

**Editor's Note**

The fifty-sixth volume of *Essays in History* emerges with a fresh editorial team, new website address, and a renewed commitment to supporting the writing of emerging historians. As graduate historians who have been significantly impacted by the pandemic and other historic crises, we strive to expand other emerging historians' access to scholarly conversations.

Approaching the seventieth year since the founding of the world's oldest ongoing student-run history journal, we are proud to add to the perspectives and forms of expertise represented by *Essays in History*. This winter's brief and eclectic issue will soon be followed by a longer issue in spring 2024.

The two pieces that form our winter 2023 volume reflect and preview the breadth of topics interpreted by our contributors this cycle. In her engaging article, Allison E. LaPlatney interrogates the visions of American masculinity woven by a fascinating literary genre, the "Ruritanian romance" set in a fictionalized southeastern Europe. Comparing George Barr McCutcheon's *Graustarke* (1901) to its penultimate sequel *East of the Setting Sun* (1924), LaPlatney traces how American and British fantasies shifted to resist changes in world order. Next, Dennis J. Wieboldt III reflects on the intellectual trajectory portrayed in Stuart Banner's new monograph on *The Decline of Natural Law* (OUP, 2021). Wieboldt's organized and incisive responses to the trajectory of legal thought constructed by Banner are reminiscent of the in-depth conversations to which our academic community welcomes each new cohort of historians.

We're pleased to continue our partnership with Aperi Journals, a joint venture of the University of Virginia Library and the University of Virginia Press, and offer especial thanks to Dave Ghamandi, managing editor and open publishing librarian. Committed to publishing open-access scholarship, Aperi continually improves the opportunities available to its partners, and consequently will be transitioning our publication to the Janeway platform over the next two weeks. We look forward to resuming our editorial cycle following this transition.

I am deeply grateful for the support of everyone who contributed to and engaged with our journal this year. It was a privilege to read the work of every author who submitted work this cycle, and we thank you for entrusting your manuscripts to us. Thank you especially to our anonymous peer reviewers for contributing your time and advice. Thank you to the *Essays in History* Advisory Board – Fahad, Frank, Alexi, and my predecessor Connor – as well to the other EiH advisors and alums whose knowledge the current board passes on to us. Finally, thank you very much to our editorial team: Sadie, Achintya, Robyn, Audrius, Noah, and Rashmi. I truly appreciate working with all of you and look forward to our next meeting.

Isabel R. Bielat  
*Editor*