

Letter from the Editor

The *Madison Historical Review* is pleased to present our readers with this latest edition of original historical scholarship. This year is particularly special as the journal is celebrating our 20th year anniversary. Thank you to everyone who has supported the journal over the past 20 years – to the countless editors, editorial boards, authors, advisors, faculty members and staff, and of course our readers – the journal would not be in the same place as it is today without all of your assistance. We are proud that the *Madison Historical Review* is one of the only scholarly journals run by graduate students with a focus geared toward the publication of Master’s level research. The ensuing articles represent a wide variety of graduate student scholarship, from how the government conducted surveillance on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to the history of a neo-Nazi group of gay men in Southern California, to how white enslavers in New Orleans demonized Haitian Vodou and mischaracterized it as Voodoo, to a new interpretation of the history of the abolition of widow burning in British India, to an overview of how Black activists drew on the memory of slavery in the Black Power Movement, and including an analysis of the shortcomings of the abolition of the prostitution movement in Guangzhou.

On behalf of the entire editorial board, I would like to congratulate Bailey Irene Midori Hoy, winner of the 2023 James Madison Award for Excellence in Historical Scholarship. Her article, “*Joo wa Dare? Who is the Queen?*: Queen Contests during the Wartime Incarceration of Japanese-Americans” looks at the often overlooked topic of beauty pageants located in incarceration centers during Japanese-American internment. Her work is an excellent example of graduate student research and writing skills.

I would also like to thank our editorial board; without their hard work, the publication of this journal would not be

possible. Members of the editorial board review all submitted articles and edit the papers chosen for publication. Thank you to Annette Guild, Zoe Joyner, Kade Kahanek, Thomas Kidd, Ryan Kitts, Matt Luther, Karen Luu, Mackenzie Mason, Subat Matin, Jack Morris, and Giuseppe Vitale. Furthermore, the addition of Kevin Johnson as Associate Editor provided some much needed support during the process. Thank you, Kevin, for your efforts. Additionally, I would like to thank Rebecca Kruse for her technical support and expertise in operating the journal's Scholarly Commons website. I would also like to extend thanks to Rebecca White, for her help with the MHR, including maintaining the MHR history department website, and overseeing the budget and printing. All of us at the *Madison Historical Review* are especially indebted to our faculty advisor, Dr. Christian Davis, for his guidance and support in the publication of this issue.

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Anna Neubauer, Executive Editor