



# **Rice Historical Review**

**Vol. 8  
2023**

# FORMATIONS

The land is built upon eons of history in which we are also taken up by the same fascination, of rocks and soil that we humans have used to claim and understand as a feature of that we call home. As we move forward towards the future, we must not forget our past, but study and learn from it. The sands of time were developed through breaking down the rocks of ages, just like how we break down the rocks of history. From my time at the White Sands and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks, moments like these have inspired me to reflect upon the past formations of seabeds rising above the lands. Now, it is the time to rise beyond the past and present and onto the stars.

Hong Lin Tsai, Director of Design



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Rice Historical Review - MS 42,  
Rice University, PO Box 1892 Houston, TX 77251-1892

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# ***LETTER FROM THE EDITORS***

In 2016, the first board of the Rice Historical Review published our inaugural issue to showcase the outstanding scholarship of undergraduate students of history at Rice. Since then, the publication has witnessed a deadly pandemic, the accelerating consequences of climate change, and general global unrest. Many have called our times “unprecedented,” but, as students of history, we find that returning to the roots and examining the formations of the structures that facilitate today’s struggles are the best way to understand the problems we face as people of the twenty-first century. Each of the articles in this year’s edition of the Rice Historical Review fittingly examine the formations of structures and ideas with important implications for both extant historiography and the twenty-first century world. This year’s issue will take the reader across the twentieth century world, a century of dramatic upheaval that casts a long shadow on our daily lives.

The winner of this year’s Lear Prize is “Unity in the Face of Discrimination” by Melissa Carmona. This paper integrates landmark cases in Texas and California into the history of the desegregation of schools in the American Southwest to highlight the efforts of Mexican-American activists and organizations to end de jure school segregation of Hispanic students, which played a crucial role in the formation of the post-Brown v. Board education system. Next, Nicholas Ma’s article, “Japanese Modernity in Shanghai,” discusses the lived experiences of the residents of the Japanese Concession in Shanghai and their formation of a new modernity through mass media sources. Varun Cimbadi takes us to the assembly halls of Delhi in his article “Tracking the Debate of the Indian Tariff Act of 1919,” demonstrating the intricacies of economic and political interests across the British Raj and the formations of postwar colonial power relations between the variety of interest groups represented in the Raj’s government. Carson Gilchrist’s analysis of the formation of La Corporación Mondragón in the context of the Social Catholic values of the first half of the twentieth century sheds light on the complex world of Franco’s fascist regime in Spain. Finally, Emma Yang examines the relationship between individuals and empires in “Producer and Product” to highlight the formation of the identity of the modern Taiwanese woman, drawing on a variety of ephemera from nineteenth and twentieth century Taiwan.

As the COVID-19 pandemic’s prominence in our lives fades for many of us and we take stock of the events of the past three years, we find ourselves looking further and further into the past, searching for answers in history. Though it is teleological to search for concrete beginnings and endings, understanding the ongoing historical processes of the past century that formed our twenty-first century world is crucial to make sense of our own lived experiences. History is the foundation of our experience of the present, and without it, we cannot hope to move forward

and build upon the work of the past. These sentiments served as the inspiration for this year's theme of the Rice Historical Review: formations. They also inspired previous editorial boards to adopt the mission statement of "furthering the future by promoting the past," a mission which this year's editorial board took on with immense enthusiasm. Thanks to both the knowledge of our predecessors and the fortitude of this year's editorial board, we are pleased to present readers with the eighth issue of the Rice Historical Review. We sincerely hope that it provides readers with a new perspective on both the excellent historical research at Rice and the insights which can be gained from a strong understanding of the formations of our present.

**Rijuta Vallishayee and Bora Göbekli**  
*Co-Editors-in-Chief*

# IN MEMORY OF DR. KATHERINE FISCHER DREW



We would like to dedicate this issue of our journal to the memory of Dr. Katherine Fischer Drew, who passed away this year at the age of 99. She spent over 80 of those years with Rice's history department, where she made invaluable contributions both to our university and historical scholarship. Dr. Drew's legacy at Rice is visible across the history department, partly through our journal. The creation of the Rice Historical Review was enabled through the Katherine Fischer Drew Endowment of the Rice History department, and it makes it possible for us to award the Lear Prize each year. Although none of us on the board had the chance to meet Dr. Drew personally, it was well-known to us that she supported the RHR wholeheartedly and sought out a copy of the RHR whenever a new issue was released.

Dr. Drew completed her B.A. in History at Rice in 1944 and finished her master's the following year after submitting her thesis, a translation of the Burgundian Law Code. This marked the beginning of a productive and influential career that contributed deeply to our understanding of the legal and social histories of early Medieval Europe. She spent 1959 traveling and conducting research across Northern Italy as a Guggenheim fellow. She continued to publish on this region's Medieval past throughout the 1960s and 1970s. Her research provided insight into the socio-economic and legal relations in the Carolingian and Lombard kingdoms and the conditions that enabled the emergence of feudalism in Northern Italy between the seventh and ninth centuries. Her rich work on the economic and administrative life in monasteries during this period is truly an excellent read. She remained remarkably productive throughout her career, publishing innumerable books and articles about the Medieval Germanic kingdoms, including an important work on Magna Carta. Many Rice students might recognize Dr. Drew's work from their classes since her translation of the Laws of the Salian Franks is usually featured in Dr. Irish's Medieval Violence class.

On top of making outstanding contributions to her field, Dr. Drew was also instrumental in turning Rice into the institution it is today. After receiving her Ph.D. in History from Cornell University in 1950, she became the fourth faculty member of Rice's then-combined History and Political Science departments, in addition to being the first female tenure-track faculty in Rice's history. During the next 73 years she spent as a Rice historian, Dr. Drew continuously worked to improve the Department of History and the School of Humanities. She was one of the most influential figures at Rice from the 1960s to 1980s, holding major roles in numerous committees and Rice administration while also chairing the History department throughout the 1970s. When she was being considered as a potential candidate for the Office of Provost in 1979, a colleague told *The Thresher*: "She is so strong-willed that the administration might choose to appoint someone less likely to raise difficult issues." This description helps us imagine the energetic and driven personality that enabled her to help carry this university into its modern form.

As students of history at Rice, we recognize how much we have inherited from Dr. Drew. Her legacy as a historian inspires us in our own work, and her contributions to our university benefit us every day. We want to thank her once again for making the RHR possible and dedicate this issue of our journal to her memory as we say goodbye to a brilliant historian and a Rice icon.

**Rice Historical Review Editorial Board**

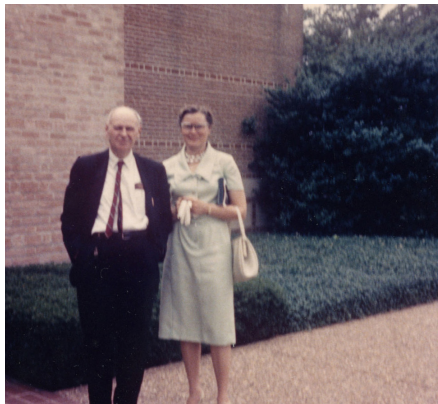


# THE FLOYD SEYWARD LEAR PRIZE

## 2023 WINNER

“UNITY IN THE FACE OF DISCRIMINATION:  
HOW MEXICAN AMERICAN ACTIVISTS CHALLENGED  
THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM”

The Floyd Seyward Lear Prize for Best Essay is an annual prize awarded jointly by the Rice Historical Review (RHR) and the Rice University History Department for the best article submitted to the RHR. The award is in honor of Dr. Floyd Seyward Lear, who was a member of the faculty at the Rice Institute (later Rice University) in the Department of History from 1925 to 1975, the year of his death. He was Assistant Professor from 1927 to 1945, Professor in 1945, Harris Masterson Jr. Professor of History in 1953 (the first to hold this chair), and Trustee Distinguished Professor from 1965. He served as chairman of the Department of History from 1933 to 1960.



Dr. Floyd Seyward Lear (left) and Dr. Katherine Fischer Drew (right)  
Source: Woodson Research Center

All papers submitted to the Rice Historical Review were automatically considered for this award. After submissions have been reviewed, nominated articles selected for consideration were reviewed by the RHR editorial board. Through consensus, the board narrowed down the pool to two nominees. The Department of History Undergraduate Studies Committee evaluated the final three candidates and decided the winning article. The author of the winning essay received a \$500 award.

This year, the History Department and Rice Historical Review Board have awarded the Lear Prize to Melissa Carmona, author of the “Unity In the Face of Discrimination: How Mexican American Activists Challenged the Educational System.” This article distinguishes itself for its consciousness of extant literature, its treatment of collective memory, and its ability to read sources for silences.

The Rice Historical Review would like to thank the late Dr. Katherine Fischer Drew, Lynette S. Autry Professor Emeritus, for giving us the possibility to provide this scholarship.