

## *Editors' Preface*

It is with great joy that we present Volume 51 (2024) of *The Welebaethan: A Journal of History*, brimming with a multitude of articles, essays, editions, and reviews. Since its establishment, *The Welebaethan* has consistently featured a diverse array of contributions from both graduate and undergraduate historians, with this volume featuring fifteen articles and essays covering a plethora of topics across time and space, including (but not limited to) Cleopatra's complex relationship with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony; the development of queer urban spaces in eighteenth-century London; the cultural genocide of First Nation peoples in Canadian residential schools; the racialized motivations behind gun control laws in the United States; the historic and socioeconomic barriers faced by Latinos in Southern California's municipal pools; and the paradox of Denmark's progressive reputation in light of its xenophobic twenty-first-century laws.

We are delighted that, in addition to work submitted by CSUF's students, two articles—one discussing the Salem Witch trials and the other examining the ideological portrayal of the Teutonic Knights—hail from scholars at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island and the University of Florida, respectively. The diversity of topics is represented in our cover art, brilliantly created by Dominic Cervantes on the basis of an inspiring idea by Elizabeth Macias. Our thanks to them both! As we see conversations about censorship and book banning taking center stage in the United States, it becomes ever more vital to recognize the indispensable role that reading and books play in fostering critical thinking, empathy, and the preservation of the diverse perspectives that are essential for society to thrive.

Volume 51 marks the sixth digital volume of our journal, a transition that has enabled us to incorporate editions and reviews, many of which originate in CSUF's "History and Editing" seminar. This year, *The Welebaethan* showcases eight editions of previously unpublished documents and oral histories from CSUF's University Archives and Special Collections (UA&SC) and the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH). For the first time ever, we present illuminated Latin manuscript fragments from late medieval Europe; furthermore, there are nineteenth-century letters from the midwestern Haven family; the 1868 diary of young Edwin Haven; and two letters reflecting France's and Britain's imperial interests.

Also featured in this year's journal are four verbatim transcripts of oral interviews: actor Iron Eyes Cody's reflections on his time in Hollywood and his work with Indigenous communities (1971); Mary Chamberlain's contemplations on growing up and coexisting with the Paiute in California's Owens Valley

(1973); Howard Rogers's recollections of the "Freeway Fighters" and their successful prevention of an expansion of the Pacific Coast Highway in Newport Beach (1976); and John LaRue's ruminations about growing up and living in Fullerton (1991).

The volume's final section contains thirty-five reviews of different recent media—books, films, TV shows, documentaries, exhibitions, and video games—that are of interest to scholars as well as those with a passing interest in the humanities and social sciences. These reviews range from films like *Oppenheimer* and *All Quiet on the Western Front* to museums and exhibitions like *The Banning Museum* in Wilmington, California, and *Defining Courage* in Los Angeles. And they range from books on the role of the Barbizon Hotel in New York and esoteric Pure Land Buddhism to games like *Assassin's Creed Mirage* and *Gerda: A Flame in Winter*. Volume 51 also features the (for us) first review of a graphic novel, *Run: Book One*. It must be noted that the opinions expressed in this volume's articles, essays, editions, and reviews belong, of course, to the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the journal's editors.

This year's publication of *The Welebaethan* could not have been completed without the unwavering support of so many individuals, especially among the faculty members and staff of CSUF's Department of History, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Pollak Library. Thus, we, the editors, extend our heartfelt gratitude and immense thanks—

—to Jochen Burgtorf, our faculty advisor: thank you for your continual guidance throughout the process and for placing your trust in us as editors for this volume. Your expertise and encouragement have been invaluable, and we are grateful for your untiring support every step of the way.

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—to CSUF's Theta-Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta: thank you for your generous backing of our journal.

—to Lisa Tran, Chair of CSUF's Department of History: thank you for your constant and enthusiastic support of *The Welebaethan*.

—to Patrisia Prestinary (University Archivist & Special Collections Librarian) and Garrett Fritz (Archives Specialist) in CSUF's University Archives and Special Collections (UA&SC), and to Natalie Navar Garcia (Archivist) in the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History (COPH): thank you for identifying such fascinating manuscripts and oral histories and granting us access to the materials featured in this edition.

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—to Mariea Daniell Whittington, our esteemed webmaster and distinguished alumna of CSUF's Department of History: thank you—over and over again—for your unwavering dedication and commitment, which facilitates our journal's continued online presence

—and to you, who has opened the digital pages of *The Welebaethan*: thank you, for what is a journal without a reader? Read all that you can, and let the contents ignite your imagination and broaden your horizons. We, the editors, are thrilled to give you Volume 51 (2024) of *The Welebaethan: A Journal of History*.

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