

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC HISTORY
PAPERS PRESENTED AT
THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE BUSINESS HISTORY CONFERENCE

Paul Uselding, ed.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC HISTORY

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THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE BUSINESS HISTORY CONFERENCE

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Preface

The appearance of this volume, *Business and Economic History*, marks the 21st consecutive meeting of the Business History Conference (BHC), held 28 February through 1 March 1975. Since the early 1950s the annual meetings of this group of scholars has contributed much to the development of the fields of business and economic history and related fields of historical inquiry. Throughout the early years of this organization, personal contact, especially that fostered by the annual conference, was the principal form of scholarly communication. Over time, however, the members of the Business History Conference came to rely increasingly upon published proceedings as a means of scholarly communication.

In the past the published proceedings of the conference have appeared irregularly and in a variety of publication formats. Several years ago it was decided that regular publication of the proceedings of the annual meetings in a consistent format would be essential to the continued vitality of the conference. Though the continuation of this series will depend largely upon the response of the membership, our organization has been given an excellent opportunity to achieve its goals by the combined generosity and foresight of Dean Vernon K. Zimmerman of the College of Commerce and Business Administration and Professor V Lewis Bassie, Director of the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, both of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Professors Ross Robertson and Fred Bateman of the Graduate School of Business Administration, Indiana University, assisted immeasurably in the preparation of this volume. Professor Robertson, as president of BHC during the academic year 1974-75, served as program chairman for the Evanston meetings; and the development of the papers appearing in this volume owes much to his guidance. Professor Bateman also assisted in program development and provided invaluable counsel in matters pertaining to the collection and preparation of these papers. My colleague, Donald Kemmerer, who is the current president of the BHC and program chairman for the Moline meetings, proved to be an excellent editorial consultant. I am deeply grateful for his wise counsel and kind assistance. Finally, I should also like to thank the members of the excellent

staff of the Bureau of Economic and Business Research for final preparation of the manuscripts and for handling prepublication details. This was a true joint venture, and all the individuals involved may be justly proud of their contributions.

During this past spring we were all shocked and saddened by the death of our beloved colleague, Professor Herman Krooss of the Graduate School of Business Administration, New York University. Herman's contributions to our organization were simply immeasurable. The presence of his wit and wisdom over the years contributed a marvelous vital spirit to our annual meetings, one which I am sure we all shared and experienced. Herman's presidential address for the Evanston meetings is reproduced herein, and I urge each of you to read it carefully as a reminder of the tangible force of this great and good man.

Dr. Daniel Hodas has established the Herman Krooss Essay Prize to be awarded biennially by the BHC. Recipients will be selected from among the papers presented at the annual meeting of the conference and articles published in the *Business History Review*, with the stipulation that the Krooss Prize be awarded "for a first-published paper or to a young scholar." On behalf of the entire membership of the Business History Conference, I would like to thank Dr. Hodas for his thoughtfulness, and I am sure this gesture will serve as a continuing source of inspiration for scholars of all ages for many years to come.

Paul Uselding
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Contents

Preface

Presidential Address: Some Random Thoughts on Business and Government	1
<i>Herman E. Krooss</i>	
The Dynamics of Industrial Growth in the Old Northwest, 1830-70: An Interdisciplinary Approach	12
<i>Margaret Walsh</i>	
Bank Stock Ownership and Bank Control: The Evidence from Wisconsin, 1860-1900	30
<i>Richard H. Keehn</i>	
The Megacorp as a Social Innovation and Business History	46
<i>Alfred S. Eichner</i>	
The Lumber Industry and the Scientific Forestry Movement in California, 1885-1925	67
<i>Mansel G. Blackford</i>	
The Movement for State Regulation of Coal Mines in the 19th Century	82
<i>K. Austin Kerr</i>	
American Accountancy, An Overview, 1875-1900	98
<i>Alfred R. Roberts</i>	
American Accountancy, An Overview, 1900-1925	109
<i>Gary John Previts</i>	
PAR--Project Adequate Roads: Traffic Jams, Business, and Government, 1945-56	120
<i>Mark H. Rose</i>	
Railroads from World War II to Date and Beyond	137
<i>L. Leslie Waters</i>	