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Letter from the Editor

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Letter from the Editor

FROM THE EDITOR

In 2002, the Department of History at Gettysburg College challenged its students to produce the first issue of an annual, undergraduate historical journal. Each year since that initial call for papers, student historians have eagerly prepared, submitted, revised, and edited their work for publication. Now in its eighth volume, the *Journal* continues to be entirely student-generated. A talented panel of current History majors supervises every step — from soliciting and critiquing papers to assembling and making available the final product. This year, the *Journal* was well served by Savannah Ruth '09, Evan Rothera '10, Lisa Ungemach '11, and Rachel Santose '11. The pages which follow attest not only to the efforts of our students, but to the quality of their advisors in the Department of History. Behind each paper in this issue is not only a talented student, but a supportive advisor.

The lead articles were the co-recipients of the 2008 Edwin T. Greninger '41 Prize in History, an annual award presented for excellence in historical writing. In “Since This is a Horrible Thing to Think About: European Perceptions of Native American Cannibalism,” Evan Rothera '10 attempts to understand how the discovery and exploration of the New World affected the Old. Exploring the writings of Columbus, da Cuneo, and Diego Alvarez Chanca, Rothera explains that Europeans were at once horrified and fascinated by cannibalism. Originally exploited as a justification for the enslavement of indigenous peoples, with time, writers like Jean de Léry and Montaigne used cannibalism to appraise European society. Kathryn O'Hara '10 studies female captivity narratives in colonial New England. Unpacking the conflicting voices of the captives and their male editors, O'Hara argues that these documents provide insight into the social, religious, and political worlds of Puritan New England.

Two shorter pieces follow. In an imaginatively-titled essay, “Sweet Tooth for Empire,” Colin

Walfield '10 examines how colonialism created a new type of consumerism in the British Atlantic World. Miriam Grinberg '11 then recalls Russian literary giant Alexander Pushkin and the efforts he made to come to terms with his past. Pushkin's great-grandfather, Abram Gannibal, was an African slave brought to Russia in the eighteenth century and purchased by Peter the Great. As Grinberg reveals, Pushkin left unfinished a novel, *The Negro of Peter the Great*.

In an article adapted from his well-researched senior thesis, David Putnam Hadley joins the swelling ranks of Eisenhower revisionists. In particular, Hadley considers the Dien Bien Phu crisis and Eisenhower's use of the National Security Council, further buttressing the historian Fred Greenstein's well-known "hidden hand presidency" thesis. The journal concludes with a micro-history authored by Rachel Santose '10 and Sierra Green '10. Santose and Green explore the south side of Chambersburg Street in 1910. Utilizing newspapers, census records, and the archives of the Adams County Historical Society, the authors introduce us to a memorable cast of characters and place them in the context of Gettysburg's expanding economy.

It is my hope that the hard work evident on every page of this journal will inspire other emerging historians to continue — as Simon Schama once wrote — "chasing shadows," hailing voices "around the corner, out of earshot."

BRIAN MATTHEW JORDAN '09

Editor