

Note from the Editors

The *Madison Historical Review* is thrilled to present our readers with yet another round of exciting and original historical scholarship. Last year we received a record number of submissions. This year we surpassed that number yet again. Students from all over the North American continent sent us their work. Now, interested readers from all over the globe can make use of their research for classes, personal knowledge, and to hopefully further their own research. We are proud that the *Madison Historical Review* is still one of the only peer-reviewed scholarly journals run by graduate students that focuses on publishing Master's level research. Without all of you, the many authors and readers, this journal could not exist. So, thank you. The following articles all highlight societal shifts and trends; from the London Foundling Hospital's interactions with unmarried working women and their illegitimate children, to the use of wit and satire during the Restoration and its effect upon the gendered power structures of the time, and a detailed object analysis of butter prints and their greater impact on the lives of rural women.

Unfortunately, this year we were unable to publish any book reviews for our readers. Our editorial board holds this journal and its contents to a high standard. The submissions we received for that segment did not meet that standard of scholarly excellence and achievement from Master's level students that we strive to provide an outlet for. It is our hope that next year will afford this journal another opportunity for the publication of reviews as it had become a staple of our brand.

This year we continued our series of interviews with history professionals. Our focus for this issue was executive directors of local, smaller, and arguably more "niche" museums or public history sites from around the state of Virginia, than are normally addressed or have even been highlighted by our journal in the past. As the field of public history is a big focus of the graduate program here at James Madison University, we felt that

focusing on discussions with professionals in that field fit both our department's goals and those of our journal. Our plan had been to include several responses, as the trend had started last year, but gaining quality feedback, or any feedback at all, proved far more difficult than it should have been. So, in the end we would like to thank Kimberly McCray, executive director of the Virginia Quilt Museum, for taking part in our interview series and providing quality insight and advice. It is our hope that her responses will encourage and guide current and future public historians.

We are greatly indebted to our editorial board, without their diligence and hard work the continued existence and quality of this journal would not be possible. Members of our board review all submitted works, measuring their merit for publication, and offer quality feedback no matter the outcome. They accomplish this tedious task in addition their graduate studies. A special thanks is in order for this year's copy-edit committee: Kristi Aylor, Joshua Goodall, Nathan Ray, Tristan Nelson, and Jacob Harris. Another person worthy of singling out is Claire Williams who assisted in getting our call for papers sent to the right people and places in a timely fashion this past fall. Finally, we would like to thank our advisor Dr. Philip Herrington for his guidance and wisdom in pushing the *Madison Historical Review* forward for another year.

Joel Webster, Executive Editor
Rachel Carey, Associate Editor