Editor's Preface

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EVERY HISTORICAL JOURNAL HAS A FOCUS. SOME JOURNALS CENTER on a geographic region, others on a time period, and yet others on patterns common to every civilization. At first glance at this journal, however, there seems to be little thematic continuity between the articles. Topics range from medieval Portuguese legends to Missouri judicial politics. Despite varied subject matter, however, this journal's selections reflect important emphases on historical practice itself. First, the geographic, chronological, and thematic diversity of this journal serves to express the value of all kinds of history. The articles represented here feature inquiry into the history of Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and North America. They discuss issues ranging from the influences of one country over another to the daily life of individuals and their families. Even the methodologies vary, from quantitative social histories to intimate microhistories. No matter the subject matter or methodology, however, each article features relevant insights into understanding past civilizations.

Yet, there is another characteristic that ties these articles together; each author that contributed to this journal is relatively new to the world of historical inquiry. For many of this year's authors, this is the first time they have published anything. Though the future careers of each of these authors will certainly diverge, each young historian has recently discovered the excitement and value that history holds, and each has taken the initiative to discover evidence and draw conclusions. Ultimately, then, that is what the Thetean is and will continue to be; it is a place for first-time historians to venture into the world of academia, stretch their wings, and learn to fly.

—Travis Meyer
Editor-in-Chief