

## Editors' Note

**T**his issue of *Business History Review* brings together four articles on the history of consumer finance. The global financial crisis that began in 2008 has focused considerable attention on the subject as consumers have been seriously affected by the economic implosion that resulted from the bursting of the housing bubble and the collapse of overleveraged assets. Yet the history of consumer finance has been poorly documented. In this issue, we bring an overview of the subject that ranges from savings banks to consumer credit and credit cards. While most of the articles are concerned with the situation in the U.S., the issue does offer some comparative statistics with European institutions, and one study covers a century of consumer credit in Germany.