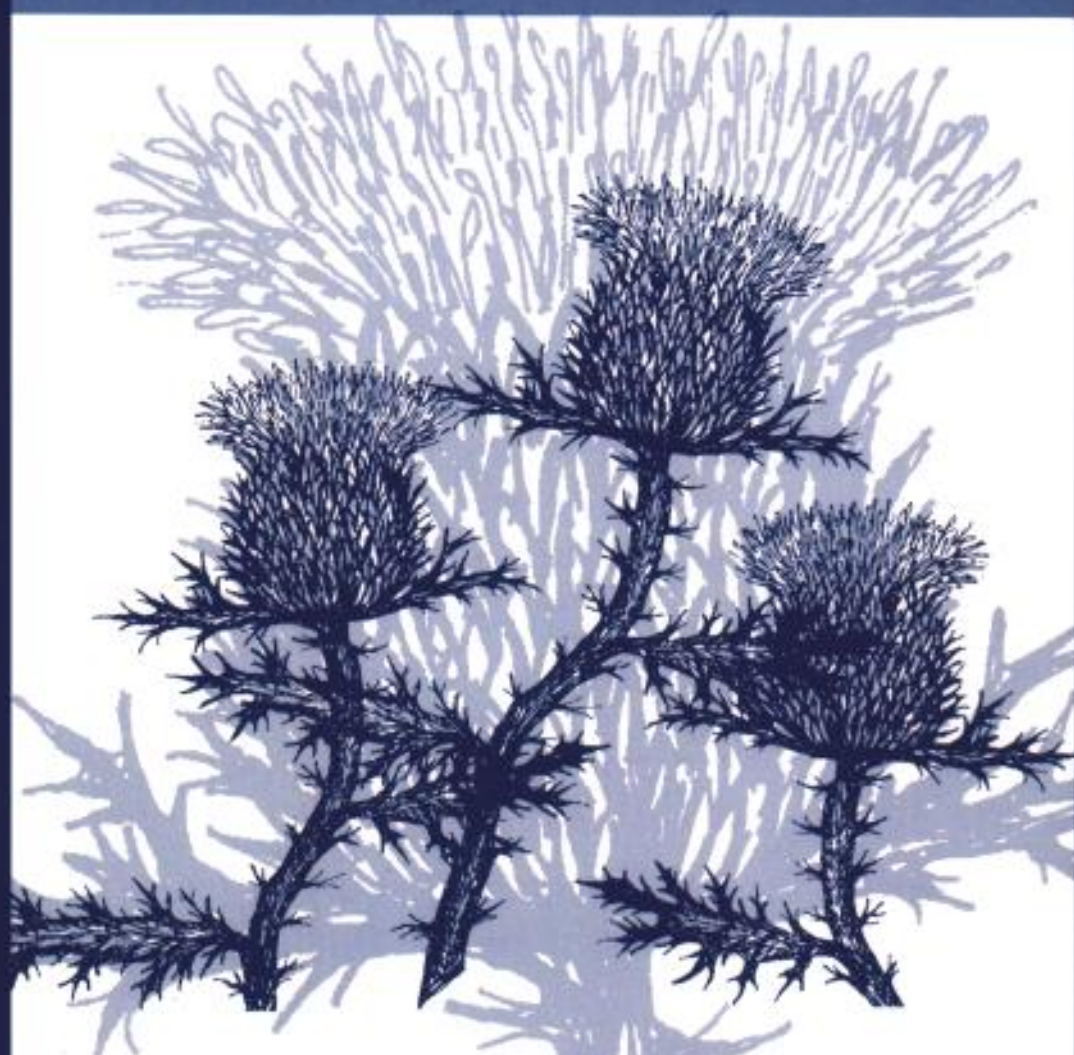


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PREFACE

This issue of *Business and Economic History* contains papers presented at the joint meeting of the Business History Conference and the Association of Business Historians that took place on July 4-6, 1997 in Glasgow. The papers were submitted in advance of the conference and were screened by the editorial committee consisting of myself, Les Hannah, Michael French, and Pat Denault. This is by far the largest proceedings volume published to date and it reflects the vibrancy of the field. The papers range in time from the 18th century to the 1990s (and are arranged below in roughly chronological order). The authors represent five continents and the subjects covered literally span the globe. I am very pleased to present it to you.

There were two dissertation awards made this year. Kolleen Guy was awarded the Business History Conference's Herman E. Krooss Prize for her dissertation on the Champagne wine industry. J.S. Toms was awarded a prize established by the Association of Business Historians for the best dissertation on British business history for his work on the Lancashire cotton industry. The Newcomen Prize for best paper in the volume, to be determined by vote of the Trustees of the Business History Conference, will be awarded at next year's conference.

An international meeting of business historians had been a goal of mine for a long time. By virtually all accounts, the conference was a resounding success, with a total of over 100 papers given and an attendance of approximately 300. I thank the program committee (Les Hannah, Roy Church, and Tony Slaven) for putting together such a superb program. Ann Carlos and Steve Tolliday accepted the always-difficult task of selecting the dissertations to be presented at the conference.

This international meeting would not have been possible without the extraordinary energy and organizational capabilities of Tony Slaven and his able administrative assistant, Linda Craig. My most sincere thanks go to them and others at the University of Glasgow who helped with the arrangements. They were simply marvelous (especially the whiskey and haggis). The conference also would not have been possible without financial assistance. We offer our deep thanks to the Aggregate Foundation, the City of Glasgow, Clydesdale Bank, Scottish Airports, Scottish Power, the University of Glasgow, and Yarrow Shipbuilders. The College of William & Mary has continued to provide crucial support.

I want to thank Jonathan Kajeckas, again and sincerely, for his editing and technical skills, and Pat Denault for her expert editing. Finally, it was a lot harder to find an illustration of a thistle than I thought it would be, but Karen Schwartz's pen saved the day. Thanks also to Joe Gilley for designing the cover.

Will Hausman
December 1997

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