

From the Editors

With this issue of *French Historical Studies*, we resume the important tradition established by our predecessors, James Contreni and James Farr, of publishing occasional special issues under the supervision of guest editors on themes of potential interest to historians in all fields of French history. The present issue, entitled “French History in the Visual Sphere,” assumes an even larger audience of historians and specialists in other disciplines since it seeks to demonstrate how historians, literary critics and art historians working with visual evidence might borrow from each other’s disciplinary concepts and techniques to gain fresh perspectives on established topics in their own domains.

Our choice of guest editors for this issue proved especially felicitous. Dan Sherman and Mary Sheriff worked closely together throughout the project, bringing to bear their respective fields of expertise in cultural history and art history to confirm the benefits of interdisciplinary collaboration and professional teamwork. To both scholars, we express our deep appreciation and admiration for their exceptional skill in providing editorial advice to the authors of the six manuscripts that they selected for inclusion in this issue. Their jointly written introduction highlights their objectives in putting together this collection and provides an elegant comparative framework of analysis for appreciating the contributions of each author. We also thank Daniel Sherman for proposing the theme for this special issue while he was serving as a member of the journal’s editorial board.

JO BURR MARGADANT AND TED W. MARGADANT, *Editors*