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## Preface

The 42nd annual meeting of the Business History Conference was held March 15-17, 1996, in Columbus, Ohio. As President-Elect, Mansel Blackford organized the program, while Chris Rosen chaired the dissertation session. Many people associated with Ohio State University served as local hosts, including Mansel, Austin Kerr, and Bill Childs. We very gratefully acknowledge the financial and in-kind assistance of the Ohio State University College of Humanities, College of Business, and Department of History, the Geon Corporation, Nationwide Insurance, the Winthrop Group, and the Business History Group. Finally, thanks are due to all who donated to the graduate student travel fund.

Three organizational prizes were awarded at this year's conference. Regina Blaszczyk was awarded the Herman E. Krooss Prize for best dissertation, a summary of which appears in this issue. The fourth annual Newcomen Prize for the best paper from the 1995 meeting was awarded to Ken Lipartito for his most modern piece, "Culture and the Practice of Business History," which was published in the Winter 1995 (vol. 24, no. 2) issue of the journal. I was honored to receive the Harold F. Williamson, Sr. Award in Business History.

The 1997 Business History Conference will be held jointly with the Association of Business Historians in Glasgow, Scotland on July 4-6.

Mary Ferraro began the process of preparing papers for the journal with her usual competence and good spirit. Unfortunately, she had to leave Williamsburg for New York City and a position at Columbia, which is our loss and their gain. Fortunately, Jonathan Kajeckas stepped in and assumed both production and editorial duties for the journal. Jonathan has a Master's degree in government and editing experience, and we are hoping for a long and productive relationship with the proceedings volume.

Will Hausman, August 1996