

Foreword

The University of Graz is the venue where arguably one of the greatest historians of economic thought, Joseph Alois Schumpeter, taught at the beginning of last century. Therefore it immediately suggested itself as the place to hold the 2000 conference of the European Society for the History of Economic Thought (ESHET). At the beginning of a new millennium, it was natural to devote the thematic part of the conference to the question, 'Is there progress in economics?'

We take the opportunity of the publication of the conference proceedings to express our gratitude to the institutions and people who have been of great help in getting this conference off the ground and in completing the present volume in a relatively short time. Generous financial support was received from the Austrian Ministry of Science, the Government of Styria, the City of Graz, the University of Graz, the Styrian Chamber of Labour, the Styrian Chamber of Trade and the Styrian Confederation of Industry. The enterprise was supported by the Rector of the University of Graz, Professor Lothar Zechlin, the Dean of the Faculty of Social and Economic Studies, Professor Lutz Beinsen, and members of the Departments of Economics, Public Economics and Economic and Social History. Clemens Keil and his aides and members of the secretariat of the Department of Economics, in particular Elisabeth Colantonio and Anita Pauritsch, played an important role in organizational, logistic and other matters. We would like to thank the officers of ESHET and especially the members of the Scientific Committee of the Graz conference, Lars Magnusson, Bertram Schefold, Ian Steedman and Gianni Vaggi, for their smooth collaboration over the months during which the conference was prepared, and the Executive Committee of ESHET for entrusting us with the task of editing the proceedings. We are grateful to all the scholars involved in reviewing the papers contained in this volume and to the papers' authors for the efficient manner in which they have both responded to the referees' criticisms and suggestions and respected the deadlines imposed on them. It was a pleasure to collaborate with them. Last but not least, we would like to thank Astrid Wlach for preparing the final typescript and Bob Pickens from the publisher for swiftly arranging its publication.

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