

From the Editors

It is our pleasure to bring to you the seventh edition of *Ezra's Archives*. *Ezra's Archives* provides a platform for undergraduates to present their historical research to a wider audience, and in so doing, challenge perceptions we have about the past, present, and perhaps future world around us. We invited submissions from over seventy universities across the nation, and received original research on a diverse range of periodic, socio-cultural, and geographical foci. Over the past six months, our editors have combed through this pool of submissions to select five papers that stood out for their insight and incisive arguments.

Hansong Li of the University of Chicago opens up this edition by challenging the perception of abandoned women as passive victims in rural communities of 17th to 18th century Southern-France. Through a series of case studies, Hansong shows that women with unwanted children in fact managed to transform the moral censorship expressed in law into legal weapons for advancement of their socioeconomic interests.

The second paper, entitled *Redefining Henry Laurens*, proposes a new view into the personal life of then-prominent politician and slave-owner Henry Laurens. Lacey Hunter from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill argues against a sympathetic description of Henry Laurens through an analysis of his writings.

After the abolishment of slavery in the United States, distinct but related questions concerning social integration also came to the fore. Amy Qin of the University of Chicago explores attitudes and perceptions towards the influx of Chinese into Chicago between 1893 and 1943. Challenging a monolithic understanding of first-generation Chinese-Americans, this paper presents a socially and economically diverse group of immigrants that had a varied history of social promotion and cross-cultural relations with other minorities in Chicago.

In the fourth paper, Cornell University's Matthew McGee examines the history and effects of ethnic policies towards Viet-Cambodians and Sino-Cambodians in Cambodia from 1979 to 1989. In the wake of the Khmer Rouge's defeat in 1979, Matthew argues that the Vietnamese-established state in Cambodia used ethnic policies to promote the position of Viet-Cambodians at the expense of the Sino-Cambodians, which can be understood in the light of preceding Khmer Rouge policies and geopolitical tensions between Russia, China, and Vietnam.

To end off this edition, we are taken to the Tokyo War Crimes Trials after the Second World War. Michelle Glazer from the University of Maryland studies the American defense lawyers recruited for these trials, and argues that eventually, an adherence to Anglo-American judicial principles moved them from a place of professional detachment to spirited engagement in attaining justice on behalf of the former enemy.

As you move through this journal, you will discover that though working in different geographic and temporal contexts, all five papers provide insight into the historical development of interactions across socio-economic, cultural, and political backgrounds. It is our hope that the papers in this volume will inform (and perhaps inspire) you, and raise poignant questions in these uncertain times. We are proud to present you the seventh edition of *Ezra's Archives*.

Sincerely,
Daniel Cheong and Joshua Mensah
Editors-in-Chief