

Newsletter November 2007

Dear colleagues,

This letter is to inform you about the work of the International Economic History Association since October 2006 when the last IEHA newsletter was published, and to draw your attention to upcoming events and deadlines.

At their meeting in Utrecht this June, the members of the Executive Committee had the chance to see for themselves that preparations for the 15th World Economic History Congress (3-7 August 2009) are in full swing. At the same time, they selected session proposals for the congress program from the submissions of the first round. The preliminary program is published on the congress website (www.wehc2009.org). In addition, an updated version of the leaflet with a new time schedule is available from the local organizing committee (info@wehc2009.org). The second call for session proposals will be published in spring 2008 via EH.net, the congress website, and the usual distribution lists of IEHA.

The IEHA invites all of its member organizations to nominate candidates for the Executive Committee: In August 2009, at least six seats on the Executive Committee will become vacant for the years 2009-2012 (plus a potential second term). In addition, the position of the treasurer will become vacant. Each member organization may recommend one individual for nomination to any open seat. The Candidates do not necessarily need to be a member of the organization or come from the organization's home country. Nominations should be sent to the IEHA Office before August 31, 2008. Please include relevant information for the persons that you wish to nominate. This should include their current position, a list of publications, and information about governing positions held within their university or other institutions. The Executive Committee will then endorse one or more of the nominees per vacant position for election by the General Assembly in its meeting in August 2009. When making its recommendations, the Executive Committee will take into account the suitability of the nominees and will attempt to ensure that the Executive Committee will reflect the diversity of scholars of all member societies and of economic history in its broadest sense. For more information regarding the election of new EC members and the composition of the current Executive Committee please consult the IEHA website or the IEHA office (ieha@uni-tuebingen.de).

After detailed discussions in the Executive Committee and with the approval of the General Assembly, the incorporation and bank account of the Association will be moved from Switzerland to The Netherlands next year. By these means, annual interest income will increase substantially while at the same time, costs for transactions to the Euro zone will be reduced.

To increase the information about the organs of the organization and as a token of respect for many years of dedicated service to the IEHA, we would like to provide you with short biographies and research profiles of former EC members. We start with Osamu Saito, Sevket Pamuk, Jacob Metzger and Leonid Borodkin who all stepped down in August 2006 and were so kind to provide us with answers to four questions about their vita, their research and which person or event brought them into economic history. You will find the question and answers at the end of this letter. I hope you enjoy reading it.

With kind regards,

Joerg Baten
Secretary General

Short biographies and research profiles of former EC members

Leonid Borodkin



1. Short biography

I was born in Tallinn, Estonia/USSR, in 1946. I was granted my PhD (Doctor of Historical Sciences) by Moscow Lomonosov State University. Currently I keep positions of Professor, Chair of the Dept. for Historical Information Science and Director, Centre for Economic History at the History Faculty of Moscow Lomonosov State University. I'm also part-time Professor of economic history at the Higher School of Economics (Moscow). I'm the editor-in-chief of the Russian Yearbook on Economic History (from 2001 up to now) and the editor-in-chief of the periodical "Review of Economic History" (>) - both editions are published in Russian.

2. Which situation, person, or event brought you into economic history, and which motivation kept you there?

Cliometrics attracted me in 1970s as a research field which gives opportunity to apply statistical methods and modeling in studies on Russia's history. The community of cliometricians was very attractive by its openness and innovative activities. My PhD supervisor (Prof. Ivan Kovalchenko) was the initiator and enthusiast of quantitative approach implementation in Russian economic history so from the beginning I had very impressive examples of this sort of research. From the 1970s on I have a very positive impression of being involved in intensive professional life of this professional community (both in Russia and outside). Moreover, this interdisciplinary field combines exciting work with archival and statistical sources with strict analytical methods.

3. Please report five publications typical for your research fields (any language).

"Pre-Collectivization Peasantry Social Dynamic Retrognosis: Application of Alternative Models", *Historische Sozialforschung*. 1991. Vol. 16. N 2.

"Labor Turnover And Unemployment: Sticky Wages During the Industrialization of Russia, 1880-1913 - Hours of Work and Means of Payment: The Evolution of Conventions In Pre-Industrial Europe". *Proceedings of The XI International Economic History Congress*. Milan, 1994. P. 93-106.

"Modeling Wage Differentials In Russian Industries: 1880-1914". In: *Trends In Income Inequality During Industrialization*. *Proceedings of the XII International Economic History Congress*. Session B12. Madrid, 1998.

"Les conflits du travail en Russie soviétique pendant le "communisme de guerre" et la N.E.P. ", *Le Mouvement Social*, No 196, 2001. P.39-61.

"Coercion versus Motivation: Forced Labor in Norilsk". In: *The Economics of Forced Labor*. Ed. P.Gregory. Hoover Institution Press, Stanford, California. 2003. Pp. 75-104.

"Forced Labour and the Need for Motivation: Wages and Bonuses in the Stalinist Camp System", *Comparative Economic Studies*, 2005, vol.47. pp. 418-436.

4. Could you describe one of your most important research findings?

The simulation of alternative dynamics of Russian peasantry differentiation in 1930s. The analysis of Wage Differentiation in Russian Industries (1880-1920s). The Estimation of the GULAG economy efficiency.

Jacob Metzger



1. Short biography

I was born in 1942 in Haifa, Israel (then Palestine under the British Mandate). I was granted my Ph.D by the University of Chicago in 1972. Upon completing my graduate studies I returned to Israel and joined the Department of Economics at the Hebrew University, where I have been a faculty member ever since, and where I currently serve as the Alexander Brody Professor of Economic History. Over the years I held visiting positions at Stanford, Berkeley, Northwestern, The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington D.C., St. Antony's College, Oxford, and the LSE.

2. Which situation, person, or event brought you into economic history, and which motivation kept your there?

My basic interest in history made me take history as a major in my undergraduate studies at the Hebrew University (HU) in the early 1960s. I chose economics as a second major out of curiosity (wanted to find out what economics was all about). This combination and the encouragement of my teachers at the time: Nachum Gross, who taught economic history at the HU, Michael Confino, who taught Russian History, and Arcadius Kahan of the University of Chicago, who visited the HU in 1968, paved my way into graduate studies in economic history. At Chicago, I was intellectually enriched by Robert Fogel, D.N. McCloskey, and Arcadius Kahan who contributed to my lasting interest in economic history. This general interest, coupled with the specific interest in the economic history of Mandatory Palestine and Israel which I developed following my return to the HU in the early 1970s, shaped my work for years to come.

3. Please report five publications typical for your research fields (any language)

"Railroad Development and Market Integration: The Case of Tsarist Russia," *Journal of Economic History*, September 1974, pp. 529-550.

"Rational Management, Modern Business Practices and Economies of Scale in the Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations," *Explorations in Economic History*, April 1975, pp. 123-150.

"National Goals and Economic Structure. The Jewish National Home in Interwar Palestine," *Journal of Economic History*, March 1978, pp. 101-119.

The Divided Economy of Mandatory Palestine. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

"Some Considerations of Ethno-Nationality (and other Distinctions), Property Rights in Land, and Territorial Sovereignty," co-authored with Stanley Engerman, in Stanley L. Engerman and Jacob Metzger (eds.)

Land Rights, Ethno Nationality and Sovereignty in History. London: Routledge, 2004.

4. Could you describe one of your most important research findings?

I consider the construction of the industry-based national income accounts for the Arab and the Jewish sectors in Mandatory Palestine and for the country as a whole an important research achievement. These accounts enabled me to establish the macro-economic dynamics of the two separate but interrelated ethno-national economies during the three decades of British rule (1918-1948), demonstrating that both experienced an overall healthy, albeit fluctuating, growth record within two very different developmental environments. These findings have useful implications for understanding the structure and functioning of dual economies and for appreciating the relationships between economics and politics under adversity (See *The Divided Economy of Mandatory Palestine*, 1998).

Sevket Pamuk



1. Short biography

I was born in Istanbul, Turkey in 1950. I graduated from Yale University (1972) and obtained a Ph.D. degree in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley (1978). I have taught at various universities in Turkey and the United States including University of Ankara, Villanova University, Princeton University, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and Northwestern University.

I am Professor of Economics and Economic History at Bogaziçi (Bosphorus) University in Istanbul since 1994.

2. Which situation, person, or event brought you into economic history, and which motivation kept you there?

There was a strong group in economic history at Berkeley when I was a graduate student there. I took courses from Carlo Cipolla, Jan De Vries, Bent Hansen, Albert Fishlow, Richard Roehl and Richard Sutch during my graduate studies. These teachers and advisors played an important role in my decision to choose a topic in economic history for my dissertation. I am happy I stayed with economic history ever since.

3. Please report five publications typical for your research fields (any language)

The Ottoman Empire and European Capitalism, 1820-1914, Cambridge University Press, 1987.

.A Monetary History of the Ottoman Empire, Cambridge University Press, 2000.

A History of the Middle East Economies in the Twentieth Century (written jointly with Roger Owen), I.B. Tauris Publishers and Harvard University Press, 1998.

"Real Wages and Standards of Living in the Ottoman Empire, 1489-1914", The Journal of Economic History, Vol. 62, 2002, pp. 292-321 (with Suleyman Ozmucur).

"The Black Death and the Origins of the Great Divergence inside Europe, 1300-1600", European Review of Economic History, Vol. 11, 2007, pp. 289-317.

4. Could you describe one of your most important research findings?

Historiography on the Ottoman Empire during the early modern era had emphasized the rigidity and stagnation of institutions and economic as well as military decline. My research into monetary and fiscal institutions indicated that Ottomans were quite pragmatic and flexible and there was, in fact, a good deal of institutional change during this period, albeit selective. A large archival research project I led on prices and wages indicated that Ottoman standards of living were not declining during the early modern

centuries. Until the Industrial Revolution, Ottoman wages and per capita incomes were lower than but comparable to those in most other regions of Europe except the northwest. Finally, my recent work indicates that modern economic growth arrived in the Ottoman Empire during the nineteenth century but the income gap with western Europe widened until World War I.

Osamu Saito



1. Short biography

Born in Chichibu, Saitama prefecture, in 1946 after the family's evacuation from air-raided Tokyo. I read economics and economic history at Keio University, where I received a D.Econ. After having lectured in economic history at Keio, I moved to the Institute of Economic Research (IER), Hitotsubashi University, where I am a research professor. I am currently Head of the IER's Research Unit for Statistical Analysis in Social Sciences (Hi-Stat), and President of The Socio-Economic History Society, Japan.

2. Which situation, person, or event brought you into economic history, and which motivation kept you there?

History was always my favourite subject since my boyhood. However, early influences from Weberian comparative history turned my attention to social sciences. In the social sciences I was particularly fascinated by analytical as well as statistical reasoning in modern economics, which led me to economic history.

3. Please report five publications typical for your research fields (any language)

"Wages, inequality and pre-industrial growth in Japan, 1727-1894", in R. Allen et al., eds, *Living standards in the past: new perspectives on well-being in Asia and Europe*, Oxford, 2005.

"Two kinds of stem family system? Traditional Japan and Europe compared", *Continuity and change*, vol.13, 1998.

"Gender, workload and agricultural progress: Japan's historical experience in perspective", in R. Leboutte, ed., *Proto-industrialization: recent research and new perspectives. In memory of Franklin Mendels*, Geneva, 1996.

"Population and the peasant family economy in proto-industrial Japan", Journal of family history, vol.8, 1983.

"Who worked when: life-time profiles of labour force participation in Cardington and Corfe Castle in the late eighteenth and mid-nineteenth centuries", Local population studies, no.22, 1979; reprinted in N. Goose, ed., Women's work in industrial England, Hatfield, 2007.

4. Could you describe one of your most important research findings?

Tokugawa Japan experienced what F. Mendels called proto-industrialisation. However, it is found that its effect on marriage and hence on population growth was not particularly strong. While, on the industrial and market side, much the same mechanism as observed in early modern Europe seems to have been at work, the ways in which the family was formed and the household economy maintained were profoundly different from the patterns western Europe exhibited.