

Dear Readers,

The current issue marks the fifth anniversary of the *Chicago Journal of History*, a heritage as much as a vision for us, a gift to all inquiring minds, and a showcase of scholarship distinguished for rigor, style and innovation. Indeed, the editors insist on these values as criteria of excellence in the writing of history. As a community, we take pains in investigations of truth, unwilling to take as inquiry the first story that comes to hand; we esteem the art of eloquence, trusting that rhetoric, hollow if alone, is critical to the exposition of facts; at last, we admire ingenuity with industry in the examination of the past, knowing by faith and from experience that the youthfulness of the soul aids creativity more than undermines discipline.

I wish to thank, on behalf of this laureate team, Professor Clifford Ando for his letter, “History and Science, History as Science: Simplification, Modeling and Humility” that sheds light on the standing, boundaries and potentials of the historian’s craft. The most generous Professor Fredrik Albritton Jonsson counsels the editorial board, raising it to higher forms. Professors Emilio Kourí, Matthew Briones, and our very Jake Smith, long-time mentors of history students, deserve glory as pillars of this institution, the fountainhead of knowledge nourishing our diverse interests and the source of illumination to our ambitions. We owe much to comrades Joanne Berens, Cyndee Breshock, David L. Goodwine Jr., without whose continued administrative support the *Journal* would not have survived so many of fortune’s trials.

Our historians’ souls are as fastidious as open-minded, never exhausted in the exploration of ‘interdisciplinarity.’ In the past year, we hosted Professor Ghenwa Hayek and Paola Iovene, experts on Arabic and Chinese literature, Ada Palmer and David Perry, Renaissance historians known also for their science fiction and journalism, in the panel “History and Fiction: Narratives, Contexts and Imaginations” moderated by the irreplaceable Professor Jane Dailey. Then in April, we assembled a mixed audience of natural and social scientists in Professor Robert Richards’s Dragon-and-Darwin themed talk, “Principles of Historical Analysis.” Finally, in May, eager to examine the role of the ‘intellectual’—historian, philosopher or poet—in cities ancient and modern, we sat down with Clifford Orwin from Toronto, Karuna Mantena from Yale, Robert Howse from New York University, and our own Haun Saussy and Dwight Hopkins. The *Journal* has expanded from a printed to a public presence, thanks to bountiful resources—intellectual, moral and financial—from Professor Jacob Eyferth of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Professor Dennis Hutchinson and Ms. Susan Rueth of the New Collegiate Division, Professor Shadi Bartsch-Zimmer, Ms. Macol Cerda and Vicky Lim based at the Stevanovich Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, and Ms. Ingrid A. Sagor from Germanic Studies and Comparative Literature. But most of all, it is our readers who deserve the most praises, whose satisfaction more than anything else justifies our painstaking labor.

This issue boasts some of the *Journal’s* most outstanding papers. We are grateful for Jack Ford, Doha Tazi Hemida, Jack Dickens, Raya Koreh, Hannah Fagin, Hannah Hauptman, Nicholas Stewart for their contributions. It is our hope also that the interview with Professor Kate Masur, whose work contributed to the foundation of the National Monument for Reconstruction, fill at least some of our readers with the hope that historical scholarship offers as much personal enrichment as public good.

Sincerely,

Hansong Li

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