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Preface

The articles and abstracts published in this volume of Essays in Economic and Business History were initially presented at the Society's annual conference in April, 2003 at Memphis TN, directed by Professor Harvey Hudspeth. Michael Namorato handled the local arrangements. Authors were given the opportunity to submit their papers for review and possible publication. A rigorous review process was followed in which each paper submitted was examined by two separate reviewers and then by the editor. If the reviews were favorable, authors were given an opportunity to address the comments and suggestions offered by the reviewers and the editor. Of the papers submitted, 21 articles from the Memphis conference were accepted for publication. Due to financial and space constraints, not all papers given in Memphis could be published. Instead, authors were given an opportunity to submit a one-page abstract for inclusion in the journal. One author accepted the invitation and his abstract is printed in this issue.

A number of individuals assisted the editor immeasurably in putting this current issue of the journal together. Special thanks are publicly expressed to the reviewers who gave of their time and talents in reviewing the articles sent to them. Since I told the reviewers initially that I would maintain confidentiality throughout the process, I feel duty-bound to do so now as well. Still, my gratitude is given to those who helped so much. My thanks also to my Associate Editors, David Whitten, Thomas Winpenny and Dick Keehn for helping me throughout the publication process.

A special thank you is given to the board of trustees who continue to support me as editor; to Laurence Malone who chairs the board and who is the foundation upon which EBHS is resting and relies; and to Gene Smiley who generously pays the bills and often boosts my spirits with his hearty laughter.

At the University of Mississippi, special appreciation is expressed to the Department of History for its financial and secretarial support, especially Robert Haws (Chairman, Department of History) and to Cory Wright, Brian S. Miller, Tresa Barksdale, David Hargrove, Chris Stacy, Michelle Palmetree, and Betty Harness for their proofing articles, e-mailing to everyone and every place, and typically bailing me out of a tight deadline.

Sheridan Books has been good to me as well, especially Jean Schroeder who always is cheerful and friendly when I call about some particularly vexing problem. And, finally, I want to thank the individual who is my Production Editor and who patiently and happily works side by side with me every step of the way in producing the 2004 edition of the journal. Without him, I simply could not have completed the task. He is a genius, a man of indomitable energy and compassion, and, most of all, a good friend—Professor Ronald Barlett.

On a personal note, this is my last issue as editor, having served 6 years. It would take a lot of space to thank all of the people who have helped me over the years in
producing and publishing the journal. To all, EBHS officers, Associate Editors, reviewers, authors, graduate students, secretaries, production editors, and the staff at Sheridan Books who helped, thank you for everything you did for me. Without all of you, the journal would not have been done. Finally, I want to end my editorial career by thanking my professor who also served as editor of this journal and who was a mentor, model and a friend to me during and after I left Michigan State University—James Soltow. The newly created Soltow award is but a small token of appreciation for all he did for me and for all of us in EBHS. His memory and his commitment to the highest standards of academic excellence live on.

Michael V. Namorato
Editor
University of Mississippi
ESSEYS IN ECONOMIC BUSINESS HISTORY (2004)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Economic and Business Historical Society, Officers and Trustees..............................................ii

Preface...........................................................................................................................................iii

Research Papers

Europe

THE COST OF A MAN'S LIFE IN SIXTEENTH-CENTURY NAPLES: GALLEY ROWERS ON THE EARLY MODERN MEDITERRANEAN

By Antonio Calabria, University of Texas-San Antonio.................................................................1

1957: LUDWIG ERHARD'S ANNUS TERRIBILIS

By Alfred C. Mierzejewski, University of North Texas.................................................................17

"FORESEEING, THRIFTY, ECONOMICAL"? THE PROVIDENT CLOTHING AND SUPPLY COMPANY AND WORKING CLASS CONSUMER CREDIT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1925-60

By Sean O'Connell and Chris Reid, University of Ulster
and University of Portsmouth...........................................................................................................29

ACCOUNTING, ENGINEERING, OR ADVERTISING? LIMITED LIABILITY, THE COMPANY PROSPECTUS, AND THE LANGUAGE OF UNCERTAINTY IN VICTORIAN BRITAIN

By Wade E. Shilts, Luther College....................................................................................................47
Latin America

PUBLIC ENTERPRISE, SLAVE LABOR, AND TECHNOLOGICAL LEARNING IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY BRAZILIAN IRON INDUSTRY

By Roberto Mazzoleni, Hofstra University.................................63

North America


By Toby Bates, University of Mississippi.................................81


By Eric Benson, Ouachita Baptist University...........................97

J. P. MORGAN, THE CLAYTON ANTITRUST ACT, AND INDUSTRIAL FINANCE-CONSTRAINTS IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

By Daniel C. Giedeman, Grand Valley State University................111

"THE CONSEQUENCES OF CRUELTY: THE ESCALATION OF SERVANT AND SLAVE ABUSE, 1750-1780"

By Michael V. Kennedy, University of Michigan-Flint................127

BANKERS' PREFERENCES AND LOCATING FEDERAL RESERVE BANK LOCATIONS

By Michael McAvoy, State University of New York College at Oneonta.........................................................143
PERCEPTIONS OF THE PAST: THE MERGING OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, CULTURAL IDENTITY, AND LITERATURE

By Karyn Lyn Moyer, Hartwick College, Broome Community College

171

ECONOMICS, GRIEVANCES, PROTECTIVE-EMPLOYEE UNIONIZATION, AND THE 1978 MEMPHIS FIRE AND POLICE STRIKES

By Charles Steven Palmer, University of Mississippi

183

THE SOCIAL BACKGROUND OF NINETEENTH-CENTURY INNOVATORS IN THE AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY

By Robert P. Rogers, Ashland University

199

SUNSETTING THE ICC: IS IT REALLY DEAD?

By Richard D. Stone and Michael Landry, Shippensburg University and Northeastern State University

213

HOSPITAL ADVERTISING IN THE BEGINNING: MARKETPLACE DYNAMICS AND THE LIFTING OF THE BAN

By Lauren Strach, Andrews University

229

THE NEW DEAL GOES TO WAR: THE ROLE OF THE ALPHABET AGENCIES IN WORLD WAR II MOBILIZATION

By Jason E. Taylor, Central Michigan University

241

SPREADING THE IDEAL OF MASS SHARE-OWNERSHIP: PUBLIC RELATIONS AND THE NYSE

By Janice Traflet, Columbia University

257

By Mary C. Swilling, University of Mississippi.............................275

TUGWELL AFTER EIGHTY YEARS

By David O. Whitten, Auburn University........................................291


By Thomas R. Winpenny, Elizabethtown College.............................301

AMERICAN MANUFACTURING, AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY AND THE LABOR QUESTION AT THE PARIS EXPOSITION UNIVERSELLE OF 1867

By Gregory Zieren, Austin Paey State University.............................313

Abstracts

WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED TO THE ACCOUNTING PROFESSION

By Jerome J. DeRidder, Salisbury University.................................323