

Announcements

BAKER LIBRARY NEW EXHIBITION. Baker Library Historical Collections, Harvard Business School, announces the opening of a new exhibition, “Buy Now, Pay Later: A History of Personal Credit.” The exhibit will run from October 22, 2010, through June 3, 2011, in the Bloomberg Center of Baker Library at Harvard Business School.

There is a myth of a lost golden age of economic virtue. Once upon a time, the story goes, people lived within their means and borrowed only under the direst of circumstances. Debt was shameful, and credit financed only “productive” purchases, like homes or farm machinery. Although nostalgia seldom makes good history, writers mourned this lost age through the Roaring Twenties, the rise of the credit card in the 1960s, and the home mortgage boom and bust of 2005–08.

“Buy Now, Pay Later: A History of Personal Credit” demonstrates that while the instruments and institutions of twenty-first-century credit—the installment plan, the credit card, and the home-finance industry—are less than a century old, credit itself is as old as commerce. The exhibition draws from Baker Library’s Historical Collections to show how previous generations devised creative ways of lending and borrowing long before the existence of credit cards or mortgage-backed securities.

Visit <http://www.library.hbs.edu/hc/credit/> to learn more about the history of personal credit, to find materials that could support further research, and to view some of the items featured in this exhibition.

Contact Baker Library Historical Collections, at histcollref@hbs.edu, if you would like to request a copy of the exhibition catalog.

For more information about Baker Library Historical Collections visit www.library.hbs.edu/hc/.

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GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE PROJECT. The German Historical Institute (GHI) in Washington, D.C., is launching an ambitious new project aimed at fostering research on the cornerstones of the American experience. “Immigrant Entrepreneurship: German-American Business Biographies, 1720 to the Present” will comprise a published collection of approximately 250 biographical articles of first- and second-generation German-American entrepreneurs, contextual essays that explore the wider business and immigration themes of the period, and a complementary Web site providing a wealth of additional material.

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German immigrants and their descendants have played a disproportionately large role in the American business community. The project will trace their lives, careers, and business ventures from colonial times to the present, integrating the history of German-American immigration into the larger narrative of U.S. economic and business history and situating the American past in a transnational framework. Questions that will be addressed include business strategies, knowledge transfer, forms and sources of entrepreneurship, and change over time.

A project team at the GHI will coordinate an interdisciplinary group of scholars from both sides of the Atlantic who will contribute to a multivolume print publication and an online platform. The electronic resource will include statistics and raw data on businesses and immigration, visual materials such as archival photos and video clips, interviews with contemporary entrepreneurs, business documents, and personal correspondence. It will be a unique tool for teaching and research, and will make readily available—in a convenient, user-friendly, and easily searchable format—invaluable materials that would otherwise effectively be lost. By synthesizing the diverse fields of business history, entrepreneurship research, migration history, and German-American studies, the project will add to a wide array of academic disciplines and lay the groundwork for further research.

The GHI is seeking scholars who would like to write a fifteen- to twenty-page essay for this project. If you are interested and/or have done research on businesspeople, companies, industries, or regions where German-Americans were active, please contact us. Contributors will receive an honorarium of \$400.

To see more information on the project proposal, to view a list of potential candidates, and to look at the guidelines for writing an essay, please see www.ghi-dc.org/entrepreneurship, or e-mail the project coordinator, Jessica Csoma, at csoma@ghi-dc.org.

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GILDER LEHRMAN INSTITUTE FELLOWSHIPS. The Gilder Lehrman Institute awards short-term research fellowships to scholars working in American history at every level, from doctoral candidates to senior faculty, including independent scholars. Ten fellowships are awarded each year. The fellowships support research within American history archives in New York City. Doctoral candidates, postdoctoral scholars, college and university faculty at every rank, and independent scholars are eligible. For 2011–12, ten Gilder Lehrman Fellowships of \$3,000 will be awarded. Fellows must complete their research within a year of notification of the award.

To apply, candidates should submit:

- A proposal describing the project, the nature of the archives to be consulted, an anticipated budget of expenses, and full contact details
- A curriculum vitae
- Two letters of recommendation from established scholars

Applications must be postmarked or submitted via e-mail by May 1, 2011. Application materials should be sent to:

Gilder Lehrman Fellowship Program
The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
19 West 44th Street, Suite 500
New York, NY 10036
Or by e-mail to: fellowships@gilderlehrman.org
Tel.: 646-366-9666; Fax: 646-366-9669

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WORLD ECONOMIC HISTORY CONGRESS. The Economic History Society of Southern Africa and the Department of Economics, Stellenbosch University, invite you to the 16th World Economic History Congress in Stellenbosch, South Africa, taking place from July 9 to 13, 2012. We are pleased to issue the second call for session proposals for 2012. The 2012 theme is “Exploring the Roots of Development.” The Society has a strong desire to attract sessions on the period before 1800 and sessions that include countries other than those of Western Europe and North America. Organizers will be given wide discretion to shape the format of sessions in order to make them most interesting and efficient, given the topic and the participants invited. The deadline is July 31, 2011; successful organizers will be notified in October 2011. For more information and to submit a proposal, please visit the Web site: <http://www.wehc2012.org/submissions.php>.

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EUROPEAN HISTORICAL ECONOMICS SOCIETY. The European Historical Economics Society is pleased to announce the launching of a new economic history working paper series. EHES Working Papers in Economic History provide a nonexclusive means for Society members to disseminate their research in all fields of economic history. In order to submit a potential working paper to the series, you need to be a member of the EHES. Potential working papers should be sent to the Editor,

Nikolaus Wolf, who is responsible for deciding whether papers are eligible for inclusion in the series. EHES Working Papers will be available at the Society's Web site: <http://ehes.org/>. The Web site also provides information about how to become a member of the Society. An alternative way of becoming a member is to take out membership when registering for the 2011 EHES Conference in Dublin: for details, see the conference Web site: <http://www.ehes2011.com/>.