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Letter from the Editors

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Letter from the Editors:

Gideon Spitzer and Emily Kern

The Editorial Board is pleased to present the first issue of the eighteenth volume of the Penn History Review, the Ivy League's oldest undergraduate history journal. The Review continues to publish outstanding undergraduate papers based on original primary research. The Board is proud to feature scholarship that maintains the University of Pennsylvania's tradition of insightful and diverse historiography. These papers span not only centuries and geographic regions, but also disciplines in the study of history. The authors published in this issue approach their historical inquiries with a particular respect to the larger theme of transformation. In addition to providing four exemplary student essays, this issue of the Review features a special introductory essay by Professor of Modern European History, Dr. Jonathan Steinberg.

We are honored to publish an incisive essay by the University of Pennsylvania's very own Professor Jonathan Steinberg that traces the intellectual and psychological development of Otto von Bismarck. The piece begins with the question: "how did a giant of a man, a rural aristocrat with no military credentials, a record of failure and irresponsibility in normal jobs, and a dissolute life-style, became the great Bismarck of history?" Dr. Steinberg begins to answer this and other questions about the man he calls "the most interesting character of the nineteenth century." The essay represents an excellent introduction to Professor Steinberg's new book, *Bismarck: A Life* (Oxford University Press, February 2011).

Our second piece, written by University of Pennsylvania undergraduate Emily Mullin, explores the transformational 1838 production of *King Lear* by William Macready as a unique moment of unity between scholars and thespians. This 1838 version of *Lear* set the foundation for centuries of further *Lear* exploration – both on and offstage – by incorporating contemporary critiques of the play and revealing Macready's particular interpretation of the play. This piece offers an exciting examination of the way scholarship interacts with art in order to reshape understandings of even the most canonical works.

Kwang-Yew See, a University of Pennsylvania undergraduate, authored

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the third essay in the Fall 2010 edition: The Downfall of General Giraud: A Study in Wartime Politics. See's piece investigates the diplomatic intrigue surrounding the American, and to a lesser extent the British decision to support General Jean Giraud in his duel for control of the French Resistance with General Charles de Gaulle. The essay surveys the evolving British approach to the Giraud despite his unwavering American support, juxtaposed upon the personal struggle between Giraud and de Gaulle.

Our fourth piece, Transformation of Jewish Identity in the Soviet Union by University of Pennsylvania undergraduate Anna Vinogradov, probes the evolution of Jewish identity in the USSR in the face of murderous campaigns by both Stalin's regime and German invaders. The essay discusses the ways Soviet nationality policy influenced and coexisted with historic identity patterns of Soviet Jews. In particular, Vinogradov traces the process by which official Soviet atheism led to the Soviets to classify a historically religious group as a national one, forcing Soviet Jews to reconcile their religious past with an imposed nationalist identity.

The fifth and final article, by Brady Lonegran, begins by exploring the variable and sometimes arbitrary application of the term "bandit" by Roman authors to agents acting outside the traditional aegis of the state. Lonegran uses Sallust's The Jurgurthine War to engage with problems of the definitional ambiguity: although Jugurtha's fighting style matched that of most contemporaneous bandits, his status as ruler of a client-kingdom made him officially a rebel, while the official declarations of war by the Senate were more appropriate to a formal external foe.

The collection and publication of these papers represents 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. Kathy Peiss, the undergraduate chair of the History Department, for her continued support, and Dr. Jonathan Steinberg, for his essay submission. Finally, we thank the University of Pennsylvania and the History Department for their generous financial support of the Review, efforts to foster undergraduate research, and commitment to cultivating future historians.

Gideon Spitzer Emily Kern

Editors-in-Chief