Editors' Notes

ERRATUM

An early draft of Lawrence Boyd's review of *Sweatshop USA* mistakenly appeared in the September issue. The final version appears here.

Sweatshop USA: The American Sweatshop in Historical and Global Perspective. Edited by John Bender and Richard Greenwald. New York and London: Routledge, 2003. Pp. xi, 300. $90.95, cloth; $26.95, paper.

This is an anthology of various works in an interdisciplinary field that the editors define as "sweatshop studies." The essays analyze the sweatshop from a variety of perspectives that include history, cultural studies, sociology, anthropology, and political science. One discipline that is notably absent from this list is economics, and this does detract from what is otherwise an interesting body of work. For example, little reference is made to incomes and standards of living of sweatshop workers historically and globally.

A notable exception in this collection is Xiaolan Bao's essay on Chinese garment factories in Brooklyn, New York during 1995. Bao uses interviews to find that most workers there earn $20,000 annually for "10 to 12 hour days." That wages are low and these workers are poor is assumed, but it would have been interesting to have this question taken up in more detail.

As with any anthology one can easily pick and choose among essays. This particular anthology does have various themes within it, specifically the "Historical and Global Perspective" of the title. These themes do provide some interesting insights in that they trace the issue of sweatshops through time and across various places.

For example, the very definition of the sweatshop was historically rooted in the 1890s and conveyed a cultural as well as an economic meaning. The term today continues to evoke an image of low pay and poor working conditions. As Daniel Bender points out in his essay "A Foreign Method of Working," politicians used the term "sweatshop" to differentiate small garment factories in New York from the "American factory system." Bender points out that the lens through which the sweatshop was viewed by some, including economists such as Richard T. Ely and John Commons, was of social evolution where biological competition (as opposed to economic competition) favored the least advanced races of immigrants and thus raised fears of "race suicide." This can be compared with a 1994 U.S. General Accounting Office definition of a sweatshop as merely a workplace that "violates one or more federal or state labor laws." The word "sweatshop" continues to imply fears that a standard of living will be lost to "foreign competition" domestically through immigrants, or through imports.

Another theme is that "sweatshops" have tended to be found in the garment industry, and within that industry among shops that "contract" work for larger firms. This was not only the case in the 1890s with immigrant shops in New York but also the shops there in 1995. These also characterize international production in Mexico and the Far East. In this institutional framework large "brand names" contract out work to smaller firms that is sometimes further subcontracted out to other even smaller firms. This common institutional framework that runs across time and place has some interesting possibilities.

On the whole this anthology does provide insights into sweatshops; not the least is that many writing in this volume seem to assume that they are an anomaly in need of explanation rather than a pervasive condition of industrialization.

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THE 2005 ECONOMIC HISTORY ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

The sixty-fifth annual meeting of the Economic History Association will be held in Toronto, Canada, 16–18 September 2005, at the Westin Harbour Castle, Roger Ransom, 2004/05 E.H.A. President, announced the theme: "War and Economic Growth: Causes, Costs, and Consequences."

The program committee—Jean-Laurent Rosenthal (Chair, UCLA), Dora Costa (MIT), Oscar Gelderblom (Utrecht University) and Hugh Rockoff (Rutgers)—invites paper proposals on all topics of economic history. The committee welcomes proposals for individual papers, as well as for entire sessions. Submissions for entire sessions should include separate proposals for each paper to be presented. The committee reserves the right to determine which papers will be included in those sessions that are accepted.

Many of the sessions, however, will be focused on the theme "War and Economic Growth: Causes, Costs, and Consequences." The program committee encourages submissions that provide a historical or interdisciplinary perspective on the ways in which warfare has affected economies throughout history in various parts of the world. These include, but are not limited to, issues such as: the role of economic factors in causing (or preventing) wars; the immediate and long-term costs of warfare on economic growth and the welfare of societies; the benefits of warfare (technological change, factor reallocation, or institutional innovation); and the economic legacies of wars, including pensions, indemnities, taxes, and debt. In short, the committee is interested in any paper that deals with the interface between wars and economic activity over time. The committee will also consider strong papers that are not directly related to the theme of the conference.

Interested scholars are requested to send four copies of a 3–5 page abstract *and* a 150-word abstract (suitable for publication in this JOURNAL) to Jean Laurent Rosenthal, Department of Economics, University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90024. If a draft of the paper is available, please send it in addition to the abstract. The due date is 30 January 2005. Papers must all be submitted electronically at http://www.eh.net/EHA/Meetings/prop_05.html or via e-mail to Rosenthal@econ.ucla.edu. All files should be submitted in Word format. All proposals should include e-mail information and telephone numbers for all presenters.

The dissertation session, convened by Joe Ferrie (Northwestern) for the Nevins Prize and by Ann McCants (MIT) for the Gerschenkron Prize will recognize the top six dissertations in economic history completed during the academic year. The due date is 31 May 2005.

The local arrangements committee chaired by Gillian Hamilton looks forward to welcoming you to Canada.

Graduate students are encouraged to attend. Travel, hotel subsidies, meal discounts, and the possibility of scintillating conversations are all offered as enticements.

For further information, check http://www.lakeforest.edu/~tuttle/eha or contact Meetings Coordinator Carolyn Tuttle at tuttle@lakeforest.edu.

AWARDS AT THE 2004 ECONOMIC HISTORY ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

The following prizes were awarded at the Sixty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Economic History Association, held in San Jose, California, 10–12 September 2004.

The Arthur H. Cole Prize for the outstanding article published in this JOURNAL in the September 2003 through June 2004 issues to John James and Mark Thomas for the article "A Golden Age: Unemployment and the American Labor Market, 1880–

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1910," which appeared in the December 2003 issue. The Cole Prize recipient is selected each ear by this JOURNAL's editorial board.

The Columbia University Prize in American Economic History in honor of Allen Nevins for the outstanding dissertation in U.S. or Canadian economic history during 2003/04 to Rebecca Ann Holmes of the University of Arizona for "The Impact of State Labor Regulations on Manufacturing Input Demand During the Progressive Era" completed under the direction of Price Fishback.

The Alexander Gerschenkron Prize for the outstanding dissertation in non–U.S. or Canadian economic history during 2003/04 to Tracy K. Dennison of the University of Cambridge for "Economy and Society in Rural Russia: The Serf Estate of Voshchazhnikovo, 1750–1860" completed under the direction of Richard Smith

The Jonathan R. T. Hughes Prize for excellence in teaching economic history was awarded to Daniel Barbezat of Amherst College. The winner in selected by the E.H.A. Committee on Education and Teaching.

The Alice Hanson Jones Prize for the Outstanding Book on North American Economic History to Allan H. Meltzer of Carnegie Mellon University for *A History of the Federal Reserve, Volume 1: 1913–1951*, published by University of Chicago Press in 2004.

Also announced at the meetings was the prize for the best article appearing in *Explorations in Economic History* in the previous year as chosen by its editorial board. It was awarded to Gianni Toniolo, Leandro Conte, and Giovanni Vecchi for "Monetary Union, Institutions, and Financial Market Integration: Italy, 1862–1905," which appeared in the October 2003 issue of *EEH*.

RECIPIENTS OF ARTHUR H. COLE GRANTS

The Committee on Research in Economic History of the Economic History Association awards the Arthur H. Cole grants-in-aid to support research in economic history regardless of time period or geographic area. The 2004 recipients are:

Timothy Cuff of Westminster College (Pennsylvania) for *An Anthropometric History of Late Nineteenth Century Pennsylvania*.

Mauricio Drelichman of University of British Columbia for *The Economic Decline of Spain in the 16th and 17th Centuries*.

Yovanna Pineda of St. Michael's College (Vermont) for *Inventing Markets for Domestic Manufacturing: Industrial Policy and the Politics of Tariffs and Rent-Seeking in Argentina, 1914–1930*.

Robert Wright of New York University for *The Relationship Between Financial Development and Economic Growth in the Early American Economy*.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE JONATHAN HUGHES TEACHING PRIZE

The Committee on Education of the Economic History Association invites nominations for the twelfth annual Jonathan Hughes Prize for Excellence in Teaching Economic History. Letters of nomination should state what qualities of excellence the candidate's teaching of economic history has embodied. The strength of the nominating letter will be the primary basis for selecting the pool of finalists for the prize. After arriving at a short list of finalists, the committee will gather further supporting information. Anyone is eligible to write a letter of nomination. Letters of nomination should be received by 1 February 2005 and should be sent to Ken Snowden, Department of Economics, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC 27412. E-mail: snowden@uncg.edu.

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