

FROM THE EDITORS

It is with great pleasure that we present the ninth edition of *Ezra's Archives*. This journal represents the hard work of a small group of undergraduates dedicated to carrying on the tradition that Maya Koretzky and Andrew White began in Spring 2011 when they sought to provide a space for undergraduates to share exemplary historical research. In their original letter from the editors, published in the very first edition of *Ezra's Archives*, Maya and Andrew asked two simple questions: Why study history? Why write and read history? They rightly observed that the practice of studying history, of putting it into words and sharing it with others, gives us the context necessary to understand our present.

Doing history is often misunderstood. Historians are not chroniclers, and their job is not to access and present the past - to do so would be impossible. The best we can do is attempt to organize and understand it. Yet not all places and times receive the same level of study. This is why the editors of *Ezra's Archives* have always aimed to provide a platform for undergraduate historians working in under-studied areas. Since the first issue, the journal has showcased research on diverse topics, from Christian polemics in Umayyad Spain, the economy of the Viceroyalty of Peru, blood and militarism in colonial Hawai'i, and even a comparative study of men's court fashion at the turn of the nineteenth century.

As in past years, we received a variety of submissions from undergraduates across the country studying at institutions both large and small. While most of these submissions concerned aspects of American history, we were heartened to see a shift away from traditional presidential biographies and similarly valuable yet well-studied topics in favor of lesser-told stories. This year, we are proud to offer new research on civilian casualties of the Korean War, colonial water policy in Qingdao, Protestant missionary education in nineteenth-century India, the consequences of the U.S. Act of 1807 on the American slave trade, and the relationship between the National Woman Suffrage Association and fringe marriage ideology suffragists.

Looking forward, we hope to expand the scope of the journal and the diversity of our authors. To do so, we plan to lengthen *Ezra's Archives'* submission period, increase the number of schools to which we extend our call for submissions, and work towards expanding the journal into a biannual publication. We appreciate all of the support we have received, both from the editorial team of *Ezra's Archives* as well as members of the Cornell Historical Society, and faculty members. We are pleased to present to you the ninth edition of *Ezra's Archives*, and we hope you enjoy.

Sincerely,

Elle and Max