

## THE EDITOR'S CORNER

On behalf of the *Business History Review* and the Newcomen Society in North America, we are pleased to announce the winners of the 1974 Newcomen Awards in Business History. The awards are given annually for articles published in the *Business History Review* and are voted on by our Editorial Advisory Board. Criteria for selection of the winning articles include: originality, value, breadth, and interest of contribution; quality of research materials and method; and quality of presentation.

Winner of the \$250 First Prize is Klaus H. Wolff of the Department of Economics at Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont, for his article, "Textile Bleaching and the Birth of the Chemical Industry," which appeared in our Summer, 1974 issue.

Winner of the \$100 Special Award is Richard H. Keehn of the Department of Economics at the University of Wisconsin, Parkside, for his article, "Federal Bank Policy, Bank Market Structure, and Bank Performance: Wisconsin, 1863-1914," which appeared in our Spring, 1974 issue.

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One of the major claims on an editor's time is the large volume of correspondence involved in generating a journal. Occasionally, letters appear that are memorable, and that point up the varied categories of epistles that find their way to what we are pleased to call a scholarly journal. In the last few years, I have saved a few unusual missives, and some of them are reproduced below, with what seemed appropriate editorial alterations designed primarily to conceal the identity of the authors. All are, as far as we could tell, quite genuine.

One inquiry came to us recently from a London advertising agency, despite an address that is the worst sort of news for those suffering from the delusion that Harvard University's reputation extends much beyond Worcester, Mass.:

Business History Review,  
Harvard,  
New York,  
U.S.A.

Some think that the *Business History Review* may be of use in connection with their search for certain books:

Dear Sirs:

I should greatly appreciate your advising me as to whether I might order the following "Pocket" Books and prices (incl. mailing chgs):

"Our Crowd" Burlington  
"House of Morgan"  
"Once in Golconda"

Thank you,

And this one came from a gentleman in South America:

Dear Mr. Porter,

I would like to suggest to you, from your very kindness, send me the title and publisher, about the books written by Dr. Henry Kissinger and Dr. James R. Schlesinger.

All those books are of my personal interest and some time I have read about them in Time magazine, but, I don't know where I can get it, then, please, be so kind and rush me the way how to do it.

Of course I like to read another intelligent americans, and perhaps, I believe as a subscriber with Business History Review and Harvard Business Review, you could be the appropriate gentleman who can help me in this way.

Since now I want to tell you my very best "thanks", and I hope to hear from you.

The most sincerely yours,

I sent this reply:

Dear Professor ———:

I am sorry to say that I don't know a jot or a tittle about what books Kissinger and Schlesinger have published. May I suggest that you look them up in *Books in Print* or a large library?

Sincerely,  
Glenn Porter

The following indicates the speed and urgency of academic matters. It was addressed to my predecessor by the permissions editor of a large English publishing house, and the date wants noticing:

1st June, 1972

Dear Mr. Baughman:

With reference to our letter dated 11th August, 1967 and your reply of 6th September, 1967 in respect of reproduction of an article entitled ——— in our future publication ———, it has now become necessary to omit this material from our book, therefore will you kindly cancel the application.

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused through this alteration.

Yours sincerely,

And here is one that came to us at another journal's suggestion:

Dear Sirs,

I have been told by the 'Society For the History of Technology' that you might be a good source for me to obtain information concerning my thesis topic. I attend [one of the major universities in Washington, D.C.], and need materials relevant to the enterprise system prior to the birth of Christ. I would appreciate any material that could either be sent to me, or the names of books or journals that I might be able to obtain information. I thank you for any help you might be able to give me.

Yours Truly,

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Dear Mr. ———:

I am sorry to say that we are unable to help you with your thesis. I'm afraid you'll just have to do a lot of digging in the library, looking for materials on ancient history.

Good luck with your project.

Sincerely,  
Glenn Porter

This is a similar request:

Dear Sirs:

I am currently a Junior at ——— College and my field of study is English and History. I am at present working on a research paper for my American Studies Seminar on the growth and development of one of the prominent families in [a small town in] Ohio. I am extremely interested in research work of the project and the different events that I uncover while I am doing my research. One of my professors told me of the program in Business History at Harvard and that I may acquire additional methods of doing research from your center.

I would appreciate it very much if I could have some information about your Center of Business History and see some of the purposes of it. I would also like to have any pamphlets or lists of different methods of research that you might have so I may extend and widen my own research methods and techniques of doing research on this particular area. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

I was candid in my reply:

Dear Mr. ———:

I regret to say that there is no Business History Center and that we have no pamphlets or research methods. You might consult in your college library or another nearby library the recent issues of the *Business History Review*, which may suggest to you various sorts of research approaches.

Good luck with your project.

Sincerely,  
Glenn Porter

Some professors do not know of our policy against accepting articles previously published elsewhere:

Dear Sir:

May I submit the inclosed for consideration to your editorial board of the *Business History Review* in light of examination by former Detroit Police Commissioner ——— as well as UAW Secretary-Treasurer ———?

Sincerely yours,

My reply will help clear the matter:

Dear Mr. \_\_\_\_\_:

Thank you for sending us your recent article from *Criminology*. I must report that we do not publish material which has previously been published elsewhere, so I am returning your piece entitled "The United Auto Workers Face Detroit's Underworld."

Sincerely,  
Glenn Porter

Finally, the *Review* received the following document from the Nixon Years. It was hand-written and then xeroxed for wider distribution:

August 8, 1973

Dear Friend:

President Nixon is innocent of any wrong doing.

Since he first assumed office, I have been sending him a daily letter, teaching him, we are living in the times predicted in the bible, via Secret Service.

He has been (and still is), considering what I have to say, which rivets his attention.

He feared deception, which was the reason for his secrecy.

He should be confronted with the contents of this letter, and the declaration, it is the people's right to know news, which concerns them.

Sincerely yours

To that we replied nothing, fearing deception, via Secret Service.

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The thirty-fifth annual national Academy of Management meeting will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 10-13, 1975 at the Marriott Hotel. As part of this program the Management History Division of the academy will hold a one-day session on August 10th. For further information, interested parties should contact Professor Arthur G. Bedeian, Program Chairman, Management History Division, Academy of Management, School of Business, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 36830, telephone (205)-826-4730.

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The Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation has just published the proceedings of the twelfth regional conference in economic history held at the Eleutherian Mills Historical Library on May 17, 1974, under the title *Benjamin Henry Latrobe and Moncure Robinson: The Engineer as Agent of Technological Transfer*. Copies are available for \$1.00 plus 25¢ handling and postage from the Publications Department, Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, Greenville, Wilmington, Delaware 19807.

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Two useful publications by Meyer H. Fishbein, "The Censuses of Manufactures 1810-1890," and "Early Business Statistical Operations of the Federal Government," have been published as Reference Information Papers No. 50 and 51 by the National Archives and Records Service. They are available gratis from the National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, Washington, D.C.

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The Minnesota Historical Society announces that a number of collections relating to business and economic history have recently been opened for research or accessioned. These include records of the Winton Lumber Company (1894–1958) and of the Communications Workers of America (1938–1974). For further details, write to: Manuscripts Division, Minnesota Historical Society, 690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

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The Archives Library Division of the Ohio Historical Society has established an Ohio Business History Project, in order to insure the documentation of Ohio's history and its part in the history of American business enterprise. The primary aim of the project is to encourage the collection of materials and the dissemination of information relating to business activity throughout the entire period of the state's history, but with primary emphasis on the twentieth century.

The Ohio Business History Project offers a multifaceted approach to the problem of documenting business activities in the state. Its efforts center around these four areas:

- 1) establishing business archives;
- 2) conducting oral history interviews;
- 3) collecting research materials;
- 4) sponsoring publications.

The cost of this project is being underwritten through a combination of state funding and the contributions of individual Ohio businesses. The Ohio Network of American History Research Centers is assisting in the collection of research materials for business history. The network is a cooperative effort among six universities and two historical societies to preserve the materials in their respective geographic areas.

Project Director Edie Hedlin, Institutional Records Specialist, Ohio Historical Society, is coordinating this statewide effort. If you are interested in contributing to the Ohio Business History Project, if you have personal papers, business records, audio-visual materials, etc. that would document the history of economic enterprise in the state, or if you would like information on establishing an archives for your business, please contact: Dr. Edie Hedlin or David Larson, Archives — Library Division, Ohio Historical Society, Interstate 71 and 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211 (614) 466-2064.

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Baker Library at the Harvard Business School is pleased to announce that its former auditorium, recently converted to library purposes, has been named in honor of Arthur H. Cole. Another memorial, a fund for Kress Library acquisitions, is open to those who wish to make a personal gesture in memory of Arthur Cole. Contributions should be sent to Laurence J. Kipp, Librarian, Baker Library, Harvard Business School, Soldiers Field, Boston, Massachusetts 02163.

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