

INTRODUCTION

The value of historical scholarship is its ability to help us understand the experiences and attitudes of those who lived in different times and places. Volume 42 of *Perspectives* features works that offer new outlooks to the history of Ancient Rome, childhood education, American country music gender ideology, Argentina's Dirty War, and America's first celebrities. While addressing a broad range of topics and temporal scopes as well as making different historiographic interventions, they share the use of fascinating and at times unconventional primary sources.

Perspectives is created in the upper-division history class HIST 497, with both graduate and undergraduate students enrolled. The journal is published in the spring and sponsored by the Eta Xi chapter of Phi Alpha Theta. Having previously won an award for Best Print Journal twice and the Gerald D. Nash History Journal Prize for Best Electronic Journal for Volumes 40 and 41, this year's editing staff is pr-oud to continue the legacy of this award-winning journal. The articles presented below are the result of a competitive se-lection process made by the student editors.

Lisa Burton explores Augustus' reproductive legislation through the writings of ancient Roman historians. This legislation encouraged marriage and procreation while reinforcing patriarchal gender roles by prohibiting long engagements, curbing divorce rates, and requiring widows to remarry.

Osvaldo Colin uses *Redbook* magazine, the *Los Angeles Times*, and curriculum manuals to trace public discourses about early childhood education in the United States during the 1960s and 1970s. Colin explores an emerging dialogue between psychologists, education professionals, and parents who emphasized curricula ranging from free play to academics for toddlers.

Natasha Lueras demonstrates how mid-twentieth century American country music culture labeled female singers according to marital status. Lueras examines music lyrics, record companies, and magazines to showcase how the country music industry portrayed their female singers. Many songwriters, especially women artists, challenged gendered standards of acceptability by singing about infidelity, divorce, and abandonment.

Romina Samplina argues for *testimonios* as a unique perspective to Argentina's Dirty War from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s. Her study is a new assessment on the disappeared victims of the war through Alicia Portnoy's *La Escuelita*. This source embroils the reader in the world of the narrator by underscoring the everyday nature of torture, violence, oppression, and captivity.

Renee Tabizon examines obituaries in American newspapers during the Gilded Age and argues that the press played a crucial role in transforming the image of elite men from robber barons to philanthropists postmortem. These obituaries range in terms of political perspective and geographic scope, making them assorted, interesting, and unique primary sources.

This year's special feature offers a brief history of CSULA that considers increased student involvement, state mandates about higher education, and broader social changes in the community since the university's founding in 1947. It argues the university coalesced into the people's university.

This edition's social media and public relations team worked to raise the profile of *Perspectives* in the digital world. They created Twitter and Instagram pages and continued updating the Facebook page in order to connect with the CSULA community and beyond. This volume concludes with book reviews contributed by each member of this year's editorial staff. The book reviews, much like

the essays, address a myriad of topics that are sure to appeal to the diverse interests of this journal's readership.

The use of overlooked, unique or underutilized primary sources by this year's articles reflects a promising future for historical research to not only continue traditional modes of inquiry, but also to offer fresh insights for a wide variety of topics. Moreover, publishing the journal strengthened every member of the editing team's writing and editing skills, as well as confirming to us how valuable careful revisions are in improving every piece of writing. All published content was contributed by current students, and reflects the discipline, skills, and talents fostered by the CSULA History Department.

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