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Letter from the Editor

Eden Vance
University of Pennsylvania

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

On behalf of the entire editorial board, I am honored to present the latest issue of the Penn History Review. Since 1991, the Penn History Review has been dedicated to promoting the study of history amongst undergraduate students. Since its founding, PHR has published exceptional historical scholarship written by students at the University of Pennsylvania as well as schools across the United States and beyond. Our Fall 2021 edition exemplifies the diversity of study within our field. It includes articles that explore dynamic topics such as canon law in Anglo-Norman France, Jewish communities in seventeenth century Istanbul, Emperor Julian's opposition to Christianity, and intellectualism during the twilight years of the Qing dynasty. Together, these pieces manifest the core values of our publication: curiosity, critical thinking, a dedication to research, and most importantly a passion for history. Our entire editorial team deeply enjoyed working with the authors and editing these papers. We hope that you will find them thought-provoking and enjoy reading them as much as we did!

Our first article, "*L'Advocacie Nostre Dame* and the Professionalization of Canon Law practice and Education in Fourteenth Century Anglo-Norman France," is authored by Sumant Rao. He analyzes how the fourteenth century *L'Advocacie Nostre Dame* reflects and satirizes the changing legal norms in France at the time. He also examines the poem as a case study of a broader set of texts known as *processus Sathanae* (Satan's lawsuit).

In the next article, "A Network of Communities: Jews, Communal Boundaries, and Movement in Seventeenth-Century Istanbul," Elyakim Engelmann-Suissa looks at the Jewish community of seventeenth century Istanbul. Through the use of a body of literature called *responsa*, in which rabbis answer questions posed to them, he highlights the ways that

Jews interacted with each other and with non-Jews. He also investigates the different groups of Jews within Istanbul itself as well as how those groups relate to Jewish communities elsewhere.

In the third paper, “Anti-Christian Rhetoric and Neoplatonic Thought in *Against the Galileans*,” Carson R. Greene of Emory University examines the struggle between pagans and Christians in the fourth century AD. He does so primarily through a close reading of Emperor Julian’s *Against the Galileans* (Galilean being a synonym for Christian at the time). He traces the literary history of Julian’s work back to Neoplatonist philosophers. Additionally, he analyzes the rhetorical struggle between the two as both groups generate justificatory literature in response to arguments made by their opponents.

Our fourth and final piece, “Zhang Taiyan’s Response to Evolutionary History and His Revolutionary Discourse,” comes from Chunhao Luo of University College London. In his work, he analyzes the intellectual tradition of the last year of the Qing dynasty, with a particular focus on one thinker: Zhang Taiyan. He traces Zhang Taiyan’s life trajectory and evolution of his ideas. In doing so, he explicitly draws a connection between Zhang Taiyan and European and Japanese thinkers and ideologies, repudiating the idea that Qing China was intellectual isolated.

The editorial board would also like to thank a number of people without whom this edition of the PHR would not have been possible. Our publication only exists thanks to the generous support of the Penn History Department who continues to support and fund us each year. As of this year (2021), our publication is thirty years old, a milestone we would never have been able to reach without the support of the Penn History Department.

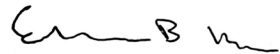
In particular, we are extremely grateful to Dr. Ramya Sreenivasan, the Undergraduate Chair of the department, and

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Dr. Yvonne Fabella, the Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies. They have both offered invaluable guidance and encouragement throughout the editing and publishing processes. The dedication they have for both their students and field of study is an inspiration. In addition, we would like to thank the faculty members at Penn and other universities who promoted our publication, as well as all of the students who submitted papers for consideration. This edition would not exist without your support. Thank you as well to our contributing authors, who worked patiently and diligently to refine their articles for publication.

Finally, I would like to thank our editors for their exceptionally hard work on this issue of the Penn History Review. In particular, I would like to recognize the six new editors we were especially fortunate to have added to the board this semester: Bianca Serbin, Alfredo Praticò, Mathew Chemplayil, Olivia McClary, Augustus Otto Kindel, and Henry McDaniel. They have already made a positive impact on our journal.

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



Eden Vance
Editor-in-Chief