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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, 2002 at Chicago, Illinois, ably directed by Professor Malcolm Russell, who also 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, 13 articles from the Chicago conference were accepted for publication. Due to financial and space constraints, not all papers given in Chicago could be published. Instead, authors were given an opportunity to submit a one-page abstract for inclusion in the journal. Two authors accepted the invitation and their abstracts are 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 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 Toby Bates, Brian S. Miller, Steve Jones, 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.

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 2003 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 Bartlett.

Michael V. Namorato
Editor
University of Mississippi
ESSAYS IN ECONOMIC BUSINESS HISTORY (2003)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

Research Papers

Europe

AN IMPECRUNIOUS PILOT: BRITISH BUSINESS CULTURE AND THE CASE OF LOWELL YEREX, 1933-1946

by Eric Benson, Ouachita Baptist University .......................................................... 1

NAPLES, 1692: BUREAUCRACY, WAR FINANCE AND THE “RENAISSANCE STATE”

by Antonio Calabria, University of Texas, San Antonio ..................................................... 17

CAN POLITICIANS SPEED UP LONG-TERM TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE? SOME INSIGHTS FROM A COMPARISON OF THE GERMAN AND US-AMERICAN SYNTHETIC RUBBER PROGRAMS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER WORLD WAR II.

by Jochen Streb, Heidelberg University ............................................................................ 33

Far East

THE VOLUNTARY EXPORT RESTRAINTS (VER) AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN ON AUTOMOBILES IN THE 1980S

by Carl H. Tong and Allen L. Bures, Radford University ......................................... 51
Latin America

PAZ, PRI, AND PROGRESS: OCTAVIO PAZ'S POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND LITERARY STRUGGLE TO INSPIRE REFORM IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY MEXICO

by D. Gene Pace, Alice Lloyd College.................................................................61

North America

EFFICIENCY WAGES, INSIDERS AND OUTSIDERS, AND THE GREAT DEPRESSION

by Ranjit S. Dighe, State University of New York at Oswego.........................71

PAY BALL: ESTIMATING THE PROFITABILITY OF THE NEW YORK YANKEES 1915-1937

by Michael Haupert and Kenneth Winter, University of Wisconsin.................89

THE CASE OF THE "VACILLATING JURIST:" PITTSBURGH'S GEORGE SHIRAS, JR. AND THE INCOME TAX CASE OF 1895

by Harvey Gresham Hudspeth, Mississippi Valley State University................103

THE HIDDEN ECONOMY OF SLAVERY: COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL HIRING IN PENNSYLVANIA, NEW JERSEY AND DELAWARE, 1728-1800

by Michael V. Kennedy, University of Michigan-Flint..................................115

THE TRANS-MISSOURI CASE: DOES THE SHERMAN ACT APPLY TO THE RAILROADS?

by Michael Landry, Northeastern State University............................................127
Richard D. Stone, Shippensburg University


by John Paul Rossi, Pennsylvania State University (Erie)...............................141
THE GOOD HOUSEKEEPING SEAL OF APPROVAL: FROM INNOVATIVE CONSUMER PROTECTION TO POPULAR BADGE OF QUALITY

by Lauren Strach, Andrews University
and Malcolm Russell, Andrews University..........................151

WITH AN EYE TO BETTER OUTCOMES: THE OPENING OF THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI GRAIN BELT MIGHT HAVE BEEN TEMPERED AND MORE GRADUAL

by Thomas R. Winpenny, Elizabethtown College..............................167

Abstracts

PORTUGUESE INVESTMENTS IN BRAZIL: THE CONTRIBUTION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PROXIMITY

by Carla Guapo Costa, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal..............175


By James M. O'Donnell, Huntington College......................................177