

Editorial statement

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This is the first issue of *European Review of Economic History*. The *Review* is intended to provide a new forum for the advancement of European Economic History.

The idea of establishing the *Review* originated at a meeting of the European Historical Economics Society in 1994. It is the Society's journal and members of the society receive it automatically as part of their membership. It will be published three times a year in April, August and December. The *Review* is intended to further the aims of the Society: to promote academic interchange and cooperation between scholars and to foster new approaches and new perspectives in research on European economic history.

In recent years the growing economic and political cooperation at the highest level between the different countries of Europe has been mirrored by a growing cohesion within the academic community. The field of economic history is no exception. For many years scholars have studied the economic history of individual countries, often in isolation from the parallel efforts of scholars researching on other countries. Even where the topics are closely related, barriers of language and method often intervene. This isolationism is fast breaking down, and there is a perceived need both to respond to the new trend and to foster it by providing a common and truly international forum in which all can take part on equal terms. The *Review* is designed for that purpose.

The editorial policy of the *Review* is to publish the highest quality and most original research on European economic history. We expect that articles will offer genuine new insight based on a clear analytical framework. This will include contributions which are based on different economic, theoretical or historical frameworks and on quantitative or qualitative analysis of historical sources. Articles appearing in the *Review* will not be restricted to particular approaches or methodologies but will embrace all branches of the discipline. It is intended as a genuinely open forum for all aspects of European economic history.

In the context of these basic objectives, the editors are keen to publish research in a number of areas which we regard as important or which have been relatively neglected. Research involving comparative analysis across different European countries or regions will be encouraged. Similarly, research findings for countries or on topics where there is relatively little published in English will be especially welcome. Articles which offer new

interpretations, which shed new light on existing debates, or which synthesise disparate historical arguments will also be encouraged.

The *Review* is open to contributions of a variety of different types. The core will be regular article length contributions. But there will be a place for survey articles and for review articles which provide the reader with a useful overview of particular fields of research or of recent major contributions to the literature. The *Review* is also open to shorter articles, debates between two or more authors on controversial topics, or comments on earlier research appearing in the *Review* or elsewhere. The editors will also consider publishing research notes on new sources, new approaches or new methods which may be of interest to a wide audience.

In launching the *Review* we have benefited greatly from the support of economic historians from all over Europe, particularly members of the European Historical Economics Society, and especially those who have agreed to be members of our Editorial Board. We are grateful for the useful advice and encouragement we have received from our publishers, Cambridge University Press. We have also been fortunate to receive financial support from the Institute of Economics at the University of Copenhagen. The success of the *Review* in the longer term will depend on the involvement of the wider community of those interested in European economic history and the continued vitality of the subject itself. We take this opportunity to invite all those interested in the advancement of the subject to participate actively in ensuring the success of this new venture.