



Marc Bloch: A Life in History

Carole Fink

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Few twentieth-century scholars have achieved such widespread admiration as the French historian Marc Bloch (1886-1944). A soldier in both world wars and leader of the Resistance who was captured, tortured, and died a heroic death, Bloch epitomizes the courage and conviction of an old-fashioned good citizen who recognized his obligation to defend France not only against foreign enemies but also against those who sapped its strength from within. In 1929 Bloch co-founded the now legendary journal, the *Annales*: a crusading periodical devoted to removing narrow nationalistic and disciplinary barriers, extending historians' investigations to contemporary events, and covering a broad range of social, economic, and cultural phenomena. Bloch is also renowned for his three major research studies--*Les rois thaumaturges* (The Royal Touch), *Les caractères originaux de l'histoire rurale française* (French Rural History), and *La société féodale* (Feudal Society)--and for his two enduring personal testimonies--*L'étrange défaite* (Strange Defeat), his incisive account of the fall of France in 1940, and *Apologie pour l'histoire* (The Historian's Craft), his inspiring meditations on his life long work, written on the eve of his joining the Resistance. Carole Fink is the translator of Marc Bloch's *Memoirs of War, 1914-1915* (CUP, 1988). She won the American Historical Association's George Louis Beer Prize for her book *The Genoa Conference*.

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