

Letter from the Editors

We are proud to present the first issue of the Undergraduate Historical Journal at the University of California, Merced. Establishing the journal took months of hard work and communication with the staff of eScholarship (all of them extremely helpful) as well as countless hours of collaboration on policy, layout, and design. Our faculty advisor, Professor Ruth Mostern, was critical in the nascent stages, providing expertise as we embarked on this unprecedented project.

Reading, reviewing, and publishing the work of our peers, who share our interest and passion for history, was truly pleasurable and enlightening. We could not be more proud of the students who endured our review process. They reveal a dedication to the historian's craft and reflect the university's emphasis on research. Not only is the slate of articles an exceptional example of undergraduate writing and analysis, but the offering engages diverse topics—highlighting the variety of history offered at Merced—from world poetry and revolution to race, class, gender, and sexuality. From book reviews to prodigious theses, this journal encompasses a wide range of topics and personalities, each affirming the University of California motto “let there be light.”

We remain faithful knowing that students in semesters and years to come will continue to research and write about topics like those enclosed: ones which they find personally interesting, exciting, and relevant. Our only hope is that the editorial board has provided an enduring means for our peers to share their hard work and establish a scholarly dialogue. For as long as the journal endures, enthusiasm for the past and curiosity for its profound ramifications in the present will remain manifest.

Congratulations to the authors and sincerest gratitude,

The Undergraduate Historical Journal Editorial Board (2013 – 2014),

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