

Introduction

ANDREW POPP

Time flies and this issue brings to a close the eighteenth volume of *Enterprise and Society*. Now nearing the end of the third year of my term as Editor-in-Chief, it is a pleasure to find the role just as invigorating and stimulating as I did when I began. I hope our readers agree that the effort is worthwhile.

As is customary, our December issue carries the Business History Conference (BHC) presidential address. This year Walter Friedman, of Harvard Business School, presents an authoritative overview of the development of the field in an article entitled “Recent Trends in Business History Research: Capitalism, Democracy, and Innovation.” As is also customary, this issue carries summaries of the dissertations shortlisted for the Krooss Prize. This year’s finalists were Gerardo Con Diaz, Justene Hill, and Shaun Nichols. Once more, we cannot fail to be impressed by the quality of the work undertaken by these emerging scholars. We wish them well for the future and look forward to watching their development. The 2017 Krooss Prize was won by Gerardo Con Diaz for his thesis, entitled “Intangible Inventions: A History of Software Patenting in the United States, 1945–1985.”

At the same time, we are pleased to be able present a range of fascinating research articles. Jon Stobart invites us to enter those “cathedrals of consumption”: England’s provincial department stores of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Patricio Sáiz and Rafael Castro explore the entangled histories of intellectual property rights and Foreign Direct History in Spain, before Daniel Robert takes us back across the Atlantic to consider how U.S. corporations attempted to leverage customer stock ownership as a political strategy. Karolina Hutkova takes on technology transfers between Europe and India in the context of the East India Company and the Bengal silk industry. Finally, Chenxiao Xia explores the politics of electrifying Kyoto. Thus, in this single issue, we see the truly global reach of business history today.

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