

# ESSAYS IN ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS HISTORY

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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 Palmertree, 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 Bartlett.

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

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