

Debts and discharges

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At a crucial stage in the emergence of the book, in September 2001, I was invited to give a series of lectures at the Faculty of Economics of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. The opportunity to discuss the ideas in this book with Noemi Levy-Orlik, Alicia Giron, Guadalupe Mantey, Eugenia Correa and their students made an invaluable contribution towards clarifying my arguments. Later on, aspects of the book were discussed at a presentation for Economics staff at the Open University. At around this time,

a draft containing the results of my investigations in classical political economy floated off to appear in the annual *History of Economic Thought and Methodology*, Volume 22-A, as 'The Prudence of Projectors'. Completion of the book was made possible by the shelter generously provided by John Weeks, Machiko Nissanke and the Economics Department at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies. The book owes more than is apparent to the enthusiasm and interest of all these individuals. The author takes responsibility for the remaining errors. The enthusiast for new ideas, and novel approaches to old ideas, is especially prone to overlook mistakes in pursuit of some immanent conception that inspires research. I hope that the remaining blemishes are small enough to be overlooked in that greater construction, and that the kindness of many friends is reflected in its qualities.

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