16 Bradmore Road,  
OXFORD OX2 6DP  
21st May 1975.

David Marsden Esq.  
Lab D'Economie et de Sociologie du Travail  
13100 Aix en Provence.

Dear Marsden,

Your letter of the 15th May, with the copy of your paper, carried my  
mind back to our meeting before you left for Aix, and my hope at that  
time that you would be able to take part in some of the field work that  
was being undertaken by Lent - I greatly admired Jean-Jacques Silvestre's  
study of matched pairs of French and German firms.

You will understand, I hope, that the content of your paper came  
as a surprise to me, and, I am bound to add, as a disappointment. Will  
you bear with me if I say why? The paper has a range of discourse so  
wide it can hardly do justice to any one of the fields on which it touches.  
It cites one anthropological study without dealing with the extensive  
literature concerning the interpretation of economic activity in other  
primitibe economies. It gives an account of feudalism and the medieval  
artisan for which only one text is cited. The hierarchical principle is  
discussed without reference to Lydall's application of it, and it is not  
 Wiley the differentials between occupations that stand in no evident  
hierarchical relation with one another. The 'final' remark on page 25  
was anticipated by John Stuart Mill.

These remarks of mine must, I know, be disappointing to you, but I  
believe it will be most helpful to you in the and that I should set out  
my reflections on your paper frankly. In my experience it is best for a  
scholar at your stage of development to devote himself to a closely  
delimited study of an empirical subject. From the point of view of  
prospective employment, it is work of this kind that provides credentials.

I wish I could help with advice about the prospect of further employment,  
but it is now five years and more since I retired from the London School, and  
I am not in touch with the market. You will, I expect, be consulting  
sources such as The Times Higher Educational Supplement, in which vacancies  
are advertised. I am afraid that recently, with increased output from the  
Graduate Schools, coinciding with budgetary contraction in the Universities,  
the balance of supply and demand in the market has moved in a way very  
adverse to the applicant.

Yours sincerely,

Henry Phelps Brown

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