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[Enterprise & Society's ToC](#)

[Volume 21 - Issue 4 - December 2020](#)

Presidential Address

BALLEISEN, E. *The Prospects for Collaborative Research in Business History*. View the video of the presentation given in March 2020 on the [@TheBHCnews](#) YouTube Channel: <https://youtu.be/nmu-t8JBrwg>

Articles

DI MARTINO, P., LATHAM, M., & VASTA, M. *Bankruptcy Laws Around Europe (1850–2015): Institutional Change and Institutional Features*.

ÖHMAN, M. *The American Institute and the Problem of Interest Group Mobilization in Antebellum United States*

Krooss Prize Dissertation Summaries

ALFF, K. *The Business of Property: Levantine Joint-stock Companies and Nineteenth-Century Global Capitalism*.

LEVY, J. *Black Power, Inc.: Global American Business and the Post-Apartheid City*.

HIRATA, K. *Steel Metropolis: Industrial Manchuria and the Making of Chinese Socialism*.

BALLOR, G. *Agents of Integration: Multinational Firms and the European Union*.

New issues in academic journals

[Business History](#) (Vol. 63(2) 2021)

[The Economic History Review](#) (Vol. 74(1) 2021)

[Financial History Review](#) (Vol. 27(3) 2020), Special Issue Finance, financiers and financial centres: a special issue in honor of Youssef Cassis.

[Journal of Evolutionary Studies in Business](#) (Vol. 6(1) 2021)

[Investigaciones de Historia Económica-Economic History Research](#) (Vol. 17(1) 2021)

[E & S call for submissions for Special Issue on Corporate Responses to Social Unrest](#)

Winner of the 2020 [Herman E. Krooss Prize](#) for best dissertation in Business History: Jessica LEVY's *Black Power, Inc.: Global American Business and the Post-Apartheid City* now in [Enterprise & Society](#)



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Interviews, Podcasts, and Virtual Events

The last two Hagley Hang Out episodes feature [Sara Wermiel](#) about her research project "[Introduction of the Rolled I-Beam in the U.S.A. in the 1850s, Revisited,](#)" and [Wendy A. Woloson](#)'s new book [Crap: A History of Cheap Stuff in America.](#)

[Interview with Shennette Garrett-Scott](#) about her research and book [Banking on Freedom: Black Women in U.S. Finance Before the New Deal](#) on the podcast show Who Makes Cents?

Professor Andrew Grant Wood talks about his new edited volume, [The Business of Leisure: Tourism History in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) in the New Books Network

Research from across the Web

The latest from Hagley's blog ***Research and Collection News*** [@Hagley Library](#)

[PANDEMIC QUANDARY: HOW TO PROTECT PEOPLE AND COLLECTIONS](#)

[MUSEUM COLLECTIONS NEWS: NEW CHANGES TO THE MUSEUM COLLECTIONS ONLINE PORTAL](#)

[THE LONG SHIPS PASSING: A FILM ABOUT SHIPPING ON THE GREAT LAKES \(1960\)](#)

["An Oral History of the World's Biggest Coupon"](#) about the history of Bed, Bath, and Beyond's discount coupons

["What do we do with all this paper?"](#) A blog contribution by Joanna Grisinger in JOTWELL



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MEET THE OFFICERS

A series of interviews with the officers of the Business History Conference

The members of the Board of Trustees of the Business History Conference are membership-elected officers of the organization. They serve on the board for three years. The board consists of nine Trustees, the President of the BHC, President-Elect, and Past President. They regularly debate on issues of the organization. In collaboration with the BHC Secretary-Treasurer, the Trustees vote on proposals such as modifications to the bylaws, location of the annual meeting, and creation or termination of positions and committees within the organization. Each month I interview one of the officers of the BHC and ask about their views on the service they provide to the BHC. I also want to know more about how their work relates to the BHC and how others can become more active and benefit from being part of the organization.

For this issue, I interviewed **Professor Peter A. Coclanis, Albert R. Newsome Distinguished Professor of History and Director of the Global Research Institute at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill**. He has been at UNC-CH since 1984, the same year he received his Ph.D. from Columbia University. "Broadly speaking," he

adds, "my research interests are in economic history, agricultural history, demographic history, and business history. I have pursued these interests in a variety of geographic frames—Global, U.S., and Southeast Asian, most notably—focusing on the early modern and modern periods. I am working on several projects right now, including a history of the global rice trade from the seventeenth century to World War II."

Peter has been a member of the BHC since he graduated, and in March of 2021, he will finish his third year of service as a Trustee of the BHC (second term, first term 2007-2010). He has served in other positions—"I've been on the program committee twice (1999 and 2016), and served on the local arrangements committee in 1999 when the annual meeting was held in Chapel Hill." To learn more about what the positions within the organization entail, I asked Peter to explain some of the tasks he had to take upon as an officer of the organization. Peter replied that "The BHC takes leadership very seriously," which is also what makes him proud about having dedicated so much to the BHC.



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[interview continued]

Peter added, “I’ve been an officer in numerous professional organizations over the course of my career, and the BHC is one of the most conscientious, diligent, purposive, and well-run of those in which I have been involved. The President, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Editor of *Enterprise & Society*, and the people staffing other leadership positions actively solicit input on matters great and small and take such input with the utmost seriousness. In both of my terms as a Trustee, I have been a member of the Print Media Oversight Committee (PMOC), which has afforded me very interesting insights into the changing nature of the publishing industry, particularly into the complex issues affecting academic journals. For example, as a Trustee and a member of the PMOC, I’ve weighed in on contracts with publishers, and am currently trying to help the BHC to figure out how best to navigate in the emerging OA (Open Access) publishing environment.”

With all this experience, I asked Peter, “What’s one thing you wished you knew when you were just starting out?” Peter said, “There is not one thing, **but many things I wish that I knew when I was starting out. At a general level, though, I wish that I had consistently behaved with the economic concept of opportunity costs closer**

in mind. The older I get, the more I understand that decisions and choices have costs and potential consequences that need to be weighed carefully.” That said, for the most part I’m ok with the decisions I’ve made and the way my career has gone.” For graduate students and emerging scholars working in the field of business history or in other related fields, he advises to think about “the question of opportunity costs [...] Doing one thing impedes at least to some extent your ability to do something else.” Peter recommends to “Be deliberate and intentional about the choices you make. Secondly, don’t shy away from taking scholarly and professional risks, even early in your career.” Peter encourages new people to become members—for him, being part of the BHC has meant working with “smart and conscientious professionals committed both to the promotion of business history qua field and to the well-being of the BHC and its members.”

Throughout the decades, the most significant change for Peter within the organization is that it “has become much more diverse in all kinds of ways. Wherever one looks—membership, disciplines represented, areas and topics treated, methodological and ideological attachments, etc.—



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[interview continued]

the BHC has become a bigger tent.” **For the BHC, Peter thinks, the “future is bright, despite strong headwinds affecting the profession.” The BHC’s primary asset is “the talent and intellectual firepower in the organization’s ranks” and the fact that “the members care so strongly about the BHC.” Peter is excited for studies of “business history of non-Western areas” and for “the possibilities opening up with the coming-of-age of ‘Big Data.’** This development will allow scholars to quickly access and manipulate massive amounts of information pertaining to business and economic history, and, thence, to use the results to answer old questions better and answer others previously unanswerable. Besides, working with ‘Big Data’ will likely impel or entice scholars to collaborate more in teams, which is exciting in its own right.” Integration of digital tools is vital for Peter. He also looks forward to “scholars engag[ing] with people in the fine arts and creative arts— novelists, poets, dramatists, filmmakers, artists, musicians, etc.--who are exploring or who have explored themes relevant to business and business history. Artistic insights and perspectives can broaden, deepen, and amplify our understanding of business, and allow us to perceive business history in different ways.”

Next in these series

Laura Phillips Sawyer, University of Georgia School of Law [lphillipssawyer.com](http://phillipssawyer.com) and [2018-2021 Trustee of the BHC.](#)

Benjamin Waterhouse, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and [2019-2022 Trustee of the BHC.](#)

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[Paula A. de la Cruz-Fernández](#) or [@cruzmosu](#)

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