
EDITOR'S NOTE

This is not only the first review of European economic history, it is the first review devoted to European history tout court. It is certainly significant that it should appear just at this time and be given such a warm and general welcome. Here we have a new view of national histories fitted into the broader frame of European history. In the last analysis the Journal is born of the desire to emphasize the fact that — in a Europe which up to the present has so often been engaged in sanguinary internal wars — there has always existed a bond, strong and enduring even if not always evident, linking together the different countries. A bond which sometimes united destinies over and above the political divisions giving a common physiognomy to their different features: I refer to the economic bond. Our Journal's object is to achieve a better knowledge of European history under the economic profile and, through this knowledge, to succeed in tracing a common thread through the history of European economy.

This has been no easy initiative. Obstacles of various kinds stood in its way, foremost being the language differences which in Europe, as in other continents, are considerable. In selecting English as the language to be used in this Journal we hope to have overcome this difficulty satisfactorily. Besides being a modern and

precise instrument of expression, English is unquestionably widely and increasingly spoken and understood.

This choice will allow us, we trust, to present material that is comprehensible and of use to everyone. The labour of translation and revisions required is obviously considerable.

But the greatest difficulties that had to be overcome were those involving the cooperation of historians in the various countries. Without them, without their cooperation, all efforts would have been in vain. A review at a European level must be able to count on the support and contributions of students of European history. The Journal of European Economic History has, I am glad to say, received many contributions and there can be no doubt that their quality and number encouraged us to go on. And if today, after a preparatory period, the Journal is able to appear, a considerable part of the merit goes to those who have lent us their support.

But if the support and cooperation of students of European economic history have proved a decisive element, no less decisive has been the assistance granted by the Banco di Roma, whose merits also in the cultural field have for some time past been growing more and more considerable both in quality and in quantity.

Today, in launching The Journal of European Economic History on its cultural adventure, I wish to thank all those who have helped make its realization possible.

The Editor