

## *Editors' Notes*

IN MEMORIAM  
MOSES ABRAMOVITZ  
1912–2000

It is with much sadness that we bring news of the passing of Moses Abramovitz, our esteemed colleague and dear friend, who died on 1 December at the Stanford University Hospital, just a month before reaching his eighty-ninth birthday. He had been hospitalized with a gastroenterological condition for one week, during most of which time he remained alert and conversational; then succumbed to a sudden, unexpected infection.

“Moe” Abramovitz was an important figure in twentieth-century American economics, who, over the course of a long and distinguished academic career, gained international admiration and renown for his fundamental insights and pioneering technical contributions to the study of long-term economic growth. He also was one of the primary builders of the Department of Economics at Stanford University, which he joined in the fall of 1948. For the next 26 years Abramovitz taught at Stanford, taking leave only during 1962/63 to work at the OECD Development Center in Paris, and served two separate terms as chair at critical junctures in the department’s history. Following his retirement from the William Robertson Coe Professorship in American Economic History in 1977, he continued his active participation in Stanford’s intellectual life throughout the final quarter of the century—participating regularly in economic-history seminars, maintaining a steady program of research and writing, editing the *Journal of Economic Literature*, and undertaking a variety of public-service roles.

A bountiful harvest of academic honors came to Abramovitz in this later stage of his career. At home he was elected to the presidency of the American Economic Association (1979/80), the Western Economic Association (1988/89), and the Economic History Association (1992/93). From abroad came honorary doctorates from the University of Uppsala in Sweden (1985), and the University of Ancona in Italy (1992); he took special enjoyment from an invitation to become a fellow of the prestigious *Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei* in 1991—“following Galileo,” with a lag, he said, with a characteristic self-deprecatory twinkle.

Yet, this was not simply a time for gathering in the rewards of scholarly distinction; the sowing and cultivation of new ideas and the tedious work of bringing them to fruition through publication also had to be carried forward. Indeed, Abramovitz’s 1986 journal article entitled “Catching up, Forging Ahead and Falling Behind,” which currently is the second most-cited among all the papers published by the *Journal of Economic History*, was presented the year before at the EHA’s Annual Meeting in New York, when its author was in his seventy-seventh year. And, this past fall Moe was gratified by the appearance in Volume 3 of *The Cambridge Economic History of the United States* of his co-authored 92-page chapter, “American Macroeconomic Growth in the Era of Knowledge-Based Progress: The Long-Run Perspective.”

Although his health had been in decline, and his spirit never fully recovered from the loss of his life partner, the sculptor and artist Carrie Abramovitz, who died in October 1999, Moe remained mentally vigorous, productive, and dependably entertaining company to the end.

PAUL DAVID AND GAVIN WRIGHT

IN MEMORIAM  
HAROLD GOODHUE VATTER  
1910–2000

Harold Goodhue Vatter died on 8 September in his Portland, Oregon home. He was 89 years old and remained active in his field, teaching until a few weeks before his death. After receiving a Ph.D. in Economics at University of California, Berkeley, where he was Head Teaching Fellow, he taught at Oregon State University and Carleton College. Vatter also was a Lilly Faculty Research Fellow at the University of Chicago. He came to Portland State in 1965 where he taught American Economic History and the History of Economic Thought. He was the author of more than a dozen books in his field, as well as hundreds of articles and book reviews. A memorial chamber music concert was held at Portland State University on the ninetieth anniversary of Vatter's birth, 18 December.

IN MEMORIAM  
TREVOR DICK  
1934–2001

Trevor Dick was found dead of a heart attack at his home in Lethbridge, Canada 28 January. He will be sorely missed by family, friends, colleagues, and the University of Lethbridge Singers, of which he was a longtime member.

Dick received his Ph.D. from the University of Washington in 1970, taught at the University of Western Ontario until 1976, then joined the faculty of the Economics Department of the University of Lethbridge, from which he retired in 2000.

Dick was an active and productive participant in the Economic History Association, the Canadian Association, the Cliometric Society, Canadian Clio, and the International History Association for more than 30 years. He was in the midst of organizing a session for the upcoming international meetings in Buenos Aires. Please contact Barry Eichengreen if you are interested in helping that session go forward in Trevor's memory.

EDITORS' REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2000

In July 2000 Jan de Vries and Heath Pearson became the senior co- and assistant editors. Their first leadership initiative was revision of the style sheet to remove outdated requirements. Gavin Wright at Stanford University succeeded Gary Libecap as the new editor for the North American side, retaining Susan Isaac as his assistant. Gavin has also tapped Scott Wilson of the Social Science History Institute for coordination within this geographically dispersed editorial office and editorial assistance. All of the editors join the members of the association in thanking Gary Libecap for his four years of dedicated service to the JOURNAL.

1999/2000 saw a small increase in new submissions relative to last year from 90 to 92. As Figure 1 shows, the number of submissions for the last 20 years shows a downward trend.

Tables 1 through 3 show the distribution of new submissions by topic, region, and era. Each of these measures of the scope of the JOURNAL'S coverage reflects a continuation of the breadth that is a central goal of this publication.

The increase from 90 to 92 in new submissions was more than offset by the decline in resubmissions from 67 to 40 and meant that the offices handled 27 fewer papers than last year. The editors are curious about this decline in resubmissions. One possibility is that our invitations to resubmit have become sterner and more demanding; another is that a large overhand of papers under revision are about to descend on the editorial offices. For all submissions and resubmissions for the year, the acceptance rate declined from 28 to 26 percent, the revise-and-

resubmit rate declined from 30 to 29 percent, and the rejection rate increased from 42 to 45 percent.

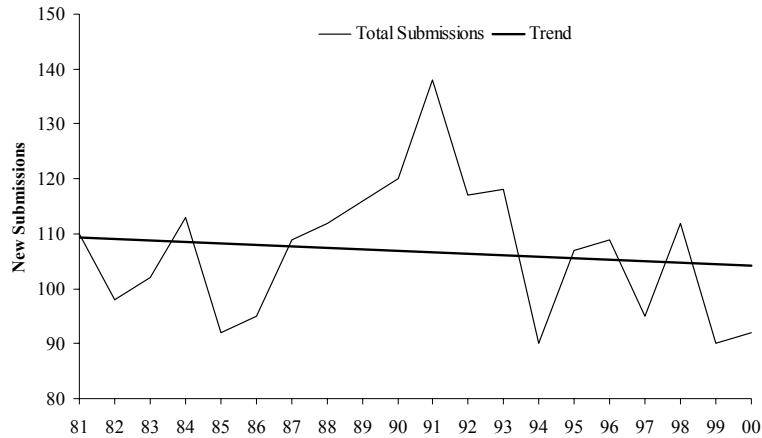


FIGURE 1  
TRENDS IN NEW SUBMISSIONS, 1980/81–1999/2000

Source: The yearly totals were taken from the published Editors' Notes.

TABLE 1  
REGULAR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS BY WORLD AREA, BROKEN DOWN BY TOPIC,  
JULY 1999–JUNE 2000 (totals)

Topic	July 1997–June 1998		July 1998–June 1999		July 1999–June 2000	
	North America	All Other Regions	North America	All Other Regions	North America	All Other Regions
Agriculture	4	4	3	7	5	7
Demography	6	5	3	5	5	0
Growth	1	7	0	10	0	2
Industry	8	2	7	2	5	0
Technology	3	3	2	1	0	1
Labor	6	2	4	4	5	11
Money and macro	5	5	8	7	5	6
Public finance	2	4	0	4	3	3
History of thought	1	3	0	1	0	0
International trade, finance	2	8	3	2	3	4
Urban and regional	1	0	2	1	1	1
Political economy	9	7	7	9	11	6
Private finance, capital markets	6	8	5	4	4	5
Total	54	58	44	46	46	46

Note: The numbers include new submissions only. The totals equal the number of new submissions received because a paper is classified in only one topic category. In the latest year, the North American office had 64 total submissions, 46 new and 18 resubmitted. The international office had 68 total submissions, 46 new and 22 resubmitted.

TABLE 2  
REGULAR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS BY REGION, 1 JULY–30 JUNE  
1996–1997, 1997–1998, 1998–1999, AND 1999–2000

Region	Submissions			
	1996–1997	1997–1998	1998–1999	1999–2000
Australia	4	4	2	0
United States and Canada	52	55	44	45
Non-Spanish speaking Caribbean	1	0	0	0
Great Britain	19	13	11	15
Western Europe	20	25	24	25
Asia	9	12	6	6
Latin America	9	5	5	2
Eastern Europe/Russia	1	2	4	2
Africa	3	0	1	1
Middle East	2	0	2	0
Not applicable or unknown	2	3	3	0

Note: The numbers include new submissions only. Totals may exceed submissions because a paper can be classified as pertaining to more than one region.

TABLE 3  
REGULAR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS BY PERIOD, 1 JULY–30 JUNE  
1997–1998, 1998–1999, AND 1999–2000

Period	Submissions		
	1997–1998	1998–1999	1999–2000
Twentieth century	59	61	45
Nineteenth century	62	68	44
Seventeenth and eighteenth centuries	20	20	20
Pre-seventeenth century	9	12	8
Not applicable or unknown	0	0	0

Note: The numbers include new submissions only. Totals may exceed submissions because a paper can be classified as pertaining to more than one period.

TABLE 4  
ACCEPTANCE AND TURNAROUND

Decision	North American Office		International Office		Total	
	1998/99	1999/00	1998/99	1999/00	1998/99	1999/00
Accepted	25	19	19	16	44	35
Revise and resubmit	21	19	26	19	47	38
Rejected or withdrawn	33	26	33	33	66	59
Total	79	64	78	68	157	132

Decision Lags (in days)

Year	minimum	maximum	mean	median
1997/98	1	393	99	99
1998/99	1	383	112	101
1999/00	1	219	89	91

Note: The numbers include new submissions plus resubmissions.

We find it difficult to detect clear trends in the research interests of economic historians from the tabulations displayed in Tables 1 through 4. To be sure, submissions continue to reveal strong interests in monetary and financial history, labor and agriculture, and the relative strength of pre-nineteenth-century topics has increased. Submissions on North America and Europe continue to account for the vast majority of the total, but what the tables do not reveal is that the submissions on non-Western history, while not more numerous than before, have become more competitive. A larger percentage of these submissions now actually enter the pages of the JOURNAL. Indeed, the "rest of the word" office is experiencing the influence of globalization.

The editorial offices of the JOURNAL owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the editorial board, conscientious referees, and book review authors. Only with the professional, scholarly commitment of these individuals can the *JEH* maintain its reputation as the premier journal in economic history. During this year Avner Greif, Charles Calomiris, John James, Robert McGuire, and Jan-Luiten Van Zanden each completed four-years of service on the editorial board. Our referees for the past year were:

Brian A'Hearn, *Franklin and Marshall College*  
 Jeremy Adelman, *Princeton University*  
 Barbara Alexander, *Charles River Associates*  
 Douglas Allen, *Simon Fraser University*  
 Lee Alston, *University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*  
 George Alter, *Indiana University*  
 Jeremy Atack, *Vanderbilt University*  
 Michael Bernstein, *University of California, San Diego*  
 Gregory Besharov, *Duke University*  
 Howard Bodenhorn, *Lafayette College*  
 Knut Borchardt, *University of Munich*  
 Michael Bordo, *Rutgers University*  
 Gail Bossenga, *University of Kansas*  
 George Boyer, *Cornell University*  
 Jorge Braga de la Macedo, *Nova University, Portugal*  
 Loren Brandt, *University of Toronto*  
 Steven Broadberry, *Warwick University*  
 Colleen Callahan, *Occidental College*  
 Charles Calomiris, *Columbia University*  
 Forest Capie, *City University Business School, United Kingdom*  
 Ann Carlos, *University of Colorado at Boulder*  
 David L. Carlton, *Vanderbilt University*  
 John Chapman, *University of Portsmouth*  
 Carmel Chiswick, *University of Illinois, Chicago*  
 Jon Christianson, *University of Minnesota*

Greg Clark, *University of California, Davis*  
 Karen Clay, *Carnegie Mellon University*  
 Peter Coclanis, *University of North Carolina*  
 Philip Coelho, *Ball State University*  
 Jon Cohen, *University of Toronto*  
 Raymond Cohn, *Illinois State University*  
 James Collins, *Georgetown University*  
 William Collins, *Vanderbilt University*  
 Nicholas Crafts, *London School of Economics and Political Science*  
 Lee Craig, *North Carolina State University*  
 Jeremy Edwards, *Cambridge University*  
 Barry Eichengreen, *University of California, Berkeley*  
 Bernard Elbaum, *University of California, Santa Cruz*  
 Robert Eng, *University of Redlands*  
 Charles Feinstein, *All Souls College, Oxford University*  
 Gerald Feldman, *University of California, Berkeley*  
 Joseph Ferrie, *Northwestern University*  
 Adam Fforde, *National University of Singapore*  
 Price Fishback, *University of Arizona*  
 Marc Flandreau, *Observatoire Français des Conjoncture Economiques, France*  
 Robert Fleck, *Montana State University*  
 Jennifer Frankl, *Williams College*  
 Gerald Friedman, *University of Massachusetts*

- Bruce Gardiner, *University of Maryland*  
 Richard Gilbert, *University of California, Berkeley*  
 Tom Gilligan, *University of Southern California*  
 George Grantham, *McGill University*  
 Avner Greif, *Stanford University*  
 Karl Gunnar Persson, *University of Copenhagen*  
 Steven Haber, *Stanford University*  
 Koichi Hamada, *Yale University*  
 Leslie Hannah, *City University, United Kingdom*  
 Knick Harley, *University of Western Ontario*  
 John Hatcher, *Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge*  
 Tim Hatton, *University of Essex*  
 Yujiro Hayami, *The National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan*  
 Alan Heston, *University of Pennsylvania*  
 Robert Higgs, *Independent Institute*  
 Philip Hoffman, *California Institute of Technology*  
 Carl-Ludwig Holtfrerich, *Freie Universität Berlin*  
 Christopher Howe, *School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London*  
 Jane Humphries, *All Souls College, Oxford University*  
 Douglas Irwin, *Dartmouth*  
 James Irwin, *Central Michigan University*  
 John James, *University of Virginia*  
 Insong Jill, *Sogang University*  
 Ronald Johnson, *Montana State University*  
 Paul Johnson, *London School of Economics and Political Science*  
 Philippe Jorion, *University of California, Irvine*  
 John K. Davies, *University of Liverpool*  
 Mark Kanazawa, *Carleton College*  
 Shawn Kantor, *University of Arizona*  
 Kyle Kauffman, *Wellesley College*  
 Bruce Kogut, *Wharton School*  
 John Komlos, *University of Munich*  
 Randall Kroszner, *Graduate School of Business, University of Chicago*  
 Gerald Kuper, *University of Groningen*  
 Sumner La Croix, *University of Hawaii*  
 Naomi Lamoreaux, *University of California, Los Angeles*  
 Stanley Lebergott, *Wesleyan University*  
 James Lehnig, *University of Utah*  
 Tim Leunig, *London School of Economics and Political Science*  
 Margaret Levenstein, *Albion College*  
 Lillian Li, *Swarthmore College*  
 Gary Libecap, *University of Arizona*  
 Thomas Lindblad, *Leiden University, The Netherlands*  
 Peter Lindert, *University of California, Davis*  
 Shelly Lundberg, *University of Washington*  
 Mary MacKinnon, *McGill University*  
 Gloria Main, *University of Colorado*  
 Bob Margo, *Vanderbilt University*  
 Steve Margolis, *North Carolina State University*  
 Alfred McCoy, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*  
 John McCusker, *Trinity University*  
 Robert McGuire, *University of Akron*  
 Benjamin McRee, *Franklin and Marshall College*  
 Mark Metzler, *Oakland University*  
 Jon Moen, *University of Mississippi*  
 Michael Montesanto, *National University of Singapore*  
 Bernardo Mueller, *Universidade de Brasília*  
 Larry Neal, *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*  
 Kenneth Norrie, *University of Alberta*  
 Anthony O'Brien, *Lehigh University*  
 Avner Offer, *Nuffield College, United Kingdom*  
 Martha Olney, *University of California, Berkeley*  
 Mark Overton, *University of Exeter, United Kingdom*  
 John R. Hanson, *Texas A&M University*  
 Daniel Raff, *The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania*  
 Angela Redish, *University of British Columbia*  
 Jaime Reis, *European University Institute*  
 Paul Rhode, *University of North Carolina*

- Hugh Rockoff, *Rutgers University*  
Christina Romer, *University of California, Berkeley*  
Joshua Rosenbloom, *University of Kansas*  
Jean-Laurent Rosenthal, *University of California, Los Angeles*  
John Rule, *University of Southampton*  
Gary Saxonhouse, *University of Michigan*  
Peter Scholliers, *Vrije Universiteit, Brussels, Belgium*  
L. D. Schwarz, *University of Birmingham*  
Raphael Seeley, *University of California, Berkeley*  
Andrew Seltzer, *University of London*  
Carole Shammass, *University of Southern California*  
James Shepherd, *Whitman College*  
James Simpson, *Universidad Carlos III de Madrid*  
Kenneth Sokoloff, *University of California, Los Angeles*  
Peter Solar, *Free University of Brussels*  
Richard Steckel, *Ohio State University*  
William Summerhill, *University of California, Los Angeles*  
William Sundstrom, *Santa Clara University*  
Nathan Sussman, *Hebrew University of Jerusalem*  
Richard Sylla, *New York University*  
Simon Szreter, *St. John's College, United Kingdom*  
Alan M. Taylor, *University of California, Davis*  
Peter Temin, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*  
Michael Turner, *University of Hull*  
Jan-Luiten van Zanden, *Utrecht University, The Netherlands*  
Pierre van der Eng, *Australian National University*  
Artur Van Riel, *Utrecht University, The Netherlands*  
Roland Vaubel, *Universität Mannheim*  
Simon Ville, *Australian National University*  
Hans-Joachim Voth, *Robinson College, United Kingdom*  
Jenny Wahl, *Carleton College*  
John Wallis, *University of Maryland*  
Steven Webb, *The World Bank*  
Warren Weber, *Federal Reserve Bank, Minneapolis*  
Thomas Weiss, *University of Kansas*  
Warren Whatley, *University of Michigan*  
David Wheelock, *Federal Reserve Bank, St. Louis*  
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