
THE HISTORIANS

Shepard Bancroft Clough

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Shepard Bancroft Clough, long on the Editorial Board of this Journal, died at his home in East Peacham, Vermont, in June 1989. He is best remembered as one of the pioneers of academic economic history in the United States. In 1940 he was among the founders of *The Journal of Economic History* and the Economic History Association, key structures supporting the rapidly rising number of young scholars eager to make their mark as economic historians. In 1941 his text *Economic History of Europe*, with Charles W. Cole, replaced Herbert Heaton's text of the same name as the standard in the field, and remained the text of choice in European economic history courses until the 1960s.

Clough began teaching at Columbia University in 1928; he took his doctorate there in 1930 and, with the exception of a brief stint of government work in Washington during World War II, remained at Columbia until his retirement in 1971. He taught courses in French and Italian history and seminars in European and European economic history. Dozens of today's teachers of European and economic history were his students; he befriended many of these and substantially aided their careers.

During the 1920s Clough had worked in Paris as a graduate student under the sponsorship of Carlton J.H. Hayes, already the American doyen of the history of European nationalism. In Paris, Hayes assigned to Clough research in French economic nationalism. While Clough's doctoral thesis was on Flemish nationalism, French economic history soon became his central scholarly concern. In 1939 he published his magisterial work *France 1789-1939. A Study in National Economics*, which in some ways is still the most useful general work on French economic history in the English language. Fluent in Italian as well as French and German, he enjoyed visiting professorships at Turin, Paris, Grenoble, and Bari. He also was one of the founders of the Society for French Historical Studies; and when in 1968 he gave his Presidential

address to that body, he was presented with a Festschrift by some of his many students. This Festschrift was later published as *From the Ancien Régime to the Popular Front*.

Shepard Clough did not confine his scholarship to French and economic history. He published works in American business history (*A History of American Life Insurance*), world history (*The Rise and Fall of Civilizations*), a general history of Italy, an economic history of Italy (*Storia dell'economia italiana dal 1861 ad oggi*), and many others on a wide variety of topics—seventeen in all, plus many important articles.

He was born in Bloomington, Indiana, of a family that had deep roots in New England. He resided most of his life in New York City; but he loved his summer home in Vermont and spent as much time there as he could. It was to Vermont that he went upon retirement, happy to think that now at last, geographically as well mentally, he was a Yankee. Poor health made him change his retirement home temporarily to Florida; but in the end he came back to Vermont. Many of his grateful students visited him there, reinforcing their recollections of this outstandingly kind, supportive, and hard-working scholar.