

Introduction

The ninth edition of *Ibid: A Student History Journal* contains essays that highlight different time periods and human experiences. The subjects of these essays include in depth looks at experiences from the very distant past, including ancient Rome and the post-revolutionary United States, as well as essays that provide in depth looks into the different decades of the twentieth century. This year's edition also showcases the role of oral history and the study of objects in helping historians interpret the past. The range of essays featured in this edition of *Ibid.* demonstrate the importance of looking at history from different angles and using different types of sources in historical research.

The first essay featured in the 2016 edition of *Ibid.* was presented the Valentine J. Belfiglio Paper Prize. *Building the New Deal: Federal Construction on College Campuses in 1930s Texas*, authored by Kaitlyn Waynen, compares the building projects undertaken with federal funds during the Great Depression at Texas Woman's University, the University of North Texas, and Texas A&M University. Ms. Waynen uncovers the construction at Texas Woman's University though considerably expansive, was similar to the amount of construction projects undertaken by other colleges and universities.

The second essay titled *The 1950s Cold War Housewife and Tupperware: A Vehicle for Her Individual and Socioeconomic Change*, also won the Valentine J. Belfiglio Paper Prize. The author of the essay, Leah Stanton, explores 1950s gender roles and how women often found their lives as homemakers restrictive. Ms. Stanton argues relief of these feelings of disillusionment came with the invention of Tupperware and Bonnie Wise's innovative business model. Wise's business model empowered women to go into business for themselves as Tupperware promoters and party hosts, allowing women to find accomplishment in their own endeavors not only the accomplishments of their spouses.

The four following essays were written by the winners of the 2016 Living History Community College Essay Contest. The winner of this year's contest, Sandy Davis, wrote an essay titled *Ellen Dibler: A Life of Impossibilities*. This essay examines the persevering spirit of a woman with spina bifida, who did not allow her illness define her life, despite medical research being predominantly dedicated to Polio during her childhood. The second place essay, is authored by Robert G. Peterson, and titled *Wise Word from Grandma: A Re-telling of Racial Tension during the Civil Rights Era and How Those Problems May Be Avoided by Future Generations*. For this essay Mr. Peterson interviewed his grandmother, whose father's progressive attitudes plunged his family into the crossfire of racial tensions in 1950s North Carolina. This essay captures the struggles faced by those who supported the Civil Rights Movement, and provides insight into how racial tension today can be mitigated. Melanie Melesio's essay *A Second Chance* received third place this year. This essay explores the experiences of an undocumented worker, who came to the United States from Mexico in the 1990s in

search of work to support his family. The essay gives readers a glimpse into the struggles faced by such immigrants, including language barriers and discrimination. The next essay received honorable mention. Sarah Young's *An Interview from the Pacific: Documenting a Disappearing Generation*, sheds light on the experiences of G.I.s stationed in the Pacific during World War II. The essay also recounts the experience of a G. I stationed in Japan after the war.

The seventh essay featured in this edition of *Ibid.* is authored by Alicia Berdan and titled *Caspar David Friedrich and the 20th Century*. This art history essay examines Caspar David Friedrich's unique *rückenfigur* style that artists used to enhance the emotional, and metaphysical experience of those who viewed his artwork. The author argues the developments made by Friedrich greatly affected the works of several other prominent artists, including Giorgio de Chirico and Mark Rothko.

The eighth essay written by Amanda Roberts and titled, *National Anxiety and Religion: Transitional Captivity Narratives from the Post-Revolutionary United States*, tracks the shift of the captivity narrative literary genre. These texts went from being religiously inspired works written about Native American captivity experiences, to texts chronicling Barbary captivity, that were used to help America establish a national identity after the American Revolution.

The ninth essay, *Flood Waters, Thirst and Drowning Mccurley's Prairie: A History of Lewisville Lake* written by Julie Stowe Matthews, explores early attempts to control the Trinity River for the benefit of the Denton, TX area. The author uses technical information as well as personal accounts and newspapers to showcase the impact the water source had on the people and development of Denton County.

The tenth essay, authored by Cynthia Butler and titled *Carlos Marcello and the Sicilian Mafia in the U.S.*, examines the life of Carlos Marcello, an infamous mafia boss who rose to power in 1950s and 60s New Orleans. Ms. Bulter chronicles how Marcello became involved in the mafia and how he remained in power despite many attempts by law enforcement to entrap him.

The eleventh essay is titled *The History and Importance of the Roman Bath*. This essay examines the development of the Roman baths and the significance they had in Roman culture and society. The author, Haley Mowdy, argues that through inspecting the architectural features of these baths and studying literature from the period, it is clear baths were cultural, social and political centers in the Roman Empire.

The twelfth essay, *Left off the Podium: President Jimmy Carter, the United States Olympic Committee, and the Boycott of the 1980 Summer Olympic Games in Moscow, Russia* is written by Lacey Lebleu. In this essay Ms. Lebleu explores the controversial decision to disallow American athletes from competing the 1980 Summer Olympics. Ms. Lebleu highlights the tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the impact the boycott had on American athletes, and the increased role athletes assumed on the world stage after these games.

The twelfth essay *Hernandez v. Texas: The Fight for Mexican American Rights* is authored by Lucas E. Espinoza. Mr. Espinoza uses Critical Race Theory and the often overlooked court case *Hernandez v. Texas* to provide insight into the fight for Mexican- American rights during the 1950s. His essay specifically delves into the unfair jury selection practices of the Civil Rights Era, arguing defendants of color were often judged by all white juries.

The final section of this edition of *Ibid.* contains three public history themed essays written by undergraduates for a colonial material culture class. Each analyzes the items discovered in 17th and 18th century colonial inventories. These compositions, written by Stephanie Zwinggi, Excellsie Morgan and Valerie Estrada, look at inventories from Virginia, Massachusetts, and the Caribbean and shed light on the everyday lives of colonists through examination of what individual people owned.

The ninth edition of *Ibid. A Student History Journal* highlights key moments and experiences from both the distant and near past. Through reading these essays we are exposed to new historical ideas and interpretations of different eras in World and American history. We are also reminded that written documents are not the only windows into the past. As historians we must use other sources available to us including oral histories and objects to better interpret the human experience. Please enjoy the Ninth Edition of *Ibid. A Student History Journal*.

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