

EDITOR'S CORNER

The 1987 meeting of the Business History Conference will take place 12–14 March 1987 in Wilmington, Delaware. The conference theme will be “The History of International Business.” Paper and session proposals should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than 15 October 1986. Paper proposals should be in the form of a one-page precis and should be sent accompanied by a curriculum vitae to Mira Wilkins, Department of Economics, Florida International University, Miami, FL 33199. A dissertation session will be held, for which graduate students are encouraged to submit dissertation summaries. All business history topics are welcome. Send suggestions to Edwin Perkins, Department of History, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089.

The Research Libraries Group is a corporation owned by major universities and research institutions which promotes, develops, and operates cooperative programs in collection development and shared access to research materials. At a meeting on 12 and 13 December 1985 at Rutgers University, sponsored jointly by the Group and by Rutgers University, historians planned the expansion of a computer-based data bank dedicated to research on the medieval and early modern periods. The data bank was founded by Peter Spufford, university lecturer and director of historical studies, Queen's College, Cambridge, Rudolph Bell, professor of history at Rutgers, and Martha Howell, associate professor of history at Rutgers. The bank's principal data set consists of some 20,000 currency quotations from the Middle Ages, which were donated by Dr. Spufford. These data, along with smaller sets of price and wage data and demographic statistics, form the core of a data base for which Howell and Bell have developed hardware and software systems to facilitate use of this valuable resource.

The bank will acquire data sets of use in research on the medieval and early modern periods and make the data available to scholars in machine-readable and report form. In addition to currency, price and wage, and demographic data, the bank's planners anticipate collecting most kinds of information about the period that can be rendered numerically. The bank will also assist researchers with the development of new data sets in machine-readable form. The members hope to conduct a preliminary survey of the scholarly community to ascertain the number and kind of data sets that potentially might be submitted to the bank. Scholars who have completed or have under way studies of

any aspect of medieval or early modern history that have generated quantifiable data suitable for inclusion in the bank are asked to send a short description of their projects, along with a sample of the data, if possible, to Rudolph Bell or Martha Howell, Department of History, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.

The Forest History Society has received a \$20,000 grant from the Laird, Norton Foundation to support the indexing of the Society's photograph collection. Its 24,000 photos, glass plates, and films illustrate the history of forestry and conservation in both the United States and Canada. The completed index will be both on-line for internal use with computers and published in book format. For more information, contact Harold K. Steen, 701 Vickers Avenue, Durham, NC 27701; (919) 682-9319.

The Hagley Museum announces the opening of the papers of William Liseter Austin (1870-1925), chairman of the board of the Baldwin Locomotive Works. For further information, contact the Manuscripts and Archives Department, Hagley Museum and Library, P.O. Box 3630, Wilmington, DE 19807; (302) 658-2400.

The contents of the July 1986 volume of *Business History* include the following articles: "The Harburgh Company and Its Lottery, 1716-1723," by A. J. G. Cummings; "Sheffield v. Starke: Institutional Experimentation in the London-Maryland Trade c. 1696-1706," by Jacob M. Price; "Deposit Banking in London, 1700-1790," by Frank T. Melton; "The Business of Middlemen in the English Pottery Trade before 1780," by Lorna Weatherill; "The Trading and Service Sectors of the Birmingham Economy, 1750-1800," by Eric Hopkins; "Matthew Boulton and Josiah Wedgwood, Apostles of Fashion," by Eric Robinson; "Financing the French Navy in the Seven Years' War: Beaujon, Goossens et Compagnie in 1759," by J. F. Boshier; and "Directions for the Conduct of a Merchant's Counting House, 1766," edited by Jacob M. Price.

The Earl W. Hayter Regional History Center at Northern Illinois University has recently acquired the records of the Chamber of Commerce of Rockford, the second largest city in Illinois. The Rockford Chamber of Commerce collection (1918-80) contains minutes, financial reports, correspondence, subject files, company files, biographies of local leaders, and publications. For additional information on the Center's holdings in the area of business history, please contact the

center at Swen Parson Hall, Room 155, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115; (815) 753-1779.

The James Jerome Hill Reference Library announces that it will award a number of research grants of up to \$2,000 to support scholarly research in the James J. Hill Papers. The deadline for applications is 1 December 1986, and grants may be awarded for any time in calendar 1987. For more information, contact W. Thomas White, curator, James Jerome Hill Reference Library, Fourth & Market Streets, St. Paul, MN 55102; (612) 227-9531.

The twelfth annual meeting of the multidisciplinary Social Science History Association will be held 29 October-1 November 1987 at the Monteleone, 214 rue Royale, New Orleans, LA 70140; (504) 523-3341. Those wishing to participate or offer suggestions for the program should contact the chair of the program committee, Barbara Hanawalt, Department of History, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405; (814) 335-6934 (office); (814) 335-7581 (secretary); or co-chair, Michael Les Benedict, School of Law, New York University, New York, NY 10003. Submission by 1 October 1986 of early paper proposals and ideas for panels is encouraged; the deadline for proposals for papers and panels in final form is 15 February 1987. Papers and panel proposals (including roundtables) should include a short description of the paper(s) and the names, departments, and institutional affiliations of all proposed participants. Panel organizers should also include a telephone number. Papers and panels dealing with constitutional topics viewed in a historical and comparative context are welcome, since the celebration of the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution will be under way at the time of the meeting.

The Harvard Business School and the Newcomen Society of the United States announce a postdoctoral fellowship in business history for approximately \$23,000 for twelve months of residence, study, and research at the Harvard Business School, for the academic year 1987-88. The fellow may begin the twelve-months' residence on either 1 July or 1 September 1987.

The Newcomen Fellowships enable scholars who have received their Ph.D. in history, economics, or a related discipline within the past ten years to improve their professional acquaintance with business and economic history, to increase their skills as they relate to this field, and to engage in research that will benefit from the resources of the Harvard Business School and the Boston scholarly community. The

successful applicant will be asked to participate in the school's business history course, seminar, and case development activities.

Applicants should state their purpose in applying for the fellowship, and the topic, objectives, and design for the research to be undertaken. Applications should be accompanied by graduate school records, thesis abstract, names and addresses of three people who will support the application, and such other evidence as the applicant wishes to submit.

Applications for the postdoctoral fellowship must be submitted before 13 March 1987, addressed to Professor Alfred D. Chandler, Jr., Baker 214, Harvard Business School, Soldiers Field, Boston MA 02163. Materials submitted with applications will be returned if accompanied by postage and a self-addressed return envelope.

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