

Editor's Note

The fifty-third volume of *Essays in History* proved to be unlike any other. The 2020 *EiH* Editorial Team faced many challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We had to adapt to an all-online environment, and we missed our in-person meetings and the friendships they help facilitate. Even more challenging, however, was grappling with the added stress. How do we carry on doing the work of editing a journal while worrying about our health and well-being or that of our family and friends? Or the future of history departments? Or the financial hit from that disappearing fellowship or internship? These are just a few of the concerns that members of our Editorial Team faced. Yet, in spite of it all, the Editorial Team remain convinced of the importance of accessible, high-quality historical scholarship.

The six pieces that make up the fifty-third volume exemplify why the Editorial Team felt they needed to continue their work. In her fascinating article, Joyce Yusi Zhou examines the history of European lathe-turned objects in the Chinese imperial court. Zhou uses these objects to powerfully demonstrate the cross-cultural exchange of artisanal and mathematical knowledge between Europe and China during the early modern period. This year's book reviewers discuss a wide range of topics including the histories of polygamy, punk music, Brooklyn, dinosaur fossils, and Lakotas. While their subject matter may be quite different, the reviews do share a common thread: they are all interesting, insightful, and well-written.

This year we celebrate that *EiH* has begun partnering with Aperiio Journals, a joint venture of the University of Virginia Library and the University of Virginia Press. Aperiio's commitment to publishing high-quality open access scholarship aligns with the goals and values of *EiH*. Partnering with Aperiio will enable *EiH* to better serve the emerging historians who edit, read, and write for the journal. We are pleased to publish our fifty-third issue on the new website and look forward to next year when submissions will be tracked from submission through publication using Aperiio's journal management system. The transition to Aperiio was made possible through the financial support of the Corcoran Department of History and the tireless efforts of Aperiio's Dave Ghamandi and this year's Editorial Team.

I am exceedingly grateful for all those who have generously contributed to make the fifty-third volume of *EiH* a tremendous success. I want to thank all of the authors who submitted to us this year. We appreciate you placing your faith in us and hope that we have served you well. I also want to thank the many anonymous reviewers who donated their time to assist us and to the departmental leadership who helped make our transition to Aperiio possible. My sincere thanks as well for the guidance and support of the members of the *EiH* Advisory Board: Fahad, Grace, Frank, Alexi, Cecilia, Abeer, and Daniel. Finally, I want to say a special word of appreciation for Daniel Sunshine, our Managing Editor, and for *EiH*'s excellent Associate Editors: Crystal, Elena, Amy, Achintya, Alice, Brianna, Mina, and Kevin. Thanks for making it all worth it!

Connor S. Kenaston
Editor