

Editors' Notes

The year just past has been a difficult one for the officers of the Economic History Association and for its JOURNAL. The sudden death on March 21, 1975, of Herman E. Krooss, long-time Secretary-Treasurer of the Association and Business Manager of the JOURNAL, is our most grievous loss. Herman handled the business of the JOURNAL so long and with such skill and style that we can never hope to replace him in the full sense of the word. This sad event occurred in the midst of the transition of the editorial office of the JOURNAL from the University of Wisconsin-Madison to The Johns Hopkins University, a move already complicated by a hiatus in the terms of the previous and present editors. The present editors had anticipated assuming their duties in September 1975, but Professor Nathan Rosenberg's resignation as Editor in August 1974 necessitated advancing that date by fully nine months. Meanwhile, Professor Ralph Andreano of the University of Wisconsin generously assumed the post of Acting Editor for the interim, and Ms. Mary E. Bradish stayed on the job as Assistant Editor until the end of March 1975, thereby easing the difficulties of the transition. Despite these problems, we trust the high standards of the JOURNAL have not suffered, and we thank the previous staff for its contributions and good will.

In any event this, the September 1975 issue of the JOURNAL is the first for which the new editorial team is fully responsible. We will do all that we can to uphold and, if possible, to enhance the quality and utility of the JOURNAL. To this end we intend to introduce some innovations in both content and format. In particular, we plan to intensify our coverage of the current literature of economic history. This will involve, in addition to an expanded review section, more frequent review articles comparing and assessing recent contributions on topics of special interest. We will also introduce departments of "Book Notes" and "Notes and Discussion," the latter for relatively brief comments on current topics. Finally, as a part of the Table of Contents, we will print brief abstracts of the articles carried in each issue. We invite comments and criticism from our readers on these and any other innovations.

Our readers will, we know, be pleased to learn that Richmond D. Williams, Director of the Eleutherian Mills Historical Library, Greenville, Wilmington, Delaware, 19807, is the new Secretary-Treasurer of the Economic History Association and the Business Manager of the JOURNAL. Inquiries concerning membership in the Association, administrative matters, and orders for back issues of the JOURNAL should be addressed to him, as should orders for reprints and requests for permission to reprint. Correspondence concerning advertising and advertising copy should also be addressed to Dr. Williams.

In order to spread the work of refereeing manuscripts, to obtain the

best possible advice, and to give credit where credit is due, we are expanding slightly the size of the editorial board. We are pleased to announce that Paul A. David and Folke Doving, whose terms expired last year, have been reappointed. The following new members have accepted appointment: Philip D. Curtin, Richard A. Easterlin, David Herlihy, and Stanley J. Stein. In addition, we will continue to call on members with specialized knowledge for assistance in reviewing manuscripts as needed. Owing to the confidentiality and anonymity of the reviewing process, we cannot reveal their names except to express our appreciation to them generally in our annual reports.

Finally, The Johns Hopkins University has contributed both moral and material support to our venture, and we have been particularly fortunate in securing the services of Ms. Judith C. Brown as Assistant Editor.

USIA VOLUNTEER SPEAKERS PROGRAM

During the Bicentennial Era the United States Information Agency wishes to encourage members of the Economic History Association who are traveling abroad under their own or other private auspices to take part in programs designed by its overseas posts for selected foreign audiences, and to meet formally and informally with fellow professionals and other interested persons. The Agency wants scholars who can communicate authoritatively and effectively, in formal lectures and in seminars and panel discussions, on subjects of special relevance for a particular country and for the United States, such as the history of American industry, agriculture, or labor, or global problems of food, population, and energy, or the role of the multinational corporation, or international monetary reform. These examples are illustrative and by no means comprehensive.

USIS posts abroad will provide the standard U.S. Government per diem as well as a modest honorarium of \$50 per program day. They are authorized to pay for travel within the country and, in some circumstances, for diversionary travel to other countries for similar programming. They do not pay for travel between the United States and overseas locations under the Volunteer Speakers Program.

Interested scholars should write to the U.S. Information Agency, Economics Staff, Room 615, ICS/DE, 1717 H St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, enclosing a curriculum vitae and a list of preferred topics. A substantial lead time is desirable.

Professor Richard C. Overton has objected strenuously to Arthur E. Rockwell's review of William Leonhard Taylor's *A Productive Monopoly: The Effect of Railroad Control on New England Coastal Steamship Lines, 1870-1916* [*JEH*, XXXIII, (Sept. 1973), 687-688]. Overton says, in part, that "this review seems to me to demonstrate why economists and 'new'

economic historians, preoccupied as they are with theoretical and mathematical analysis, simply do not understand (or care to understand) what the inductively-oriented business historian is trying to do. . . ." For a more complete statement of Overton's own appraisal of this book, see *Journal of American History*, LVIII (Dec. 1971), 760-762.

The University of Mississippi will hold a conference on "The Slave Experience in America: A Bicentennial Perspective," October 1-3, 1975. Speakers: John W. Blassingame, David B. Davis, Carl N. Degler, Stanley Engerman, Eugene Genovese, William K. Scarborough, Kenneth Stampp. Address inquiries to the Department of History, University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677.

A Seminar on the Economic History of the Central Savanna of West Africa will be held in Kano at Abdullahi Bayero College, Ahmadu Bello University, 5-10 January, 1976. For several years the Departments of History of Ahmadu Bello University have held joint seminars relating to various aspects of the history of the northern parts of Nigeria. The fourth of these seminars will be concerned with the economic history of the savanna and desert fringe in and around the borders of Nigeria and its neighbors. The topics to be discussed include the production, processing and distribution of agricultural commodities, minerals, and livestock; the economic history of crafts; commercial patterns and institutions; labor, including servile institutions; transportation; economic thinking and its applications; droughts, famines, and diseases; demography and urbanization; the economic background of social and political developments; and internal and external commercial relations.

The Minnesota Historical Society announces the acquisition of the Great Northern Railway Company archives. The archives consist of the corporate records of Great Northern, its officials, personnel organizations, and records relating to its 250 subsidiary railroad, mining, logging, land, townsite, utility, steamship, and development companies. Thirty-five hundred linear feet of correspondence, subject files, financial records and printed matter dating from 1856 have been accessioned. The project director wishes to correspond with anyone having additional information on Great Northern records. Please write to: Director, Great Northern Project, Manuscripts Division, Minnesota Historical Society, 1500 Mississippi Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

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¢ postage and handling from the Publications Department, Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, Greenville, Wilmington, Delaware 19807.

The Eleutherian Mills Historical Library also announces the acquisition of a portion of the Reading Company archives. This consists of corporate records of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad and certain subsidiaries, in particular the North Pennsylvania Railroad and the Atlantic City Railroad.

The John Deere and Company will host the Annual Meeting of the Business History Conference on March 12-13, 1976, at their administrative center in Moline, Illinois. For those attending on Thursday there will be a tour of John Deere Historical Site in Grand Detour, Illinois. For information write to Professor Fred Bateman, Graduate School of Business, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.