This history of scholarly pioneers is itself a pioneering venture, involving us in a complicated process during the several years it took to design and finish the book. When Edward Elgar Publishing approached Shepherd in 2002 to do a ‘pioneers in industrial organization’ book, they set no rules, format or boundaries to follow. When the need to cover European and British pioneers became obvious, it was a blessing that Henry W. de Jong – long a close colleague and friend – agreed to take over that part.

Although de Jong judged that Europe required separate chapters for each language area, Shepherd decided to retain the array of individual profiles that he had planned from the start. Hence the book itself relies on two different literary approaches. We think that this dual approach nicely fits the distinctive realities on the two sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

Quite a few gifted colleagues have generously helped us through the process, and it is a particular pleasure to thank them here.

We sought their advice on the whole design of our coverage, including the right time periods, the range of innovations that should be included, and our choices between country chapters and the more detailed write-ups of individual pioneers. We also asked their advice about the specific people to include and their relative importance.

Henry W. de Jong designed the six-chapter coverage (Chapters 2–8) of European and British pioneers; invited colleagues to write the chapters; and guided the process, with close attention to quality, accuracy and details. William G. Shepherd chose instead to rely on a unified Introduction to the North American pioneers; invited a wide range of colleagues to write major profiles on the pioneers; wrote the Introductory chapter; guided the writing of the individual profiles; and wrote the remaining profiles that complete the coverage. Actually, he found that the authors needed little guidance beyond the general format and type of information required. The authors were remarkably effective in writing fine contributions that needed little editing.

Naturally, our greatest thanks go to those authors of whole European–British chapters and of the individual North American entries.

For the North American section, a large number of colleagues gave thoughtful advice about coverage and individual pioneers. They included Richard E. Caves, F.M. Scherer, Leonard G. Schifrin, the late Donald J. Dewey, John Howard Brown, Willard F. Mueller, William S. Comanor, Harry M. Trebing, John E. Kwoka, William L. Baldwin, Stephen Martin, Sam Peltzman, James W. Brock and Bruce Marion.

Notably, several colleagues also went well beyond the task of writing one profile. In particular, F.M. Scherer drew on his encyclopedic knowledge of the field, not only advising us on the dimensions of our coverage but also identifying some unusual people. And several times he agreed to write additional profiles, ending with a total of six: Charles...

John Howard Brown also drew on his deep knowledge of the field, from his current writing of a masterful new history of the field. Generously, he wrote important profiles on five innovators: John Bates Clark, Jeremiah Whipple Jenks, Gardiner C. Means, Harold Hotelling and William G. Shepherd.

Richard E. Caves gave us our first individual write-up, of Joe S. Bain, done in splendid style and with lucidity. This provided us with instant momentum and high standards of quality. Harry M. Trebing wrote on three pioneers specializing in regulation: Henry Carter Adams, Martin G. Glaeser and James C. Bonbright. William L. Baldwin wrote the two important profiles on John Maurice Clark and Edward Hastings Chamberlin.


Sam Peltzman summarized George Joseph Stigler, the pivotal figure between the old and new Chicago schools. Bruce Marion wrote on Willard Fritz Mueller, while John Spychalski presented John R. Meyer.

All other individual write-ups were done by Shepherd, both in the introductory essay about North Americans and in the set of profiles about individuals. He wishes to thank the fates that allowed him to know personally nearly all of the pioneers in this book who were alive after 1955.

From the start, Alexandra O’Connell provided the finest level of advice and steadfast help in arranging the progress of the entire project, from start to finish of our work and assembling of the book’s content. David Vince then supervised the book’s process of editing and production with exceptional skill and patience. The copyediting by Margaret Pugh was as thorough and perceptive as possible, with a complex manuscript like this one.

The two editor-authors of this book have worked together on various books, conferences and research projects since 1976. This new project has been even more enjoyable than the others. They wish to thank Els de Jong and Theodora B. Shepherd for the finest intellectual and practical support, advice and encouragement.

Every effort has been made to trace the copyright holders, but if any have been inadvertently overlooked the necessary acknowledgement will be made at the first opportunity.

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