

# Editors' Notes

EDITORS' REPORT, SEPTEMBER 1989

A quietly busy year is the best way to sum up the first half of the current regime, with the home office at Rensselaer in the care of Margaret Mirabelli, and Tom Weiss and Donna Gullett's "American" operation in full swing at the University of Kansas. We happily acknowledge the institutional support both offices enjoy. We also thank our editorial assistants: Zhang Jing, Christina White, and Stuart McCook in Troy, and Joshua Rosenbloom in Lawrence.

The JOURNAL is in the end what the contributors make it, and they have continued to produce diligently. The visible efforts of successful authors and of reviewers can be judged by each of you as readers; authors and would-be authors receive the fruits of referees' unseen labors, but only editors can truly appreciate them. To all for their promptness and patience, thanks.

For a change, we are able to report summary statistics for both editorial operations, with the usual label warnings good economic historians apply to any numerical data. Submissions were little changed from last year: 48 + 68 = 116 regular submissions (non-American office figure first) plus 24 for the "Tasks" (June) issue. Last year's total was four fewer. In Troy, the 48 papers included 14 acceptances—a marked improvement over last year—21 rejections, and 13 pending or back for revision. In Lawrence, the disposition was as follows: 8 acceptances, 47 rejections, 7 back for revision, and 6 pending. Dare one suggest that new editors, like new assistant professors, impose tough standards? As before, 12 papers were selected for the Tasks issue. Book reviews continue to occupy a substantial place in the JOURNAL, and any significant increase or decrease in that share is likely to elicit more criticism than praise. Eager readers can compile the numbers of articles, notes, and reviews and their respective share of pages; we will gladly pass their findings on in future reports.

Few things concern authors more than long delays in refereeing and publication. Editors, of course, can only threaten tardy readers with more work, which is hardly the road to faster turnaround. Nor are we free of blame; the temptation to use LIFO methods of work management leads to a few victimized authors bearing the brunt of our derelictions. In all seriousness, we believe the JOURNAL performs honorably, and give credit—repetition is warranted—to our generally prompt as well as thoughtful outside experts. The Kansas office averaged 80 days (104 for accepted articles) from submission to decision. The range is 26 to 250 days. Of course that is an FOB measure; authors wait two mail intervals more. For Troy, the data on time to a response are best shown as a frequency distribution:

Time (months)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	11+
Number	10	8	11	8	5	1	2	3

Clearly, the fastest decisions involve submissions or resubmissions that do not, for whatever reason, require new external readers. As for the total time a paper may remain in the pipeline, few journals stay with authors as long as this one does or encourage revision as frequently. Opinions may differ as to whether we are patient or picky.

We close with the distribution of submissions by field. The category "political economy" proves a useful catch-all for otherwise hard-to-classify papers. The drought in international economics and public finance continues; apparently, "read my lips" applies to studying as well as to levying taxes.

Field	Non-American	American	Tasks	Total
Agriculture	7	3	3	13
Population	1	1	4	6
Growth	1	3		4
Industrial	3	5	7	15
Technology	1	6	2	9
Labor	6	17	1	24
Money/Banking/Macro	15	9	1	25
Public Finance	1	1		2
Thought	2	3		5
International Trade and Finance	2	1		3
Urban and Regional	2	5		7
Political Economy	7	14	6	27
Total	48	68	24	140

In addition to members of the editorial board, we are greatly indebted to the following outside referees for their generous assistance during the year:

Donald Adams, University of West Virginia  
 Robert Allen, University of British Columbia  
 Lee Alston, University of Illinois  
 Ben Baack, Ohio State University  
 Fred Bateman, Indiana University  
 Kathleen A. Biddick, University of Notre Dame  
 Jack Blinksilver, Georgia State University  
 Michael Bordo, Rutgers University  
 George Borts, Brown University  
 Malcolm Burns, University of Kansas  
 Charles Calomiris, Northwestern University  
 Ann Carlos, University of Western Ontario  
 Susan Carter, Smith College  
 Gregory Clark, University of Michigan  
 Sally Clarke, University of Texas, Austin  
 John Coatsworth, University of Chicago  
 David Crew, University of Texas, Austin  
 Lance Davis, California Institute of Technology  
 Stephen DeCanio, University of California, Santa Barbara  
 Trevor Dick, University of Lethbridge  
 Matthew D. Edel, Queens College  
 Martin Eisenberg, Knox College  
 Bernard Elbaum, University of California, Santa Cruz  
 Stanley Engerman, University of Rochester  
 David Feeny, McMaster University  
 Stefano Fenoaltea, Princeton University  
 Louis Ferleger, University of Massachusetts, Boston  
 Price V. Fishback, University of Georgia  
 Dennis Flynn, University of the Pacific  
 Gerald Friedman, University of Massachusetts  
 Henry Gemery, Colby College  
 Richard T. Gill  
 Claudia Goldin, University of Pennsylvania  
 George Grantham, McGill University

H. Peter Gray, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Alan Green, Queen's University  
C. Knick Harley, University of Western Ontario  
William Hausman, College of William and Mary  
Carol Heim, University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Alan Heston, University of Pennsylvania  
Philip Hoffman, California Institute of Technology  
Glenn R. Hueckel, Purdue University  
Kris Inwood, University of Guelph  
Charles Issawi, Princeton University  
Harold James, Princeton University  
John James, University of Virginia  
Peter Kilby, Wesleyan University  
Charles Kindleberger, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Ann Kussmaul, York University  
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William Lazonick, Bernard College  
Wayne Lewchuk, McMaster University  
Donald Lien, University of Kansas  
Peter Lindert, University of California, Davis  
Diane Lindstrom, University of Wisconsin  
John S. Lyons, Miami University  
James MacDonald, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Mary MacKinnon, McGill University  
Anthony Marino, University of Southern California  
Roderick McDonald, Rider College  
Robert McGuire, University of California, Davis  
David Meyer, Brown University  
Joel Mokyr, Northwestern University  
Anthony Molho, Brown University  
Douglass C. North, Washington University  
Anthony P. O'Brien, Lehigh University  
Kerry Odell, Scripps College  
Avner Offer, York University (UK)  
Lawrence H. Officer, University of Illinois, Chicago  
Cormac Ó'Gráda, University College, Dublin  
Martha Olney, University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Hugh T. Patrick, Columbia University  
Dwight Perkins, Harvard University  
Edwin Perkins, University of Southern California  
Joseph Pratt, Texas A&M University  
Daniel Raff, Harvard Business School  
Roger L. Ransom, University of California, Riverside  
Thomas Rawski, University of Pittsburgh  
James C. Riley, Indiana University  
David R. Ringrose, University of California, San Diego  
Hugh Rockoff, Rutgers University  
Richard Roehl, University of Michigan, Dearborn  
Joshua L. Rosenbloom, University of Kansas  
Henry Rosovsky, Harvard University  
Elyce J. Rotella, Indiana University  
Winifred Rothenberg, Tufts University  
Kazuo Sato, Rutgers University

Anna J. Schwartz, National Bureau of Economic Research  
 Larry Schweikart, University of Dayton  
 Gene Smiley, Marquette University  
 Kenneth Sokoloff, University of California, Los Angeles  
 Barbara Solow, Harvard University  
 Martin C. Spechler, Indiana University-Purdue University  
 Robert C. Stacey, University of Washington  
 Stanley J. Stein, Princeton University  
 William Sundstrom, Santa Clara University  
 Richard Sylla, North Carolina State University  
 Mark Thomas, University of Virginia  
 Robert Tollison, George Mason University  
 Elias Tuma, University of California, Davis  
 Thomas S. Ulen, University of Illinois  
 Maris Vinovskis, University of Michigan  
 Donald Vitaliano, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
 John J. Wallis, University of Maryland  
 Lori Warner  
 James L. A. Webb, Colby College  
 David Weiman, Yale University  
 Michael Weinstein, Haverford College  
 Warren Whatley, University of Michigan  
 David Wheelock, University of Texas, Austin  
 Peter Wiles, London School of Economics  
 Jeffrey G. Williamson, Harvard University  
 Dan Wildcat, Haskell Indian Junior College  
 Martin Wolfe, University of Pennsylvania  
 Gavin Wright, Stanford University

#### CONFERENCES

*The Third Textile History Conference* will be held on September 21–23, 1990, at the Holiday Inn in Tewksbury, MA. Persons interested in attending can obtain a registration form and a copy of the program by writing to Textile Bicentennial Conference, c/o Museum of American Textile History, 800 Massachusetts Avenue, North Andover, MA 01845; telephone (508) 686-0191.

*The Design History Society of the United Kingdom* is holding an International Design History Conference at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, on December 7–9, 1990. The theme of the conference is industry and anti-industry; papers will focus on the effect of industry upon the populations it services. For further information, please contact Elizabeth Farrelly, V&A/RCA Course Rooms, Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, London SW7 2RL, Great Britain.

#### NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

The National Institute of Genealogical Research will be held June 11–16, 1990, at the National Archives in Washington, DC. The Institute is a one-of-a-kind educational program for experienced genealogists, historians, librarians, and archivists. The program will focus on federal records of genealogical value located in the National Archives. The faculty includes professional genealogists and specialists from the Archives staff. Enrollment is limited. For more information or an application, write the National Institute on Genealogical Research, P. O. Box 14274, Washington, DC 20044-4274.

## CALLS FOR PAPERS

*The International Association for the Study of Common Property* will hold its first annual meeting on September 27–30, 1990, at Duke University in Durham, NC. The Association takes an interdisciplinary approach to understanding and improving the management of environmental resources held or used collectively by communities, whether in developing or developed countries. It seeks to bring together scholars, government officials, development consultants, and resource managers. The theme of the conference is "Designing Sustainability on the Commons." The Association welcomes proposals for papers and entire panels. For further information about joining the Association or participating in the conference, please write Margaret McKean, Program Chair, Department of Political Science, Duke University, Durham, NC 27706.

*The North American Labor History Conference* will hold its 12th annual meeting October 18–20, 1990, at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. The program committee is soliciting papers dealing with the history of labor and related social and economic reforms movements, especially the relationship of labor to gender, race, or ethnicity. Please submit proposals by May 1, 1990, to Professor Stanley D. Solvick, Program Chair, Department of History, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202; telephone (313) 577-6145 or 577-2525.

*The 17th Conference on the Application of Quantitative Methods in Canadian Economic History* will be held on November 9–10, 1990, at Queen's University in Kingston. Those wishing to participate—and graduate students are encouraged to do so—should submit an abstract by June 1, 1990 to Professor Mary MacKinnon, Department of Economics, McGill University, 855 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal, Quebec, H3A 2T7, Canada.

## FELLOWSHIPS

Doctoral candidates and recent PhDs are invited to apply for Sullivan Fellowships for the calendar year 1991. Research topics should be related to the study of the role of the textile industry in the United States between c. 1750 and c. 1980. For information write: Editorial and Research Committee, Museum of American Textile History, 800 Massachusetts Avenue, North Andover, MA 01845.

## HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN BUSINESS HISTORY

Volume 1 of *The Handbook of American Business History* will be published in September 1990 under the title *Manufacturing: A Historiographical and Bibliographical Guide*. Volumes 2 and 3 are in progress, but the editor will consider new contributions for these and other volumes. Scholars interested in participating should contact Professor David O. Whitten, Editor, *The Handbook of American Business History*, Department of Economics, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849-5242; telephone (205) 844-2928.