2009

Introduction

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Introduction

For eighteen years, the History Department at Santa Clara University has published Historical Perspectives, a journal of undergraduate work that showcases students’ exemplary scholarship. Historical Perspectives is published with assistance from members of the Lambda Upsilon Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta.

The papers in this edition of Historical Perspectives cover a thousand years and three continents, and the diversity of topics presented in these papers reflects the global emphasis of the Santa Clara History Department. There is no theme uniting these papers, and they should not be read as if there was thematic unity. We have chosen to arrange the papers chronologically, and so start with Ruth Avalon Caswell’s paper “My son for the Daughter and my Daughter for the Son”: Clothing, Gender, and Power in the Torikaebaya monogatari which examines the role of clothing in defining gender and access to power in tenth and eleventh century Japan, using the story The Changelings as a lens into Japanese culture. Next we travel to sixteenth century France, for Samantha Rauer’s paper “The Seine Ran Red With Blood’: Developments in Protestant Propaganda Before and After the Saint Bartholomew’s Day Massacre,” an analysis of how the St Bartholomew’s Day Massacre changed Huguenot propaganda from relatively sanitized to sensational. We remain in Europe for Brian Kernan’s paper “If I Were a Rich Man’: The Rothschilds and Anti-Semitism in 19th Century France” which looks how at the legend of the Rothschilds helped to propagate anti-Semitism in nineteenth century Europe. We then return to Japan for Anthony Walsh’s award-winning paper “The
Economics of Excrement: Public Health and Urban Planning in Meiji Japan.” Anthony’s paper, which won both the Santa Clara University History Department McPhee Prize for the best presentation of original historical research, and took first place in the undergraduate division of the Northern California Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, disputes the claim that Japan wholesale copied Western nations during the Meiji Restoration by investigating urban planning, specifically water distribution and waste disposal. We then jump to the United States during the early twentieth century, for Alexandra Bisio’s paper “Yes, Sir, I Am Here!: Images of American Women in World War I Propaganda,” which examines ways in which images of women in war propaganda exemplified women’s changing roles. Also in American history is Emma Nagengast’s paper “We Must Get into the Arena: The Feminism of Judge Sarah T. Hughes,” an analytical biography of Judge Hughes, focusing not only on her feminism but her role in such landmark cases as Roe v. Wade. The final American history paper is Carolyn Linck’s paper, which won the Santa Clara University History Department’s Redwood Prize for best essay on a historical subject, “From the Supreme Court to the Basketball Court: The Achievements and Limitations of the Racial Integration of College Sports,” on the role collegiate sports played in integrating the American South during the 1960s and 1970s. Finally, we journey to modern India for Deepti Shenoy’s paper “Saffron and Spice and Everything Nice?: A Study of Women in Hindutva,” on the roles played by women in both the militant and political arms of the Hindu Nationalist movement.

There are a few people without whom this paper would not have been possible. First, all the professors who advised and assisted the students as they wrote their papers. These professors were both inspiring and supportive, and we appreciate the effort they put into mentoring their students. Secondly, we would like to thank the professors directly involved in the publication of Historical Perspectives, Professor Naomi Andrews, Professor Amy Randall, and Professor Fabio Lopez-Lazaro. Also, special thanks are reserved for the History Department office manager Mrs. Judy Gillette, who oversees the technical aspects of publication. Congratulations are in order for all the students whose work is contained herein.

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