EDITOR'S NOTE

The Los Angeles freeways, like history, criss-cross through our neighborhoods, our cities, and our lives. The freeway is both a bridge and a wall, a blunt, physical barrier erected, often, without any deference paid to the neighborhoods it deemed worthy of sacrifice to the altar of "progress." Historical writing can also be either a bridge or a wall. It is often co-opted by the powerful to be used as a cudgel against the weak. Volume fifty-one of *Perspectives* is proud to present histories of the LA Freeway system, the neighborhoods it displaced, and the resilience, and resistance of the citizens of East LA and Watts who fought against the forces of division; to turn a wall into a bridge. In the spirit of connection, from University Hills, the home of California State University, Los Angeles, *Perspectives* then takes the 710 Freeway South through East LA, where at the convergence of Downey, Paramount, Compton, and South Gate we head West on the 105 through Watts, West Athens, Hawthorne, and El Segundo to that great hub of intersecting narratives, LAX where the journal becomes a testament to the new era of global history. The journal visits colonial Mexico, modern Chile, and the American South during Reconstruction; and finally puts the American conservative movement under the microscope of historical interrogation.

Our first two articles focus on the history of Los Angeles. Anthony Posada investigates the impact of the freeway development on minority communities in East Los Angeles and their advocacy for reclaiming their representation. Maria Nolasco explores the War on Poverty in South Los Angeles' Watts community, examining the specific ways in which programs impacted the landscape of Watts. Next, John Marot analyzes the underexamined actions and commentary of Black Abolitionist leaders during the Civil War and Reconstruction era. Then, Garrett Wooll explores the American Conservative movement from 1972 to 1985 and its engagement with the discourse of American Modernity. Our last two articles delve into Latin American History. Robert Coronado analyzes the influence of the Renaissance on Colonial codices in sixteenth-century New Spain, mainly focusing on the Relación de Michoacán and the Codex

Mendoza. Marjorie Hunt investigates the Festival Internacional de la Canción de Viña del Mar as a spectacle of Chilean culture and nationhood, examining its televised broadcasts as performances of national identity during two fundamentally different governments.

This edition of *Perspectives* showcases the vast array of interests held by our editorial team, as seen through our book and film reviews. Our reviews of recent scholarly publications cover an impressive variety of topics. These include the Los Angeles Mayor's Office Civic Memory Working Group Project, twentieth-century borderlands history, labor history in the Coachella Valley, China's representation in world history through globalization, Haiti and Black internationalism, the nineteenth-century displacement of indigenous peoples in the U.S., American imperial endeavors since the Spanish-American War and its long-lasting global effects, a global history of the CIA's anti-communist campaign, and a captivating account of British and Chinese relationships as conveyed by interpreters. Vol. 51 proves that history comes in many forms. Film reviews cover a variety of topics from the father of the atomic bomb Robert J. *Oppenheimer*, and Soviet attempts to cover up the *Chernobyl* nuclear disaster. Additional reviews consider the mundane terror of Auschwitz in *The Zone of Interest*, the rise and fall of French emperor *Napoleon* Bonaparte, the World War I epic, *1917,* and the 1920s "Reign of Terror" with the *Killers of the Flower Moon.*

Perspectives is more than just a printed journal. Our online only Special Feature offers a recording of the third annual *Perspectives* conference covering Ancient Rome during the reign of Elagabalus, exploring ideas around gender and queerness, to Mexico in the mid-twentieth century discussing petrochemicals and a political movement. The conference also takes us across the Pacific to the small nation of Micronesia, exploring colonialism and Pan American Airlines.

The second Special Feature celebrates two important emeritus faculty members with a digital *Festschrift* this year. Dr. Carole Srole and Dr. Lillian Taiz were pioneers as the first female faculty hired in the Cal State LA history department. Their teaching and labor advocacy have had a lasting impact on those in the classroom and on the picket lines. With the collaboration of former students and colleagues, we celebrate their legacies as historians, teachers, and activists through interviews, tributes, and photographs.

As the interconnectedness of this journal reminds us, this past year was marked by collective action. Amazon workers worldwide engaged in their fourth year of strikes as part of their "Make Amazon Pay" campaign during Black Friday weekend. UAW workers across three of the largest American auto manufacturers combined for the first time in history to conduct a trilateral strike between September and October. For 148 days, between May and September, the Writers Guild of America went on strike in Los Angeles. The Screen Actors Guild joined the Writers in July and did not reach an agreement until November. The CSU system was also affected when the Teamsters Local 10 who represents all of the skilled laborers on CSU campuses took to the picket line in November, and the CFA, the union which represents professors, counselors, librarians, and coaches walked out on December 7, and again on January 22 of this year before reaching a deal with the administration. Right now, the *Perspectives* editorial team meets in King Hall, another site of contention where the voices of discontent have begun to organize in frustration over aging infrastructure as well as asbestos and mold exposure.

Like the higher wages, better benefits, and more equal treatment won in the strikes of this past year, this journal is the result of collective action. No one on this editorial team worked alone. Our staff consisted of two web specialists, a PR/social media/photography team, two historians, three book review editors, an advertising team, three editors-in-chief, and our professor/mentor, Birte Pfleger, who guided the team through the entire process. No one person made this journal happen, as no one alone can truly effect lasting historical change. It takes multitudes to change the course of history; the following articles stand as testaments to that fact.

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