The Public Historian

Sponsored by the National Council on Public History
and the University of California, Santa Barbara
with the support of Rutgers University, Camden

EDITOR: James F. Brooks
CO-EDITOR: Tamara Gaskell
MANAGING EDITOR: Sarah Case
CONTRIBUTING SENIOR EDITORS: Randolph Bergstrom, Lindsey Reed,
Shelley Bookspan, and Otis L. Graham, Jr.
REVIEW EDITOR: Jacki Thompson Rand
ASSISTANT REVIEW EDITOR: Cheryl Jiménez Frei
INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING EDITORS:
Manon Parry, University of Amsterdam and
Paul Knevel, University of Amsterdam

EDITORIAL BOARD

Sharon Babaian
Canada Science and Technology Museum

Deborah L. Mack
Smithsonian Institution

Michael M. Brescia
Arizona State Museum

Andrew E. Masich
Heinz History Center

Michelle Delaney
Smithsonian Institution

Ann McGrath
Australian National University

Emily Greenwald
Historical Research Associates

Constance Schulz
University of South Carolina

Mary Hancock
University of California, Santa Barbara

John Tosh
Roehampton University

Lisa Junkin Lopez
Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace

Patricia West McKay
National Park Service

Amy Lonetree
University of California, Santa Cruz

OFFICERS AND STAFF

National Council on Public History

Patrick K. Moore, President
University of West Florida

Kristine Navarro-McElhaney,
Secretary-Treasurer
University of Texas at El Paso

Robert R. Weyeneth, Past President
University of South Carolina

Stephanie Rowe, Interim Executive Director
Indiana University-Purdue University

Alexandra Lord, Vice President
Smithsonian Institution

Indianapolis
The Public Historian
Editorial Policy

The Public Historian, a quarterly journal sponsored by the National Council on Public History and published by the University of California Press, is the voice of the public history movement. It emphasizes original research, fresh conceptualization, and new viewpoints. The journal’s contents reflect the considerable diversity of approaches to the definition and practice of public history.

The Public Historian provides practicing professionals and others the opportunity to report the results of research and case studies and to address the broad substantive and theoretical issues inherent in the practice of public history. The journal aims to provide a comprehensive look at the field, publishing articles relating to the following sectors, among others:

- Public Policy Planning and Policy Analysis
- Museum and Historic Site Administration
- Exhibition, Interpretation, and Public Engagement
- Institutional History and Archives
- Cultural Resources Management Services
- Litigation Support and Expert Witnessing
- Federal, State, Local, and Organizational History
- Oral History
- Historical Editing, Publishing, and Media
- Archival, Manuscript, and Records Management
- Historic Preservation
- Contracting and Consulting
- Philanthropy and Sponsorship
- History and Civic Engagement
- Public Memory Studies
- Historical Interpretation
- History’s Publics/Audience Studies
- Public History Education
- Archival, Manuscript, and Records Management
- Historic Preservation
- Contracting and Consulting
- Philanthropy and Sponsorship
- History and Civic Engagement
- Public Memory Studies
- Historical Interpretation
- History’s Publics/Audience Studies
- Public History Education

The Public Historian publishes a variety of article types: research articles, essays, and reports from the field. Research articles deal with specific, often comparatively framed, public historical issues. They are based on documentary or oral historical research; in some cases, however, findings from interviews, surveys, or participant observation may supplement historical source materials. These articles should be about thirty pages, including footnotes. Essays are reflective commentaries on topics of interest to public historians. Their length varies, but they are ordinarily around twenty-five pages. Reports from the field are intended to convey the real-world work of public historians by highlighting specific projects or activities in which the author is directly involved; these articles may describe new or ongoing projects, introduce or assess new methodologies, or bring in-the-field dilemmas (methodological, ethical, and historical) into print. Reports from the field should be fifteen-to-twenty pages and may include footnotes to relevant material.

In its review section, The Public Historian assesses current publications by and of interest to public historians, including government publications, cultural resources management reports, and corporate histories, as well as selected scholarly press publications. The journal also reviews films and videos, digital and electronic media productions, exhibits, and performances.

The editors welcome the submission of manuscripts by all those interested in the theory, teaching, and practice of public history, both in the United States and abroad. We are looking for manuscripts that make a significant contribution to the definition, understanding, and/or professional and intellectual progress of the field of public history. We conceive of the term public history broadly, as involving historical research, analysis, and presentation, with some degree of explicit application to the needs of contemporary life.

Research articles, essays, and reports from the field are subject to blind peer review, and revisions will be suggested, if necessary, before the editors will accept an article for publication.

In general, only manuscripts not previously published will be accepted. Authors must agree not to publish elsewhere, without explicit written consent, an article accepted for publication in The Public Historian. We do not accept unsolicited reviews, but we welcome suggestions of material to review.

The Public Historian encourages letters to the editor that expand the discussion of topics covered in the journal. If a letter specifically concerns an article or review published in TPH, the author or reviewer will be invited to respond. Letters responding to reviews may not exceed 250 words; letters responding to articles may not exceed 750 words. The editors reserve the right to refuse to publish any letter whose tone or content is inconsistent with the conventional standards of scholarly discourse expected in a historical journal.

Please submit manuscripts and letters to the editors electronically at the address below.

Editorial Offices:
James F. Brooks, Editor; Tamara Gaskell, Co-Editor; Sarah Case, Managing Editor, Department of History, University of California Telephone: 805/893-3667; Fax: 805/893-7522 Santa Barbara, California 93106-9410 E-mail: scase@history.ucsb.edu
Letter to the Editor

EDITOR,

I was surprised to read in Sara Polak’s otherwise positive and concurring review of my book that she believes my tone “costs [me] credibility,” writing that it “creates the sense that Clark is a strong proponent of one side in a quarrel, rather than a historian trying to provide a dispassionate perspective on a struggle...”

I am a strong proponent (and not a historian). The Last Campaign is an examination of several related, important public policy issues, and is, in large measure, my story. Despite the fact that I offer my reactions to events in which I participated, the book is grounded in records—ones that I uncovered. However, Ms. Polak does not cite any instances where my arguments fall short, on merit or accuracy.

As for a struggle, in order to have been able to write about one—dispassionately or otherwise—there would have had to have been one. Sadly, public historians, journalists, and archivists largely remain on the sidelines as the presidential library system sinks further into partisan self-commemoration.

Ms. Polak’s use of “exasperation” is apt: during my research, as well as my time as a congressional staffer, presidential foundations pressured us to cancel hearings about them; presidents inappropriately delayed access to their records; and the National Archives lied to me, hiding information. To not convey my experiences and my opinions about them would have been to withhold crucial aspects of an overdue examination of what’s wrong with, and what can be done about, presidential libraries.

Anthony Clark
Washington, DC