



Charlemont grant report

Recipient name:	Dr Christopher Coyle
Discipline and subject area:	Humanities and Social Sciences; Economics, Business and Management Sciences
Amount and year awarded:	€2,334 in 2020
Title of project:	The New Orleans Cotton Exchange and the Role of Private Order Institutions in Market Development



Summary of findings:

The aim of this grant application was to spend 2 weeks at archives of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, only held at the University of Tulane, New Orleans. This time would be spent collecting and examining all relevant data required to complete the project outlined. The initial plan was to travel to New Orleans in October 2020. Due to covid restrictions I was not able to complete the travel until the end of February 2022, with the deadline for completion the end of March 2022. A sharp increase in the cost of accommodation in this time meant that the grant could only cover 1 week accommodation and a one-way flight.

The key achievement from this trip was that within 1 week, i was able to copy the vast majority of data required to start analysis and progress this project. This involved taking thousands of photographs of Annual Reports; Board minutes; various iterations of constitutions and byelaws of the exchange; records of arbitration, committee minutes and market statistics. A further interesting outcome from this trip is that in the archive i found and copied a volume of high frequency market data. This is extremely rare for the period and something I did not know existed. This data will form the basis of a research paper once collected and analysed.

The next stage in this project, which will take place in the coming months, will be to read and analyse the information collected and input data from the photos which can be analysed and developed into two papers.

Plans for continuing collaboration:

I will be in touch with the archivists at the University of Tulane if I need more data while completing the research papers.

Published work and publication plans:

As I have just collected the primary data a few weeks ago, the next stage in the analysis will be to read and analyse the information collected and input relevant data from the photos. This will be analysed and developed into (1) a paper detailing and explaining the evolution of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, from its private governance of the market, until the Futures Act and state control of trade. And (2) a paper quantitatively analysing the market how changes in the market's structure affected trade and prices.

Dissemination and plans for future dissemination:

As i have just collected the primary data the research has not been disseminated yet. However, once completed, working papers will be promoted through Queen's University Centre for Economic History (QUCEH) working paper series, and disseminated to a wide audience through the RePEc network and the Social Science Research Network. I will also submit completed papers to conferences such as the Economic History Society Conference and the Business History conference.