

**Conference Group for Central European History
124th Annual Meeting, American Historical Association
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Annual Report of the Editor of *Central European History* for 2009
Saturday, January 9, 2010

Introduction

Calendar year 2009, Volume 42, represented the fourth year of the publishing relationship between the Conference Group for Central European History (“Conference Group”) and Cambridge University Press (“CUP” or “the Press”) to produce *Central European History* (“CEH” or “the journal”), and the fifth year of the term of the current Editor. In the course of the year, both the Conference Group and the Press continued to enjoy the rewards of past efforts in production, marketing, editorial policy, and financial results and to manage significant transitions in the structure of sales and distribution of scholarly journals. The relationship between the Editor and the Press continues to be very productive and comfortable, and it has matured and advanced greatly. I wish to thank my colleagues at the Press for the close and responsive working relationship, particularly Mark Zadrozny, Senior Editor; Susan Soule, Marketing Manager; Andrea Chernichiari, Manager Consortia Sales; and overseeing the whole operation, Ella Colvin, Editor-in-Chief, Humanities and Social Sciences Journals. Closest to home is Steven Price, Production Editor, whose care, timeliness, and flexibility make the production process for Editors and authors alike as smooth as can be imagined.

Most of all, I owe a profound debt of gratitude to Gayle Godek, Assistant Editor of *Central European History*, for her accurate, efficient, acerbic, and cheerful work on behalf of the journal. Numerous authors have noted to me what a pleasure it is to work with Gayle and how scrupulous yet responsive she is in her editorial work. My job simply would not be as rewarding as it is without Gayle’s contribution to the journal’s operation.

This Annual Report consists of four sections: First, a summary of the operations of the journal for calendar 2009 (Volume 42); second, a report on subscriptions, marketing, and financial matters for 2009; third, a report on current and upcoming policy issues facing the journal and the Conference group; and fourth, several resolutions for consideration by the Executive Board and then the Business Meeting.

Summary of Operations

During calendar 2009, four issues of *Central European History* have appeared on schedule, Volume 42, Numbers 1 (March 1), 2 (June 1), 3 (September 1), and 4 (December 1). Volume 43, Number 1 has returned from the publisher in first proofs,

which have been corrected and returned to the compositor, and it is scheduled for distribution on March 1, 2010. The manuscript for Volume 43, Number 2, almost copy-edited and will go to the publisher in timely form on February 1, 2010, and is scheduled to appear on June 1, 2010. Volume 43, Number 3 is filled with accepted manuscripts for a thematic issue on Gender and Human Rights after World War II, while Number 4 has two accepted manuscripts and room for an additional two. Volume 44, Number 1 will be a thematic issue on the Weimar Republic. The table below reflects the contents of Volumes 41 (2008), 42 (2009), and a projection to 43 (2010).

Volume and Number Published	Articles	Review Articles	Book Reviews	Other	Pages
41:1	3	0	20	2	176
40:2	4	0	19	2	167
40:3	5	0	20	0	204
40:4	4	0	20	2	190
Total 2008	16	0	79	6	737
Volume and Number Published	Articles	Review Articles	Book Reviews	Other	Pages
42:1	4	0	21	0	194
42:2	4	1	20	1	192
42:3	4	1	20	0	210
42:4	5	0	20	2	202
Total 2009	17	2	81	3	798
Volume and Number in Process for 2010	Articles	Review Articles	Book Reviews	Other	Pages
43:1	5	1	20	0	
43:2	4	0	24	1	
43:3	4	0	24	1	
43:4	4	0	20	0	
Total 2010	17	1	88	2	

Book reviews remain a healthy component of the content of the journal. The quality of reviews is high, and the timeliness of appearance of a review in relation to the publication of the book remains good. Associate Editor Catherine Epstein recruited two fine and extensive Review Essays which ran in Volume 42 Numbers 2 and 3, with an additional Review Essay to run in Volume 43 Number 1.

Manuscript submissions continue to track past years, as this comparison of 2007, 2008, and 2009 shows. Manuscript quality remains high, and selectivity also remains high.

Editorial Summary for 1/1-12/31/2009		Comparison 2008	Comparison 2007
Articles Submitted	46	46	46
Articles Accepted	9	23	10
2009 Submissions Accepted	4	11	7

Articles to be Revised	18	10	9
Articles at Referees	11	6	13
Articles Rejected	24	26	23
2009 Submissions Rejected	18	22	19

Subscriptions, Marketing, Financial Matters

[Insert here subscription and marketing report from CUP]

Income to the Conference Group derives exclusively from the Conference Group's share in the revenues derived from by Cambridge University Press from sale of subscriptions and rights to *Central European History*. Income under the current contract with Cambridge has been:

Calendar 2006 (Volume 39)	\$32,580.00
Calendar 2007 (Volume 40)	\$53,202.00
Calendar 2008 (Volume 41)	\$58,949.00

For Volume 41, subscription revenue was virtually flat, other revenue was \$4,000.00 higher than the prior year, and expenses were lower by \$6,000.00, so that the surplus share, of which the Conference Group receives 55 percent, was up by more than \$10,000.00, resulting in the increase in income. Income for Volume 42, calendar year 2009, will be accounted in late April 2010, and we should anticipate that it will equal that for calendar 2008 (Volume 41).

Late in 2008, the back set of *Central European History* became available in JSTOR, beginning with Volume 1 and running through Volume 38. There is a 3-year rolling wall so that subscribers' value will be protected. Cambridge University Press has also developed its own digitized archive, which makes the back set of the journal available to subscribers in another form and with a different array of search capabilities. Royalties from JSTOR have not yet been accounted, but the advanced estimate was that they would begin at \$1,000.00-2,000.00 annually.

Policy Matters

At Business Meeting of the Conference Group in January 2009, I was elected to a second five-year term as Editor, to run from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2014. The Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and Provost at CWRU, despite the budgetary difficulties at all colleges and universities in the past year, agreed to renew the institutional support for my editorial work for this term, at slightly different levels from

in the past term. Most importantly, the institutional support arrangements permit Gayle Godek to continue as Assistant Editor, ensuring continued excellent work with authors and excellent quality of the final product.

In March 2009, the operations of *Central European History* attempted to move to the Manuscript Central system offered by ScholarOne, to permit on-line submission, peer review, and management of manuscripts.. Despite diligent work by staff members at Cambridge University Press and at ScholarOne, I concluded by May that the part-time nature of the work of the Assistant Editor and Editor, combined with the relatively small manuscript volume of the journal (compared to natural science journals), simply made it inefficient for the editorial staff to devote the time to learning the full capabilities of the on-line submission system. I have discontinued use of Manuscript Central, informing both Cambridge University Press and ScholarOne and returned to the practice of email submissions and review, and I am confident that this practice will serve the journal well for the remainder of my term as Editor.

Finally, the five-year publishing contract between the Conference Group and Cambridge University Press expires on December 31, 2010, after the appearance of Volume 43, Number 4. As reported above, the editorial and production relationship with the Press remains splendid, and I find the service and attention given to the journal, and the quality of the product, superb. I have consulted closely with the new Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the Conference Group, Jim Brophy, and opened conversations with Mark Zadrozny, Executive Editor at the Press, meeting with him in October 2009 at the GSA Annual Meeting to discuss the mutual ambitions for the journal of the Press and the Conference Group for a term beyond 2010. Jim and I have also met with Ella Colvin, Editor-in-Chief of Humanities and Social Sciences Journals at the Press. Jim and I recommend that the Executive Board ask the membership at the Business Meeting to elect Jim as Executive Secretary/Treasurer, Jamie Melton as Vice-President and President Elect, and me as Editor as a Negotiating Board to bring a draft contract and recommendation to the Executive Board by mid-2010 for its approval, subject to ratification by the membership at the Business Meeting of the Conference Group at the AHA Annual Meeting in Boston in January 2011. A proposed resolution is attached.

Resolution of Thanks

I ask that the Executive Board and Membership vote a resolution of appreciation to Case Western Reserve University for its institutional support to the Editor, the journal, and the Conference Group, and further that the Executive Secretary and President transmit copies of the resolution to Provost W. A. Baeslack of the University and Dean Cyrus C. Taylor of the College of Arts & Sciences. I offer the following resolution:

The Executive Board of the Conference Group for Central European History of the American Historical Association thanks Case Western Reserve University for the institutional support that it provides to permit

Prof. Kenneth F. Ledford to serve as Editor of its journal, Central European History. The support that you provide permits the journal to remain the foremost English-language scholarly journal in the world devoted to the history of German-speaking Central Europe and demonstrates the commitment of CWRU to promote the best in humanistic research and scholarship.

Similarly, I ask that the Executive Board and Membership vote a resolution of appreciation to Amherst College for its institutional support to the Editor, the journal, and the Conference Group, and further that the Executive Secretary and President transmit copies of the resolution to President Anthony Marx and Dean Gregory S. Call of the College. I offer the following resolution:

The Executive Board of the Conference Group for Central European History of the American Historical Association thanks Amherst College for the institutional support that it provides to permit Prof. Catherine A. Epstein to serve as Associate Editor of its journal, Central European History. The support that you provide permits the journal to remain the foremost English-language scholarly journal in the world devoted to the history of German-speaking Central Europe and demonstrates the commitment of Amherst College to promote the best in humanistic research and scholarship.

Conclusion

The state of *Central European History* thus appears to me to be healthy. The flow of manuscripts is very good, and the quality of submissions is high. The relationship with Cambridge University Press continues to be an enjoyable and mutually beneficial one. Financial circumstances continue to be good, even as structural changes in institutional subscription patterns play themselves out, and as budgetary constraints on libraries, combined with budgetary crises at public as well as private institutions, remain a concern. The challenge in marketing remains to expand individual subscribership.

Proposed Resolution to Elect and Charge Negotiating Committee

The Executive Board of the Conference Group for Central European History recommends that the membership elect a three-member Negotiating Committee, composed of James M. Brophy, Kenneth F. Ledford, and James Van Horn Melton, and charge that committee to negotiate with representatives of Cambridge University Press a suitable publishing contract for *Central European History*, to run from January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2015 (Volumes 44-48). The Negotiating Committee shall present a draft contract and recommendation to the Executive Board no later than June 30, 2010, and the Executive Board shall make a recommendation to the membership for action at the Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association in Boston in January 2011.