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Introduction

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Welcome to Volume 26, No. 4 of *Enterprise and Society.* By tradition, this issue carries the Presidential Address delivered at the annual meeting of the Business History Conference, alongside summaries of those dissertations shortlisted for the Krooss Prize for Best Dissertation in Business History. The 2025 Presidential Address was delivered by Stephen Mihm at the annual meeting in Athens, Georgia (USA). Stephen's topic was "The Business of Labor." Unfortunately, unforeseen circumstances have as yet prevented Stephen from finalizing his address for publication. We look forward to publishing the address as soon as possible. Three dissertations were shortlisted for the Krooss Prize: Joshua Lappen on "Electrification, Politics, and Visibility in Greater Los Angeles"; Pablo Pryluka on "Developing Consumers: A History of Wants and Needs in Postwar South America"; and Mattie Webb on "Diplomacy at Work: The South African Worker, U.S. Multinationals, and Transnational Racial Solidarity (1972-1987)." We congratulate all three finalists, and especially Dr. Pryluka, who was the 2025 prize recipient. All three summaries are presented in this issue.

Alongside the three Krooss Prize summaries, this issue carried ten full research articles that once again display to the fullest the breadth and depth of contemporary business history research. They take us from Sweden to Spain, from Italy to Ireland, from Africa to Japan, taking in London and Antwerp, Britain and the United States along the way. In this period, we travel from the eighteenth century to the dawn of the twenty-first century. Topics include motor rallies, corporate taxes, insolvency proceedings, slave compensation, emotional labor, business interest associations, the rural roots of US manufacturing, the economic diplomacy of consulates, and two very different takes on the importance of railroads.

There are many people who make the continuing success and vibrancy of this journal possible. As always, I am deeply indebted to our Associate Editors—Shane Hamilton, Ai Hisano, Andrea Lluch, and Sharon Murphy, Reviews Editor Alex Beasley, and to the wider Editorial Board. Of course, my deepest debt is to Carol Lockman of the Hagley Library for editorial assistance. The journal continues to be graced by beautiful and striking covers designed by Adam Albright, also of the Hagley Library. No less important is the support of Roger Horowitz and Vicki Howard as BHC Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. I also acknowledge the work of the Print Media Oversight Committee, which this year has comprised

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Victoria Barnes (current Chair), Xaq Frohlich, and Beatriz Rodríguez-Satizábal. I gratefully acknowledge the work of our colleagues at Cambridge University Press. In the end, though, a journal is brought alive by its authors and its readers, without whom we would not exist. Equally important are our dedicated reviewers, and I close, in gratitude, by listing the names of those who have served as reviewers over the last twelve months.

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