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From the Editor

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The Editorial Board is pleased to present the second issue of the sixteenth volume of the *Penn History Review*. The *Review* continues to publish outstanding undergraduate papers based on original primary research. This issue of the *Review* focuses on cultural history – its argot, its origins and its execution.

To this end, the *Review* features an article, published in English for the first time, by Professor Roger Chartier. In it he offers an appraisal of cultural history. Even though cultural history has yet to become institutionalized, through its varied research practices, criteria of evidence and models of understanding of history, it has drastically transformed the practice of History. Justin Shelby, a third year student at the University of Chicago, explores the triumphs and perils of translation through an analysis and translation of the *Iliad* and the *Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite*. In keeping with tradition, this issue of the *Review* features the abstracts of honors theses produced by graduating seniors. Part of this program is the crafting of intellectual autobiographies, an exercise in drawing forth the concrete from the abstract, so that students can understand why it is they practice History. One of the supervisors for the program, Professor Ronald Granieri, has generously allowed his own personal intellectual autobiography to be included along with the abstracts. In addition, the *Review* offers four student essays on topics ranging from the Spanish Golden Age to the Age of Orientalism, and from the horrors of the Holocaust to the dreams of Carolingian kings.

“The Eternal Quest: Justice and Don Quixote in Sixteenth Century Spain” compares the conceptions of Justice posed by Don Quixote and Sancho Panza in Cervantes’ novel to the past, present and future of the legal system in sixteenth century Spain and deconstructs the novel as a systematic critique of the recently changed social and legal hierarchy in the country.

In “Orientalism and American Popular Culture,” Naomi Rosenblatt dismantles the traditional narrative surrounding American involvement in the pre-World War II Middle East, offering a novel lens through which to gauge America’s complex relationship with the region. In contrast to the long-held assumption that the American interest in the late nineteenth century Middle

East was merely a missionary one, Rosenblatt documents the convergence of consumer culture and Orientalism in late nineteenth century America. Drawing on a host of new sources from travelogues, to major department stores exhibiting the presumed latest fashions from the region, to early Hollywood films that epitomized the optics of Orientalism, this paper argues that corporate America exploited the aesthetics of Orientalism to promote a burgeoning consumer culture, and shrewdly used the evolving consumer preoccupation with the Middle Eastern Orient as an expression of a distinctly American cultural superiority.

Records of dreams appear surprisingly often in documents from the Carolingian era. Though the dreams serve a variety of purposes, dreaming as a source of revelation is deeply embedded in Christian tradition. Hannah Marcus addresses a number of dream accounts from the eight to tenth centuries, in the process demonstrating how each contributes to an understanding of the mutually reinforcing relationship between Christianity and the Carolingian Empire.

Thomas Dreisbach examines how, by the late 1970s, both the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany found themselves at remarkably similar moments in terms of Holocaust remembrance, despite their vast contextual differences. Indeed, for a variety of reasons, both nations sat perched before a major breakthrough in public discussions of the Holocaust after several decades largely characterized by silence. In both of these contexts, the nine-and-a-half hour NBC miniseries *Holocaust: The Story of the Family Weiss* marked a watershed moment in Holocaust remembrance, both due to its commercial success, and because of its radically new treatment of the subject matter. A comparative examination of the presentation, media receptions, public reactions, and political implications of the miniseries in the United States and the Federal Republic yields a detailed look into the complex mechanics of Holocaust remembrance. The ultimately decisive nature of identity (both experienced and inherited) in creating and maintaining “collective memory” truly reveals itself in the comparative perspective.

The collection and publication of these papers was the collaborative effort of many individuals. The *Review* would like to thank the many members of the history faculty who encouraged their students to submit essays for publication. The Editorial Board would like to especially thank Dr. Ann Moyer, the undergraduate chair of the History Department, for her continued support, and Dr. Susan Miller, the undergraduate departmental advisor, for her guidance. Finally, we thank the University of Pennsylvania and the

History Department in particular for its financial support of the *Review*, its efforts to foster undergraduate research, and the commitment of its faculty to cultivating future historians.

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Editor-in-Chief