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## Letter from the Editors

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Class of 2015

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### **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, the editorial staff is consistently proud of the diverse subject matter we select for publication. [excerpt]

**The Gettysburg Historical Journal**  
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**Foreword**

The *Gettysburg College 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, 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, or to present their work at undergraduate and professional academic 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 fourteenth 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 exemplify the varied interests of the History students at Gettysburg College. In his article, "On

the Ruin and Conquest of Britain,” Brian Caswell analyzes the medieval historiography of a seminal event in the history of the British Isles: the departure of Roman cultural influence in the face of Anglo-Saxon immigration. A comparison of the textual record with the physical record uncovered by modern archaeological study reveals several discrepancies, and this article seeks to explain their origins. In “The Bicycle Boom and Women’s Rights,” Jenna Fleming examines the connection between the rise in the bicycle’s popularity among women in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century United States. She argues that women’s use of the bicycle became the nexus for political and cultural conflict over the expansion of women’s rights during this period. The article also considers the opportunities the bicycle presented to women, popular criticism and support of its use, and the reactionary opposition to women’s dress reform.

In her article “Water, Bison, and Horses: Natural Resources and their Impacts on Native Raids and Relations in Late Spanish Colonial New Mexico,” Dori Gorczyca analyzes the effects of environmental factors, such as the availability of natural resources, on the history of New Mexico during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The article argues that the desire for and conflict over natural resources directly impacted the frequency of nomadic raids on Spanish and Pueblo settlements, ultimately playing a crucial role in creating the settlement patterns and social interactions of the area. Finally, in her examination of the agency of militant civil rights activism of black First World War veterans, S. Marianne Johnson adds complexity to the narrative of the race riots during the ‘Red Summer’ of 1919 in her article, “Learning the Fighting Game: Black Americans and the First World War.” 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 undergraduate students and the many research opportunities available to them at Gettysburg College.

The General Editors,

R. Shaw Bridges

Melanie L. Fernandes