

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC HISTORY

PAPERS PRESENTED AT  
THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE BUSINESS HISTORY CONFERENCE

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*Paul Uselding, ed.*

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC HISTORY

SECOND SERIES, VOLUME FIVE

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THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF  
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## Preface

On 12 and 13 March 1976 the 22nd annual meeting of the Business History Conference was held in Moline, Illinois, with conference facilities and local arrangements being generously supplied by Deere and Company. This occasion was the first time in the history of the conference that an annual meeting was arranged in cooperation with a private business firm. Judging by the reaction of the membership, all aspects of this past year's meeting were extremely successful. On behalf of the membership of the Business History Conference and its trustees I would like to thank Mr. George F. Neiley and the executive officers of Deere and Company for helping to make the 22nd annual meeting of the conference one of its most successful to date.

The outstanding program for the 1976 meeting was arranged by Donald Kemmerer, our current president. Don chose the related themes of agricultural implement manufacture and agricultural development and finance that are featured so prominently in the essays herein collected. I can personally attest to the strenuous efforts Don made to ensure the widest possible participation in this past year's meeting and the many hours he spent reading proposals and corresponding with participants. The spectacular growth of our organization and the vigorous annual meeting, both coming during Don's tenure as president-elect, were no more coincidence. Don's record of leadership speaks eloquently for itself.

I cannot say enough good things about our friend and valued colleague, Fred Bateman, whose financial acumen and administrative perspicacity continue to guide the fortunes of our organization. We owe him a special debt of gratitude for his long-standing service.

Finally, this publication of our *Proceedings* under the title *Business and Economic History* is made possible by the continuing support of Dean Vernon K. Zimmerman of the College of Commerce and Business Administration and V Lewis Bassie, director of the

Bureau of Economic and Business Research, both of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Their support has made possible much of the recent success of our organization and we are most grateful.

Paul Uselding  
University of Illinois  
at Urbana-Champaign

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