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Letter from the Editor

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Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the edited and revised inaugural issue of the American Public University System (APUS) *Saber and Scroll Journal*. In the years since the APUS Saber and Scroll Historical Society launched its first journal issue, much has changed in the production of the journal. The journal team, working in partnership with APUS ePress, added a print-on-demand (POD) option for each issue in spring 2013. Authors of articles published in the earlier issues of the *Saber and Scroll* have expressed interest in purchasing a POD version of their work. In response to that request, a small team has tackled editing and revising the first issue of the journal to improve the content quality and publish it as a print offering.

Sincere thanks are due to APUS faculty member Jennifer Thompson, who, together with the *Saber and Scroll* Editor in Chief, have edited and revised each article and book review published in the first *Saber and Scroll* issue. Where appropriate, the team has added public domain artwork to feature articles to enhance the aesthetics of the issue. Thanks are also due to the inaugural issue authors: Jim Dick, Leigh-Anne Yacovelli, Kenneth Oziah, Lawrence Graves, Jennifer Thompson, Judy Monhollen, Alice Parker, Kathleen Mitchell Reitmayer, Anne Midgley, Shawn Ryan, and Candace McGovern.

The team wishes to express a special thanks to the first *Saber and Scroll* Editor in Chief, Candace McGovern, who shepherded the journal through unknown territory and launched what has become a successful history journal for APUS. Candace's original Letter from the Editor is reproduced below:

I would like to begin by welcoming everyone to enjoy our inaugural edition of American Public University System's Saber and Scroll History Club and introducing myself as the new Editor-In-Chief. I graduated with an MA in Ancient and Classical History from American Public University and I am currently pursuing two graduate degrees, one in Humanities at APUS and an MA in Archaeology program at the University of Leicester. I have taught at a number of different museums

in New York City and in San Diego. I have also taught at the High School and College level, primarily World Cultures and American History.

While my personal research focuses on everyday life in Ancient Greece and Rome including the roles of women and religion, this edition covers a wide range of topics and time periods from the American Civil War to the Battle of Nanking. I encourage all of our readers to enjoy topics outside their traditional scholarship and take advantage of an opportunity to explore what other new scholars in the field are researching. The goal of the *Saber and Scroll* journal is to foster intellectual growth and serve as a platform for students and other new researchers to share their ideas with others. Our focus will always be on students and those new to the field of historical scholarship. We invite our readers to submit letters and responses to papers featured in each edition and look forward to an exchange of scholarly ideas. I would also like to say a big thank you to the editorial staff, our advisor, club president and all those who helped to make this edition possible. With that, please enjoy our inaugural edition!

The team also expresses thanks to Kim Rush, the faculty advisor who expressed a Message from the Faculty with the inaugural issue:

My name is Kim Rush and I am the new faculty advisor for the *Saber and Scroll*. I started life out as a dancer and received a B.S. in Dance Management from Oklahoma City University, then I discovered I did not like working 18 hours days six to seven days a week, including holidays, so I turned to my next love – history. I received a master’s degree in British history from Louisiana State University and am about a year away from receiving my Ph.D. in British history from LSU. My dissertation will look at the use of pageantry as propaganda at the court of Elizabeth I during the first decade of her reign.

I have been lucky enough to teach on the college level since I graduated from LSU the first time. I have taught for Southeastern Louisiana University, Colorado Technical University, and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. I have taught for APUS since 2009. I mainly teach

American history courses and the research courses, but will start teaching European courses this year as well. My research interests are Tudor/Stuart Britain, the Renaissance, intellectual political history, and the early republic. I am also a contributing writer for Suite101.com and a reviewer for the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History. My first book, *Historic Photos of Little Rock*, was published in 2009.

I live outside Little Rock, Arkansas, with my husband and 14-month-old son. In my free time (ha!), I like to read, watch television and movies, play video games, and travel. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you better and please let me know if I can [help].

The first issue contained a segment, which the journal team has elected not to repeat in the later issues: Fun with History. Here are the items presented in that short-lived journal section.

If I could meet with any historian, I would choose Xenophon. Personally, I would start looking for him in any place which served wine, since it seemed he frequented those sorts of establishments. Once I found him, I would ask him all the usual questions of “Did it really happen?”, “What was it like?”, and so on. The primary reason I would choose Xenophon over other famous historians of the period stems from his writing style. He is one of my favorite historians of all time, with a good combination of entertainment and information. While his views on women leave a lot to be desired, particularly his idea of a perfect wife, it seems like he would have been a fun guy to share a few glasses of wine with and have a nice conversation, but that could just be me.

Candace McGovern,
American Public University
University of Leicester

If I could go back in time and spend an afternoon with a historian of my choice, I think I would choose Herodotus. Widely known as the "Father of History," Herodotus wrote *The Histories*, which focused mainly on the Greco-Persian Wars. Greece in the time of Herodotus was an interesting

place, before there was any union of the Greek city-states, and the Persians were a very dangerous threat. Born only four years after the death of Leonidas at the Battle of Thermopylae, he was able to give a unique history of that battle because it was still relatively fresh in the minds of the people. The Battle of Thermopylae has always fascinated me, and I would love to sit and talk about theories behind the strategy with Herodotus.

Judy Monhollen,

American Public University

With apologies to the fine writers of the BBC series, *Doctor Who*, the following is an alternate ending to *The Girl in the Fireplace* episode: Jeanne-Antionette “Reinette” Poisson, Madame du Pompadour, clutched the Doctor’s sleeve as they ducked through the fireplace in her bed-chamber to arrive on the deck of an abandoned fifty-first century space ship, the *Madame du Pompadour*. The Doctor had promised to take her anywhere she desired in time and space, and Reinette immediately made her wish known; to visit Herodotus. “He has been my inspiration for many years, and I wish to speak to him.” Slipping into the TARDIS, they set the controls for Greece, circa 450 B.C.E. Reaching their destination, they sought out Herodotus. The Doctor introduced Reinette to his old friend, since, of course, this was not his first visit to Pericles’ Athens. Herodotus was only too pleased to expound on his philosophy of history and learning. History provides examples of the use and abuse of power; “Is it not the duty of all to understand from whence they came to better design the path ahead,” he asked? She nodded in agreement with all he said, and asked that he acquaint her with his favorite story. “Ah, the tale of the Spartans’ courage and sacrifice at Thermopylae,” he began, launching into a tale of the doomed three hundred. As the sun began to sink, the Doctor interrupted the dialogue. “I hear that great statesmen and military leaders are pushed from the center stage of history in twentieth century historiography, replaced by commoners.” Both looked at him disbelievingly, shook their heads in amusement at such a preposterous thought, and continued discussing Thermopylae.

Anne Midgley

American Public University

It is with great pleasure then that the edited and revised version of the Saber and Scroll inaugural issue is hereby presented in print-on-demand format.

Anne Midgley
Editor in Chief