

THE EXPOSITOR

A Journal of Undergraduate Research in the Humanities

VOLUME 13

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TRINITY
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The Expositor publishes new research in the humanities by Trinity students, with submissions accepted annually in the Fall semester. If you have prepared or will be preparing a substantial research paper for one of your seminars this term, or if you have undertaken research with a Trinity faculty member over the summer, consider submitting your work for publication. Please email the editor (akraebel@trinity.edu) with any questions about the journal.

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Contents

Barons and Yeomen, Venison and Vert: A Comparative Analysis of Magna Carta and <i>A Gest of Robyn Hode</i> in the Context of Forest Law <i>Kathryn Funderburg</i>	7
Blurring the Lines: The Ambiguity of Gender and Sexuality in <i>Ulysses</i> <i>Samantha Heffner</i>	17
Hitler's "Utopia": An Analysis of <i>Gleichschaltung</i> in the Third Reich, 1933-1939 <i>Emma Lichtenberg</i>	29
The Limits of Scribal Creativity: Rewriting the <i>Cook's Tale</i> in Bodley 686 <i>Franz Liebster</i>	51
Catalogue Entry: St. Catherine and St. Barbara <i>Mary Martha Meyer Hill</i>	63
Visualizing the Unspeakable: Graphic Novels and Illustrating the Holocaust <i>Madilyn Pflueger</i>	75
A Life's Worth: Reexamining <i>Wergild</i> in the Anglo-Saxon Royal Law Codes (c. 600-1035) <i>Braden Sides</i>	85
Classic Ragtime: An Overlooked American Art Form <i>Daniel Stephens</i>	109

Editor's Preface

The Expositor was first published in 1989 by Trinity's Department of English at the initiative of Professor Peter Balbert, and, through 2015, it provided a venue for the best academic writing produced at the university. Beginning with the 2016 volume, the members of the English Department responsible for the journal, in consultation with the director of the Mellon Initiative for Undergraduate Research in the Humanities, made the decision to change the journal's scope to focus exclusively on humanities disciplines. The journal is now published annually as a collaboration of the Mellon Initiative and English Department, and its editorial board is made up of faculty from across our humanities programs.

The decision to focus the disciplinary approaches represented in *The Expositor* was made for a number of reasons. While Trinity students in the natural and social sciences are certainly participating in exciting and innovative research, those disciplines also allow more easily for students to appear as co-authors of essays written in conjunction with faculty. (And our faculty in the sciences have been very good at creating opportunities for this kind of student involvement in research and publication.) Humanities research is different: professors in the humanities do not have labs to which our students can contribute, and the specialist skills required for our work make it extremely difficult for undergraduates to collaborate with and contribute to the writing of our publications. At the same time, thanks to programs like the Mellon Initiative and now the Humanities Collective, humanities departments at Trinity are creating opportunities for student research that are almost unprecedented at undergraduate institutions across the country. We have an exceptionally talented body of students, and they are undertaking research of an unusually high quality, offering new and theoretically sophisticated interpretations of cultural artifacts and presenting archival research and discussions of previously unnoted material. (Not incidentally, several of the essays published in the most recent volumes of *The Expositor* have been used as writing samples to win their authors places in top graduate programs in the United States and abroad.) Though these students are less likely to write collaborative pieces with faculty members, their work is original, thoughtful, provocative, and rigorous—it has real potential to contribute to ongoing scholarly conversations on a variety of topics, and it therefore merits publication. *The Expositor* promotes that work within, and beyond, the Trinity community.

Finally, it should be noted that *The Expositor* is endeavoring to draw attention to the range of forms taken by humanistic research. While the argument-driven essay is (for good reason) the most common, original research in the humanities can also yield scholarly descriptions, editions and translations of texts, and other less familiar kinds of writing. By soliciting and publishing works in all of these forms, *The Expositor* aims to reveal the rich variety of work done in our disciplines.

Andrew Kraebel
Department of English

This volume of *The Expositor* includes new research
on literature, music, history, and art history by
Trinity University undergraduates:

Kathyrn Funderburg, Samantha Heffner,
Emma Lichtenberg, Franz Liebster,
Mary Martha Meyer Hill, Madilyn Pflueger,
Braden Sides, and Daniel Stephens



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