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Letter from the Editor

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

On behalf of the editorial board, I am proud to present the Spring 2017 edition of the *Penn History Review*. Since its inception over twenty-five years ago, the *PHR* has dedicated itself to promoting the work of undergraduate history students at the University of Pennsylvania and schools across the nation. In this issue, you will find a diverse selection of papers that cover topics from nineteenth-century Great Britain to America in the 1960s, addressing questions of diplomacy, identity, and the role of the press. Each one of these works exemplifies the core values of the *Penn History Review*: originality, thorough research, and high-quality writing. We hope that they provide both intellectual engagement and an enjoyable read.

In our first article, “*Art Treasures*” and the *Aristocracy: Public Art Museums, Exhibitions, and Cultural Control in Victorian Britain*, Julia Fine examines the role of the aristocracy in shaping displays of public art in Victorian Britain. Using parliamentary records, newspaper articles, and art-related treatises, she traces the evolution of projects such as the South Kensington Museum and the Great Exhibition of 1851. Her work also explores the work of government committees and reports, indicating that the state was interested in controlling these public displays. The paper reveals that aristocrats still held some sway in the art world, but their influence significantly decreased throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century.

The next piece is David Murrell’s *An Affair on Every Continent: French Reaction to the Foreign Press during the Dreyfus Affair*. The work analyzes the infamous case of Alfred Dreyfus, whose story captivated France and the world from 1894 to 1906. Focusing on the role of the media, Murrell shows that the French government was largely unable to censor discussion of the affair in the international press, although it was successful in suppressing

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some theater productions. Moreover, he demonstrates that the affair served as a preview of the mass media pressures that would become prevalent in twentieth-century European states.

The third paper, *Gin, Gentlemen, and Generational Conflict*, was written by Chloé Nurik. Relying on a wide array of primary source documents, she highlights changing notions of masculinity among college students in 1920s America. Her work details the traditions and rituals that were prevalent at schools such as Harvard, Yale, and Penn during this time period. In addition, the article traces the impact of fraternities, college sports, and other influential extracurricular activities. Ultimately, she finds that young men preserved key aspects of character-based masculinity, while also incorporating modernized elements such as physical appearance and social popularity.

In *The Big Stick Split in Two: Roosevelt vs. Hay on the Anglo-American Relationship*, William Shirey provides a compelling analysis of the relationship between the United States and Great Britain during the Roosevelt administration. In particular, he uses the Alaskan boundary crisis of the early 1900s as a lens to examine the diplomatic approaches of Theodore Roosevelt and his Anglophilic secretary of state, John Hay. The paper concludes that President Roosevelt's belligerence often threatened relations between the two countries, and thus other members of his administration played a more important role in rapprochement than historians have acknowledged.

Our final piece, *"We of the South": President Lyndon Johnson, Jonathan Worth Daniels, and the Re-Southernization of the White House*, was authored by Simon Panitz from the University of North Carolina. He focuses on the complex relationship between Lyndon Johnson and North Carolina newspaper editor Jonathan Worth Daniels, who worked to help the president carry the Tar Heel State in the election of 1964. Panitz explores the personal backgrounds of both Johnson and Daniels, with particular emphasis on the influence of their fathers. The article also highlights the collaborative nature of the relationship between

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the two men, as they worked together to promote civil rights in the 1960s.

In addition to these works, we have included abstracts from the senior honors theses of several Penn history majors. The thesis program is a year-long commitment that requires intensive research, original historical analysis, and tremendous dedication. By including these abstracts, we hope to showcase the outstanding scholarship that these students have produced over the past year. Congratulations to all of the seniors who completed this formidable challenge!

The editorial board would also like to thank a number of people who helped make this edition possible. We are extremely grateful to Dr. Siyen Fei, the Undergraduate Chair of the History Department, and Dr. Yvonne Fabella, the department's Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies. Both of them have provided helpful guidance and insight throughout the editing and publishing process. We would also like to thank the faculty members at Penn and other universities who promoted our publication, in addition to the many students who submitted their excellent work for consideration. Thank you as well to each one of our authors, who worked tirelessly to refine their articles for publication.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of our editors for their exceptionally hard work on this edition of the *Penn History Review*. We will greatly miss our graduating seniors, Andrés De Los Ríos, Aaron Mandelbaum, Gregory Olberding, and Dan Thompson. Their enthusiasm for history and commitment to publishing excellent scholarship have helped shape the *PHR* over the past several years. I am especially indebted to Aaron, our Editor-in-Chief *emeritus*, for his invaluable advice and assistance over the course of this semester. Without his dedication, this edition would not have been possible. At the same time, we are excited to welcome on two new editors, Julia Barr and Helen Berhanu, who have already made a positive impact on our journal.

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Congratulations again to all of the authors and editors who contributed to this edition of the *Penn History Review*!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Torcello". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being the most prominent.

Michael J. Torcello
Editor-in-Chief