

## THE EDITOR'S CORNER

The Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration and the Newcomen Society in North America announce a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Business History in the amount of \$9,000, to be awarded for twelve-months' residence, study, and research at the Harvard Business School during 1974–1975. The Newcomen Fellowship in Business History of \$5,000 will be awarded for half this period. The remainder of the Fellowship and its associated expenses will be covered by a grant from the Harvard Business School. A stipend of \$1,000 is included to support the Fellow's research activities.

The purpose of this award is to assist a Ph.D. graduate under the age of thirty-five to improve his professional acquaintance with business and economic history, improve his skills as they relate to this field, and to engage in research that will benefit from the resources of the Harvard Business School and the Boston scholarly community. The Fellow's doctoral degree may be in history, economics, or a related discipline such as sociology. The successful applicant will be asked to participate in the School's business history course and seminar and take at least one other formal course of instruction based on his particular needs or interests. He will also be expected to take part during the academic year in some aspect of the Business History Group's activity, such as assisting in the publication of the *Business History Review*. At least half the total time, however, will be available for research of the Fellow's own choosing in the field of business history.

Inquiries should be addressed to Professor Alfred D. Chandler, Jr., Morgan Hall 207, Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration, Boston, Massachusetts 02163. Applicants will be asked to state their purpose in applying for the Fellowship, the specific area in which they would like to do course work, and the topic, objectives, and design for the research to be undertaken. Final applications should be accompanied by graduate school records, letters from three persons in support of the application, and such other evidence as the applicant wishes to submit.

The selection committee, which will be composed of faculty members of the Harvard Business School, will interview candidates where possible and will make its award to the applicant whose background and plans seem most likely to benefit from the resources offered. The successful applicant may begin his twelve-months' residence on either July 1 or September 1, 1974.

Applications must be completed by April 1, 1974. The Fellowship will be awarded and all applicants notified by April 15, 1974. Material submitted with applications will be returned only if accompanied by postage and a self-addressed return envelope.

\* \* \*

At the 1973 meeting of the Business History Conference in Fort Worth, several members expressed interest in exploring the possibility of holding future meetings in conjunction with the Economic History Association. The chief argument in favor of such an arrangement was that it would encourage attendance by the growing number of members whose institutions have reduced or eliminated travel funds. Whether the Conference meeting immediately preceded or followed the EHA meeting, it was argued, attendance at both would be increased, while expense to individuals would be reduced. For those less concerned about travel funds, there seemed to be merit in the idea because it would eliminate an early spring or late winter meeting that adds to a heavy schedule of other professional gatherings at that time of year.

Opposition to the proposal was equally vigorous. The chief argument against it was basically that the Business History Conference has preserved its identity for two decades, has now organized and laid the foundations for new growth, and under the proposed arrangement would be in danger of losing its appeal and independence. Some members flatly stated that the interests of the Conference and EHA were too different to justify such a meeting arrangement. The most skeptical felt that the arrangement would work only to the advantage of the EHA.

Since there seemed to be little likelihood of reconciling such divergent views at the Fort Worth meeting, the question was referred to a committee headed by Arthur M. Johnson of the University of Maine at Orono. At the present time the committee has the matter under consideration and is contemplating a poll of Conference members in the Fall. Readers of the *Business History Review* who attend Conference meetings are invited to send their views on this matter to Professor Johnson, who will share them with his committee.

\* \* \*

The Forest History Society, Santa Cruz, California, has received a two-year \$81,912 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to produce two bibliographic studies of North American forest and conservation history sources.

Principal researchers will be Richard C. Davis and Ronald J. Fahl. Mr. Davis, who will receive his Ph.D. in history this year from the University of California at Riverside, will compile a guide to unpublished sources. An annotated bibliography of published sources will be compiled by Mr. Fahl, a doctoral candidate with the department of history at Washington State University, Pullman, Washington.

The project is scheduled for completion in the spring of 1975. Publication of the two studies is planned for late 1975 or early 1976.

\* \* \*

Old Sturbridge Village wishes to call to the attention of researchers the availability and growing importance of its research collections. The institution specializes in New England life and times, 1790-1840, with an emphasis on rural history. It has a collection of more than 20,000 volumes (including an extensive periodicals list) plus some manuscript holdings. More information is available from Etta Falkner, Librarian, Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Ma. 01566.

\* \* \*

Daniel A. Wren has been named to succeed Ronald B. Shuman as Professor of Management and Curator of the Harry Bass Business and Economic History Collection at the University of Oklahoma effective September 1, 1973. Dr. Wren received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois and has been Professor of Management at Florida State University for the past ten years. The Bass Collection was made possible by a sizeable grant from Harry Bass, an Oklahoma University graduate, who later founded his own independent oil business. The Bass Collection presently comprises some 15,000 volumes, separately quartered in the Bizzell Memorial Library, and is one of the best-known collections in the country in the area of business and economic history.

\* \* \*

John B. Rae, chairman of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Harvey Mudd College, has received a six-month appointment as Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation Senior Resident Scholar beginning in January 1974. Scholars who have held the post since its inception in 1965 include George Rogers Taylor, Brooke Hindle, Hugh G. J. Aitken, Irene D. Neu, and Harold F. Williamson. The current Scholar is Thomas C. Cochran.

Those awarded research Grants-in-Aid at the Eleutherian Mills Historical Library for 1973 are: Mary Pitlick (Washington, D.C.), late nineteenth-century New York social history; Richard McLeod (Shippensburg State College), the social and economic organization of artisans, 1790-1850; Elizabeth Genovese (Harvard University), the French physiocrats; David Kyvig (University of Akron), the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment; Gary Dean (University of Delaware), the duPont woolen venture, 1810-1856; and John Beer (University of Delaware), the nineteenth-century development of "Russian" iron manufacture in the United States.

\* \* \*

The economic and social history of colonial New Jersey will be the theme of the New Jersey Historical Commission's 5th annual New Jersey History Symposium on Saturday, December 1, 1973, at the State Museum Auditorium in Trenton. It will feature papers on seventeenth and eighteenth century agricultural and industrial land riots, and religious and educational institutions.

Speakers will include Edward S. E. Rutsch, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, on "Agrarian and Industrial Plantations in Colonial America: A New Jersey Example"; and Gary S. Horowitz, Associate Professor of History, Alfred University, on "New Jersey Land Riots, 1745-55."

Registration is \$2.00 and luncheon, \$3.00. Registration forms will be available from the Commission in September. Interested persons should address the Commission at State Library, 185 W. State St., Trenton, N.J. 08625.

\* \* \*

Among books recently received but not reviewed are the following: Winthrop and Frances Neilson, *What's News — Dow Jones: Story of the Wall Street Journal* (Chilton Book Company, 1973, \$7.95); Wight Mar-tindale, Jr., *We Do It Every Day: The Story Behind the Success of Levitz*

*Furniture* (Fairchild Publications, 1972, \$12.00); John Hess, *The Mobile Society: A History of the Moving and Storage Industry* (McGraw-Hill, 1973, \$7.95); and Harry Sinclair Drago's beautifully illustrated *Canal Days in America: The History and Romance of Old Towpaths and Waterways* (Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., 1973, \$10.00). Fletcher M. Green's *The Role of the Yankee in the Old South* (University of Georgia Press, 1972, \$6.00), has a few references to businessmen such as Enoch Pratt and Gail Borden.

In addition, readers may wish to look at James McBrearty, *American Labor History and Comparative Labor Movements: A Selected Bibliography* (University of Arizona Press, 1973, \$7.50). This is a selected but not an annotated bibliography. The entries are arranged alphabetically by author according to chronological periods and topical subjects in the American labor history section, and by country in the comparative labor movements section. All entries are from English language publications, and the coverage of American material is much more extensive than the coverage of foreign topics.

\* \* \*

*To the Editor*, Business History Review:

Thomas C. Cochran's review of my book (*Ethnic Enterprise in America*) in your Autumn, 1972 issue is so unfair as to warrant a rejoinder.

First, he prominently mentions the absence of V. V. Oak's *The Negro's Adventure in General Business* from my bibliography thereby implying that my results are based on an inferior standard of scholarship. However, Oak's book is cited in my text at several points, and on page 126 I quote 12 lines from it. I cannot understand how Cochran can have missed this quotation if he read all my text.

Second, he indicates that my work overlooks the problem of "trade credit" and concerns itself instead with the "welfare problems" of minority entrepreneurs. Egad, this encapsulation is simply wrong. My book is vitally concerned with credit — and totally unconcerned with the welfare problems and entrepreneurs.

Third, the remainder of Cochran's review is a rambling recital of the rheumatic opinions of A. L. Harris who wrote on a related subject in 1936. These are not the views of my book but a reader of Cochran's review would think they are.

These inaccuracies and distortions cause me to conclude that, for unspecified reasons, Cochran did not like what he took to be the implications of my analysis and so he decided to lay his ideology on me.

Ivan H. Light  
Assistant Professor of Sociology  
University of California, Los Angeles

*To the Editor*, Business History Review:

In reviewing Professor Light's good book I emphasized the difficulties faced in writing the history of small business, and regretted that no one has attempted the same type of study for white enterprises. On page 20 he talks of the difficulties of all small business in securing bank loans, but, as I noted, does not deal with the special difficulties of blacks in getting

usually essential trade credit from wholesale suppliers or commercial credit companies on the same basis as competing whites.

The absence of the standard history of the Negro in business from the bibliography symbolically suggests the difference in disciplinary approaches to a subject. The business historian is more interested in the changing techniques and structure of business, the sociologist in the customs and welfare of the entrepreneurs as a social group — using welfare in the dictionary not the governmental sense. Both approaches are equally valid and welcome, but I feel sure that a business historian reading *Ethnic Enterprise* will notice the difference.

Thomas C. Cochran  
Franklin Professor of History Emeritus  
University of Pennsylvania

\* \* \*