Letter from the Editors

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Introduction

The Gettysburg College Historical Journal embodies the History Department’s dedication to diverse learning and excellence in academics. Each year, the Journal publishes the top student work which range in topics and approach. For example, David Weimer’s article “Europe’s Little Tiger?: Reassessing Economic Transition in Slovakia under the Mečiar Government,” published in the 2013 edition of the Journal, won the American Historical Association’s Raymond J. Cunningham Prize. In addition, The Historical Journal is primarily a student-run organization. As such, it provides History students opportunities to get involved in the department outside of the classroom. The journal allows students to learn valuable editing, organizational, and leadership skills.

This, the thirteenth edition of the Historical Journal, continues the legacy of past volumes. The following works exemplify the varied interests of the History students here at Gettysburg. These articles explore topics from the Medieval era to Weimar Germany. In his article “This Fire of Contention”: Factional Conflict in Salem Village after 1692,” Shaw Bridges examines the aftermath of the Salem Witch Trials focusing on the accused and their families. Sarah Dell compares and contrasts the Spanish Inquisition with Mary Tudor’s Inquisition in “The Unsuccessful Inquisition in Tudor England.” In “A New Officer for a New Army: The Leadership of Major Hugh J.C. Peirs in the Great War,” Marco Dracopoli examines the changes in the British Expeditionary Force during World War I through the letters of Major John Hugh Chevalier Peirs. Sarah Hayes’ “A Contrary Situation: The Rise of the Military Religious Orders in the Twelfth Century” investigates the contradictions in the militarism of Christian monks during the medieval Crusades. Lastly, in her article “Working Women and Motherhood: Failures of the Weimar Republic’s Family Policies,” Katie Quirin discusses how the welfare policies of the Weimar Republic failed to increase the birth rate among working-class women.

--- Co-Editors-in-Chief
Katie Quirin and Allie Ward