

OCT 26 1940

*Refugee scholars
Bloch M*

The University of Chicago

Department of Economics

September 30, 1940

<i>JHW</i>	<i>JHW</i>	<i>10/4/40</i>
<i>OCT-2'40</i>		

Dr. Joseph Willits
The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Willits,

Mr. Earl J. Hamilton has just sent me the following request:

You doubtless remember that I spoke to you about Professor Marc Bloch's desire to come to the United States at the meeting on Monday. I gave a long letter from M. Bloch to Dr. Willits; and, at his request, I discussed the matter with Mr. Fosdick.

If the leading economic historians of this country will certify to Dr. Willits that M. Bloch is one of the outstanding economic historians in any country, the Rockefeller Foundation will be glad to assist him in reaching the United States and will support him for two years while he is becoming established.

Will you be good enough to write to Dr. Willits in M. Bloch's behalf?

Accordingly I am writing to you to say that Professor Bloch is generally regarded in England, France, and this country, as one of the leading economic historians of his generation. I have never met him, but I think very highly of his work (which has been both copious and scholarly), and also of the excellent learned journal, the Annales d'histoire économique et sociale, which he founded and edited in company with his colleague, Professor Lucien Febvre. French scholars thought well enough ^{there} to appoint him a few years ago as Henri Hauser's successor in the chair of economic history at the Sorbonne. I think there can be no doubt that he is quite first class as a scholar.

I deeply regret the circumstances that lead him to seek work outside his country, but then the fall of France is a tragedy which doesn't bear dwelling on.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

John U. Nef
John U. Nef

JUN-RS