

MESSAGES FROM THE CO-EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

I am honoured to have been chosen as the Co-Head-Editor in chief for the third volume of *The Ascendant Historian*. The journal is a testament to the amazing and insightful work the undergraduate history student body can produce here at the University of Victoria. This year we struggled due to a lack of volunteers, but thanks to the hard work of our team that was formed in the Spring semester the Ascendant Historian was able to provide a summer edition. I'd like to personally thank all those who were involved. As a fully student run journal we are built on the dedication and commitment of our members, authors, peer reviewers, copy editors, and faculty advisors.

This edition includes thirteen essays that represent the hard work and academic skill of our fellow students. *The Ascendant Historian* embodies the ideals of engaged inquiry and thorough research in working towards the dissemination of knowledge through the historical lens. This year we have a wide range of topics as our goal is to represent the diverse set of interests and areas of study within the history undergraduate body.

MAGGIE DENNIS

As Co-Editor-in-Chief of *The Ascendant Historian*, I have had the privilege of reading each of the student works submitted to this edition of the journal. Naturally, one of the most difficult tasks in this role is to help determine which submissions will make the cut. While I am pleased to present to you, the reader, a diverse cross-section of the work produced by our fellow history students, I would like to acknowledge the many other students who took the risk to be vulnerable and share their work with us and the grace with which they accepted rejection. For those whose papers were accepted, it is important that we recognize the amount of hard work and dedication that went into preparing their works for publication. Each author displayed a great deal of insightfulness and humility as myself and the other copyeditors relentlessly combed through their papers. This is a deeply humbling process for even the experienced author, let alone the fledgling historian, and it deserves proper recognition.

As for the content of these works, I believe their greatest value can be found in each paper's ability to encapsulate a point of inspiration for each author at the beginning of their academic career. Understandably, in the career of an academic, the brightest spotlight shines on one's dissertation and the work produced in the following years; these become our highest achievements. However, there is something deeply special about the spark that brought us to academia in the first place. These sparks reside in our early, often clumsy, undergraduate attempts to explore and answer our long-held questions about the world, how we remember it, and how we make sense of the path the world has taken. While these papers certainly demonstrate hard work, academic skill, and engaged inquiry worthy of admiration, I hope that, by sharing them with you and your fellow readers, they will also serve as a reminder of where each academic began and the fruitful path that lays before them.

SARAH WALD