

1974-09-19: [METHODOLOGY] Mousnier, "Problèmes de méthode....16e -18e siècles."

Attacks the 1749 bit in Labrousse & students "Structure et relations sociales au 18e siècle" (*Cahier des Annales*, 18, 1961).

552-3 Labrousse stresses class formation by "répartition des moyens de production et d'échange" and in distinguishing classes "la profession combinée avec le niveau social."

553 Mousnier says that this in effect makes *niveau de fortune* equal to *niveau social*. He claims for this part that this is not as true as seeking "la dignité et l'honneur" as differentiating factors.

558 Mousnier says that intermarriage is the real marker: You don't have to create classes by factoring out a whole mess of quantitative material— just go directly to study of marriage patterns.

559 This, of course, appears to be easily done with the 1749 marriage contracts. but they went so fast to get an overall statistical view that they didn't do much analysis. The marriage contract designation of dignity can be an office purchased the day before, hiding true character. Other documents are needed. [But how in hell is one going to them—whistle?]

562 Aware of how *propres* in dowries will vary the worth of the dowry, which will be worthy more to the husband the less of it that is declared *propres*. [This is to be doubted, really, since everything can be sold.]

563 As important as that is to know the fortune of the family [great, if you can get it.]