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### To the Reader

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## To the Reader

To the Reader:

2005 marked another outstanding year for submissions to the Illinois Wesleyan History Department's journal, *Constructing the Past*. We, the editors, met the extremely difficult task of selecting but four submissions for this year's journal. Each submission was read by each member of the editing staff without knowledge of the historian's identifying information. After a long debate on the merits of each, we were able to narrow the field to those you will read in the following pages, which we believed to be the best representatives of the department and its pursuit of excellence in creating rich and thought-provoking historiography.

In the first submission, Melissa Koeppen explores Elizabeth I's role in the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots. In this paper, written for Dr. Michael Young's history writing seminar, Koeppen taps the controversy surrounding Elizabeth's intentions and strives to find the true history of the events. Lauren Jensen then investigates the growth and decline of the Constitutional Union party during the presidential election of 1860. Next, Erie Roberts seeks to unravel the enigma that was King George IV's romantic history through the study of his relationships with Marie and Caroline. Last, Angela Skeggs's honors thesis looks at the role of Philadelphia as a radical center during the American Revolution. This lengthy document represents a most intensive study on this issue, and it provokes a number of questions that will pique the interest of the reader.

Overall, we are quite pleased with the quality of the submissions and are proud to distribute this representation of Illinois Wesleyan student work. A special thanks to all who submitted and contributed to this publication, and we hope you enjoy this year's edition.

The editorial staff would like to thank Laurel Hennenfent for helping the staff preserve the integrity of the selection of articles; Professor Robert Schultz for answering all of our questions; and all of the students who submitted articles for publication.

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