

Editors' Preface

With great excitement we present *The Welebaethan's* Volume 49 (2022). This year's journal production was an interesting undertaking, as we returned to an in-person format, albeit with safety precautions in place. Despite our weekly face-to-face meetings, things did not quite feel "back to normal;" however, a different sense of normalcy developed once we were able to see our colleagues and have conversations that did not require typing into a Zoom chat, clicking the "raise hand" function, or being sent into break-out rooms. This volume of *The Welebaethan* once again offers a variety of articles, essays, editions, and reviews that, we hope, will interest our readers. It features pieces of scholarship that were researched and written by undergraduate and graduate historians at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), as well as an article by Alison Jean Helget, a recent M.A. (2022) from Fort Hays State University in Kansas. By publishing works written by guest authors via our journal's open submission guidelines, we hope that others will feel welcome to show us their manuscripts. The original cover art, "Red Olympiad Menagerie," is a photo collage by our fellow CSUF historian James Marshall Novak (B.A., 2022). Using recolored fragments of historic images housed at CSUF, it is a tip of the hat to an article in this volume on the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles 90 years ago.

Volume 49 (2022) contains fifteen articles and essays on a wide range of topics: the history of pasta since ancient times; agency and propaganda in illuminated medieval manuscripts; the secularization of French education; Ho Chi Minh's transition to communism; German Expressionist films by F. W. Murnau; the 1932 Olympic village in Los Angeles; the formation of fascism in Italy; American state-building in postwar Japan; the remembrance of the Holocaust through music and the preservation of memorials; the perspectives of gay conservatives in America; the decline of Romania's population in the post-communist era; the portrayal of the American Jezebel stereotype; and the decline of U.S. imperialism from the 1990s to the present.

Previously unpublished archival documents and oral histories from CSUF's University Archives and Special Collections (UA&SC) and the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH) can also be found in this volume: letters from the Durkee Family as they transitioned from fighting in the Civil War to becoming homesteaders in Nebraska (1862-1895); Hiroko Nonoshita's reflections on Japanese American internment at Manzanar (1942-1944); letters from Sidney Goldman who worked as a U.S. Army tire repairman in Manila (January 1946); an interview with police officer Alan Bond who served the people and mentored the youth of Santa Ana (1973); the recollections of CSUF's Ronald Rietveld on his career as a Civil War historian (1997); and an interview with Los Angeles Chicana artist and activist Margaret Garcia (2017). This volume's final section presents reviews of books, in-person exhibitions,

films, documentaries, TV shows, games, and, for the first time in *The Welebaethan's* history, a podcast. The opinions expressed in this volume's articles, essays, editions, and reviews belong, of course, to the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the journal's editors.

This year's publication of *The Welebaethan* would not have been possible without the substantial support of the faculty members in CSUF's Department of History and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Sincere gratitude goes to Jochen Burgtorf, our faculty advisor, who offered words of encouragement, guidance, and support throughout the production process. We especially thank all the faculty and alumni (triple-blind peer) reviewers, as well as the members of CSUF's "History and Editing" seminar (HIST406A) and the members of CSUF's Theta-Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, for their time and effort to ensure the quality of this journal. We give special thanks to Jasamin Rostam-Kolayi, the Chair of CSUF's Department of History and historian of the Modern Middle East, for her unwavering support of *The Welebaethan* and our History program as a whole. We are also deeply thankful to Natalie Navar Garcia and Patrisia Prestinary, head archivists of COPH and UA&SC respectively, for providing us with the manuscripts and oral-history interviews used in this volume's editions. Finally, our journal's online presence is made possible thanks to the enthusiastic support of Mariea Daniell Whittington, the administrator of <https://www.welebaethan.org/> and an alumna of our department. As editors, we hope that you, the readers, will enjoy engaging with the works presented here and appreciate the efforts of all involved in the making of this journal.

Fullerton, June 30, 2022

MICHAEL A. CONTI of *Mission Viejo, California*, earned both his B.A. in History with a minor in Political Science (2019) and his M.A. in History (2022) at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), where he is a member of the Theta-Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society).

DESIREE MONTES of *Anaheim, California*, earned both her B.A. in History with a minor in Geography (2019) and her M.A. in History (2022) at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), where she is a member of the Theta-Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society).