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Letter from the Editors

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Abstract

Even amid the Covid-19 pandemic, *The Gettysburg Historical Journal* has not forgotten its commitment to publishing the best of undergraduate research. We are heartened to witness students' continued dedication to excellent work in an array of historical topics. Despite the difficulties we still face—mental and emotional exhaustion, shuttered archives, limited in-person research opportunities—we received a particularly high volume of submissions this year. We are proud to present work from our peers at Gettysburg and around the world in this twentieth edition of our journal. Through the stories we encounter in the past, we gain insight into the human experience in a variety of contexts and receive the tools to work towards a better present and future.

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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 gone on to publish follow-up work in refereed journals, and to present their work at undergraduate and professional conferences. *The Gettysburg 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 their work as graduate students.

Each of the following works selected for this twentieth edition of *The Gettysburg Historical Journal* exemplifies the varied interests of undergraduate historians and their dedication to broadening the scope of historical analysis:

Chinaza K. Asiegbu's essay, "From Uneven Bars to Uneven Barriers: The Marginalization of Black Women in Gymnastics," uses the sport of gymnastics as a case study to demonstrate the ways in which black women have historically been excluded from what are regarded as "feminine sports." She argues that black female gymnasts have been historically marginalized from mainstream gymnastics on the basis of finances and white conceptions of femininity, both of which are crucial to success in the realm of gymnastics.

Vamika Jain's essay, "Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia: An Extraordinary Success or an Ordinary Failure?" examines the expanded role of international tribunals in the prosecution of the Khmer Rouge regime, suggests that justice can exist outside a court's verdict, and critiques the perception that the Extraordinary Chambers completely failed to deliver justice to Pol Pot's victims.

Bridget B. Kennedy's paper, "From Georgian England to the Arctic: Gender and Cultural Transformation in the Samuel Hearne Expeditions (1769-1772)," suggests that English explorer Samuel Hearne underwent a cultural change over the course of his three trips to the Arctic, and by the end of his journey no longer viewed himself superior to the region's Athabaskan natives because of his European origins. He returned to Europe with a more balanced view of indigenous culture and continues to be studied for his unique cultural perspective.

Hannah Labovitz's essay, "The Complex Relationship between Jews and African Americans in the Civil Rights Movement," argues that the African American and Jewish communities were bonded by a similar exclusion from mainstream American society and a historic empathetic connection that would carry on into the mid-twentieth century; however, beginning in the late 1960s, the partnership between the groups eventually faced challenges and began to dissolve, only to resurface again in the twenty-first century.

Joy Zanghi's essay, "Hans Staden's *Warhaftige Historia*: Protestant Identity in a Tale of Brazilian Captivity," assesses the German Protestant Hans Staden's experience as a captive of the Brazilian Tupinambá in the 1550s. *Warhaftige Historia*, a highly political and propagandistic piece, served the purpose of affirming

Staden's loyalty to Hessian Prince Philipp and the Protestant faith after spending many years outside of his native land.

This edition of *The Gettysburg Historical Journal* also includes two feature pieces written by Prof. Michael Birkner and Prof. Ian Isherwood on the challenges of teaching and researching virtually amid the pandemic.

The General Editors,

Lillian D. Shea

Christopher T. Lough