

Friends of the ANU Centre for Economic History,

In the past few months, the Centre has co-sponsored sessions at the annual Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History conference; held two workshops on human heights and transport, respectively; and hosted a number of international visitors. Recaps of the events are included in this issue as well as an article on the business archives at the University of Melbourne by Melinda Barrie and a feature on a special issue from the journal *Economic History of Developing Regions*. As always, thanks for your support of the Centre and economic history.

Best,
John Tang, CEH Director

Conference Report on the APEBH 2015, UNSW Canberra

The 2015 Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History (APEBH) conference, held at the Canberra campus of the UNSW Australia, located at the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA), from 12-14 February was a very successful event. The conference organisation, presided over by Tom Frame (ACSACS) and Miesje de Vogel (HASS) was excellent. Topics covered recovery and rebuilding, which was the main conference theme, but extended to include most aspects of economic and business history and cliometrics. All the sessions in this year's conference provided an excellent platform for colleagues to interact, debate and learn about frontier research in economic and business history.

Sessions include topics on *Migration and labour market* chaired by Tim Hatton (ANU), Jim McAloon (VUW) and Chris Lloyd (UNE); *Effects of crisis on countries and debts* chaired by David Stahel (UNSW) and Lionel Frost (Monash); *Natural disasters and demography* chaired by Tom Frame (UNSW); *Asian development* chaired by Lionel Frost (Monash); *Australian wool* chaired by Chris Lloyd (UNE); and *Communications* chaired by Martin Shanahan (UniSA). In association with the Centre for Economic History, two pre-conference sessions were held as part of the XVIIth International Economic History Congress to be held at Kyoto, Japan later this year. Participants include Raj Banerjee and Martin Shanahan (UniSA), Paul Sharp (Uni of Southern Denmark), Herman De Jong (University of Groningen) and John Tang (ANU). All four papers presented in the pre-Congress sessions titled 'Productivity, efficiency and measures of technological Progress' received useful comments and feedback. (cont)



Martin Shanahan addressing members at the annual general meeting for EHSANZ

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Conference Report on APEBH 2015 (cont)



Conference attendees enjoying a scrummy dinner cruise on picturesque Lake Burley Griffin

The 2015 Noel Butlin lecture was given by Richard Steckel from Ohio State University. Professor Steckel, featured in the previous issue, is a leading economic historian in the area of measuring and analysing long-term trends in the standard of living using diverse sources and methodologies. He is a pioneer in the field of anthropometric history, which uses stature and other anthropometric measures to assess health and nutrition in the past. His keynote address on new approaches of standard of living used many case studies and showed how nutrition levels and examination of heights of skeleton remains can predict the living standard of communities back in time. It was a very interesting talk, which attracted many questions and discussion from the audience.

The Noel Butlin lecture is sponsored by Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand (EHSANZ) to commemorate the work of Noel Butlin (1921-1991).

Two wonderful social events were planned by the organisers as part of the conference: a welcome reception at the National Arboretum, and a lake cruise accompanied by conference dinner at Lake Burley Griffin. Conference delegates enjoyed fantastic food, wine and some stunning views of the Government House, the National Gallery, the Australian War Memorial, and Parliament House along the foreshore of Lake Burley Griffin – as well as excellent opportunities for important networking. The conference dinner ended with a very interesting talk by Commodore Steve Woodall, who shared his memories of 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami relief operations off Aceh, Indonesia and as the commander of Australian Amphibious Task Group, a deployable Tactical Warfare Commander, responsible for planning and executing all amphibious operations and collective training activities. The conference was a great success and we look forward to meet another group of eminent scholars at next year's conference (venue TBA). -RB

Centre for Economic History Discussion Paper Series

The CEH website hosts a discussion paper series on a variety of topics in economic history. Recent additions include the following (CEH affiliate in **bold**):

- 2015-01 "The Permanent Effects of Transportation Revolutions in Poor Countries: Evidence from Africa" by Remi Jedwab and Alexander Moradi
- 2015-02 "A Tale of Two Tails: Plant Size Variation and Comparative Labor Productivity in US and German Manufacturing in the Early 20th Century" by Joost Veenstra and Herman de Jong
- 2015-03 "The Growth Contribution of Colonial Indian Railways in Comparative Perspective" by Dan Bogart, Latika Chaudhary, and **Alfonso Herranz-Loncan**
- 2015-04 "Was the First World War Disturbing or Reinforcing of Australia's Economic Model" by **William Coleman**
- 2015-05 "The U-Shaped Self-Selection of Return Migrants" by **Zachary Ward**

Centre affiliates and visitors are encouraged to submit working papers to the series. All papers are available at <http://rse.anu.edu.au/research/centres-projects/centre-for-economic-history/>

Workshop Report #1: Human Heights and Economic Development



The workshop, organised by Tim Hatton and Martine Mariotti, brought together leading experts on the study of human height and its links with economic conditions. Thirty participants engaged in lively debate over the two days.

The workshop opened with Pierre van der Eng and Tim Hatton (ANU) exploring the link between fertility decline and child health in Indonesia. They found a strong negative relationship between family size and the height of children but were not able to account for potential endogeneity. Diana Contreras Suarez (Monash) used the Conditional Cash Trans-

fer program in rural Colombia as a 'natural experiment'. She found a causal relationship between early physical development and later cognitive development in young children, in which the main intermediate channel was child weight rather than height. Kitae Sohn (Konkook) found that the age of menarche among Korean females declined from age 16.6 to 12.7 in the forty years after 1941, much faster than that in Indonesia. Notwithstanding this dramatic fall in age of maturation, Korean heights increased at the rate of 2cm per decade.

In the evening session Rick Steckel (Ohio State) gave the Fred Gruen Public Lecture to a packed lecture theatre. He presented a wide ranging overview of the value of heights in assessing and understanding the links between development and health from pre-industrial times to the present. He emphasised that the tempo of growth during childhood is mediated by external conditions and can be transmitted across generations. In his (cont)

Workshop Report #2: Economic Impact of Railways and Canals

Our one day workshop on the 27th March was organised by John Tang and Alfonso Herranz-Loncán. This was a pre-conference outing for the authors of papers on the economic history of transport, ahead of the Kyoto World Economic History Congress.

Proceedings kicked off with Remi Jedwab (George Washington) who assembled an impressive range of data on towns, cities, railways and roads in sub-Saharan Africa from 1900 to the 1970s. Analysing fine-grained GIS grid cells he showed that colonial railways stimulated urbanisation up to 1960. These urban concentrations were reinforced after the post-colonial demise of the railways by road networks, many of which followed the same lines.

Alfonso Herranz-Loncán (Barcelona) followed with an examination of the productivity effects of the South African Cape Colony railway that was established to support diamond mining in the Kimberly. He estimated that the social saving over ox transport accounted for half of the growth of GDP per capita between 1873 and 1907. He argued that the benefits flowed almost exclusively to whites and this created a pattern of inequality that was later reinforced by apartheid. On a similar theme, Latika Chaudhary (Naval Postgraduate School) compared Indian railways line-by-line with the alternative transport modes by land, river and sea. She calculated that social savings amounted to 7-8 percent of GDP in the later nineteenth century. (cont)



Remi Jedwab (L) and Alfonso Herranz-Loncán

Workshop Report #1: Heights (cont.)



Johan Fourie making a point

In his workshop presentation the following day Rick focused on the children of slaves in the anti-bellum US. He argued that they were underfed until the age of about 10 when they began to work. While their heights recovered, their cognitive development remained impaired. Rick argued that the abolition of slavery led to increased stature and improved cognitive development, which fed into the racial conflicts experienced by the post-bellum generation of blacks.

Earlier in the day Stephen Morgan (Nottingham) examined the heights and weights of Chinese schoolchildren. Between 1979 and 2005 the dispersion of BMI increased suggesting growing inequality in net nutrition, but minimal growth after age 13 raised concerns that selectivity in the school data could be an issue. Zach Ward (ANU) showed that return migrants from the US in 1917-24 were selected from the top and bottom of the height distribution. This 'U' shaped pattern could be explained by a version of the Roy model of migrant selection in which the fixed cost of migration is taken into account.

In the afternoon Johan Fourie (Stellenbosch) and Martine Mariotti (ANU) took up the issue of migrants of another sort—English migrants to Canada Australia and South Africa who enlisted in the armies that fought the Boer War and World War One. They argued that Boer War recruits were taller because height was a greater advantage for mounted brigades than for trench warfare (cont)

Workshop Report #2: Transport (cont.)

Railways made a smaller contribution to income but accounted for a larger share of income growth in India than in Latin America.

Two papers focused on the railways that started the social saving literature—those of the United States. Christian Hung (Vanderbilt) mapped the ante-bellum rail network in detail, showing that there were many gaps where transshipment by other means was required. This added about 10 percent to the costs and shaped the scale and distribution of market access, but the overall effect on land process was modest. In another paper drawing on GIS data Elizabeth Perlman (Boston) studied the impact of railways on patenting activity in counties close to the railroads. In the second half of the nineteenth century patenting activity increased steeply and its spatial concentration declined as the rail network expanded. She argued that market access was important for the location of innovation.

John Tang (ANU) examined the effects of railways in Meiji Japan on mortality rates in rural and urban areas. Surprisingly, rural mortality converged on urban rates, particularly for respiratory infections, suggesting that railways provided a transmission channel.

Looking at a very different puzzle, Xavier Duran-Amorocho (Universidad de los Andes) asked why it took so long for wagon roads to supersede mule-pack roads in Colombia. Until the 20th century only one wagon road was built. Evidence of the energy costs suggested that mule transport was more efficient on steep terrain and that the volume of traffic did not justify more circuitous and costly roads. -TH



John Tang watching the clock

Workshop Report #1: Heights (cont.)



Martine Mariotti keeping it cool in front of a rapt audience

Kris Inwood (Guelph) provided comparisons between the heights of Maoris and Whites in New Zealand from 1840 onwards. Initially tall, Maori stature fell below that of Whites from around 1900, perhaps due to loss of land and food sources, but caught up again from the 1960s. Drawing on a similarly wide range of sources (notably police records) Hamish Maxwell Stewart (Tasmania) found that Tasmanian Heights increased in line with colonial income, avoiding the nineteenth century reversals observed in many other countries. Finally Joerg Baten (Tuebingen) explored a dataset on African heights assembled from some 700 different studies from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He found that the effects of colonialization were to reduce height by around 0.8 cm, with a particularly strong effect in the first decade. All the papers simulated vigorous debate, but in a friendly environment that perhaps reflected the strikingly high incidence of collaboration and co-authorship among the participants. -TH

News and Announcements

- In 2016, Oxford University Press will be publishing *Only in Australia: The History, Politics and Economics of Australian Exceptionalism*, a collection of chapters by ten contributors, edited by William Coleman (ANU)
- The History of Economic Thought Society of Australia will hold its 28th conference in Sydney on 13-14 July 2015, hosted by Alphacrucis College. Early submission of papers or abstracts is encouraged up to May 2014. Email submissions to paul.oslington@ac.edu.au. See <http://ac.edu.au/conferences/hetsa/> for details.

Featured Economic Historian: Joerg Baten

Joerg Baten is a Professor of Economic History and the former Dean of Economics at Tuebingen University in Germany. He is the incoming President of the European Historical Economics Society and was Secretary General of the International Economic History Association in 2006-12. One of his main areas of research is the study of heights and economic development. Among his many achievements is creating and analysing a database of heights in 130 countries from 1820 to the present. Along the way he has studied the effects of protein supply and of the political and social underpinnings of improved health in a wide variety of countries and periods.



We were delighted to welcome Joerg as a visitor to the CEH in February-March. He participated in our heights workshop on 5th-6th March and engaged in a CEH research project on heights, poverty and inequality in India since 1950. During his time in Australia, he presented seminars at Adelaide and Monash as well as at the ANU. His presentation reflected another major research interest—the development of numeracy over time and across countries. Joerg has pioneered the use of age-heaping in censuses as a means of assessing numeracy in historical populations. In his ANU presentation he demonstrated that numeracy was inversely related to the concentration of landholding in the East of Europe during the nineteenth century but not in the more industrialised West. -TH

University of Melbourne Archives: Ritchie and Fletcher Jones Collections

The University of Melbourne Archives (UMA) would like to announce the recent publication of its finding aids for the Ritchie and Fletcher Jones collections, which are now available online. The papers of these two diverse companies located in Victoria's Western District provide the researcher with evidence of their contribution to Victoria's economic, cultural and business growth.

Ritchie Collection

The preparation of the finding aids for the Ritchie collection was funded by a generous philanthropic gift donated to the University by the Ritchie family. Contained within the papers of this well-known pastoralist family are early genealogical documents dating from 1749; and diaries compiled by James Ritchie who founded the family business in 1841 and his brother Daniel Ritchie who wrote about his opposition to the slave trade in a diary he kept about his travels as a surgeon through the West Indies and Mediterranean.

Other records that provide insight into life during the nineteenth century are the shipboard newspapers which were the social media of their day. They provided inhabitants on long ocean voyages with an entertaining means of sharing, news about births, romances, travel tales, poetry, ballads and even a cautionary advice about the morality and perils of swearing.



Daniel Ritchie, Reclining man with a book, his dog and sheep, pencil on paper, undated, 16.0x20.4cm. Reference no. 1974.0084, item 1974.0084.5413, Ritchie Family and Business Correspondence,

Successive generations of Ritchie family members have contributed to their prosperous pastoral interests through the establishment of their business RB Ritchie & Sons Pty Ltd which specialised in merino stud. In the early twentieth century Alan Ritchie took over stewardship of the family business and is noted for his contribution to the political debate about tariffs during the 1920s and his close association with influential figures such as Douglas Copland, first Dean of the Faculty of Commerce at the University of Melbourne and Richard Gavin Gardiner Casey who became Governor-General of Australia in 1965. The records also reveal the family's enduring interest in philanthropy and community support with their bequest for the establishment of a Chair of Economic Research in 1927 at the University of Melbourne.

Fletcher Jones Collection

In recognition of the historic, social and economic significance of Fletcher Jones' contribution to manufacturing, community and the economy, David Jones compiled an archive of his father's business and family papers, which were deposited to UMA in 2012. The records reveal Fletcher Jones to be an inspiring individual with bold and imaginative ideas about retail and service innovation. Jones started his long and successful manufacturing and retail career selling trousers under humble circumstances as a hawker in the Western District at the conclusion of First World War in 1918. A few years after he started hawking, Jones set up his first permanent shopfront in Warrnambool where he was able to establish his unique brand (cont)

University of Melbourne Archives (cont.)

--with slogans such as 'nothing but trousers, 72 scientific sizes. No man is too hard to fit'. In the years after the Second World War Fletcher Jones' manufacturing business rapidly expanded and by the late 1940s there were over a hundred stores in four states. The company's first Melbourne shop front in Collins Street established in 1946 was an immediate hit with customers for its personalised service and attention to detail. It was during these post-war years that Fletcher Jones built the now heritage listed Pleasant Hill factory in Warrnambool to meet demand for his trousers. The factory made from re-used army surplus was the central manufacturing hub for Fletcher Jones & Staff which became one of the first co-operative companies in Australia; where staff were treated like members of the family and shared in company profits. Fletcher

Jones' use of a co-operative business model was strongly influenced by the inspirational Japanese pioneer of consumer and farmer co-operatives Toyohiko Kagawa.

The finding aids for both the Ritchie and Fletcher Jones business collections can be found at UMA's online collections database. To arrange a visit to read the records please contact our Reading Room which is located at the Baillieu Library on ph. 8344 6848 or email archives@archives.unimelb.edu.au

-MB



Early Days. Trucks, c. 1914-1924, 16.5x8cm. Reference no. 2012.0031, item 2012.0031.5413, Fletcher Jones Business and Family Records, University of Melbourne Archives

UMA Business Archives Blog

Find stories old and new from business archives at:
<https://umabusinessarchives.wordpress.com/>

Sources

University of Melbourne Catalogue Search,
<http://archives.unimelb.edu.au/>

Fletcher Jones, *Not By Myself*, Wentworth Press, Surry Hills NSW, 1977.

Margaret Kiddle, *Men of Yesterday: A Social History of the Western District of Victoria, 1834-1890*, Parkville Victoria, Melbourne University Press, 1961.

Alex Millmow, *RB Ritchie and Sons and their contribution to Australian economics*,

Ritchie collection finding aids

[1974.0084 Ritchie Family and Business Papers](#)
[1975.0115 Alan Ritchie Correspondence and Business Records](#)
[1977.0068 Ritchie Family Records](#)
[1984.0107 Farm Administration Records](#)
[1984.0122 Farm and Budget Records](#)
[1985.0083 Ritchie Business Agriculture and Investment Records](#)
[1986.0136 Ritchie Family and Business Correspondence](#)
[2014.0026 Alan Ritchie Family and RB Ritchie & Son Business Records](#)

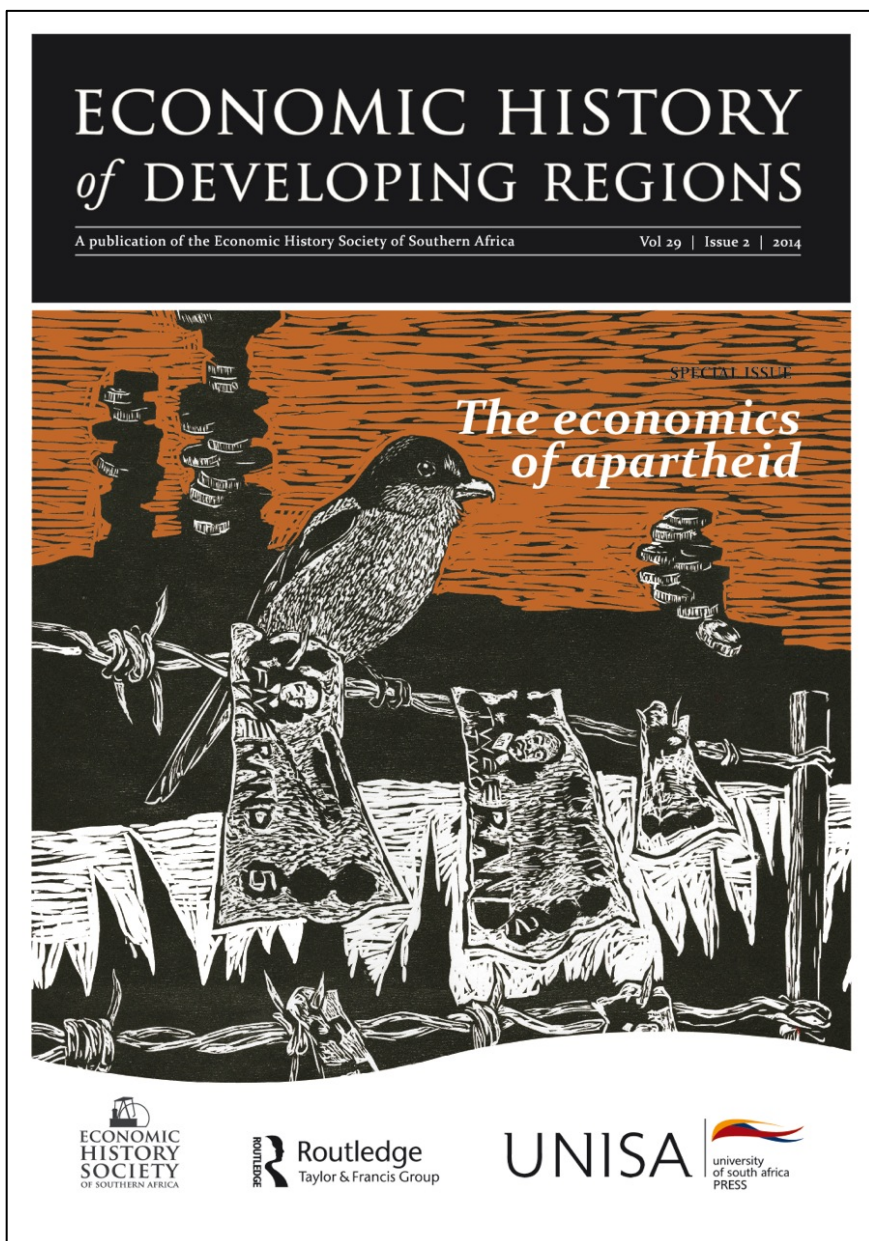
Fletcher Jones collection finding aid

[2012.0031 Fletcher Jones Family and Business Papers](#)

Special Edition of *Economic History of Developing Regions*

CEH affiliates Martine Mariotti (ANU) and Johan Fourie (Stellenbosch) recently co-edited the 2014 special issue of the *Economic History of Developing Regions* on the economics of apartheid in South Africa, 1950-1994. The issue brings together economists who were already working on economic issues related to apartheid prior to the end of apartheid with economic historians who continue that legacy. Matts Lundahl, Anton Lowenberg, and Niccoli Nattrass are joined by Lindie Koorts, Danelle van Zyl, Martine Mariotti, Servaas van der Berg, Roy Havemann, Roger Southall, Katherine Eriksson and Waldo Krugell in an issue that highlights the unique nature of apartheid economics as well as apartheid's long lasting impact on the South African economy. The issue shows that there is a vibrant community studying the economics of apartheid, that there is much about apartheid that is not understood and that there are still many lessons to be learnt about the long lasting impact of apartheid.

The cover image too is part of the legacy of apartheid: *Frugal Fiscal #5* is inspired by the behaviour of the fiscal shrike, named after the *fiskaal*, a taxman associated with the Dutch East India Company. The bird has a particular habit of hanging its prey on acacia tree thorns or barbed wire fences to return to later. The *fiskaal* was similarly thought to overzealously collect the year end taxes, leaving taxpayers 'out to dry'. (<http://www.theguardian.com/science/punctuated-equilibrium/2011/jan/15/3>). In this picture the bird is hoarding apartheid era South African currency, presumably for later consumption with the implication that the apartheid era government extracted rents from the economy, leaving the public 'out to dry'. The artist is Vulindlela Nyoni. -MM



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All CEH affiliates who are registered with RePEc are invited to add the Centre as an institutional affiliation on IDEAS: <http://edirc.repec.org/data/chanuau.html>