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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, 2000 at San Diego, California, ably directed by Professor Richard Keehn (University of Wisconsin, Parkside) and his wife, Audrey. They, in turn, were assisted by local arrangements chairman, Lynne Pierson Doti (Chapman University). 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, 20 articles from the San Diego conference were accepted for publication. Due to financial and space constraints, not all papers given in San Diego 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 the 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 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 David Whitten who chairs the board and who is the foundation upon which EBHS is resting and relies; to Bess Whitten who, along with David, is always most supportive; 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 Jon Wilson, Toby Bates, Michael Upton, 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 2001 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.

In closing, it is with great sadness that I report the death of Professor James Soltow, one of the founding members of EBHS and editor of *Essays*. As chairman of the board of trustees and personal friends of Jim and Martha Jane Soltow, David and Bess Whitten have written a most informative obituary for the journal.

On a personal note, this particular obituary is very difficult. Jim Soltow was one of my professors at Michigan State University. As a graduate student, Dr. Soltow guided me patiently and gently into the world of academia and my areas of specialization. He was the one who introduced me to the field of economic and business history, kindly taught me the intricacies of teaching, and instilled into me and all of his students a genuine love of learning. Like many graduate students, I did not always listen to my professors. But, Dr. Soltow would always smile and tell me that he knew in time I would learn to be patient. After I left Michigan State, I didn't always keep in touch with him as much as I should have. He never said anything about that. Instead, he was always happy to hear from me and told me how proud he was of what I was doing. When I became editor of Essays, he let me know that he was pleased that I was carrying on what he had begun some years before. Towards the end of his life, I did keep in touch more than before, taking the time to thank him and express to him just how much I appreciated and cared for him as a teacher and a friend. Although I believe that he has indeed gone onto a better place, I also believe that he lives on in me and his other students. Yet, I dearly miss him as do all of us who were so privileged to have been his students.

Michael V. Namorato Editor University of Mississippi

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