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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

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