

# BULLETIN of *The* BUSINESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INCORPORATED

BAKER LIBRARY, SOLDIERS FIELD, BOSTON, MASS.

HENRIETTA M. LARSON, *Editor*

*Vol. XIII, No. 1*

January, 1939

*Whole No. 76*

## Need for a Journal of Business History

There was once a *Journal of Economic and Business History* published by the Business Historical Society and the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. Four bound volumes and an extra supplementary volume are on the shelf before us. They represent the combined efforts of many scholars in America and Europe. The depression caught the *Journal* only part way up the hill and sent it down again. Countless letters have come in to ask why we do not start up again or when the *Journal* will be re-established. Just today such an inquiry came from a government bureau in Europe.

When the *Journal* is revived, it will be as the Journal of Business History. It will be devoted to a study of the policy and management that have gone into business through the ages. It will set forth the general circumstances that have been favorable or unfavorable to business enterprise. We may expect that progress will be slow in any effort to correct the ignorance, neglect, and perversion of four thousand years.

Let us keep the aims clearly in mind, though we need not bother about expressing every last hope:

1. To put business into the general picture that faces the historian.

2. To make clear to all the nature of the problems that business men have had to meet.
3. To indicate how these problems have been solved.
4. To give information to scholars that will fill a great void in our knowledge as to the evolution of actual business management.
5. To stimulate scholars to work in the field of business history in their own way and in their own locality by offering them an opportunity to publish the results of their findings.
6. To set forth facts and opinions on the subject of business accomplishment and then to let these facts and opinions tell what general story they will.
7. To help make business more professional in the sense that business men will know their part and become conscious of their position in a group and conscious of the position of their group among groups.
8. To explore further the neglected philosophy of individual human endeavor, planning, management, and control.
9. To contribute to a better understanding of the conditions under which private enterprise and private initiative can flourish and by flourishing offer security and opportunity to our people.

## Business History and the Kress Library

An address delivered by Dr. Arthur H. Cole  
at the annual meeting of the Society.

The addition to the Business School Library of the Kress collection on business and economics presents as great an opportunity and challenge to the business historian as it does to the student interested in economic or politico-economic history. Here, for the first time at Harvard, is available a large collection of writings extending back to the dawn of printing, which have never been extensively surveyed from the particular viewpoint of the business historian.

The collection, and the room in which it is housed, come to us through the generosity of Mr. Claude Washington Kress, of New York City. The books and pamphlets themselves, to the number in excess of thirty thousand, were assembled in his lifetime by Professor H. S. Foxwell, of Cambridge, England. They