

From the Editors

It is our pleasure to bring you the third edition of *Ezra's Archives*. Over the past six months, our dedicated editors have been hard at work putting together this collection of outstanding undergraduate historical research projects from students all over the country. This year, the quantity of papers submitted for consideration by our editorial board increased significantly from past editions. We are proud to say that this edition includes our largest number of papers from institutions other than Cornell. We sent our call for submissions to institutions such as Princeton University, Brown University, Columbia University, and the University of Michigan, hoping to give undergraduates at peer universities the opportunity to publish their original research and start a dialogue about history across the country. As a result of this outreach, we are pleased to present to you these six papers, which represent the best not only from Cornell, but from other institutions as well.

The first paper, entitled *Social Isolation in Welfare Hotels: "Where It's Easier to Get Crack than a Cup of Coffee,"* written by Devin Tark of Cornell University, uses unique periodical and cultural methods to showcase the relationship between welfare hotels and their effects on the poorest members of urban society. Tark reconciles the views of conservatives and liberals regarding the place of welfare in American society by exploring the results of welfare hotels.

The second paper in our collection continues this focus on history of inequality in urban centers. *Historical Memory in the Hub: Abolitionism and Civil Rights in Boston*, written by Ethan McCoy of Brown University, explores Boston's role as a progressive city during both the Abolitionist and Civil Rights movements. He connects the two movements through the interpretation of Boston as a progressive city, proud of its forward thinking since the colonial era. He argues that Boston's historical legacy allowed for a critical lens by which progressives could criticize unjust policies.

A Rhetorical Convergence: Rump Ballads and Official Propaganda (1660-1663) by Brown University senior Benjamin Cohen, also traces a political history, examining through publications in post-Restoration England the converging viewpoints of the ultra-conservative elite and the monarch himself, Charles II. These perspectives highlight the impact powerful politicians and political writers can have on a ruler's ambitions and policies.

The fourth paper in our collection *Constantine's Constantinople: A Christian Emperor, A Pagan City* by Mary Blazer of Princeton University, is a careful examination of the foundation of the Roman city of Constantinople, and the man for which the city takes its name. Balzer investigates both famous and lesser-known sources in to create an unbiased account of a subject often tainted by religious biases and historical myth. She creates a balanced portrait of a man, and a city holding a careful balance between religious change and political pragmatism.

Sensation(al) Science: Ivan Sechenov's Reflexes of the Brain and Revolutionary Physiology, Literature, and Politics of the Russian 1860s, written by Cornell University senior, Maya Koretzky, provides an intellectual history of a scientific text as it was produced and read in the culture of its time. Drawing on literary sources and histories of 19th century European science, as well as the text of *Reflexes of the Brain* itself, Koretzky's paper provides a unique window into Russian revolutionary thought and materialist philosophy in the 1860s.

Our final paper presented, *Consolidating Power: The Making of Modern Colombia After the Panama Debacle*, focuses on the interplay between political and economic histories to complicate the generally accepted historiography regarding the Republic of Panama's establishment. Writer Jorge Sarmiento incorporates the particular social conditions of the region into his politico-economic analysis in order to reject the accepted idea that Colombia was a victim of American imperial policy.

In putting together this volume, we found ourselves awed by the wide variety, creativity, and depth displayed by the papers we read throughout the submission and editing process. It is incredibly inspiring for us to see the fantastic historical scholarship happening here at Cornell and at other institutions across the country. We hope you will be equally inspired by the papers we have put together in this volume and we are proud to present to you the third edition of *Ezra's Archives*.

Sincerely,

Maya Koretzky and Grace Gorenstein
Ezra's Archives Co-Editors in Chief