

## LETTER FROM BRITAIN

A W COATS

'Dear John

I must write to congratulate you and your colleagues on the inauguration of your new society and the Newsletter. You seem to have got off to a splendid start. It makes me feel quite nostalgic towards our own birth and infancy in the late 1960's.

Having so greatly enjoyed my first visit to Australia last year I am emboldened to make a suggestion which may evoke a response in one or more of your members. As you well know I have been trying to encourage historians of economics to take a broader interest in their subject, and especially, to endeavour to locate economic ideas within their socio-economic context, even a cross-cultural one. While in Australia I was struck by the scope for triangular UK - US - Australian studies of economic and social themes and movements, and there is obviously also scope for comparative historical research in doctrinal history too, especially for the period since the late 19th century, when institutional and professional conditions have been changing rapidly.

Is it too much to hope that somebody in your society will take up the challenge?

With very best wishes from an ancient British HOPIE.

Yours sincerely  
Bob Coats

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