It is with much sadness that we bring news of the passing of Moses Abramovitz, our esteemed colleague and dear friend, who died on 1 December at the Stanford University Hospital, just a month before reaching his eighty-ninth birthday. He had been hospitalized with a gastroenterological condition for one week, during most of which time he remained alert and conversational; then succumbed to a sudden, unexpected infection.

“Moe” Abramovitz was an important figure in twentieth-century American economics, who, over the course of a long and distinguished academic career, gained international admiration and renown for his fundamental insights and pioneering technical contributions to the study of long-term economic growth. He also was one of the primary builders of the Department of Economics at Stanford University, which he joined in the fall of 1948. For the next 26 years Abramovitz taught at Stanford, taking leave only during 1962/63 to work at the OECD Development Center in Paris, and served two separate terms as chair at critical junctures in the department’s history. Following his retirement from the William Robertson Coe Professorship in American Economic History in 1977, he continued his active participation in Stanford’s intellectual life throughout the final quarter of the century—participating regularly in economic-history seminars, maintaining a steady program of research and writing, editing the Journal of Economic Literature, and undertaking a variety of public-service roles.

A bountiful harvest of academic honors came to Abramovitz in this later stage of his career. At home he was elected to the presidency of the American Economic Association (1979/80), the Western Economic Association (1988/89), and the Economic History Association (1992/93). From abroad came honorary doctorates from the University of Uppsala in Sweden (1985), and the University of Ancona in Italy (1992); he took special enjoyment from an invitation to become a fellow of the prestigious Academia Nazionale de Lincei in 1991—“following Galileo,” with a lag, he said, with a characteristic self-deprecatory twinkle.

Yet, this was not simply a time for gathering in the rewards of scholarly distinction; the sowing and cultivation of new ideas and the tedious work of bringing them to fruition through publication also had to be carried forward. Indeed, Abramovitz’s 1986 journal article entitled “Catching up, Forging Ahead and Falling Behind,” which currently is the second most-cited among all the papers published by the Journal of Economic History, was presented the year before at the EHA’s Annual Meeting in New York, when its author was in his seventy-seventh year. And, this past fall Moe was gratified by the appearance in Volume 3 of The Cambridge Economic History of the United States of his co-authored 92-page chapter, “American Macroeconomic Growth in the Era of Knowledge-Based Progress: The Long-Run Perspective.”

Although his health had been in decline, and his spirit never fully recovered from the loss of his life partner, the sculptor and artist Carrie Abramovitz, who died in October 1999, Moe remained mentally vigorous, productive, and dependably entertaining company to the end.

PAUL DAVID AND GAVIN WRIGHT
Editors’ Notes

IN MEMORIAM
HAROLD GOODHUE VATTER
1910–2000

Harold Goodhue Vatter died on 8 September in his Portland, Oregon home. He was 89 years old and remained active in his field, teaching until a few weeks before his death. After receiving a Ph.D. in Economics at University of California, Berkeley, where he was Head Teaching Fellow, he taught at Oregon State University and Carleton College. Vatter also was a Lilly Faculty Research Fellow at the University of Chicago. He came to Portland State in 1965 where he taught American Economic History and the History of Economic Thought. He was the author of more than a dozen books in his field, as well as hundreds of articles and book reviews. A memorial chamber music concert was held at Portland State University on the ninetieth anniversary of Vatter’s birth, 18 December.

IN MEMORIAM
TREVOR DICK
1934–2001

Trevor Dick was found dead of a heart attack at his home in Lethbridge, Canada 28 January. He will be sorely missed by family, friends, colleagues, and the University of Lethbridge Singers, of which he was a longtime member.

Dick received his Ph.D. from the University of Washington in 1970, taught at the University of Western Ontario until 1976, then joined the faculty of the Economics Department of the University of Lethbridge, from which he retired in 2000.

Dick was an active and productive participant in the Economic History Association, the Canadian Association, the Cliometric Society, Canadian Clio, and the International History Association for more than 30 years. He was in the midst of organizing a session for the upcoming international meetings in Buenos Aires. Please contact Barry Eichengreen if you are interested in helping that session go forward in Trevor’s memory.

EDITORS’ REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2000

In July 2000 Jan de Vries and Heath Pearson became the senior co- and assistant editors. Their first leadership initiative was revision of the style sheet to remove outdated requirements. Gavin Wright at Stanford University succeeded Gary Libecap as the new editor for the North American side, retaining Susan Isaac as his assistant. Gavin has also tapped Scott Wilson of the Social Science History Institute for coordination within this geographically dispersed editorial office and editorial assistance. All of the editors join the members of the association in thanking Gary Libecap for his four years of dedicated service to the JOURNAL.

1999/2000 saw a small increase in new submissions relative to last year from 90 to 92. As Figure 1 shows, the number of submissions for the last 20 years shows a downward trend. Tables 1 through 3 show the distribution of new submissions by topic, region, and era. Each of these measures of the scope of the JOURNAL’S coverage reflects a continuation of the breadth that is a central goal of this publication.

The increase from 90 to 92 in new submissions was more than offset by the decline in resubmissions from 67 to 40 and meant that the offices handled 27 fewer papers than last year. The editors are curious about this decline in resubmissions. One possibility is that our invitations to resubmit have become sterner and more demanding; another is that a large overhang of papers under revision are about to descend on the editorial offices. For all submissions and resubmissions for the year, the acceptance rate declined from 28 to 26 percent, the revise-and-
Editors’ Notes

resubmit rate declined from 30 to 29 percent, and the rejection rate increased from 42 to 45 percent.

![Figure 1: Trends in New Submissions, 1980/81–1999/2000](image)

Source: The yearly totals were taken from the published Editors’ Notes.

### Table 1

Regular Article Submissions by World Area, Broken Down by Topic, July 1999–June 2000 (totals)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>North America</td>
<td>All Other Regions</td>
<td>North America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>Demography</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Growth</td>
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<td>Industry</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money and macro</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public finance</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of thought</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International trade, finance</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban and regional</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political economy</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private finance, capital markets</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The numbers include new submissions only. The totals equal the number of new submissions received because a paper is classified in only one topic category. In the latest year, the North American office had 64 total submissions, 46 new and 18 resubmitted. The international office had 68 total submissions, 46 new and 22 resubmitted.
### TABLE 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Australia</td>
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<td>United States and Canada</td>
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<td>45</td>
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<td>Great Britain</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>Western Europe</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Middle East</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not applicable or unknown</td>
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<td>3</td>
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</table>

*Note:* The numbers include new submissions only. Totals may exceed submissions because a paper can be classified as pertaining to more than one region.

### TABLE 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Twentieth century</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nineteenth century</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventeenth and eighteenth centuries</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-seventeenth century</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not applicable or unknown</td>
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<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Note:* The numbers include new submissions only. Totals may exceed submissions because a paper can be classified as pertaining to more than one period.

### TABLE 4
ACCEPTANCE AND TURNAROUND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decision</th>
<th>North American Office</th>
<th>International Office</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accepted</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revise and resubmit</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rejected or withdrawn</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Decision Lags (in days)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>minimum</th>
<th>maximum</th>
<th>mean</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>393</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998/99</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999/00</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note:* The numbers include new submissions plus resubmissions.
Editors’ Notes

We find it difficult to detect clear trends in the research interests of economic historians from the tabulations displayed in Tables 1 through 4. To be sure, submissions continue to reveal strong interests in monetary and financial history, labor and agriculture, and the relative strength of pre-nineteenth-century topics has increased. Submissions on North America and Europe continue to account for the vast majority of the total, but what the tables do not reveal is that the submissions on non-Western history, while not more numerous than before, have become more competitive. A larger percentage of these submissions now actually enter the pages of the Journal. Indeed, the “rest of the word” office is experiencing the influence of globalization.

The editorial offices of the Journal owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the editorial board, conscientious referees, and book review authors. Only with the professional, scholarly commitment of these individuals can the JEH maintain its reputation as the premier journal in economic history. During this year Avner Greif, Charles Calomiris, John James, Robert McGuire, and Jan-Luiten Van Zanden each completed four-years of service on the editorial board. Our referees for the past year were:

Brian A’Hearn, Franklin and Marshall College
Jeremy Adelman, Princeton University
Barbara Alexander, Charles River Associates
Douglas Allen, Simon Fraser University
Lee Alston, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
George Alter, Indiana University
Jeremy Attack, Vanderbilt University
Michael Bernstein, University of California, San Diego
Gregory Besharov, Duke University
Howard Bodenhorn, Lafayette College
Knut Borchardt, University of Munich
Michael Bordo, Rutgers University
Gail Bossenga, University of Kansas
George Boyer, Cornell University
Jorge Braga de la Macedo, Nova University, Portugal
Loren Brandt, University of Toronto
Steven Broadberry, Warwick University
Colleen Callahan, Occidental College
Charles Calomiris, Columbia University
Forest Capie, City University Business School, United Kingdom
Ann Carlos, University of Colorado at Boulder
David L. Carlton, Vanderbilt University
John Chapman, University of Portsmouth
Carmel Chiswick, University of Illinois, Chicago
Jon Christianson, University of Minnesota

Karen Clay, Carnegie Mellon University
Peter Coclanis, University of North Carolina
Philip Coelho, Ball State University
Jon Cohen, University of Toronto
Raymond Cohn, Illinois State University
James Collins, Georgetown University
William Collins, Vanderbilt University
Nicholas Crafts, London School of Economics and Political Science
Lee Craig, North Carolina State University
Jeremy Edwards, Cambridge University
Barry Eichengreen, University of California, Berkeley
Bernard Elbaum, University of California, Santa Cruz
Robert Eng, University of Redlands
Charles Feinstein, All Souls College, Oxford University
Gerald Feldman, University of California, Berkeley
Joseph Ferrie, Northwestern University
Adam Fforde, National University of Singapore
Price Fishback, University of Arizona
Marc Flandreau, Observatoire Français des Conjuncture Economiques, France
Robert Fleck, Montana State University
Jennifer Frankl, Williams College
Gerald Friedman, University of Massachusetts
Editors’ Notes

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Christina Romer, University of California, Berkeley
Joshua Rosenblum, University of Kansas
Jean-Laurent Rosenthal, University of California, Los Angeles
John Rule, University of Southampton
Gary Saxonhouse, University of Michigan
Peter Scholliers, Vrije Universiteit, Brussels, Belgium
L. D. Schwarz, University of Birmingham
Raphael Seeley, University of California, Berkeley
Andrew Seltzer, University of London
Carole Shammas, University of Southern California
James Shepherd, Whitman College
James Simpson, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
Kenneth Sokoloff, University of California, Los Angeles
Peter Solar, Free University of Brussels
Richard Steckel, Ohio State University
William Summerhill, University of California, Los Angeles
William Sundstrom, Santa Clara University
Nathan Sussman, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Richard Sylla, New York University
Simon Szreter, St. John’s College, United Kingdom
Alan M. Taylor, University of California, Davis

Peter Temin, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Michael Turner, University of Hull
Jan-Luiten van Zanden, Utrecht University, The Netherlands
Pierre van der Eng, Australian National University
Artur Van Riel, Utrecht University, The Netherlands
Roland Vaubel, Universität Mannheim
Simon Ville, Australian National University
Hans-Joachim Voth, Robinson College, United Kingdom
Jenny Wahl, Carleton College
John Wallis, University of Maryland
Steven Webb, The World Bank
Warren Weber, Federal Reserve Bank, Minneapolis
Thomas Weiss, University of Kansas
Warren Whatley, University of Michigan
David Wheelock, Federal Reserve Bank, St. Louis
Eugene White, Rutgers University
Jeffrey Williamson, Harvard University
Susan Wolcott, University of Mississippi
Gavin Wright, Stanford University
Chris Wrigley, Nottingham University
Peter Xenos, The East-West Center
Yishay Yafe, The Hebrew University
Kozo Yamamura, University of Washington
Vera Zamagni, University of Bologna