



2016

Letter from the Editors

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Fernandes, Melanie L.; Nadeau, Ryan M.; and Vayansky, Sophia D. (2016) "Letter from the Editors," *The Gettysburg Historical Journal*: Vol. 15, Article 3.

Available at: <https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/ghj/vol15/iss1/3>

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Letter from the Editors

Abstract

The *Gettysburg Historical Journal* embodies the History Department's dedication to diverse learning and excellence in academics. Each year, the *Journal* publishes the top student work in a range of topics across the spectrum of academic disciplines with different methodological approaches to the study of history. In the words of Marc Bloch, author of *The Historian's Craft*, "history is neither watchmaking nor cabinet construction. It is an endeavor toward better understanding." In the spirit of this maxim, our authors strive to elucidate the many facets of human societies and cultures. Whether these young scholars' research is focused on politics, religion, economics, environmental history, or women, gender, and sexuality studies, and the editorial staff is consistently proud of the diverse subject matter we select for publication. [*excerpt*]

Letter from the Editors

The *Gettysburg Historical Journal* embodies the History Department's dedication to diverse learning and excellence in academics. Each year, the *Journal* publishes the top student work in a range of topics across the spectrum of academic disciplines with different methodological approaches to the study of history. In the words of Marc Bloch, author of *The Historian's Craft*, "history is neither watchmaking nor cabinet construction. It is an endeavor toward better understanding." In the spirit of this maxim, our authors strive to elucidate the many facets of human societies and cultures. Whether these young scholars' research is focused on politics, religion, economics, environmental history, or women, gender, and sexuality studies, and the editorial staff is consistently proud of the diverse subject matter we select for publication.

With the assistance of the *Cupola*, Gettysburg College's online research repository, and the distinguished college faculty, our authors' work has received both serious scholarly attention and national accolades. Past authors have also gone on to publish follow-up work in refereed journals, and to present their work at undergraduate and professional conferences. *The Historical Journal* is primarily a student-run organization, and as such, it provides undergraduate students with a unique opportunity to gain valuable experience reviewing, editing, and organizing academic articles for publication. In all cases, authors and editors have also

had the opportunity to apply these skills to their future careers, or to their work as graduate students.

This fifteenth edition of the *Historical Journal* continues the tradition of scholarly rigor of past volumes, while broadening both the diversity of historical perspectives and the methodologies employed by each author. Each of the following works selected for this edition exemplifies the varied interests of the History students at Gettysburg College. In her article, "'Where We May Oftener Converse Together': Translation of Written and Spoken Communication in Colonial Pennsylvania," Jenna Fleming examines the impact of language barriers and translation difficulties on the relationships between Native Americans and European colonists on the Pennsylvania frontier.

Ryan M. Nadeau's article "Creating a Statesman: The Early Life of Prince Clemens von Metternich and its Effect on his Political Philosophy" sheds light on Prince Clemens von Metternich's formative years and how his early life shaped his Metternichian principles.

In "Virtus in the Roman World: Generality, Specificity, and Fluidity," Kyle Schrader explores the evolving definition of the Roman concept of *virtus* through the Roman Republic. He argues that, over time, the definition of *virtus* shifted from a concept with many loose definitions of morality and character to one that was exclusively used to define those who were successful.

In his article, "The Desperate Rebels of Shimabara: The

Economic and Political Persecutions and the Tradition of Peasant Revolt," Jake Farias examines the Shimabara Rebellion in Tokugawa Japan, building a narrative connection between Christian resistance to the Tokugawa government and the strife of Japan's impoverished peasants. Through his examination, he explores the causes of the rebellion and seeks to contextualize it among other rebellions of the era.

In "'Under the auspices of peace": The Northwest Indian War and its Impact on the Early American Republic," Melanie L. Fernandes analyzes the influence of the Northwest Indian War on early American policy, arguing that the conflict led to reforms which, ultimately, strengthened the federal government's power. Collectively, these articles not only show the hard work and careful research of our student authors, but they also exemplify the diverse interests of our students and the many research opportunities available to them at Gettysburg College.

The General Editors,

Melanie L. Fernandes
Ryan M. Nadeau
Sophia D. Vayansky