Editor’s Notes

The quality of submissions to Essays continues to grow—and this year was a banner year in that respect. The seven articles contained in this volume illustrate an outstanding cross section of high quality research in the fields of economic and business history today. Thank you to all of you who submitted your work.

We received 21 new submissions in the last year and we had five submissions still pending from last year. Of these 26 papers, a decision was reached on 23 (with the other three still pending). Seven papers were accepted, and appear here, while the remaining 16 were rejected, for an acceptance rate of 30 percent. The average time between submission and initial decision was 53 days. We strive to get back to authors within 80 days of submission and we succeeded in this goal in all but four cases.

I want to, once again, offer sincere appreciation to Olli Turunen for all his efforts in making the online version of Essays run so smoothly. Finally, special thanks go to the individuals listed below for serving as a referee for Essays in the last 24 months. We could not have such a high-quality journal without your immense talent and effort. I am sure our authors will agree with me when I say that the papers we publish generally experience a high degree of value added between the initial submission and the time of publication thanks to your thorough and rigorous comments. I also wish to thank the six associate editors for their hard work in formatting and polishing our accepted papers.

Luis Alvarez, University of California-San Diego
Bernard C. Beaudreau, Laval University
Dan Bogart, University of California-Irvine
Linzy A. Brekke-Aloise, Stonehill College
Gerald Carlino, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia
Leonard A. Carlson, Emory University
Mark Casson, University of Reading
Ryan A. Compton, University of Manitoba
Michael P. Coyne, Fairfield University
Craig Depken, Belk College of Business
Colin Divall, University of York
Editor’s Notes and President’s Report

Luis G. Dopico, Macrometrix
Lynne Doti, Chapman University
John Dove, Troy University
Roy Edwards, University of Southampton
Jari Eloranta, Appalachian State University
Laura Fair, Michigan State University
Ben Fine, SOAS, University of London
Robert Fleck, Clemson University
Juan Flores, University of Geneva
Vincent Geloso, London School of Economics
Tarek Ghani, Princeton University
Daniel Giedeman, Grand Valley State University
John Greenaway, University of East Anglia
Sheryllynee Haggerty, University of Nottingham
Cathy Hellier, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
Matthew Henry, Cleveland State University
David Higgins, Newcastle University
Adam Hoffer, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse
Yukio Ikemoto, University of Tokyo
Andrew Jalil, Occidental College
Noel D. Johnson, George Mason University
Edward Kosack University of Colorado, Boulder
Donald J. Lacombe, West Virginia University
Lars Magnusson, Ekonomikum, Kyrkogårds
Svein Michelsen, University of Bergen
Joel Mokyr, Northwestern University
John Moore, Northwood University
Anthony O’Brien, Lehigh University
Benjamin Sawyer, Middle Tennessee State University
Henrikki Tikkanen, Stockholm University
Steve Toms, University of Leeds
Janice Traflet, Bucknell University
Bas van Leeuwen, Utrecht University
Cheryl J. Wachenheim, North Dakota State University
Dave Zalewski, Providence College
Editor’s Notes and President’s Report

Finally, the Economic and Business History Society thanks Central Michigan University’s College of Business for its fourth consecutive year of generous financial support toward the publication and production of the journal.

Jason E. Taylor
Editor-in-Chief
Essays in Economic & Business History
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President’s Report

Report on the 2015 Economic and Business History Society Conference

The 40th Conference of the Economic and Business History Society was held on May 28-30, 2015 in La Crosse, Wisconsin, USA. It was a time of scholarly exchange, organizational planning, and social interaction. Overall, the conference was well-received, with a very robust program and highly collegial atmosphere which exemplified the spirit of EBHS.

EBHS has a history of distinctive conference locations, and La Crosse fit this well. The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse hosted the conference activities and offered outstanding facilities for presentations and panels. Participants had the choice of staying in on-campus lodging or at the Radisson Inn La Crosse, the latter located on a scenic stretch of the Mississippi River. The city of La Crosse proved an excellent locale. Conference attendees had the chance to attend a minor-league baseball game on Thursday evening, with over one-half of the registered participants taking advantage of this. On Friday, the annual banquet was held aboard a Mississippi riverboat, with a cruise providing a pleasant atmosphere.
More than 60 people registered for the conference, with over 40 coming from North America, 9 from the UK, 6 from continental Europe, 4 from East Asia, and 1 from Africa. The program included 51 papers, plus a roundtable and a special plenary presentation. The keynote address, “Unequal Gains: American Growth and Inequality since 1774,” was given by Dr. Jeffrey Williamson. In addition to a thought-provoking address, he contributed immeasurably to the conference by attending a number of panels and interacting with many participants during the day Friday.

In closing, we are grateful to the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and Cornerstone University for supporting the conference; we are especially appreciative of the former for proving a wonderful host. We want to recognize the officers and board members for their help in planning and executing this event, and especially Olli Turunen for managing the organization’s online resources, thus facilitating the conference registrations and proposals. Finally, we thank those who contributed to the 2015 conference through their participation in the proceedings.

Erik Benson, 2014-2015 EBHS President
Mike Haupert, EBHS 2015 Program Chair