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## Letter from the Editors

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### Abstract

We are proud to present this year's twenty-first edition of The Gettysburg Historical Journal. Having spent the last two years working with each other and our authors over Zoom, the chance to meet in person with student editors and faculty advisors has given us an experience that the current editorial board has not had in the past. Despite the difficulties we continue to face since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic—mental exhaustion, uncertainty towards the future—we have been lucky enough to receive submissions from many Gettysburg College students, as well as a substantial number from undergraduate students outside of our area. Through the works we have accepted this year, we gain knowledge of history through difference perspectives and learn how these narratives reveal new information about our past.

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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 and national attention. Past authors have published follow-up work in refereed journals and presented their work at undergraduate and professional conferences. *The Gettysburg Historical Journal* is a student-run organization, providing undergraduate students with an opportunity to gain valuable experience in 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.

The following works we have selected for this year's edition of *The Gettysburg Historical Journal* demonstrate the varied interests and abilities of undergraduate historians, as well as their dedication to examining history from different perspectives:

Ziv Carmi's essay, "Monuments of Legitimacy 17<sup>th</sup> Century Tokugawa-Sponsored Architecture as Political Objects," aims to synthesize art history, historical memory, and Tokugawa-era Japanese politics with an art-history approach and cultural analysis, taking a more complete look at the politics of Tokugawa Ieyasu's death and the significance of memorial and religious architecture as political works. It examines the utilization of architecture as a way to elevate and legitimize the Tokugawa, demonstrating that policy was not the only way for the Tokugawa to solidify their legacy and suggesting that key figures like Ieyasu were more important to the religious and political structures of Tokugawa Japan in death than they were in life.

Reese Hollister's essay, "Lenses, Focus, and Fluidity: Lessons from Medieval Queer History," looks to examine the field of Queer and Transgender studies from an overlooked period in its history, given a recent shift in focus that has revealed new discoveries and interpretations. This historiographical analysis

posits that in the Middle Ages, gender and sexuality were much more fluid than previously believed.

Gavin Maziarz's essay, "The Spartacus Rebellion: More Than a Slave Revolt," is a short exploration of the Spartacus Revolt as a multi-faceted revolt based off primary documents from the period of and following the revolt.