

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

Dear Reader,

I cannot pretend that we create each issue with a theme in mind—quite frankly, we don't receive nearly enough submissions to give us such a degree of flexibility. At the same time, however, a theme often emerges *post hoc* from the best papers of the bunch, and as those are usually the ones we publish this can be a godsend for an Editor-in-Chief looking for things to include in their introductory letter for the issue.

The seven papers in this Fall 2018 issue seem to me to share a theme of conversation, response, and reaction. They all investigate questions of how people and institutions interpreted their worlds—through what they read, by their reactions to political events, etc.—and expressed those interpretations. The summaries presented below therefore highlight this feature. But I would like to stress that each is an interesting article in its own right, and deserves a more thorough valuation on its own merits.

Phoebe Colby's "Burn, Baby, Burn: The Inflammatory Historiography of the Sir George Williams Affair and its Current Rekindling" analyzes the reporting and subsequent historical treatment of a major student occupation of the namesake Montreal university—which, she argues, has served and continues to serve as a microcosm for the larger historical discussion of the composition and role of the black community in Montreal.

Countering the traditional view that the Puritan colonies in New England were essentially ignored by their mother country, **Boone Ayala** examines transatlantic communications and descriptions of the colonies to show that their viability as societal models and potential as military allies heartened Puritans seeking reform back in England and helped spark the English Civil Wars.

The AIDS epidemic of the 1980s and '90s elicited an ineffectual and at times rather negative response both from the US government and American society in general. **Max Gruber** analyzes the artistic effort to draw attention to the epidemic in his "Revealing the Invisible: The Visual Culture of AIDS in the United States (1980-1986)," examining artwork produced by individuals, collaborative works produced by organized effort, and the visual culture of protest during the period.

Public response is also the subject of **Jake Harms's** contribution, which uses the records of the Mass Observation Project as a guide to the diversity of popular attitudes towards the monarchy at the time of Edward VIII's abdication. While the standard account of the monarchy's popularization largely holds true, Harms argues, it does so at the risk of overlooking the pluralistic nature of public opinion.

Hilary Miller investigates the multilayered reaction of the Israeli government to the assassination of Folke Bernadotte, the U.N.-appointed mediator of the Israel-Palestine dispute, arguing that the government outwardly condemned the attack but also tacitly approved of a terror attack which provided an opportunity to fulfill crucial political goals and shore up the security of the recently-founded state.

Necdet Emre Kurultay looks at the influence of Che Guevara and Daniel Cohn-Bendit on the revolutionary strategy of the Turkish Marxist Mahir Çayan. Although Çayan's writings only explicitly cite Marx and Lenin as sources of revolutionary inspiration, Kurultay demonstrates that he also drew on the Marxist thought of contemporaries around the world, placing the clashes between the Turkish government and student activists of the 1960s in a global framework.

Holly Bean's analysis of a Middle English Psalter-Hours in the Lilly Library gives particular attention to its unexplained profusion of numerical and astrological tables which, she argues, ultimately derive from the late fourteenth-century *Kalendarium* of John Somer. The inclusion of these tables in a primarily devotional book raises a number of questions, chief of which is the relationship between secular and medieval texts in late medieval England.

This issue would not, of course, exist without the efforts of our editorial staff, and I would like to thank them all for their hard work. Special thanks are due to Breck Radulovic, who in addition to her editorial duties designed this issue as well as Spring 2018. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Sam Winikow
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