

16 Bradmore Road,
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21st May 1975.

David Marsden Esq
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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 Lest - 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 primitive 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 applied to 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 end 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,

Murray Phillip Brown