

SHIPPED, in good order and well-conditioned, by Thomas H. ...  
L.M.C. No. 50 Fifty Bales of Cotton ...  
Slavery's Capitalism:

A New History of  
American Economic Development

A Conference April 7-9, 2011

April 7-8 - Brown University

April 9 - Harvard University

THE DECADES BETWEEN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND THE CIVIL WAR WITNESSED TWO ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS: THE HARNESSING OF MACHINERY AND CAPITAL INTO AN INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND THE VAST EXPANSION OF SLAVERY ACROSS A SO-CALLED COTTON KINGDOM. THESE WERE NOT RIVAL DEVELOPMENTS, BUT RATHER THE TWIN ENGINES OF THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAN ECONOMY. THIS THREE-DAY CONFERENCE WILL SHOWCASE THE LATEST RESEARCH ON THE ROLE OF SLAVERY IN AMERICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, POINTING TOWARD A NEW HISTORY OF CAPITALISM ITSELF.

Finance  
Development  
Plantation Practices  
Commerce  
Human Capital  
Institutions and Ideas

INVOICE OF GOODS calendered by Providence  
Bleaching and Calendering Company, for  
Manufacturing Company,

	PLAIDS	STRIPES	CHAMBRAYS	CHEQUES	TICKS	SHIRTS
#	20.1	20.1	19.1	20.1	12	12
2.1	21	20.1	21	20.1	19	19
	21	20.1	21	20.1	19	19



Thursday, April 7

**Salomon Hall  
Brown University**

3:00-4:00 Undergraduate Research Poster Session  
Salomon Hall lobby

4:00-5:30 Keynote Address, President Ruth Simmons  
Salomon 101

Friday, April 8

**All sessions in Crystal Room, Alumnae Hall,  
Brown University**

8:30-8:55 Coffee and Registration

9:00-11:00 **FINANCE**

Chair: Michael Vorenberg, Brown University

*The Contours of Cotton Capitalism: Speculation,  
Slavery, and Economic Panic in Mississippi, 1832-1841*

Joshua D. Rothman, University of Alabama

*Neighbor to Neighbor: Local Lending Networks  
Building Economies by Mortgaging Slaves*

Bonnie Martin, Southern Methodist University

*The Common Thread: Cotton, Slavery and the  
Development of Merchant Banking*

Kathryn Boodry, Harvard University

Comment: David Waldstreicher, Temple University

11:00-11:25 Coffee Break

11:30-1:00 **DEVELOPMENT**

Chair: Ted Widmer, John Carter Brown Library

*Defining the National Mainstream: Slavery,  
Capitalism, and the Limestone South*

John Majewski, University of California–Santa  
Barbara

*Did Slavery Need Capitalism, or did Capitalism  
Need Slavery?*

Stanley Engerman, University of Rochester

Comment: Kaivan Munshi, Brown University

1:00-1:55: Lunch

2:00-4:00 **COMMERCE**

Chair: Cécile Vidal, L'École des Hautes Études  
en Sciences Sociales

*Quantifying Complicity: New Englanders and the  
Slave Economies of the West Indies*

Eric Kimball, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

*The Coastwise Slave Trade and a Mercantile  
Community of Interest*

Calvin Schermerhorn, Arizona State University

*Slavery, Technology and the Richmond-Rio Circuit*

Daniel Rood, American Antiquarian Society

Comment: Ronald Bailey, Savannah State University

