

Editors' Notes

EDITORS' REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2001

The dual-editor regime, which has governed the operations of the JOURNAL for so long, assumed the form of a San Francisco Bay axis last year, as Gavin Wright at Stanford joined Jan de Vries at Berkeley to guide the JOURNAL's affairs. Now the time is approaching to pass the baton of the Rest of the World editorship. At the end of June Jan de Vries and assistant editor Heath Pearson will return to civilian life and send their files and the burdens of editorship to C. Knick Harley of Western Ontario University.

De Vries wants to take this occasion to offer sincere thanks to Edna Tow, whose management of the editorial office has been efficient and good humored, and to the Berkeley History department and its Sidney Hellman Ehrman Chair fund, for generously supporting the editorial office. Wright extends the same appreciation to Scott Wilson, assistant at the Stanford office, for his steadfast service for the JOURNAL. Assistant editor Susan Isaac especially thanks Jim Cobbe and the Economics Department at Florida State University for their provision of office space and support, which has allowed her to continue her work with the JOURNAL.

In the 2000/01 editorial year most quantitative indicators of the JOURNAL's health and intellectual direction revealed little change from the recent past. New submissions rose slightly, from 92 to 96, a number that remains consistent with the long-term, downward-sloping trend line of Figure 1.

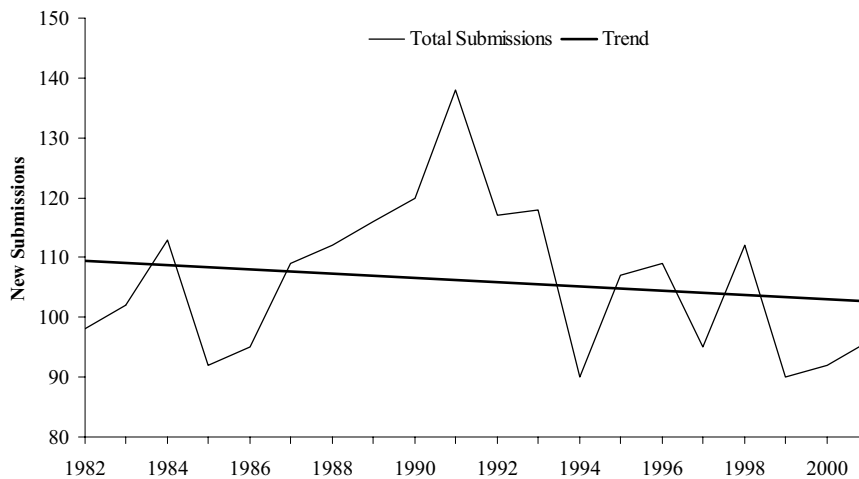


FIGURE 1
TREND IN NEW SUBMISSIONS, 1981/82–2000/01

Source: The yearly totals were taken from the published Editors' Notes.

Tables 1 through 3 show the distribution of new submissions by topic, region, and era. Each of these measures of the scope of the JOURNAL's coverage reflects a continuation of the breadth that is a central goal of this publication. Table 3 does show a small upward trend in the percentage of submissions on pre-1800 topics, a development in which the outgoing editor takes some satisfaction. Table 2 reveals that the invisible hand that for so long had maintained parity between the submissions on North American topics and Rest of the World topics was lifted, resulting in a substantial shift in favor of the latter. Only the future will reveal whether inattention or design accounts for this cosmic event.

The increase from 92 to 96 in new submissions was more than offset by the decline in resubmissions from 40 to 30 and meant that the offices handled six fewer papers than last year. For submissions that have been decided, the acceptance rate declined from 27 to 21 percent, the revise-and-resubmit rate increased from 29 to 33 percent, and the rejection rate remained the same at 45 percent.

TABLE 1
REGULAR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS BY WORLD AREA, BROKEN DOWN BY TOPIC,
JULY 1998–JUNE 2001 (totals)

Topic	July 1998–June 1999		July 1999–June 2000		July 2000–June 2001	
	North America	All Other Regions	North America	All Other Regions	North America	All Other Regions
Agriculture	3	7	5	7	3	13
Demography	3	5	5	0	5	2
Growth	0	10	0	2	0	6
Industry	7	2	5	0	4	5
Technology	2	1	0	1	1	1
Labor	4	4	5	11	5	5
Money and macro	8	7	5	6	3	10
Public finance	0	4	3	3	0	0
History of thought	0	1	0	0	0	0
International trade, finance	3	2	3	4	2	7
Urban and regional	2	1	1	1	1	4
Political economy	7	9	11	6	8	0
Private finance, capital markets	5	4	4	5	6	5
Total	44	46	46	46	38	58

Note: The numbers include new submissions only. The totals equal the number of new submissions received because a paper is classified in only one topic category. In the latest year, the North American office had 56 total submissions, 38 new and 18 resubmitted. The office for all other regions had 70 total submissions, 58 new and 12 resubmitted.

TABLE 2
REGULAR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS BY REGION, 1 JULY–30 JUNE
1997–1998, 1998–1999, 1999–2000, AND 2000–2001

Region	Submissions			
	1997–1998	1998–1999	1999–2000	2000–2001
Australia	4	2	0	1
United States and Canada	55	44	45	38
Non-Spanish speaking Caribbean	0	0	0	0
Great Britain	13	11	15	16
Western Europe	25	24	25	21
Asia	12	6	6	13
Latin America	5	5	2	3
Eastern Europe/Russia	2	4	2	6
Africa	0	1	1	1
Middle East	0	2	0	2
Not applicable or unknown	3	3	0	7

Note: The numbers include new submissions only. Totals exceed new submissions because a paper can be classified as pertaining to more than one region.

TABLE 3
REGULAR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS BY PERIOD, 1 JULY–30 JUNE
1998–1999, 1999–2000, AND 2000–2001

Period	Submissions		
	1998–1999	1999–2000	2000–2001
Twentieth century	61	45	57
Nineteenth century	68	44	53
Seventeenth and eighteenth centuries	20	20	22
Pre-seventeenth century	12	8	15
Not applicable or unknown	0	0	0

Note: The numbers include new submissions only. Totals exceed submissions because a paper can be classified as pertaining to more than one period.

TABLE 4
ACCEPTANCE AND TURNAROUND

Decision	North American Office		International Office		Total	
	1999/2000	2000/01	1999/2000	2000/01	1999/2000	2000/01
Accepted	19	16	16	11	35	27
Revise and resubmit	19	13	19	29	38	42
Rejected or withdrawn	26	27	33	30	59	57
Total	64	56	68	70	132	126

Decision Lags (in days)

Year	minimum	maximum	mean	median
1998/1999	1	383	112	101
1999/2000	1	219	89	91
2000/2001	8	273	108	103

Note: The numbers include new submissions plus resubmissions.

On behalf of those who have benefited from thoughtful comments on their submissions and of readers who enjoy the end result of that honing process, the editors acknowledge a debt of gratitude to those who give so much of their time. Diligent referees, insightful book review authors, and dedicated members of the editorial board make it possible for the editors to fulfill their charge and continue the tradition of excellence for which the JOURNAL is known. Special thanks are due to those board members who have just completed four-year terms of service: Stephen Broadberry, Colleen Callahan, Gregory Clark, Joseph Ferrie, Jane Humphries, Kevin O'Rourke, and William Sundstrom. Our referees for the past year were:

Brian A'Hearn, *Franklin and Marshall College*
 Mark Aldrich, *Smith College*
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 Lee Alston, *University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*
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 Jeremy Atack, *Vanderbilt University*

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 George Grantham, *McGill University*
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 Avner Greif, *Stanford University*
 Richard Grossman, *Wesleyan University*
 Farley Grubb, *University of Delaware*
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