



EHA



Editor Michael Haupt No. 31 December 2007

Economic History Association, c/o Alex Field, Executive Director, Santa Clara University, Department of Economics, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95053-0385

The 2008 EHA Meetings

The Economic History Association will convene in New Haven, Connecticut from September 12-14, 2008. EHA President Alan L. Olmstead has chosen the theme "The Engines of Growth" for the conference, which will be headquartered in the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale.

The Program Committee, chaired by Paul Rhode (Arizona) includes Werner Troesken (George Mason), Tracy Dennison (CalTech), and Ken Pomeranz (UC-Irvine). They welcome proposals for individual papers, as well as for entire sessions. As is the rule, papers on all subjects in economic history are welcome, but a number of sessions will be devoted to the theme "**The Engines of Growth: Innovation, Creative Destruction, and Human Capital Accumulation.**"

The analysis of the causes and consequences of economic growth is central to the study of economic history. Growth takes place in a legal, political, and social context and the innovations that drive growth are often opposed by vested interests that expect to lose from

the changes. Creative Destruction, whereby revolutionary innovations both spawn entirely new ventures and undermine the value of existing investments, appears to be an inevitable part of the long-run growth process. Understanding the political economy of institutional change and innovation is of special interest. This is particularly true for human capital and information given their public good characteristics. The Program Committee invites papers and sessions on this theme dealing with experiences from a broad range of geographical regions, time periods, and institutional settings.

Papers and session proposals should be submitted on line at: http://eh.net/eha/meetings/prop_08.php. The following rules and procedures apply. The due date is January 31, 2008. Paper proposals should include a 3-5 page précis and a 150-word abstract suitable for publication in the *Journal of Economic History*. By vote of the Board of Trustees, the corresponding author must be a current member of the Association (to join the Association, please go to eh.net/eha). Papers should

in all cases be work in progress rather than accepted or published work; submitters have a responsibility to let the program committee know if the proposed paper has been submitted for publication. Submissions for entire sessions should include no more than three papers and each proposal should be submitted separately. The committee reserves the right to determine which papers will be included in those sessions that are accepted. Finally, those who had a paper accepted by the regular program committee for the 2007 meeting held in Austin, TX must wait two years before submitting again.

The dissertation session convened by Kevin O'Rourke (Trinity College, Dublin) and Zorina Khan (Bowdoin College) will honor six dissertations completed during the 2007-2008 academic year. The submission deadline is June 1, 2008. The Alexander

Gerschenkron and Allan Nevins prizes will be awarded to the best dissertations on non-North American and North American topics. Note that students may not submit both to the dissertation session and the regular program, but there is a two year window within which a dissertation may be submitted for consideration.

Graduate students are encouraged to attend and the Association offers subsidies for travel, hotel, registration, and meals, including a special graduate student dinner. A poster session welcomes work from dissertations in progress.

For further information, including detailed travel options to New Haven, check the EHA meetings page (ehameeting.com), or contact Meetings Coordinator Jari Eloranta at elorantaj@appstate.edu.

□€ ¥F□□□d \$ □€ ¥F□□□d \$ □€ ¥F□□□d \$ □€ ¥F□□□d \$ □€ ¥F□□□□€ ¥F□□□d \$ □€ ¥F□□□d \$ □€ ¥F

EHA Grants Fellowships and Prizes

The EHA supports research in economic history through various grant programs administered by the Committee on Research in Economic History (CREH) and the Annual Meetings Program Committee. All applicants for or recipients of an EHA grant or prize must be members of the Association, and all application materials must be submitted electronically (see instructions below). Please use Microsoft Word for all email attachments. A downloadable membership form is available online at: <http://eh.net/eha/membership>. You can also use Google Checkout to pay for your membership over the web.

Arthur H. Cole Grants in Aid: The Committee on Research in Economic History awards Arthur H. Cole grants-in-aid to support research in economic history, regardless of time period or geographic area. Awards typically are in amounts up to \$2,500, although higher amounts may be awarded in exceptional cases. Applications should be sent as email attachments to the chair of the CREH (see below). Required information includes the name of the individual, home address, institutional affiliation, and all contact information. The main body of the proposal should be no longer than five single-spaced pages, inclusive of any footnotes, tables, and bibliography. It should describe the project, and explain specifically how the grant will facilitate completion of the

research. A curriculum vita and a project budget should be appended. Applicants must be members of the Association and must hold the Ph.D. degree. Preference is given to recent Ph.D. recipients. Please direct any questions about these grants to Professor Joyce Burnette, chair, Committee on Research in Economic History, at burnettj@wabash.edu.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: April 1, 2008. Awards announced by May 15, 2008.

The following three programs are for those who have not yet received the Ph.D. degree:

Graduate Dissertation Fellowships:

Dissertation Fellowships are intended for students whose thesis topic has been approved and who have made some progress towards writing their dissertation. Applicants must be members of the Association. Awards are for \$10,000 and are non renewable. Applications should be submitted by email to the chair of the CREH (see below). Required information includes the name of the student, home address, institutional affiliation, all contact information, and the name of the chair of the dissertation committee. Applicants should also arrange to have two letters of reference sent; one must be from the chair of the thesis committee, and both should be sent to the email address listed below.

The main body of the proposal should be no longer than five single-spaced pages, inclusive of any footnotes, tables, and bibliography. It should describe the dissertation topic, explain specifically how the fellowship will facilitate completion of the thesis (for example, travel to archives, purchase of research

materials, release from teaching), describe the work to date, give a timetable for completion, and include a brief bibliography. A one-page copy of the student's current CV should also be included. Although it is not required, applicants for dissertation awards are strongly encouraged to upload a draft of a completed thesis chapter. Please direct any questions about these fellowships to Professor Joyce Burnette, chair, Committee on Research in Economic History, at burnettj@wabash.edu. Applicants must be current members of the Association.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: January 15, 2008. Awards announced by February 15, 2008.

Exploratory Travel and Data Grants:

Exploratory Travel and Data Grants are intended for doctoral students considering or intending to write a dissertation in economic history. They provide funding for specific research purposes (for example, visiting archives or purchase of microfilm or CD-ROMs) and in most instances will not exceed \$2,500. They are nonrenewable, but recipients are eligible to apply in a subsequent year for a Graduate dissertation fellowship (see above).

Applications should be submitted by email to the chair of the CREH (see below). Required information includes the name of the student, home address, institutional affiliation, all contact information, and the name of the chair of the dissertation committee. The main body of the proposal should be no longer than three single-spaced pages, inclusive of any footnotes, tables, and bibliography. It should describe the topic of the research, explain specifically how the requested support will facilitate the work, give a timetable for completion,

and include a brief bibliography. Students should also include an itemized budget (one page) and a copy of the student's current CV (one page). Please direct any questions about these grants to Professor Joyce Burnette, chair, Committee on Research in Economic History, at burnettj@wabash.edu. Applicants must be current members of the Association.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: January 15, 2008. Awards announced by February 15, 2008.

Annual Meetings Travel and Hotel Subsidies: Graduate Students interested in disseminating preliminary results from their thesis work may apply to participate in the poster session at the Annual Meetings. Those accepted receive the following support:

- Travel subsidies up to \$500 for domestic flights or train fare, up to \$800 for international flights.
 - Complimentary hotel rooms (double occupancy, shared with another graduate student) for up to 3 nights.
 - 60 percent discount on the registration fee
 - 80 percent discount on the Saturday Presidential Banquet
 - Free dinner with other graduate students Friday night.
- Applicants, who must be members of the Association, should send by email a 100 word abstract along with a one page CV to Professor Paul Rhode (pwrhode@email.arizona.edu) chair, Program Committee.

DEADLINE: July 7, 2008. Awards announced by July 31, 2008.

Graduate students who have presented a poster are eligible for the dissertation session in a subsequent year, but may not participate in the poster session two years in a row.

Graduate students interested in attending the annual meeting but not participating in the poster session are eligible, depending on funding availability, for up to three nights' complimentary hotel room (double occupancy, shared with another graduate student). Send requests to the email addresses listed above. Applicants must be members of the Association. **DEADLINE: July 7, 2008. Awards announced by July 31, 2008.**

Ph.D. recipients selected for the dissertation session will receive a \$250 travel subsidy. See procedures for applying for the Nevins or Gerschenkron prizes.

Conditions of Support: All recipients of EHA fellowship and grant support must file a short (one or two page) report on how they spent their money and how it facilitated their research. This report should be filed by August 31 of the year subsequent to receipt of the funds and can be sent as an email attachment to the EHA Executive Director (afield@scu.edu).

Prizes

The EHA recognizes excellence in research, publication, and teaching of economic history by awarding several annual and biennial prizes at the President's Awards Banquet during the annual meetings. Each fall the Announcements page on this web site and the EHA newsletter include Calls for Nominations and submission information.

Dissertation Awards: Dissertations chosen for presentation at the annual meetings are finalists for these annual awards.

Allan Nevins Prize for the Best Dissertation in U.S. or Canadian Economic History

The Allen Nevins Prize in American Economic History is awarded annually by the Economic History Association on behalf of Columbia University Press for the best dissertation in U.S. or Canadian economic history completed during the previous year. The 2008 prize will be awarded at the Economic History Association's annual meeting in New Haven in September 2008.

Scholars submitting a dissertation to the Nevins Prize competition should not in the same year submit a proposal to the general program that is part of or derived from the dissertation.

Please send submitted dissertations to:

Professor Zorina Khan
2440 Bancroft Way Suite 300
Boalt Hall School of Law
Berkeley CA 94704
email: bkhan@bowdoin.edu

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: June 1, 2008

Alexander Gerschenkron Prize for the Best Dissertation in U.S. or Canadian Economic History.

The Alexander Gerschenkron Prize in Economic History is awarded annually by the Economic History Association for the best dissertation in the economic history of an area outside of the United States or Canada completed during the

previous year. The 2007 prize will be awarded at the Economic History Association's annual meeting in New Haven in September 2008.

Scholars submitting a dissertation to the Gerschenkron Prize competition should not in the same year submit a proposal to the general program that is part of or derived from the dissertation.

Please send submitted dissertations to:

Professor Kevin O'Rourke
Hameau le Villard
73670 Saint Pierre d'Entremont
France
email: kevin.orourke@tcd.ie

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: June 1, 2008

Jonathan Hughes Prize for Excellence in Teaching Economic History: The annual Jonathan Hughes Prize is awarded to recognize excellence in teaching economic history. Jonathan Hughes was an outstanding scholar and a committed and influential teacher of economic history. The prize includes a \$1,200 cash award. The winner is selected by the EHA Committee on Education and Teaching.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: March 1, 2008

The Committee on Education of the Economic History Association invites nominations for the fourteenth annual Jonathan Hughes Prize for Excellence in Teaching Economic History. Letters of nomination should state what qualities of excellence the candidate's teaching of economic history has embodied. The strength of the nominating letter will be the primary basis for selecting the pool of finalists for the prize. After arriving at a short list of finalists, the committee

will gather further supporting information. Anyone is eligible to write a letter of nomination.

Letters of nomination should be sent to:

*Professor Dan Bogart
Department of Economics
University of California Irvinel
3151 Social Science Plaza
Irvine, CA 92657
email: dbogart@uci.edu*

Other members of the committee are:

*Professor Juliette Levy
Department of History
HMNSS 5501
University of California
Riverside, CA 92521
Email: juliette.levy@ucr.edu*

*Professor Carol Hua Shiue
Department of Economics
University of Colorado
Boulder, CO 80309-0256
email: shiue@colorado.edu*

Publication Awards

Alice Hanson Jones Biennial Prize is awarded every other year for an Outstanding Book on North American Economic History

The Alice Hanson Jones Prize for an outstanding book in North American (including Caribbean) economic history will be presented at the Association's annual meeting in New Haven in September of 2008. This \$1,200 prize is awarded biennially and alternates with the Gyorgi Ranki Prize for a book in European economic history.

Eligibility and Nominations: Only books published in English during 2006 or 2007 are eligible for the 2008 prize. The author need not be a member of the

Association. Authors, publishers, or anyone else may nominate books. Authors or publishers should send a copy of the book, plus a curriculum vitae of the author(s), with current information on addresses and telephone numbers, to each member of the committee.

Selection Committee:

*Professor Shawn Kantor (chair)
SSHA
University of California, Merced
P.O. Box 2039
Merced, CA 95344
Email: skantor@ucmerced.edu*

*Professor Naomi Lamoreaux
Department of History
405 Hilgard Ave
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1473
Email: lamoreaux@econ.ucla.edu*

*Professor Howard Bodenhorn
Department of Economics and Business
Lafayette College
Easton, PA 18042-1776
Email: bodenhoh@lafayette.edu*

*Professor Chris Hanes
Department of Economics
SUNY Binghamton
P. O. Box 6000
Binghamton, NY 13902
email: chanes@binghamton.edu*

*Professor Gavin Wright
Department of Economics
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305
email: write@stanford.edu*

DEADLINE: March 1, 2008

Gyorgi Ranki Biennial Prize is awarded every other year for an

Outstanding Book on the Economic History of Europe

The Ranki Prize was established by the Economic History Association in 1989 to honor the late Gyorgy Ranki, a distinguished Hungarian economic historian who taught in both Hungary and the United States. The Ranki Prize is awarded biennially for an outstanding book in European economic history and is in the amount of \$1,200. It alternates with the Alice Hanson Jones Prize for a book in North American (including Caribbean) economic history.

The tenth Ranki Prize will be awarded in September 2009 for a book published in 2007 or 2008.

To be eligible, a book must be published in English and must, in whole or in substantial part, treat aspects of European economic history in any period from classical antiquity to the present. For purposes of this prize, Europe is understood to include European Russia as well as the British Isles. Books that compare European experience to that of other parts of the world, or that use historical information to examine present or anticipate future issues and trends, are also eligible as long as they pay significant attention to European economic history.

Nominations for the prize may be made by authors, publishers, or anyone else. Authors of nominated books need not be members of the Economic History Association. Date of publication rather than date of copyright determines eligibility. Translations of books published previously in a language other than English are eligible in the year of publication in English.

Whoever nominates a book should send a copy of the book and the curriculum vitae of the author(s) to each of the five members of the Ranki Prize committee.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: March 1, 2009

For the 2009 award, the chair of the committee will be Professor Philip Hoffman:

Professor Philip T. Hoffman
Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 22877
California Institute of Technology
115 Baxter Hall
Pasadena, CA 91125
email: pth@hss.caltech.edu

Other members of the committee:

Professor Robert Allen
Department of Economics
Nuffield College
Oxford OX1 2DH
United Kingdom
email: robert.allen@nuf.ox.ac.uk

Professor Simone A. Wegge
Department of Political Science,
Economics, and Philosophy
College of Staten Island
2800 Victory Boulevard
Staten Island, New York 10314
email: wegge@postbox.csi.cuny.edu

Professor George Grantham
Department of Economics
McGill University
Room 443, Leacock Building, 855
Sherbrooke Street West
Montreal, Quebec H3A 2T7
george.grantham@staff.mcgill.edu

Arthur H. Cole Prize is awarded annually by the Editorial Board of the

JEH for the best article in the previous **Roundup of the 2007 Austin meetings**

Economic Historians arrived at the Sheraton Austin Hotel in balmy Austin, TX for their annual meetings from September 6-9, 2007. The program, featuring 12 concurrent sessions with 38 papers and two plenary sessions, was put together by co-chairs Susan Carter (UC-Riverside) and Anne McCants (MIT) with expert assistance from Metin Cosgel (Connecticut) and Peter Rousseau (Vanderbilt). Local arrangements were flawlessly coordinated by John McCusker (Trinity), Sally Clarke and Tim Wiseman (both Texas). The theme of the meetings, chosen by President Paul Hohenberg (RPI), was “Space and place in economic history.”

The tradition of offering Friday morning workshops for early conference arrivals was continued in Austin. Once again a session offering job market tips and tales of survival by young scholars was offered for graduate students heading into the job market.

Gale Publishing Company unveiled their new digitized collection “Making of the Modern World,” in the other workshop. John McCusker and Scott Dawson (Gale Product Manager) discussed how digital archives are changing the nature of scholarly research and classroom training. They introduced some of their digital collections of historical primary sources, which were previously available only at the top research libraries of the world, but now are available in online archives that make the information accessible to all researchers and students.

year's volume of the Journal. For those who preferred to start the conference on a cultural, rather than scholarly note, a walking tour of the Texas State Capitol was offered.

The first plenary session was held on Friday at the LBJ Library and Museum on the University of Texas campus immediately preceding the annual reception. Paul Hohenberg moderated “What remains after fifty years: A look back at domestic economic policy in the decade after Sputnik,” with panelists Michael Bernstein (UC-San Diego) and Christina Romer (UC-Berkeley). A second plenary session, also on the theme of what remains after fifty years, followed the dissertation sessions on Saturday afternoon. James K. Galbraith (Texas) moderated and panelists J. Bradford DeLong (UC-Berkeley) and Dick Easterlin (USC) gave their views on the role of economic history as a guide to economic development. The spirited discussion afterward revealed that not all members of the audience took the same view toward economic history's role or fate as did the panelists.

Saturday afternoon was given over to the business meeting, chaired by President Hohenberg, and the dissertation sessions. Joyce Burnette (Wabash) convened the North American dissertations and Carolyn Moehling (Rutgers) covered the non North American dissertations.

The meetings were attended by 196 economic historians, an increase of 14 from the 2006 Pittsburgh conference. The total included an impressive 41 graduate students, nine of whom gave poster sessions, seven presented papers and six were on the dissertation session.

The next meeting, which will be governed by Alan Olmstead (UC-Davis), will take place September 12-14, 2008 in

New Haven, CT. The EHA will be returning to Yale for the third time after a 43 year absence.



Awards Presented at the 2007 EHA Meetings

The annual meetings are an opportunity for economic historians to share their current research, plan future collaboration, catch up with old friends, and meet new ones. It is also a time to celebrate the successes of the previous year. The awards ceremony at the Saturday night banquet is the platform from which this celebration takes place. While in Austin, economic historians awarded the following prizes to their membership in recognition of outstanding achievement.

The Allan Nevins Prize for best dissertation in US or Canadian economic history during 2006-07 went to Mark Geiger, University of Minnesota (Ph.D. awarded by University of Missouri) for his dissertation entitled "Missouri's Hidden Civil War: Financial Conspiracy and the End of the Planter Elite."

The Alexander Gerschenkron Prize for the best dissertation in non-US or Canadian economic history during 2006/07 was awarded to Steven Nafziger, Williams College, for his "Communal Institutions, Resource Allocation, and Russian Economic Development: 1861-1905." Nafziger received his Ph.D. from Yale University.

The Gyorgi Ranki Prize is awarded every other year for an Outstanding Book on the Economic History of

Europe. The 2006-07 winner was Avner Greif (Stanford) for *Institutions and the Path to the Modern Economy: Lessons from Medieval Trade*.

The J.R.T. Hughes Teaching Prize is awarded to recognize excellence in teaching economic history. The winner is selected by the EHA Committee on Education and Teaching based on nominations from students. The award for 2006/07 went to Peter Lindert (UC Davis).

The Arthur H. Cole Prize is awarded each year to the author(s) of the outstanding article published in the *Journal of Economic History* from September of the previous year through June of the award year. Tim Leunig (LSE) was honored for the 2006/07 time period for "Time is Money: A Re-assessment of the Passenger Social Savings From Victorian British Railways," which appeared in the *JEH* in September 2006.

Explorations in Economic History Prize Though not an official EHA prize, the honor for the best article to be published in *Explorations in Economic History* during the previous year is also announced at the annual meetings. The winner for 2006/07 was David S. Jacks, for his July 2006 article "What Drove 19th Century Commodity Market Integration?"

Dissertation Fellowships The 2007 dissertation fellows were Dan Li (Boston University), advised by Robert Margo, for “Three Essays on the Economic History of Railroads in Pre-Communist China,” Melinda Miller (Michigan), advised by Ben Chabot, writing “The Role of Race and Gender in Inequality and Intergenerational Mobility: New Evidence from the 1880 Cherokee Census,” and John Parman (Northwestern), working under the tutelage of Joseph Ferrie on “American Mobility and the Expansion of Public Education.”

Exploratory Travel and Data Acquisition Grants Exploratory grants for preliminary work on dissertations were awarded to Aaron Anderson (University of Southern Mississippi), Jessica Bean (Cornell), Davide Cantoni (Harvard), Felipe Tâmega Fernandes (LSE), Morten Jerven (London School of Economics and Political Science), Ulrike Krotscheck (Stanford), Woong Lee (UC-Irvine), Andrew Nigrinis (Stanford), Jessica Vechbanyongratana (Colorado).



Notes from the 2007 EHA Teaching Breakfast

Peter Lindert convened a meeting of approximately 20 economic historians who gathered at 6:45 a.m. to talk about teaching. An outline of the proposed discussion follows, along with a sample of a syllabus for an American Economic History course directed at undergraduates. The full outline was not discussed, as time ran out due to some lengthy discussion on various topics.

A discussion on how to integrate writing into economic history courses focused on methods of reducing plagiarism and incorporating a research paper into a ten week quarter class. Ideas for the former included assigning topics on areas difficult to plagiarize (e.g. local topics or topics well known to the teacher), and requiring the work be turned in in stages. Ideas for the latter included having TAs read the papers, passing the best on to the professor and having students read

one another’s first drafts as an exercise in critical reading.

A discussion ensued on assessment: requirements imposed by the university, methods of assessing and how it affects teaching.

A discussion was held on exams, including giving students copies of old exams, and giving them a set of questions from which the exam will be drawn.

What about powerpoint? Students have issues with powerpoint, including the inclusion of too much material on a slide and the professor going through them too fast. Possible solutions: provide the slides on a website, hand out note pages, hand out abbreviated sets of notes with spaces for students to fill in details. Powerpoint presentations can become canned and reduce interaction if the teacher is not careful.

“Making Undergrads Love Economic History: A Slam Dunk We Can Miss”

I. Does good teaching matter? (Ex. A)

II. Attitude

- A. Acting superior
- B. Being burdened and bored
- C. Losing the C+ student

III. For economic history, presentism is good (see syllabus)

Get your issues from the press, not from the scholars

IV. Lecture delivery devices: Redundancy is good

- A. The hopeless Socratic Ideal: just dialog and eye contact
- B. Note-taking is a lost art
- C. E-mail the lecture materials (or post them on the campus face book)
- D. Handouts and more handouts
- E. Powerpoint (or overheads)

1. Lindert’s Law of Powerpoint: Always have a Plan B!

2. How Powerpoint could bomb with undergrads

F. Blackboard: Why is it there anyway?

V. Teaching to the exam

- A. Old exams
- B. Investing in exam prep

VI. Other tricks

- A. Auctioning off A’s
- B. Fearless forecasts (or similar presentist news hooks)
- C. Coffee house hours

VII. A pitch for the senior thesis

- A. Student marketability
- B. Subjects: Use your generalist skills (Exhibit B)
- C. Getting the optimal number of thesis students
- D. Faculty credit for doing it

Exhibit A



Exhibit B. Some topics of senior honors theses in economics, UC Davis

“The Black Death and Interest Rates”

“Brazilian Forests and the World’s Interest” [pro-ranch student]

“Competing Land Uses in Costa Rica” [anti-ranch student]

“Dividing Our State: Counties that Gain and Counties that Lose from Being Part of California”

“Pesticide Use in California Agriculture: Should Regulation Be Increased?”

“Spinning Straw into Gold: Economic Development and Olympic Medals”

“What is a Spotted Owl Worth?”

“Why Are There So Many Lawyers?”

“Cyprus: Economic Prospects and Reunification”

“Junk Bonds in the 1980s: Financial Scam or Financial Innovation?”

“Fighting Fire with Fire: The Economics of Controlled Burns in the Sierras”

“A Statistical Study of the Determinants of Criminal Recidivism”

“How the Tax Reforms of 1981 and 1986 Affected Women’s Work”

“Uphill Battle: What Determines Trends in the Profits of Ski Resorts”

“Which Countries Honor Intellectual Property Rights and Why”

“The Effectiveness of Welfare Experiments in Wisconsin and California since 1980”

“Should I Have Gone to Stanford?”

The Economic Returns from Private and Public University Degrees in the High School Class of '72"

"Black/White Earnings Inequality: Gender and Regional Trends"

"State Revenue from Legal Gambling: Are State-Run Lotteries the Best Way?"

"Antitrust: History's Verdict"

"Causes and Effects of Child Labor in the Third World"

"What It Takes to Get an Oscar, and What the Oscar is Worth"

"The Effect of Athletic Programs on College Academic Quality"

"The Economics of Casino Gambling"

"The Efficiency of Bilingual Education"

"The Tuna-Dolphin Controversy and International Trade"

"The Political Economy of House Votes on the China Trade Bill"

"Whom Does Socialized Medicine Let Die?"

"How Are New Technology Stocks' Fortunes Affected by the Analysts?"

"What is the Optimal Rate for the California Cigarette Tax?"

"Free Agent Salaries, Deep Pockets, and Dynasties in Major League Baseball"

"What Causes Baseball Dynasties and Do They Raise or Lower League Revenue?"

"The Economics of Building New Baseball Stadiums"

"Winners and Losers in the Hewlett Packard - Compaq Merger."

"Managers' Salaries in Professional Baseball, Football, and Basketball."

"Too Little, Too Late? Monetary Policy before and after Three Bubbles."

"Colombia's Monetary Policies and Inflation Targeting."

"Selectivity and the Independence of Micro-Territories"

"China's Develop the West Policy"

"Prescription Drugs: How Much Price Increase Does U.S. R&D Justify?"

"IQ, Education, Region, and Race in America since World War I"

"German-American Economic Relations during the Great Depression"

"Why Are Americans So Fat?"

"The Sources of Outsourcing in U.S. Industries"

"Dethroning Los Angeles: Air Pollution and Controls in the San Joaquin"

"Bridge Tolls and Congestion in the Bay Area"

"Bubbles in the Housing Market? An Inter-state Study"

"How Capital Controls Have Worked in Chile and Malaysia"

"The Effects of Limiting Medical Malpractice Claims"

"Deal or No Deal': An Optimal Strategy" [Yes, it's about the TV show]

"State Regulation of the Wine Industry"

SYLLABUS: American Economic History since 1865
Fall 2007 Professor Peter Lindert

Two purchases are required: (1) "WR" = Gary M. Walton and Hugh Rockoff, *History of the American Economy*, 10th edition (2005), at the UCD Bookstore. (2) "The Packet" = selected copied readings, available at ASUCD Classical Notes, 165 Memorial Union. All the assigned readings are in these two sets of readings and in lecture handouts. Readings marked "A:" here = assigned readings. Readings marked "R:" = just readings recommended for deeper study of the same issues.

A. Race and the South since the Civil War

Just before World War II the South was still a very backward region of the U.S. economy. The relative position of blacks was even worse, both in the South and in the North. Explaining why these

regional and racial gaps were not narrowed for three-quarters of a century is a central task for economic history, even though they have been reduced since 1940. How much of the backwardness of the South can be explained by the direct destructive effects of the Civil War? To what extent can blacks' disadvantage be attributed to the legacy of slavery, and to what extent was it due to new institutions imposed after the Civil War? Did the development of the American market economy reinforce or offset these inequalities? Which did more for American blacks, government or the marketplace? Finally, what forces caused the rapid progress for the South and for blacks between 1940 and 1975?

A: (1) WR, Ch. 14 on war, recovery, and regional divergence; pp. 580-584.

(2) Jeremy Atack and Peter Passell, *A New Economic View of American History* (1994), Ch. 14 on The South after the Civil War (pp. 376-401), in The Packet.

(3) Gavin Wright, *Old South, New South* (1986), Ch. 8 on the new economy of the postwar South (pp. 239-274, notes on 299-303), in The Packet.

R: (r1) Roger Ransom and Richard Sutch, *One Kind of Freedom* (1977). (r2) Margo, Robert

A. *Race and Schooling in the South, 1880-1950* (1990). (r3) John Donoghue and James Heckman, "Continuous versus Episodic Change: The Impact of Civil Rights Policy on the Economic Status of Blacks," *Journal of Economic Literature*, March 1991. (r4) Richard Freeman and John Bound, "What Went Wrong? The Erosion of Relative Earnings and Employment among

Young Black Men in the 1980s," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, February 1992.

B. The Farm Problem: "Raising Less Corn and More Hell"

Why did farmers protest in the late 19th century?

Why did farmers protest in the 1920s and 1930s?

Why did farmers protest off and on ever since?

Why did the size of the farm sector decline so much, and what has government done about it? When did farm fortunes rise and when did they fall?

A: WR, Ch. 15 (Agriculture's western advance), 440-442 (farmers in the '20s), 479-485 (agriculture and the New Deal), and 530-535 (postwar agriculture).

R: (r1) Gary Libecap, "The Great Depression and the Regulating State: Federal Government Regulation of Agriculture, 1884-1970," in M. Bordo, C. Goldin, and E. White, *The Defining Moment: The Great Depression and the American Economy in the Twentieth Century* (1998), pp. 181-224. (r2) Alan L. Olmstead and Paul Rhode, chapter on Northern agriculture in *Cambridge Economic History of the United States*, vol. 3 (2000).

C. Immigration Then and Now

The rising tide of immigration since the 1960s has sparked controversy over the effects of immigrants on job markets and government budgets. Yet the immigration before World War I was even faster. What effects did it have then, and are the effects of immigration different today?

A: (1) WR, pp. 348-358 (pre-1914 immigration), 584-586 (postwar immigration).

(2) Susan Carter and Richard Sutch, "Historical Background to Current Immigration Issues," in James P. Smith and Barry Edmonston (eds.) *The Immigration Debate* (1998), pp. 289-314, 331-352, in the Packet.

(3) Roger Lowenstein, "The Immigration Equation", *New York Times*, July 9, 2006, in The Packet.

•• **FIRST MIDTERM (30%)** ••

D. Macroeconomic History and the Great Depression

Before World War I, what was the importance of currency and banking questions? What difference did it make whether the United States was on the gold standard? Who gained and who lost from the gold standard policy after 1879? How did it relate to farmers? If this country didn't establish a central bank until 1913, did the banking system work better with a Federal Reserve System than it had worked without one before 1913?

Turning to the interwar period, was there any inherent flaw in the economy of the 1920s that set us up for the Great Depression of the 1930s? Why was U.S. macroeconomic policy faced with so severe a downturn in the first year after the Wall Street crash? With hindsight, what alternative policies can we say the Fed and the government should have followed? Why didn't they? Why did the depression last so long? What finally ended it?

Looking at monetary and fiscal policy after World War II, can you say we have learned the lessons of history and got it

right? How do you explain the inflation, unemployment, deficits, and S&L defaults of the 1970s and 1980s?

A: (1) WR Ch. 19 on money and finance in the postbellum era;

(2) WR Chs. 22-25 on the 1920s, the Great Depression, the New Deal, and the U.S. economy in World War II;

(3) WR Ch. 27 on monetary and fiscal policy after World War II.

(4) Robert J. Shiller, *Irrational Exuberance* (2000), pp. 3-14, 60-68, in the Packet.

R: Hugh Rockoff, "The 'Wizard of Oz' as a Monetary Allegory," *Journal of Political Economy*, August 1990, pp. 739-760. (Relates to WR, Ch. 19, and also to Unit B of this course.)

•• **SECOND MIDTERM (25%)** ••

E. Trends in American Inequality

Are our incomes and our wealth getting more unequal or less unequal? Are we more or less unequal than in the nineteenth century? It turns out that America, like other countries, has gone through some pronounced swings in the gaps between rich and middle and poor. This unit charts those movements and explains what we know about why they happened, including the possible roles of international trade and migration.

A:(1) WR, pp. 442-443, 587-589, 600-602.

(2) Reading on inequality trends in "The Packet."

R: (r1) Jeffrey G. Williamson and Peter H. Lindert, *American Inequality: A Macroeconomic History* (1980). (r2) Peter H. Lindert and Jeffrey G. Williamson, "Does Globalization Make

the World More Unequal?” in Michael D. Bordo, Alan M. Taylor, and Jeffrey G. Williamson (eds.), *Globalization in Historical Perspective* (2003), pp. 227-270. (r3) Peter H. Lindert, “Economic Inequality,” in Susan Carter, Scott Gartner, Michael Haines, Alan Olmstead, Richard Sutch, and Gavin Wright (eds.), *Historical Statistics of the United States*, Millennial Edition (2006), vol. 3. (r4) Claudia Goldin and Lawrence Katz, “Decreasing (and then Increasing) Inequality in America: A Tale of Two Half Centuries,” in Finis Welch (ed.), *The Causes and Consequences of Increasing Inequality* (2001): 37-82.

F. What Went Right and Wrong in American Education

America has been one of the world leaders in public education since the middle of the nineteenth century. How did a country that wanted low taxes lead the way in taxes for schools? Today we are still a leader in the attainment of high school and college education. Yet there are definite signs that the *quality* of the inputs and outputs of American primary and secondary schooling has slipped relative to other countries since the 1960s. Why is America a leader, and what might explain the quality decline?

A: (1) Claudia Goldin “The Human Capital Century and American Leadership: Virtues of the Past.” *Journal of Economic History* (June 2001): 263-292, in the Packet.

(2) Peter H. Lindert, “Public Education in the Twentieth Century: What Happened to American Leadership?” Chapter 6 of *Growing Public: Social Spending and Economic Growth since the Eighteenth Century* (2004), in the Packet.

R: (r1) John H. Bishop, “Is the Test Score Decline Responsible for the Productivity Growth Decline?” *AER* 79, 1 (March 1989): 178-197. (r2) Hanushek, Eric A. and S.G. Rivkin, “Understanding the Twentieth Century Growth in U.S. Education Spending.” *Journal of Human Resources* 32, 1 (1997): 35-68.

G. Work and Wages for American Women

When did women’s employment decline, and when did it rise? Why? Has the wage gap between men and women widened or narrowed across U.S. history? When and why? What roles were played by changes in government policy or by changes in private discrimination?

A: (1) Claudia Goldin, *Understanding the Gender Gap* (1990), pp. 58-82 (the gender gap in earnings and occupations), 185-210 (the political economy of gender), in “The Packet.” (2) WR, pp. 358-360, 576-580.

R: (r1) Claudia Goldin, “The Rising (and then Declining) Significance of Gender” NBER Working Paper 8915 (April 2002). (r2) (r3) Francine Blau, “Trends in the Well-Being of American Women, 1970-1995,” *J. Econ. Lit.* March 1998. (r4) Francine Blau and Lawrence Kahn, “Swimming Upstream: Trends in the Gender Wage Differential in the 1980s,” *J. Labor Econ.*, January 1997; and their “Understanding International Differences in the Gender Pay Gap.” NBER Working Paper 8200. April 2001. (r5) Jane Waldfogel, “Understanding the ‘Family Gap’ in Pay for Women and Children,” *J. Econ. Perspectives*, Winter

1998. (r6) Claudia Goldin, "The Quiet Revolution that Transformed Women's Employment, Education, and Family,"

**Past Presidents of the EHA:
Herbert Heaton**



Herbert Heaton was one of the founding members of the Economic History Association, serving as one of its two inaugural vice presidents, ascending to the presidency in 1949, and remaining active in the association until his death. Along with E.A.J. Johnson and Arthur Cole, he drafted a grant application to the Rockefeller Foundation, which resulted in a \$300,000 award in December of 1940. The grant financed research in economic history over the next four years. Heaton was a member of the original board of trustees of the EHA. Each of the five original members went on to serve as president of the association: Edwin F. Gay (1941-42), Heaton (1949-50), Earl J. Hamilton (1951-52), E.A.J. Johnson (1961-62), and Shepard B. Clough (1969).

Heaton was active in the formation of the EHA and was personally responsible for the recruitment of most of the members from the Midwest. He was an enthusiastic scholar of the evolution and

NBER Working Paper 11953 (January 2006).

•• FINAL EXAM ••

applications of economic history, authoring several articles on the history of the discipline and a biography of Edwin Gay, the first president of the EHA. In an article entitled "Clio's New Overalls," published in *The Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science* (November, 1954), Heaton was one of the first authors to discuss the marriage of clio and its metric partner in regard to the study of economic history. His discussion of the metric side of the equation was anything but enthusiastic however. Instead, he criticized the tendency of young scholars to use technical tools to make precise measurements of what he considered to be inaccurate data.

Heaton was born in England on June 6, 1890, the son of a blacksmith. He studied history and economics at the University of Leeds, earning his B.A. in 1911. He earned his M.A. in 1912 from the London School of Economics before accepting a position as assistant lecturer in economics under (Sir) William Ashley at the University of Birmingham. While there, he earned another Masters degree in 1914. He then moved to Australia and began a post as lecturer in history and economics at the University of Tasmania.

While in Tasmania Heaton developed the study of economics and encouraged research into Australian economic history. His controversial comments on the war provoked the censure of the more conservative elements of the Tasmanian press and public. In 1917 he moved to the University of Adelaide where he expanded the economics discipline and developed the diploma of

commerce. Once again his liberal opinions aroused the ire of the conservative business class. Heaton argued that capitalism was the root of all the evils of individual and corporate life. He subscribed to the Marxist belief that capitalism would eventually give way to socialism. Consequently, the university refused to establish a degree in economics while Heaton led the discipline. As a means of preserving his academic career, he accepted a chair of economic and political science at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario in 1925. He stayed in Canada for two years before moving to the University of Minnesota, where he remained until he retired in 1958.

In 1936, Heaton compiled his research on Europe and published the *Economic History of Europe*, which was for a long time the standard text on the subject. Heaton said that he wrote the book especially for students with no background in economic history. He summed up economic history as the story of how man has worked to satisfy his material wants, in an environment provided by nature, but capable of improvement, in an organization made up of his relations with his fellows, and in a political unit whose head enjoys far-reaching power to aid, control, and appropriate. Such lofty views of the discipline were what made Heaton such a dedicated and valuable member of the Economic History Association.

Herbert Heaton died on January 24, 1973 in Minneapolis, survived by his three Australian-born children and his wife Marjorie Edith Ronson. He was an active scholar to the end of his life, publishing his ninth and final article in the *JEH* in June of 1969, nearly 28 years after his first *JEH* appearance.

Sources

Archives of the Economic History Association, Hagley Museum, Wilmington, DE.

Blaug, Mark, ed., *Who's who in economics: a biographical dictionary of major economists, 1700-1986*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1986, 2nd ed.

Bourke, Helen, "Heaton, Herbert (1890 - 1973)," *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 9, Melbourne: [Melbourne University Press](#), 1983, pp 250-251.

Cole, Arthur H., "Economic History in the United States: Formative Years of a Discipline," *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol 28, No 4 (Dec, 1968), pp 556-589.

de Rouvray, Cristel, "'Old' Economic History in the United States: 1939-1954," *Journal of the History of Economic Thought*, Vol 26, No 2 (June 2004), pp 221-39.

Harte, N.B., "Herbert Heaton, 1890-1973: A Biographical Note and a Bibliography [Obituary]," *Textile History* 5 (1974), p 7.

Payne, Elizabeth, "Herbert Heaton," term paper for Professor Robert Whaples, Wake Forest University, 2006

Selected writings of Herbert Heaton

"Heckscher on Mercantilism," *The Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 45, No 3 (Jun 1937), pp 370-93.

“Rigidity in Business Since the Industrial Revolution,” *The American Economic Review*, Vol 30, No 1, Part 2, Supplement, Papers and Proceedings of the Fifty-second Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association (Mar 1940), pp 306-313
 “Non-Importation, 1806-1812,” *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol 1, No 2 (Nov 1941), pp 178-98.

“The Early History of the Economic History Association,” *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol 1, Supplement: The Tasks of Economic History (Dec 1941), pp 107-09.

“Recent Developments in Economic History,” *The American Historical Review*, Vol 47, No 4 (Jul 1942) pp 727-46.

“The Making of an Economic Historian,” *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol 9, Supplement: The Tasks of Economic History (1949), pp 1-18.

“Clio’s New Overalls,” *The Canadian Journal of Economics and Political*

Science, Vol 20, No 4 (Nov 1954), pp 467-77.

“Twenty-Five Years of the Economic History Association: A Reflective Evaluation,” *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol 25, No 4 (Dec 1965), pp 465-79.

Modern economic history, with special reference to Australia, Melbourne: Macmillan & Co., 1925

A history of trade and commerce, with special reference to Canada, Toronto: T. Nelson & Sons, 1928

The British Way to Recovery: Plans and Policies in Great Britain, Australia, and Canada, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1934

Economic History of Europe, New York: Harper, 1948

A Scholar in Action, Edwin F. Gay, Cambridge: Harvard university Press, 1952



**Minutes of the Business Meeting
 EHA annual conference
 September 8, 2007**

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Hohenberg at 1:30 p.m.

Alexander Field gave an account of Board activity undertaken during the previous year.

1. Jari Eloranta (Appalachian State) was named as the new EHA Meetings Coordinator.

2. A new five year contract has been signed with Cambridge University Press for the publication of the JEH.
3. The 2009 EHA meetings will be held in Tucson, AZ. Next year the meetings will be held in New Haven, CT.
4. Election results were announced. Rick Steckel is president elect, Mary McKinnon was elected vice president, Ann McCants was elected to the Board of Trustees.

5. EHA membership will now be required in order to submit a paper for consideration for presentation at the annual conference.
6. Conference participants may not present a paper at the annual conference in two consecutive years with the exception of those presenting as part of the dissertation session. Graduate students may either submit their dissertation for consideration for the dissertation session or they may submit their paper for consideration for the program, but not both in one year. This is not a new policy, but a formal statement of an existing policy.
7. Overhead projectors will no longer be available for presentations at future meetings. This is a cost consideration.
8. The budget was presented and is reprinted elsewhere in this newsletter.

President Hohenberg requested a moment of silence to remember four EHA members who passed away since the 2006 meetings: Al Chandler, Larry Epstein, Gary Saxonhouse, and Ken Sokoloff.

The membership expressed thanks to Carolyn Tuttle, the outgoing meetings coordinator, for her four years of service.

Jeremy Atack gave the editorial report. Price Fishback will succeed him as North American editor beginning July 1,

2008. Atack noted that the discrepancy between North American and non-North American submissions has grown over the past three years. In order to address this work imbalance from an editorial perspective, the North American office will now become the Americas office. The JEH is now migrating to an electronic submission process. The transition should be complete by the end of the calendar year. The mean decision time for submissions has decreased to 88 days (89 days for new submissions). Some discussion ensued regarding the decrease in North American submissions.

Reports were received from the Business History Society, the IEHA, the SSHA, and the Cliometrics Society.

The EHA thanked the local arrangements committee and the program committee for their efforts.

Carolyn Tuttle gave the meetings coordinator's report. 179 participants preregistered and 17 registered on sight for a total of 196. Last year 182 registrations were received. This year's total included 41 graduate students, 9 of whom gave poster sessions, 7 presented papers and 6 were on the dissertation session.

Alan Olmstead was anointed as the incoming president of the EHA.

The business meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Nominating

Chair: Paul Hohenberg (Past President) (*ex officio*)
Gary Libecap (Past Chair) (*ex officio*)
Mary Mackinnon (Vice President) (*ex officio*)
Phil Hoffman (2008)
Josh Rosenbloom (2008)
Susan Wolcott (2008)
Alex Field (non-voting) (*ex officio*)

Membership

Chair: William Sundstrom (2008)
William Sumerhill (2009)
Martha Olney (2010)
Alex Field (*ex officio*)
Richard Steckel (President elect) (*ex officio*)

Research in Economic History

Chair: Joynce Burnette (2008)
Marc Law (2008)
Robert Whaples (2008)
Joe Ferrie (2009)
Anne McCants (2009)
Greg Clark (2010)
Kris Mitchener (2010)
Alex Field (*ex officio*)

Investment

Chair: Robert Zevin (2008)
Hugh Rockoff (2010)
Alex Field (*ex officio*)

Budget and Audit

Chair: Howard Bodenhorn (2009)
Charles Calomiris (2011)
Mary Mackinnon (Vice President) (2008)
Richard Steckel (President elect) (*ex officio*)

Ranki Prize

Philip Hoffman (2009)
Bob Allen (2010)
Simone Wegge (2011)

George Grantham (2012)

Jones Prize

Chair: Shawn Cantor (2008)
Naomi Lamoreaux (2009)
Howard Bodenhorn (2010)
Chris Hanes (2011)
Gavin Wright (2012)

Education in Economic History

Chair: Dan Bogart (2008)
Juliette Levy (2009)
Carol Hua Shiue (2010)
Alex Field (*ex officio*)

Research Archives and Data Bases

Chair: Price Fishback (2008)
Gary Richardson (2009)
Michael Haines (2010)
Alex Field (*ex officio*)

The Journal of Economic History

Chair: Michael Bordo (2008)
Gillian Hamilton (2008)
Knick Harley (2009)
John Wallis (2010)
Jeremy Atack (advisor)
Philip Hoffman (advisor)
Alex Field (*ex officio*)

EHA Administration

Chair: David Weiman (2008)
Naomi Lamoreaux (2009)
George Boyer (2010)

EHA Program Committee

Chair: Paul Rohde (2008)
Tracy Dennison (2008)
Ken Pomerantz (2008)
Werner Troesken (2008)
Jari Eloranta (*ex officio*)

Dissertation:

America: Zorina Khan
Elsewhere: Kevin O'Rourke

Local Arrangements

Chair: Timothy Guinnane (2008)
Carolyn Moehling (2008)
Richard Grossman (2008)
Francesca Trivellato (2008)
Jari Eloranta (*ex officio*)

EH.NET Executive

Chair: Price Fishback (2008)
Alan Dye (2008)
Lee Alston (2009)
John Murray (2010)
Alex Field (*ex officio*)
Jari Eloranta (*ex officio*)

Call for Committee Members

Committees play an important role in the workings of the EHA. If you are interested in being considered for membership on a committee, please contact Alex Field, Executive Director, at afield@scu.edu, or any other officer or member of the Board of Trustees.

Officers and Liaisons

President: Alan Olmstead (UC-Davis)
President Elect: Richard Steckel (OSU)
Executive Director: Alexander J. Field (Santa Clara)
Immediate Past Presidents: Paul Hohenberg (RPI), Gary Libecap (UC-Santa Barbara), Roger Ransom (UC-Riverside)
Vice President: Mary MacKinnon (McGill)
Trustees: Lee Craig (NC State), Price Fishback (Arizona), Anne McCants (MIT), Jean-Laurent Rosenthal (CalTech)
Editors: Jeremy Atack (Vanderbilt), Philip Hoffman (CalTech)
Chair, Budget Committee: Howard Bodenhorn (Lafayette)
IEHA Representative: Michael Bordo (Rutgers)

Meetings Coordinator: Jari Eloranta (Appalachian State)

Representatives and Liaisons

International Economic History Association: Michael Bordo (2007), Elyce Rotella (2009)
American Council of Learned Societies: Mary MacKinnon (2010)
NBER: Timothy Guinnane (2011)
Allied Social Science Association: Zorina Khan (2008), Gillian Hamilton (2009)
American Historical Association: Gail Triner (2008), Dan Raff (2009)
Cliometrics Society: Kris Mitchener (2008)
Business History Conference: Will Hausman (2008)
Social Science History Association: Jonathan Liebowitz (2008)
International Society for New Institutional Economics: Avner Greif (2008)
Fifty Years Ago in the *JEH*: 1957

The Soviet Union launched Sputnik I and II in 1957. That same year volume 17 of the *Journal of Economic History* launched a debate over the proper role of theory in the study of economic history. The marriage of theory and history would ultimately lead to the creation of the Cliometrics Society, which held its first meetings, known then as the Purdue University Seminar on the Use of Economic Theory and Statistics in Economic History, three years later.

Editor George Rogers Taylor produced a 611 page volume featuring 20 articles and 143 book reviews. In what is likely the shortest book review ever published in the *JEH*, Taylor reviewed his own book, *The American Railroad Network, 1861-1890*. In full, the review read:

“As the editor of the *Journal of Economic History* I have decided to review this book that has been written by Irene Neu and myself. By this ploy I need not search for a reviewer who can perform the impossible, that is, satisfy both an editor and an author. And I avoid the embarrassment of either a favorable or an unfavorable review. The book attempts to show that the United States and Canada lacked a physically integrated railroad network before the Civil War, why this situation existed, and how and why it was overcome in the postwar decades. Three large maps picture the railroad net as it existed on April 1, 1861, and indicate gauge differences. On the one hand, the discerning reader will find this study useful and stimulating. On the other, he may not.”

Taylor, in his third year of a seven year stint as editor, was joined on the editorial staff by a crew that included future EHA secretary Charles Gilbert (1969-70), future EHA Vice President Muriel Hidy (1969) and future president David Landes (1977). Taylor himself would ascend to the presidency in 1963.

Future and past EHA presidents were also active authors that year. Books were reviewed that were written by Harold Innis (1943-44), Edward Kirkland (1953-54), George Rogers Taylor (1963-64), Harold Williamson (1965-66), Alfred Chandler (1972), and Cynthia Taft Morris (1994).

1957 was the farewell for the “I Love Lucy” show, author Laura Ingalls Wilder, who died on February 10th at the age of 90, and actor Humphrey Bogart (January 20, age 57). It was also the

final of four appearances by Simon Kuznets in the *JEH*.

Among other notable *JEH* authors that year were future presidents Sylvia Thrupp (1974), Allan Bogue (1982), publishing his first *JEH* article, past president Arthur Cole (1945-46) and current president Herbert Heaton. Bogue was one of several authors debuting that year in the *JEH*. 70% of the articles in volume 17 were written by first-time *JEH* authors, more than half of whom would never publish in the *JEH* again.

The December issue included a pair of papers, by Walt Rostow - “The Interrelation of Theory and Economic History,” and John Meyer and Alfred Conrad - “Economic Theory, Statistical Inference, and Economic History.” These papers were discussed by Simon Kuznets, whose essay also appeared. The articles foreshadowed the new direction that economic history was taking. This mix of history with econometrics, while launching a new wave in economic history, was not welcomed with open arms by everyone.

Rostow claimed that there was little to be gained by exhorting the historian to use more theory or the theorist to read more history. He took it for granted that his audience shared this viewpoint and agreed there was no alternative but to use theoretical concepts in trying to make sense of empirical data, past or present. He argued that the most natural meeting place of theory and history was the study of comparative patterns of dynamic change in different societies, focused around the problems of economic growth. Combining the approaches of history and theory would

allow the theorist to teach the historian how he poses questions and the historian to teach the theorist how things really worked.

Meyer and Conrad laid out a prescription for applying the analytic tools of scientific inference to history. They noted that the most frequent objection to the employment of more formal quantitative techniques in historical studies was that there were not enough data of a quantitative nature to permit formal testing of quantifiable hypotheses, and even if these data were available, historical hypotheses were very often of a qualitative or subjective nature and were therefore untestable by quantitative methods and data.

They argued that the first point was not necessarily true. Historians seldom found enough quantitative data because they were not looking for it. They more often were looking for diaries, letters and other contemporary writings, not quantitative records, which were more likely to be found in places historians did not frequent, like government offices, business firms, and savings institutions, to name a few. The second item could be addressed by the use of indirect evidence to verify a hypothesis that cannot be directly verified – an art economic historians have long since perfected.

The first case, the use of quantitative evidence to verify a qualitative hypothesis, is perhaps the most important to the economic historian. Meyer and Conrad set forth their argument for a more theoretical approach to studying history, noting that once the consequences of a hypothesis were thoroughly recognized, data

problems were likely to prove less severe than first believed. Working out the consequences of a hypothesis often reveals that the behavior of a larger number of available quantitative series is relevant to testing it than was initially believed to be the case. Unquestionably, the greatest advantage to using objective probability tests, wherever there is at least reasonable approximation between the assumptions of the models and the actual circumstances which generated the data, is that the tests are widely known and well understood. This greatly simplifies the communication of scientific findings, since the rigidity of the tests minimizes the role of personal predilections or *a priori* attitudes in assessing the empirical results.

In his summary of the discussion that followed the presentation of these papers, Simon Kuznets pointed out that there was no single accepted body of economic theory, which posed a challenge to the incorporation of theory to the study of economic history. Discussants spoke out against Rostow's focus on economic development as the natural field of the economic historian, cautioning that it was too narrow to limit economic history just to growth and development. They cautioned that some social processes are easily measurable (demographic characteristics such as race, age, gender, education), and others were not (e.g. strength of religious feelings, confidence in political stability). Concentration on quantifiable factors in formulating hypotheses may lead to a definite bias in the selection, rendering invalid the statistical results of the model.

The discussants were not united in their feeling about the intersection of

economics and history. Ironically, the theorists tended to be rather skeptical of the value of greater integration between economic theory and economic history, particularly in the use of econometric models and statistical tests, while the historians felt a greater need to rely upon economic theory. Kuznets concluded by saying that in his opinion a greater familiarity with the techniques involved in quantitative measurement in history, despite the shortcomings, would prove to be a definite step forward in an effective integration of economic theory and economic history – a prognostication that turned out to be right on target.



Upcoming Conferences of Interest to Economic Historians

2008 Canadian Network for Economic History Conference

The Canadian Network for Economic History will meet April 18-20, 2008 in Montreal, Quebec. The theme of this year's conference is "Inequality and Economic Development in the Long Run." The keynote speaker will be Jean-Laurent Rosenthal (Caltech). Further information on the venue and programme will be posted on the 2008 CNEH Conference web page (<http://qed.econ.queensu.ca/CNEH/>) as it becomes available.

2008 meetings of the Economic & Business Historical Society

The Economic & Business Historical Society welcomes proposals for presentations on all aspects of business

and economic history at its 33rd annual conference at Montgomery, Alabama April 17-19, 2008. Composed of more than one hundred North American and international members, the Economic & Business Historical Society offers its members and conference participants an opportunity for intellectual interchange within a collegial interdisciplinary group. The Society holds its annual convention in locations of historical significance. Both the annual membership (\$30) and conference registration fees are modest. Papers presented at the conference may be submitted for publication in the Society's peer reviewed journal, Essays in Economic and Business History, edited by Lynne Pierson Doti, Chapman University. Further information is available at the conference website: <http://www.ebhsoc.org/index.htm>.

Economic History Society Annual Conference

The 2008 Annual Conference will be held at the East Midlands Conference Centre, University of Nottingham, Friday 28th until Sunday 30th March. Residential accommodation (both standard and ensuite) will be provided in Rutland Hall, which is located adjacent to the Conference Centre. The conference program is available at <http://www.ehs.org.uk/ehs/conference2008/confprog08.asp>. The deadline for early registration is: 15 February 2008.

Business History Conference

The 2008 annual meeting of the Business History Conference (BHC) will take place April 10-12 in Sacramento, California, hosted by [California State University at Sacramento](http://www.csusm.edu) and the [California State Railroad Museum](http://www.california-railroad-museum.org). "Expanding Connections" is both the

theme and the goal of the 2008 annual meeting. Business-related activities pervade human affairs, yet scholars within business history and those in other disciplines often conceive the field narrowly. This conference will highlight scholarship that expands the field's connections across disciplines and perspectives. Registration for the meetings is available online at <http://www.thebhc.org/annmeet/general08.html>.



Elihu Yale



Department of Economics
University of Wisconsin – La Crosse
1725 State St.
La Crosse, WI 54601

The Sixth World Congress of Cliometrics will be held from Thursday July 17 through Sunday July 20, 2008 at the Dalkeith Palace located near Edinburgh, Scotland. The Program Committee has put together an

international program from the proposals submitted to the conference and will soon post the schedule on the Congress webpage at <http://eh.net/Clio/WCC6/content.html>.

All members of sponsoring organizations are invited to attend. Registration can be completed online at <http://eh.net/Clio/WCC6/registration.html> or by downloading a copy of the registration form from the Congress webpage. As with the Annual Cliometrics Conference and the previous World Congresses, papers will be available in the Congress Book, sent to all participants. Sessions will be held in the traditional Cliometrics Conference format. Rather than formal presentations, authors will provide a brief five-minute introduction of the paper and then the floor will be open for discussion by the session participants. Thus, participants will be expected to have read the papers when they attend the sessions.

Accommodations will be available at Dalkeith Palace, the University of Edinburgh and local hotels. Conference lodging rates are guaranteed only until June 1st and space at some venues is limited, so early registration is encouraged.