

Editors' Preface

I recollect distinctly one pleasant morning in Napa, February 8 - 1882, a very affectionate & cheerful leavetaking between Wife & husband, Mother & children, then all was silent, & I was alone. - Azariah Ashley Bancroft

Armed with nothing but ink, paper, and will, the love of a spouse can travel through space and time—a lifetime of meaning understood and felt through history. Here, armed with technology, a love for history, and the force of will, we present Volume 47 (2020) of *The Welebaethan*, a collection created during a time of global adversity. Last year's issue was a landmark, *published* entirely online for the first time. However, no one could have anticipated then that this year's issue would have to be *created* almost entirely online. After a few in-person meetings, and staring down the barrel of a pandemic, we compiled the journal from the relative safety of our home offices, bedrooms, kitchen tables, or other work spaces of this "new normal." As with all creative endeavors impacted by the COVID-19 shutdowns, the challenges for this year's *Welebaethan* were not purely logistical: to support one another, to maintain a sense of community, and to strive for the intangible goal of scholarly rigor, while the needs of many were tangible and immediate—this year's *Welebaethan* is a testament to resilience.

That said, we are pleased to offer this collection of insightful scholarship by our fellow graduate and undergraduate historians. The articles and essays published here touch on a wide array of topics: from "pirates" in the ancient Mediterranean to the counterculture movement in 1960s Britain; from silenced seeresses to obscure operas; from endangered indigenous languages to competing memories; and including—now that the *Welebaethan* accepts submissions from scholars elsewhere—an article from a colleague in Fort Hays, Kansas, "Playing Bachelor." There are several editions of previously unpublished archival documents and oral histories from our University Archives and Special Collections, as well as the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH), among them the scrawled 1911-1913 journal of Antarctic expedition member Allen C. Thomson; the 1930s repatriation memories of Hortencia Martínez de Benítez (transcribed in Spanish and then translated into English); an interview with Trinidadian activist C. L. R. James (1901-1989); and the "Recollections" of Azariah Ashley (A. A.) Bancroft (1799-1885), the father of renowned historian Hubert Howe Bancroft. The original cover art (*I Love Lucy, or: Relating to my dear wife*) features a collage of the portraits of A. A. Bancroft and his wife Lucy, and page 25 of the former's "Recollections" where *he* writes fondly about *her*. Our journal's final section presents reviews of books, exhibitions, films, documentaries, TV shows, and games that may be of interest to historians. The opinions expressed in the articles, editions, and reviews belong to the individual authors and editors themselves and do not necessarily reflect the views of the journal's editors.

The process of publishing this year's *Welebaethan* involved several groups and individuals. We would like to extend our thanks firstly to our faculty advisor, Jochen Burgtorf, whose guidance, meticulous attention to detail, and unwavering dedication to excellence was matched only by his effective conversion of all our editing endeavors to a "fully online" format. Our University Archives and Special Collections accommodated our feverish Friday night editing sessions before the campus transitioned to virtual instruction, and for this we are forever indebted to the archivist, Patrisia Prestinary, as well as our personal metaphorical Charon who helped us cross into the realm of the past, Nick Seider. We also thank COPH archivist Natalie Navar Garcia for her gracious assistance to us. Our efforts were preeminently supported by the very thoughtful faculty members, alumni, and students of California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), who participated in the triple-blind review process, and we profoundly appreciate their insight, judgment, and generous comments. As a condition *sine qua non*, all scholarly journals must rely on superb intellectual contributions. Thus, we send our deepest thanks to all who submitted articles and essays, editions, and reviews, whether independently or as members of CSUF's "History and Editing" course. We are honored to present your hard work on your behalf.

Finally, we thank you, the reader. This volume is the end of our journey and the beginning of yours. We hope that the drive, time, and love of all those involved in making this journal possible have translated into a collection of scholarship that you may carry with you on your own journey. Without the willingness to create it, there is no meaning; without you, there is no *Welebaethan*.

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