

Preface and acknowledgments

Eve L. Menger donated the papers of her grandfather Carl to Duke University in 1987. The following spring Craufurd Goodwin and Neil de Marchi of Duke asked me to serve as the director of a conference to commemorate the acquisition. It was also decided that this would be the first in a series of such events to be held annually at Duke. The conference took place on the weekend of 15–17 April 1989. The papers gathered here are the result.

In addition to the authors of the articles, the following scholars attended the conference as discussants: Jack Birner, Mark Blaug, Stephan Boehm, Peter Boettke, William Butos, Greg Christiansen, Earlene Craver, Wade Hands, Richard Langlois, Kurt Leube, Peter Rosner, John Whitaker, and Larry White. Axel Leijonhufvud presented a delightful and insightful set of extemporaneous remarks at the closing luncheon. This was a distinguished group indeed, and the quality of their contributions was uniformly high. Three sets of comments were so apposite that I chose to include them in the volume, one of them in the form of a paper.

None of this would have been possible without funding from a number of sources. The Olin Foundation and the Sloan Foundation were magnanimous in their support. Additional funding was provided by Duke University Press and by the History of Economic Thought Workshop of the Duke Economics Department. The Government of Austria generously supported the travel of the Austrian participants. The University of North Carolina at Greensboro provided me with a generous phone budget. Finally, some of the participants were able to arrange alternative funding for travel or bore part of the expense themselves.

A number of individuals made my job as conference director considerably less onerous. Craufurd Goodwin, who provided his sound and calming advice and handled innumerable logistical problems before, during, and after the event, tops the list. Bob Byrd and Mason Barnett created an inviting display of Menger's papers which set just the right mood for the opening reception. Paula Schofield minimized the traumas produced by a last-minute change of venue. Neil de Marchi provided valuable suggestions, criticisms, and support. And the following members of Neil's History of Thought Workshop served dutifully as guides for their guests: Peter Dohlman, Jinbang Kim, Mike Lail, Robert Leonard, and Jeff Roggenbuch. To each I extend my heartfelt thanks.