

Professor and Mme. Bloch have excellent personalities. I have known them well for several years and see no reason why they should not adapt themselves readily to academic life in this country. I have never heard M. Bloch speak English, but I know several Americans who have heard him. He has lectured in English at Cambridge University; and Professor J. H. Clapham, of Cambridge (who is notoriously sparing with praise) wrote me last year that Professor Bloch had written a "brilliant" chapter on the early history of French agriculture for the Cambridge Economic History that Professor Clapham was editing. I have strong reason to believe that Professor Bloch's English would be good enough for classroom use after, at most, a few weeks in this country.

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In addition to economic history Professor Bloch is prepared to teach medieval history, modern European history, and paleography and historical method.

In my opinion, Professor Bloch is entitled to special consideration because of his having refused exemption (due on the ground of his age and also because of his being the father of six children) from military service and taken his place as a captain in the French army upon the outbreak of hostilities. I had a regular correspondence with him at his post in the Maginot Line until Hitler invaded the Low Countries. Professor Bloch fought in the battle of Flanders.

I believe that M. Bloch's presence in this country would tend to raise the level of scholarship in economic and social history. I fear that he is in a precarious position in his native country. Assistance from the Foundation in reaching America and living until he can secure a foothold would not only be an act of charity and brotherly love but it might be instrumental in saving from destruction a fertile, energetic, and original mind.

Professor Bloch's address is:

M. le Professeur Marc Bloch
Fougères, commune du Bourg d'Hem
Par Bonnet (Creuse)
France

He is in the unoccupied zone.

If you care for additional information concerning Professor Bloch, I shall be glad to attempt to supply it.

Respectfully yours,

Earl J. Hamilton
Earl J. Hamilton
Professor of Economics.