

# Preface

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It is both a pleasure and a privilege to write the Preface to the volume of the second Leeds conference on Keynesian matters, so ably organized by Sheila Dow and John Hillard. The conference was a wonderful occasion for me especially; I made new friends and renewed old friendships in pleasant surroundings and I heard serious, stimulating and inspiring papers and discussion. The contents of the volume show that the wide-ranging interests, example and inspiration of Keynes himself guided our discussions. Much unfinished business from Keynes's own agenda received attention: the vexed place of imperfect competition in the Keynesian system; the compromises needed to do effective systemic analysis; the roles of knowledge, information and uncertainty in economic analysis; appropriate methodologies; the place for econometric procedures in effective analysis; the usefulness of the insights of Keynes and his followers for current international issues, not least taming speculators and coping with the economic ignorance that underlies Maastricht.

Because it was a gathering of Keynes scholars we were not afraid to learn from the past, from both historical events and scholars now dead. This was not piety but the application of critical intelligence combined with perspective.

I am sure that readers of the volume will get pleasure and knowledge in equal measure from it. It only remains now for me to thank the editors and the contributors for their splendidly cooperative efforts. Please read on:

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