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Note From the Editors

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Note from the Editors

The *Madison Historical Review* is excited to present its readers with another edition comprised of solid research that meaningfully contributes to the extant historiography. This year we had an extremely competitive pool of submissions, which is a testament to the quality of the articles and book reviews published in this volume. The following pages will transport the reader back in time to vastly different eras in history, covering topics such as: the shaping of femininity through government propaganda and corporate advertising during WWII and the Cold War, a survey of the historiography on the pre-modern European image of Islam, and the Roman government's inability to effectively manage the *Vehiculatio* (imperial transport system). These works by young, professional historians will introduce readers to new ways to address important historical questions.

We would like to extend our congratulations to Samantha Vandermeade who has been named the 2015 Winner of the James Madison Award for Excellence in Historical Scholarship. Her article *Fort Lipstick and the Making of June Cleaver: Gender Roles in American Propaganda and Advertising* provides an impressive deconstruction of meaning and symbolism in advertising/propaganda from 1941-1961. Her article is certainly well-deserving of the award as it is a consummate example of the kind of incisive research and writing that can be produced by graduate students.

Over this past year the *Madison Historical Review* has rolled out a number of new features. We have added historiographies as a category of submission, which will undoubtedly appeal to graduate students starting to get acquainted with a topic for a research paper or thesis. Also, our website has been transferred to Scholarly Commons, allowing us to gain experience with professional software used in the academic journal industry.

We are also excited to announce that this year's volume includes an interview with Dr. Shelley Lee, editor on the Louis Pelzer Award Committee for the *Journal of American History*. She was kind enough to address questions regarding what to expect when graduate students begin submitting their research, insight into what editors are looking for when they evaluate an article, strategies for success, tips and tricks to follow, pitfalls to avoid, etc. We appreciate her volunteering to help shed some light on the publication process of academic journals. We know it will be a great benefit to many graduate students who are looking to publish their work but do not know where to start.

The Madison Historical Review is indebted to the hard work of the editorial board. They review all submissions and decide whether they merit publication. Without their diligence the journal would not exist. Special thanks go to the members of our copy-editing committee: Nils Martin, Megan Sullivan, Michael St. Jacques, and George Best. We are also grateful for Laura Drake and the technical support she provided regarding how to set-up and use the Scholarly Commons website. Finally, we would like to thank Dr. Andrew Witmer for his guidance in helping us breathe new life into the *Madison Historical Review*.

Support for this publication comes from the James Madison College of Arts and Letters. We thank Dr. David Jeffrey, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters for believing in our mission and allowing this journal to continue to be a fixture, enriching the academic experience of the students in the graduate history program for years to come.

Matthew Darroch, Executive Editor
Ryan Bachman, Associate Editor