

3. *The Editorial Board*

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From the beginning of its existence the *Journal* has been associated with an Editorial Board — members of which were enthusiastic witnesses to its birth at the celebrations in Rome on 20 April 1972. The functions of Editorial Boards — whether operating collectively or through their individual members — differ widely across the spectrum of academic journals. So also does their authority, according to how members are appointed and to whom (in the final analysis) they are responsible. In some journals, editorial boards bear collective responsibility, with the editor, for policy decisions; or form a kind of collective refereeing committee for advising the editor on manuscripts. In other cases, members would have no specified responsibilities or obligations.

In the case of the *Journal of European Economic History*, what has been the role of the Editorial Board (of which the present writer has been a member since its inauguration)? Has it been, in effect, a *comitato d'honore* or a *comitato scientifico*? Apart from the inaugural meeting, it has never met collectively; and it would be impossible for this to be a feature of its existence without intolerable expense falling upon the Banca di Roma. For a national journal, editorial boards can operate with regular meetings; for an international journal, with members of the editorial board representing a wide range of far-flung countries, this can never be a practical possibility.

Members of the Board have received their invitations from the editor; and the Board is therefore advisory to the editor in status — it has been for the editor to seek advice and help from members, as he

so wished. The Board was designed to reflect the international — predominantly European — scope of the *Journal* in support of the Editor, with considerable continuity from the establishment of the *Journal* to the present time. Its members, beginning with Volume I in 1972, have been: Jean-François Bergier (Switzerland), Franco Borlandi (Italy; until his death in 1974); Carlo M. Cipolla (Italy and U.S.A.); Shepard B. Clough (U.S.A.; until his death in 1990); Georges Duby (France); Kristof Glamann (Denmark); Ira A. Glazier (U.S.A.); H. Kellenbenz (German Federal Republic; until his death in 1989); Peter Mathias (U.K.); Federigo Melis (Italy, until his death in 1973); Virginia Rau (Portugal; until her death in 1973); Charles Verlinden (Belgium); with Jan van Houtte (Belgium) and Charles Wilson (U.K.; until his death in 1991) joining by the time of the second issue. Antonio di Vittorio (Bari, Italy) was the original secretary; with John A. Davis (Warwick, U.K.) joining him in 1975; until both became members of the Editorial Board in 1983. Subsequently, F. Ruiz Martin (Spain) joined the Board in 1974, after the death of Virginia Rau; L.M. Enciso Recio (Spain) in 1987 and V.M. Godinho (Portugal) in 1988.

Individual members of the Board have offered suggestions for publication to the editor; the editor has consulted on a variety of particular matters and two members have regularly read a set of proofs of all issues. In addition, members of the Board have provided a conduit to the editor, on behalf of authors (and would-be authors); readers (and would-be readers) more particularly those who sought the privilege of being put on the mailing list. Even without a pro-active policy of using the Board regularly; in a responsive mode it has helped to keep the editor in touch with his constituencies.