

Editor's Notes

After three decades of publishing only papers presented at the annual meetings of the Economic & Business History Society, *Essays in Economic & Business History* is now open to submissions from any source. A natural question to ask is why the re-launch of the journal to this new format? But the question that we kept asking ourselves over the last few years was, “why not?” After all, when a constraint is removed, the results can only improve. *EEBH* has seen a dramatic increase in the quality of its content as its editors have become more selective over the last decade. But, *ceteris paribus*, higher quality comes with a trade-off in lower quantity. Thus, opening the journal up to a wider universe of potential submissions was an easy decision to make—quality and quantity can both rise, providing more value to our readers and authors.

I am so grateful to 29 distinguished scholars who agreed to join our editorial board. That these individuals believed in our vision of the evolution of *Essays* enough to put their names behind it is a wonderful compliment. Their advisory help over the last nine months has been invaluable.

It is clear that the future of scholarly research and its dissemination is moving to electronic, rather than print, format. One of a scholar's largest frustrations today is in not being able to access, without cost in time or money, his or her colleagues' research. Unless the university at which the person works subscribes to the journal, he/she may be asked to pay \$30 or more to read an article that may be key to his/her research. Of course, we all know there are back ways to search and, with luck, find a free version of the paper scanned and posted on someone's website. But the waste of resources is frustratingly unproductive.

Essays takes a very different approach. We make our articles freely available on-line to anyone (<http://ebhsoc.org/journal>). Access to our authors' work (which can be found using any search browser) will lead to more citations, which will lead to better submissions, which will lead to more citations in a virtuous circle. Additionally, we publish articles on-line as they are accepted, ahead of the printed issue.

Editor's Notes

Like other premier journals, we will report data on number of submissions received, acceptance rate, and time it takes for us to make a decision. *EEBH* received 24 new submissions over the last 10 months. Seven of these submissions are still pending. Of the 17 for which a final decision was reached, five were accepted and appear in this volume. The average time between submission and the initial decision was just under 58 days, in keeping with our goal of getting back to authors within 10 weeks.

I wish to acknowledge the magnificent work done by those who generously gave their valuable time to referee over the last year. To ensure the complete anonymity of our reviewers we will recognize these individuals every two years, rather than with each issue.

I also wish to extend heartfelt gratitude to the five associate editors, Erik Benson, Mark Billings, Stephanie Crofton, Neil Forbes, and Daniel Giedeman for their guidance in the transition of *Essays* to its new iteration. Special thanks and kudos go to Olli Turunen of the University of Jyväskylä for his tireless efforts in revamping and maintaining the journal's website.

Finally, the Economic and Business History Society thanks Central Michigan University's College of Business for generous financial support toward the publication and production of the journal.



Jason E. Taylor
Editor-in-Chief

Essays in Economic & Business History
April 2013