

## *Editors' Notes*

### COMMUNICATION

I read Richard A. Easterlin's response to my critique of his interesting and important paper on "Population Change and Farm Settlement . . ." in your March 1976 issue with some interest. A brief comment is in order.

Professor Easterlin seems to suggest that I used a shotgun to try to ward off an invader from terrain that I considered to be my property. Nothing could be further from the fact. As the coordinator of last September's EHA meeting can attest, I strenuously endeavored to decline the invitation to comment on Easterlin's paper on the grounds that my credentials in the field of demography were inadequate and only consented to serve after being reminded that I "owed him one." A more appropriate analogy would undoubtedly be that of the tenderfoot venturing into unfamiliar country—reputedly the range of rogue elephants—while armed only with an air rifle.

In one respect I do wish to acknowledge the justice of Easterlin's reply to my remarks. As he suggests, I did inadvertently misrepresent Philip J. Greven's evidence relating to the transfer of land from the second to the third generation of Andover farmers. My statement rested on the unarticulated and, as I now believe, unjustified feeling that the deed of gift might also be considered a "sale" in which the consideration represented past labor or other services. Yet I still leave this matter with the impression that Greven's findings are somewhat less congruent with Easterlin's model than the latter suggests and that a distinction should perhaps be drawn between transfers prior to the farmer's death and the subsequent processes of inheritance.

As for Professor Easterlin's other responses, I can only say—as I did in my original commentary, that he may be right but that the supporting evidence is much less than complete. Is the data on child labor that "changed" his mind really adequate? Should we ignore tenancy status as irrelevant to "most of the nineteenth century?" If so should the Spillman study have been introduced? How did the multivariate analysis of household data take tenancy into consideration? If the distinction between "constant" and "current" dollars is unimportant, why did he introduce it initially? Does dismissing it as unimportant eliminate the farmer's problem of predicting the future of land values introduced by fluctuations in business conditions or by variations in land values from area to area? And so on . . .

Whatever the merits of such queries it is relevant to point out that the paper which I commented upon last September, and to which my published critique was addressed, differed in some respects from the version published in the *JOURNAL* of March 1976. The materials in the published text of the paper (pp. 66-68) depart from the original which I used, as does some of the documentations. Coincidentally some of the changes seem to mitigate the force of certain aspects of the critique.

Nothing in my original comments nor in this response has been meant to suggest that Easterlin's paper is not highly stimulating and important. I

certainly believe it is both. But the appropriate role of an assigned critic is to probe and challenge; this in all humility I tried to do. If the exchange between Easterlin and myself stimulates further research on these matters, whatever the findings, I shall have fulfilled my assignment.

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Our readers may be interested in obtaining from the author copies of Louis P. Cain's working paper, "Annexation, A Panacea for the Urban Crisis? The Case of Chicago" (February 1976).

#### THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

Glenn Porter will become Director of the Regional Economic History Research Center on September 1, 1976. The Center, established as a new division in the Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, will study the economic development of the mid-Atlantic states region.

Porter has recently been an Assistant Professor of Business History, Harvard University, and Editor of the *Business History Review*. He is currently editing the proceedings of a conference on "Approaches to Regional Economic Change: The Philadelphia-Baltimore Areas since 1700," held at the Foundation in December. The concentration at the Center for the first five years will be on industrialization and modernization in the mid-Atlantic region, 1750-1850.

#### PROJECT MULHALL

Economic historians and economists may want to take advantage of an economic history statistical data base now installed in the computer at the University of Texas at Austin. The initial holdings are for twenty countries: Great Britain; United States; France; Germany; Sweden; Japan; Russia-USSR; Italy; Canada; Australia; Argentina; Turkey; Brazil; Mexico; Iran; India; China; Taiwan; Thailand; South Korea.

The basic series for each country include three aggregate and ten sectoral series pushed back as far as reasonably reputable data permit. The aggregate series are: gross domestic product per capita in constant prices; gross investment as a proportion of GDP; and an industrial production index. The basic sectoral series are: railroad mileage; raw cotton consumption (or cloth production); production of iron; steel; electricity; motor vehicles; sulphuric acid; nitrogen fertilizer; plastics and resins; and synthetic fibers. Project Mulhall is prepared to make available at marginal cost tapes or computer read-outs of the raw data; a listing of sources; and an account of the computer program. Inquiries should be addressed to: Project Mulhall, Department of Economics, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas 78712.

The First International Symposium for the History of Arabic Science at the University of Aleppo (5-12 April, 1976) inaugurated the Institute for the History of Arabic Science. This Institute will be devoted to fostering research in all the fields of Arabic and Islamic science and technology—pure, applied, natural and life sciences and techniques in the broadest sense. It will issue, starting with the year 1977, the *Journal for the History of Arabic Science*, which will accept articles in English or French; summaries in Arabic will be included. A *News-letter of the Institute for the History of Arabic Science* will also be published periodically. This *News-letter* will be published in English and Arabic simultaneously.

A one-year pilot project designed to outline and coordinate the establishment of a business archives has been undertaken by the Krannert Library of the Krannert Graduate School of Management, Purdue University. Inquiries may be addressed to: Susan F. Sudduth, Business Archives Project, Krannert Library, Krannert Graduate School of Management, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind. 47907.

A symposium, "Southern Agriculture since the Civil War," is to be held in Starkville, Mississippi, in June 1978. Joining in sponsoring the meeting are the Agricultural History Society, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Mississippi State University. Persons wishing to present papers at the symposium may correspond with Wayne D. Rasmussen, Agricultural History Group, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or with Roy V. Scott, Department of History, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762.

### *Erratum*

There was a printer's error on p. 658 of D. M. P. McCarthy's article, "Media as Ends: Money and the Underdevelopment of Tanganyika to 1940," in the September 1976 issue of the *JOURNAL*. The last sentence in the second paragraph should read: "There were, however, local appreciations of copper over silver caused by a shortage of cents which, in turn, aggravated undersupply as copper became sensitive to the speculative demand."