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## Letter from the Editor

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## Letter from the Editor

### From The Editor

Before I introduce the articles in the Fall 2010 edition of the Gettysburg Historical Journal, I would like to relate a personal anecdote. When I toured Gettysburg College in the summer of 2005, as a rising high school senior, I stopped by Weidensall Hall. Among the multifarious sheets of information and statistics, I received a copy of Fall 2004 edition of the Gettysburg Historical Journal. At the time, I remember thinking how gratifying it would be to have one of my own papers published in the journal. Now, five years later, I have completed my senior year at Gettysburg and have had the opportunity not only to see my own work published, but also to act in the capacity of editor of this journal and provide other students with the similar thrill of seeing their work published. It has been both an honor and a privilege to be the editor of this journal and a job that I will miss. That being said, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the five articles in this year's journal.

Andrea Savadelis, in "*There Was Nothing in Sight but Nature, Nothing...*": *Nineteenth-Century Gendered Perceptions of the Overland Trail*, offers a well-reasoned consideration of the Overland Trail and focuses on the experience of women. Through a careful analysis of many different sources, Savadelis presents readers with a complete perspective of the struggles of women and they traveled on the Overland Trail in search of new lives. Nathan Lanam, in *The Ottoman Gunpowder Empire and the Composite Bow* engages the seeming paradox of a group of Sipahi cavalry who preferred the seemingly primitive compact bow to the more modern guns. With an eye for detail, Lanam constructs a lucid exploration of the similarities and differences between the compact bow and guns in the sixteenth century and explains exactly why the Sipahi preferred compact bows. In a completely different vein, Alexander Allen focuses on the New World and the interactions between the Spanish and the indigenous populations. Allen, in *Credibility and Incredulity: A Critique of Bartolomé de Las Casas's A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*, considers the exaggerations of Las Casas, attempts to understand how they can inform the context, and buttresses his case with accounts by Álvaro Núñez Cabeza de Vaca and Jean de Léry. Colin Walfield, in "*Bloody Outrages of a Most Barbarous Enemy:*" *The Cultural Implications of the Massacre at Fort William Henry* considers two central themes. The first is the massacre at Fort William Henry, where a joint force of French soldiers and their indigenous allies killed the British defenders. Walfield also interprets the wider cultural implications and analyzes how the French and Indians, although allies, displayed radically different concepts of warfare. Finally, the journal concludes with an article by Miriam Grinberg, entitled *The Struggle to Create Soviet Opera*. Grinberg provides the reader with an excellent overview of the quest to create a unique form of Soviet opera and delineates the setbacks, problems, trials, and tribulations involved in this quest.

It is my hope that readers will find these articles enlightening and enriching.

Evan Rothera  
Gettysburg, Spring 2010