Mark Blaug: Rebel with Many Causes

Edited by Marcel Boumans, Associate Professor History and Methodology of Economics, Utrecht University School of Economics (U.S.E.), the Netherlands and Matthias Klaes, The University of Buckingham, UK

This collection of eminent contributions discusses the ideas and works of Mark Blaug, who has made important and often pioneering contributions to economic history, economic methodology, the economics of education, development economics, cultural economics, economic theory and the history of economic thought. Besides these assessments of Blaug’s influence and impact in these fields, this volume also contains a selection of personal portraits which depict him as a colleague, a friend and an opponent. Blaug was also a voracious reader and prolific writer, which is clearly evidenced by the comprehensive bibliography.

‘Blaug was a fierce combatant and relished intellectual disputes. Since he would have found no rhetorical praise in the various contributions of this book, but a frank discussion of his hits and misses, we venture to say that he would have enjoyed the content of this book and not simply its title. We liked it and surely many readers will too.’

‘This is a wonderful book to read that analyzes an idiosyncratic and polymath economist that hardly left his audiences or his readers indifferent. Those who knew Mark Blaug will recognize the man, the intellectual, the economist, and the historian of ideas in the chapters included in the volume. Those that never had the privilege to meet him will have the opportunity to understand why he became such a significant figure in economics over much of the second half of the twentieth century.’
– Pedro Teixeira, University of Porto, Portugal

‘Mark Blaug was a nonpareil – a fine economist, an extraordinary scholar, an indefatigable editor, a generous colleague, a fierce debater. His passing was a sad loss for economics and for the history of economics. This volume, a kind of Mark Blaug in Retrospect, is a fitting memorial that, at once, captures his many parts and the wide range and depth of his thought.’
– Kevin D. Hoover, Duke University, US and Editor of the History of Political Economy

‘Mark Blaug was a short man with a great soul: he was a thinking person’s economist with an uncanny ability to capture the big picture(s) in a few precise words. His zest for living expressed itself, in part, in his love of argument and the lifelong intellectual (and sometimes personal) mentoring of his interlocutors. The chapters in this volume, written by many of his former students and intellectual peers, lovingly and critically recall the man’s life and his ideas. Jointly they introduce his wide-ranging views and interests to new generations of readers. They have the capacity to startle those of us who think we know.’
– Eric Schliesser, Ghent University, Belgium

‘Mark Blaug had an exceptional knowledge of the history of economics and a critical interest in the assumptions and judgements (often implicit) that underlie the work of economists past and present. The contributors to this volume illustrate the influence of Mark and his ideas, demonstrating their continuing relevance to all who recognise the powerful influence on the substantive content of economics of the methods by which it is developed and appraised.’
– Brian Loasby, Stirling University, UK

‘This is a wonderful collection honouring the memory of Mark Blaug, an intellectual “giant” among economists. It includes a series of personal appreciations, which give an engaging sense of Blaug’s humanity and intellectual curiosity. The chapters, written by authors with direct experience of his teaching, writing and ideas, provide a comprehensive overview of his contributions, including his distinctive methodology. It is an important addition to the historiography of economics and a fitting memorial to an influential figure in the history of modern economic thought.’

– Jocelyn Davis, University of Oxford, UK

‘This book provides a fitting tribute to Mark Blaug and his contribution to the history of economics. It is an excellent addition to the literature on the history of economics and a valuable resource for students, researchers and policymakers.’
– Marco Coppola, University of Milan, Italy

‘Mark Blaug’s work is a testament to his passion for economics and his commitment to the development of the discipline. This book is a fitting tribute to his legacy and a valuable addition to the literature on the history of economics.’
– John F. Turner, University of Georgia, US

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of the man and pay tribute to the diversity and extent of his contributions. Many chapters focus on two of the areas in which he exercised strong leadership – methodology and history of thought – taking forward debate on issues with which he had engaged. Mark Blaug’s important influence on cultural economics is also addressed.’

– Sheila Dow, Stirling University, UK

‘Mark Blaug is responsible more than anyone else for the rise of the history and philosophy of economics as independent, mature fields of research. During his lifetime, he influenced directly three generations of scholars and many more will continue to benefit from his legacy in the future. Some of the best historians and methodologists of economics pay homage to Blaug with essays that have been especially prepared for this occasion. Blaug would have been delighted and so will the readers of this volume.’

– Francesco Guala, University of Milan, Italy