard Carlson, *Emory University*  
João Cesar das Neves, *Universidade Catolica Portuguesa*  
Benjamin Chabot, *University of Michigan*  
Raj Chandavarkar, *Cambridge University*  
Linsun Cheng, *University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth*  
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Peter A. Coclanis, *University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill*  
William J. Collins, *Vanderbilt University*  
Dora Costa, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*  
Nicholas F. R. Crafts, *London School of Economics and Political Science*  
Lee A. Craig, *North Carolina State University*  
Lance E. Davis, *California Institute of Technology*  
Marcello De Cecco, *Università La Sapienza, Roma*  
Kent G. Deng, *London School of Economics and Political Science*  
Helmut Dietl, *Universität Zürich*  
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David Feeny, *University of Alberta*  
Charles Feinstein, *Oxford University*  
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Price Fishback, *University of Arizona*  
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