

4. *Size, Diversity and Scope*

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The *Journal* came into the world already totally adult: large, mature, at full strength, its range of activities fully deployed. There seems to have been no 'learning curve', no tentative experiments, no fumbling in the search for new formulas. The editor knew what he wanted the *Journal* to achieve and how this was to be done. It was (and remains) a remarkable instance of professional and academic self-confidence and vigour. Professor De Rosa grasped the opportunity offered to him with both hands; making the most of the generous financial support offered with such assurance from the Bank.

From its inception, the *Journal* has appeared in three issues per volume per year, holding consistently to this pattern. The first volume contained 814 pages of text (including the articles and reports of different sorts, the book reviews but not the list of books received). This broadly reflected the annual target budget offered for the operation by the Bank; which has in general terms kept pace with the increase in real costs to be borne. The first four volumes contained more than 800 pages each. Then came a run of years, between 1976 and 1982 (1987 only apart) when the number of pages per volume ran out between 780 and 798 (less emphasis being given to reports about journals, review articles and appreciations of historians). The one major curb, which derived from financial constraints suffered by the Banco di Roma, occurred in 1978 (Volume VII), when the total number of pages had to be cut by almost 35 per cent (to 562), principally at the expense of the number of articles, notes and 'problems' published. As a consequence, the second and third issues

of this volume appeared as a double number, the only occasion on which the regular sequence of three issues per year was compromised.

In 1979 and 1980 volumes VIII and IX were back to 787 and 798 pages of text respectively — a full recovery — with the number of articles and notes doubling from 10 to 20. After 1982 (volume XI) a gradual slimming down occurred (to 616 pages at the lowest point in 1985 — volume XIV) with the size settling down in recent years to 700-720 pages. This is slightly smaller than the *Economic History Review*, of c. 780 pages of larger format and content; but in the same range as that of the *Journal of Economic History*. Clearly, by size and scale the *Journal of European Economic History* was at once established in the premier league of journals in its field, a position which it has consistently maintained.

A second notable feature of the *Journal*, from its beginning, has been the diversity of format: all the different categories of contributions were present in the first volume. Looking at the structure and make-up over the whole period, major articles have featured, consistently, as the leading presence in each number, printed in larger type than succeeding matter, and given pride of place. Their numbers fluctuated from 9 — 12 per volume in the years 1973-1984 (apart from the year of financial constraint in 1978, which reduced them to 6); and after two shorter years in 1985-86 (with 7 and 8 major articles respectively) these numbers have settled at c. 11 in recent years. One of the notable features of such articles has been the generosity of editorial decisions over length, which has given great flexibility to authors seeking to establish a theme in a sustained way — some of the main articles have occupied up to 50 pages of print.

Supporting main articles have come Notes, Review Articles, Problems, Debates, Reviews of Journals, Conference Reports and appreciations of individual historians, apart from the review section and the list of books received, collectively making up about two-thirds of an average issue. Over the years, with precedence being given to Articles, Notes and Problems, diversity has declined. Assessments of individual historians had never formed a regular feature of succeeding issues (unlike all the other categories) but appeared as occasional

pieces, primarily as obituaries of those recently deceased. Appreciations of Raymond de Roover (1972, Vol. I, No. 1), Virginia Rau (1975, Vol. IV, No. 1); Federigo Melis (1981, Vol. X, No. 1); Fritz Redlich (1982, Vol. XI, No. 2) and Frederick Lane (1988, Vol. XVII, No. 1) fall into this category, while the entry for Henri Pirenne (1977, Vol. VI, No. 2) was occasioned by the recent publication of a biography.

Assessments of other economic and social history journals, which appeared in almost every issue between 1972 and 1976 ended after 1977, probably occasioned by the financial constraint over volume VII in 1978, and were never revived. They provided a niche for highlighting the contributions of journals which were usually of a specialist nature, whose regular readership came from restricted constituencies. The purpose was to illuminate particular contributions for a particular objective, using the chosen journals as a vehicle for this purpose, rather than offering a regular coverage of their contents. Each of the journals chosen featured on only one occasion and a variety of analyses were undertaken. The first to appear was an assessment of the most important single influence upon French (and European) historiography — an analysis of *Annales* (appropriately given pride of place in the first issue (1972, Vol. I, No. 1). Then Catalonian economic and social developments were seen through the pages of *Cuadernos de Historia Económica de Cataluña* (1972, Vol. I, No. 1); a similar assessment of the previous twenty-five years of economic development in Austria was analysed through contributions to national and local journals (1972, Vol. I, No. 3). English local and regional history provided a focus through the regional journals *Midland History* and *Northern History* (1973, Vol. II, No. 2); and developments in rural history in France (1974, Vol. III, No. 2) and the Netherlands (A.A.G. Bijdragen, 1975, Vol. IV, No. 1). Business and industrial history, primarily in Britain and Germany, were reported through contributions to *Business History* (1976, Vol. V, No. 1) and *Jahrbuch für Wirtschaftsgeschichte* (1973, Vol. II, No. 1). Spanish monetary history was featured through contributions to *Moneta y Crédito* 1975 (Vol. IV, No. 3) over the years 1948-74. Other

surveys of economic and social history on a national basis analysed through contributions to journals were also published: for Russia and the Soviet Union (*Voprosy Historii* and *Novaya I Noveishaya Istoriya*, 1974, Vol. III, No. 1); for Sweden (*Economy and History*, 1973, Vol. II, No. 3); for Finland (through the *Scandinavian Economic History Review*, 1976, Vol. V, No. 2); Poland (*Annals of Polish Social and Economic History — Roczniki Dziejów Społecznych i Gospodarczych* —, 1977, Vol. VI, No. 1) and a general survey of articles on European economic history which appeared in American journals during the years 1972-74 (1975, Vol. IV, No. 2).

Such editorial initiatives were designed to show examples of the wide range of research contributions emerging from periodicals focusing upon different themes, emphasising the widely-embracing view of Europe and European economic history and its specialisms to be espoused by the new *Journal*. In the nature of the case, however, there could only be isolated case histories taken — it would have been impossible to widen the field to cover all such journals and to review their contents regularly. The scale of the areas covered by the *Journal* also precluded an annual list of periodical articles, in the different countries and fields, in parallel to the review of periodical literature centring on British economic and social history published annually in the *Economic History Review*. This national list runs to over 30 pages: and the general list of publications to 40 pages. Any policy for a journal proposing such coverage on an international scale would mortgage all its space to such a limited secondary function of supplying information about original scholarship published elsewhere. It is the latter objective of publishing original research to which the *Journal of European Economic History* has always given priority.

Review Articles also lessened in importance as a category with the *Journal*; and may be seen in a similar light to that of reports on journals, in that the main purpose of review articles was to assess other contributions to scholarship. Contributors were asked to review recent literature (whether books or articles in journals, collections of documents and other sources) concerning a particular theme which

ranged very widely across period and topic. The width of the spectrum is at once apparent from a few examples: financing of the Cistercian Order (1953, Vol. XII, No. 1); Levantine trade (1973, Vol. II, No. 1); mining in medieval and modern Poland (1976, Vol. V, No. 3); the Vistula and Polish commerce (1977, Vol. VI, No. 1); recent research in sub-Alpine regions (1978, Vol. VII, No. 2-3); the sale of Crown lands in Spain in the early-modern period (1984, Vol. XIII, No. 1); the abolition of feudalism in the western world (1974, Vol. III, No. 1); the modernisation of rural France (1979, Vol. VIII, No. 1); nutrition, wages and consumption levels (1973, Vol. II, No. 1; 1975, Vol. IV, No. 2); family and household across time and culture (1974, Vol. III, No. 3); urbanisation and the dynamics of growth (1987, Vol. XVI, No. 1; 1986, Vol. XV, No. 1) with a case-history of urban growth in Bordeaux (1973, Vol. II, No. 2). Themes of Italian modernisation — economic growth and the Risorgimento in Tuscany; industrialisation in southern Italy (1975, Vol. IV, No. 2; 1984, Vol. XIV, No. 3) were featured in these reviews — and Italian banking history: Italian bankers in medieval England; the Bank of Rome (1973, Vol. II, No. 3; 1987, Vol. XVI, No. 2).

Readers will recognise amongst these topics some of the main controversies and points of growth in the subject, as new dimensions were being added to economic history and to social history over the past twenty years. The *Journal* has played an important role in identifying such themes which were strategic in the advance of historiography, focussing awareness on them, and bringing them to the attention of the general constituency of economic and social historians, through the readership of the *Journal*.

Some items appearing under the title of Review Articles had other objectives. In some cases (as with the review of the history of the Banco di Roma) the review of a particular book was enhanced to the status of a review article, to give particular emphasis. This was especially the case where the publication of a book raised wider issues of interpretation which invited discussion more broadly. Thus the review article on 'The Thirty Years War and its Place in the General Crisis of the XVIIth Century' was based on the appearance of J.V.

Polisensky *War and Society in Europe, 1618-1648* (Cambridge University Press, 1978) (1980, Vol. IX, No. 2). In other instances, a category of recently-published books was selected to focus upon a topic — as with eighteenth-century Russian translations of Western European economic treatises, European economic history in German historiography, or American text-books of European economic history (1972, Vol. I, nos. 1,2,3). These offered international perspectives by seeing material refracted through the perceptions of historians and commentators external in their culture from the subjects under analysis.

Review Articles served another purpose in offering the opportunity of reviewing the work of particular institutes. The first of these surveys to appear covered the publications of the Centre d'Histoire Economique et Sociale de la Région Lyonnaise in 1974 (1974, Vol. III, No. 2); followed by the Centre de Recherches Historiques in Paris (1975, Vol. IV, No. 1) and then the Centre for Modern and Colonial History in the University of Ghent (1976, Vol. V, No. 1). The length of review articles ranged from about five to over 20 pages, so that authors had more scope for extended treatment than was conventional in the reviewing of single volumes. At the outset the number of Review Articles ran to 3-4 per volume (1972-76) but then died away, except for a brief revival in 1983-87. The sort of issues taken up in this section of the *Journal* then found a place, under a modified format, in Debates and Problems.

A further instance of the 'information disseminating' role of the *Journal* is exemplified in the Conference Reports. Apart from the six conferences covered in the first volume, the number of these reports settled down at 2-3 on average between 1973 and 1981, when they ceased to enjoy priority in competition with the main-line items of Articles, Notes, Problems and Debates.

Conference Reports fell into two groups. Some regular meetings enjoyed consistent coverage in the early years. Amongst these were the thematic *Settimane di Studi* at Prato, covering the period 1300-1800, reviewed between 1972 and 1978, with themes such as productivity and technology (1972, Vol. I, No. 1), transport and

economic development (1973, Vol. II, No. 3); demand and consumption (1974, Vol. III, No. 2); money and banking (1975, Vol. IV, No. 3) and urban investments (1978, Vol. VII, No. 1). Several reports were made on the annual conferences of the American Economic History Association, which highlighted important innovative themes — such as the 1973 review of the meeting about property rights in history (1973, Vol. II, No. 2) the social linkages of political economy (1977, Vol. VI, No. 2); and the investigation of comparative economic history (1975, Vol. IV, No. 1; also the 'unity in diversity' report of the 1979 conference in 1981, Vol. X, No. 1). Another consistent theme, reporting on new research methods, concerned quantitative techniques. An international conference convened at Warsaw by the Polish Academy of Sciences brought an initial report in 1974 (Vol. III, No. 1); which was followed by a series of notes covering 'cliometric' meetings in Britain sponsored by the Economic and Social Research Council (1990, Vol. IX, No. 1; 1982, Vol. XI, No. 3; 1986, Vol. XV, No. 1; 1990, Vol. XIX, No. 1).

Other reports covered 'one-off' conferences, or particular sections of the International Economic History Association Congresses — as with the coverage of the demography and economic growth papers at the Copenhagen Congress in 1974 (1974, Vol. III, No. 3), and the section on the relations between regions of different levels of economic growth (1975, Vol. IV, No. 2). The editor faced an impossible choice in the light of the rising tide of conferences, colloquia and seminars — at all levels from the annual conferences of national societies; regular meetings of international bodies, both specialised and general in coverage; and meetings called to mark a particular occasion. The University of Pavia in 1972 was host to a — warmly-remembered — meeting on the history of European wine production and the wine trade (1972, Vol. I, No. 3); preceded by a conference in commemoration of the Battle of Lepanto — appropriately sponsored by the Fondazione Giorgio Cini on their island home in Venice (1972, Vol. I, No. 1). A major international conference on historical demography at the University of Florence was fully reported in 1972 (Vol. I, No. 2) and a meeting of Spanish

economic historians in Barcelona in the same year (1972, Vol. I, No. 2).

Fraternal greetings prompted the report of the Jubilee — Fifty-Year Anniversary — Conference of the Economic History Society (1976, Vol. V, No. 3). Privateering and piracy was the theme of the meeting organised by the International Commission on Maritime History at the Comité International des Sciences Historiques World Congress in San Francisco in 1975 (1977, Vol. VI, No. 1); while the major statement in the analysis of 'world systems', produced at a meeting in 1979, organised by the Fernand Braudel Center at the State University of New York at Binghamton — currently the main centre for macro-analysis of the historical process under Professor Immanuel Wallerstein — was brought to the attention of readers of the *Journal* in 1980 (Vol. IX, No. 2). A similar purpose was achieved in the following year, by the report of the Third International Congress of Accounting Historians (1981, Vol. X, No. 3). It was appropriate recognition of the development of the history of accountancy as a specialism in its own right cf. p. 563 that the culmination of such a sequence should find a place in the *Journal of European Economic History*, published in Italy, the historic homeland of modern accounting techniques.

Table I: Journal of European Economic History: content analyses by category

Volume (year)	Pages*	Articles	Notes	Review Articles	Problems	Debates	Journals	Conference Reports	Historians
1 (1972)	814	7	6	4	4	4	3	6	1
2 (1973)	811	9	6	4	3	4	3	3	—
3 (1974)	818	9	6	3	5	3	2	3	—
4 (1975)	830	9	6	4	9	3	3	3	1
5 (1976)	793	10	7	3	8	5	2	3	—
6 (1977)	789	10	6	1	7	4	1	2	2
7 (1978)	562	6	4	1	4	6	—	1	—
8 (1979)	788	11	9	2	3	5	—	1	—
9 (1980)	798	11	5	1	4	3	—	3	—
10 (1981)	780	12	6	—	6	2	—	3	1
11 (1982)	786	11	5	—	6	3	—	2	1
12 (1983)	692	9	7	4	6	4	—	—	—
13 (1984)	688	9	6	1	6	2	—	—	—
14 (1985)	616	7	5	3	7	1	—	—	—
15 (1986)	652	8	5	1	4	2	—	2	—
16 (1987)	638	11	4	2	6	2	—	—	—
17 (1988)	710	13	5	—	5	4	—	1	1
18 (1989)	702	11	5	—	8	2	—	—	—
19 (1990)	716	11	8	—	7	1	—	1	—

* of text; not including prelims; list of books received, notices, etc.