
Letter from the Editor

Joseph J. Cook

Welcome to the Winter 2016 issue of the *Saber and Scroll Journal*, produced by the American Public University System. Our all-volunteer group of editors and proofreaders have pulled themselves away from the ongoing saga of election news long enough to put together a terrific volume of articles. The *Saber and Scroll* can continue to take pride in the scholarship produced by its membership. As Editor, the most encouraging thing for me continues to be the collection of new authors who contribute to the *Journal* each issue. I strongly encourage everybody to add their own names to our growing list of authors. With our four calls for papers per year, there are plenty of opportunities for you to show off, improve upon, and publish your work.

On the subject of calls for papers, readers of this issue will notice something new contained within its pages: an opinion piece. This opens an entirely new opportunity for paper submissions, and with the exciting variety of events ongoing in the world today, we welcome well-researched and well-reasoned opinion pieces that will contribute to an academic discussion within our membership's community of scholars.

This issue contains feature articles on a wide array of topics: from Jenkins' Ear to Stonewall Jackson, from the Papacy to an Israeli courtroom, and into the American frontier. Our authors offer exciting new perspectives on topics both well-known and obscure. I need to express my great thanks to all of the authors for their hard-work and patience with our volunteer editors. The *Saber and Scroll Journal* is in good hands with our current team of editors (to whom I owe tremendous thanks), and we can all look forward to many more issues of top-notch scholarship to come.

I hope that you all enjoy this issue. Beyond that, I hope that you all will play your own part in keeping this scholarly tradition going by contributing an article today. The *Saber and Scroll* thrives because of members like you.

Joseph J. Cook

Editor-In-Chief