

July 7, 1961

The Editor  
Times Literary Supplement  
Printing House Square  
London, E.C.4, England

Sir,

While I quite often disagree profoundly with your reviewers, I am in full accord with the scholar who reviewed Marc Bloch, *Feudal Society*, in the article "A Master-Historian," in your issue of June 23, 1961.

Would you be kind enough to convey to your reviewer the following message: that I am full of admiration for his competent and accurate review of Marc Bloch's book, placed in the correct historical and (*sit venia verbo*) metaphysical perspective; but that I was slightly puzzled, though greatly honoured, by the fact that from among hundreds of scholars upon whom Marc Bloch exercised considerable influence your reviewer saw fit to single me out by mentioning my name.

It is perfectly true that I was greatly impressed by his *Rois thaunaturges*. I actually met Marc Bloch in Oxford, dining with him, in 1934, at Oriel, and talked with him until far into the small hours after our kind host, Sir Maurice Powicke, had left us alone with a good supply of Bordeaux and Whisky. Both of us got so excited in the course of our conversation that we did not sit down but stood in front of the fire-place to exchange our arguments and places and quotations about any relevant subject. I, too, felt that his historical scholarship was "unmistakably lit from an inward individual fire" so often absent from the works of historians. But exactly this was a quality which, alas, I could not borrow from him. I am sure there are many others who were far more dependent on him than I was, though be it far from me to deny the great impression his studies and his personality made upon me.

Thank you for conveying this message to your reviewer.

Sincerely yours

Ernst H. Kantorowicz

Nota Bene: This letter is reproduced by Robert E. Lerner, "Ernst Kantorowicz and Theodor E. Mommsen," *An Interrupted Past: German-Speaking Refugee Historians in the United States after 1933*, ed. by H. L. Lehmann & J.J. Sheehan (New York, 1991), 199, and by Peter Schöttler, "Ernst Kantorowicz in Frankreich", in *Ernst Kantorowicz*, ed. Benson & Fried (Stuttgart, 1997), 159. Schöttler deals at length with the question of the intellectual relationship between Bloch and Kantorowicz, but as I see it, the fact that just one of the many books by Bloch, *Les Rois thaumaturges*, deals with kingship and was admired by Eka does not qualify to make them kindred spirits. Each was a great historian in his own way.