

# Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

History is not easy. History is nuanced, complicated, and intricate - it's hard. Yet, all the things that makes history difficult are also what make it beautiful. To be able to study how people lived, what they were passionate about, the ramifications of their impulses, and try to figure out how it all brought us to today is a precious gift. While arduous and at times frustrating, doing history is so worth it because, when done well, it feels as though you can touch, can literally grasp, the past.

The *Crimson Historical Review* seeks to have you touch pieces of the past by showcasing the original research of undergraduate students across diverse historical fields. Born from a group of zealous students who yearned to showcase the work being conducted by their peers at the University of Alabama, the inaugural edition of the *Crimson Historical Review* is the fruit of their labor.

Time, place, and culture all play a prevalent role in this edition. All are concerned with understanding the mentalités of those who came before us – the beliefs that lie between superstition, religion, social practice, and ideology that have indelibly shaped the lives of every human being who has ever lived.

I would like to thank Dr. Daniel Riches, Dr. Holly Grout, Dr. Erik Peterson, Dr. Janek Wasserman, and Dr. Nathan Loewen for their contributions in evaluating submissions within the field of their respective specialty. I would also like to thank Ms. Kelly FineFrock-Creed, Project Editor at the University of Alabama Press, for running a multi-week copyediting workshop, training staff members, and providing incredible expertise. Lastly, I would like to praise the *Crimson Historical Review's* Faculty Advisor, Dr. Margaret Peacock. This journal would not exist if it was not for her guidance, experience with publishing work, and incredible mind.

At a time when history programs and degrees are being cut from universities across the country, it is more important than ever to appreciate all that history is and offers. The work published in this edition showcases the best historical undergraduate research at The University of Alabama and the publishing talents of our staff.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy reading and having moments of our past be brought to life.

Sincerely,

Jodi Vadinsky  
Editor in Chief, *Crimson Historical Review*