

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

From the accidental discovery of Penicillin to the fortuitous unearthing of the Dead Sea Scrolls, history is full of “happy accidents.” I reflect on those happenstance events today as I write this letter for the *Crimson Historical Review*. When I arrived at the University of Alabama, I was not looking to get involved with an academic journal. But, after some persistent pestering from a fellow freshman, I joined the *CHR*. My acquiescence led to one of the most important aspects of my academic career: helping serve one of the strongest undergraduate publications in the country.

Nowhere can such strength be more clearly seen than in our present issue. In this edition, you will find incredible articles written by authors from across the U.S., focusing on topics from nineteenth-century European nation-building to an analysis of slavery and its legacy at this very university. Our pattern of excellence is undoubtedly due to the commitment of our staff and their sharp work, which they maintained while maneuvering through the changing environment of COVID-19 as well as its subsequent variants.

I must also acknowledge my appreciation for Dr. Margaret Peacock’s continued support of this journal, and state how important her administrative support and historical expertise has been to our success. I should recognize too our senior executive members, who have been a constant at the fore of the *CHR*, Lily Mears, Production Editor, and Caroline Lawrence, Chief Copy Editor. I am most excited, however, to commend the staff who will fill the seniors’ shoes: Gavin Jones, Review Board Executive, Sarah Jaggears, Chief Copy Editor-Elect, and John French, Administrative Executive (and all-around great man). Finally, I would be remiss if I neglected to mention the central character in my Butterfly Effect *CHR* experience, my friend, and Co-Editor-in-Chief, Jackson Foster. Jackson was the freshman that got me involved with the journal and has been an important colleague for me at U.A. I am now more proud of him than ever, as he plans to head to Durham University—the second *CHR* Editor-in-Chief to move across the pond for graduate work—on a Marshall scholarship.

As I see Jackson and myself begin to hand off the reins of the *Crimson Historical Review* to its next generation of leaders, I can only offer one tip: trust in history and butterfly wings, you never know where either will lead you.

Please enjoy the newest edition of the *CHR*,

John Pace

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Co-Editor-in-Chief