

ESSAYS IN ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS HISTORY

The Journal of the Economic and Business Historical Society

VOLUME XVIII, 2000

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Published by the EBHS and the Department of History,
The University of Mississippi

ISSN: 0896-226X

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 79-91616
HC12.E27

Cover Design by James Ronald Bartlett

Printed in the U.S.A. by Sheridan Books Inc., Chelsea, Michigan

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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, 1999 at San Antonio, Texas, ably directed by Professor Douglas Steeples (Mercer University) and assisted by local arrangements chairman, Kenneth Weiher (University of Texas, San Antonio). 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, 19 articles from the San Antonio conference were accepted for publication and 1 article from a previous conference was also published. Due to financial and space constraints, not all papers given in San Antonio could be published. Instead, authors were given an opportunity to submit a one-page abstract for inclusion in the journal. Joint authors of one paper accepted the invitation and the 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, Thomas Winpenny and Don Stabile for helping me throughout the publication process. Thanks are given as well to Harvey Hudspeth who served as an Assistant Editor.

A special thank you is given to the board of trustees who continue to support me as editor; to Phil Smith who chairs the board and who is the foundation upon which EBHS rests and relies; to David and Bess Whitten who are always there for me; 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 Vickie Felton, Ben Wynne, Kevin McCarthy, John Wilson, Michelle Palmertree, and Bette Harness for their proofing articles, e-mailing to everyone and every place, and typically bailing me out of a tight deadline. Finally, many thanks to Larry Smithmier at the University Computer Center for his untiring efforts to keep my ailing computer from final death.

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

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happily works side by side with me every step of the way in producing the 2000 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 James Ronald Bartlett.

In closing, it is with great sadness that I report the death of Professor Jack Blicksilver, former president of EBHS. As chairman of the board of trustees, Phil Smith has written a most informative obituary for the journal. On a personal note, I knew Jack Blicksilver and considered him a friend. When I first started to get involved in EBHS, it was Jack who encouraged me and often affirmed my efforts. All of us who knew him will always remember how warm a person he was and how he truly cared about every person he came into contact with. I, for one, miss him and think of him often.

Michael V. Namorato
Editor
University of Mississippi

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JACK BLICKSILVER

