Preface and acknowledgements

This book is a result of the Center for Research in Regulated Industries (CRRI) 16th Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics which was held on May 28 to May 31, 2008 in Albufeira, Portugal. This conference and this book follow earlier conferences and workshops. In 1990, the first Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics was held at Coton House, Rugby, England, July 22–25, 1990, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Penny Post and the contributions of Sir Rowland Hill. To date there have been 16 conferences, three workshops and now 15 edited volumes as part of CRRI’s program on Postal and Delivery Economics. The conference has more than tripled from the 65 participants who attended in 1990.

The 2008 Conference was made possible by the support of the following organizations: CRRI, Rutgers Business School, Rutgers University; Royal Mail; Deutsche Post World Net; United States Postal Service; Bank of America; Canada Post Corporation; FedEx; La Poste; De Poste/La Post; Österreichische Post AG; R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company; UPS; Swiss Post; CTT Correios de Portugal S.A.; Pitney Bowes; Postcomm – Postal Services Commission; Siemens AG; United States Postal Regulatory Commission; Posten AB; Finland Post Corporation; Canadian Union of Postal Workers; International Post Corporation; Anacom; An Post; ARCEP; Communication Workers Union; LECG; NERA Economic Consulting; Poste Italiane; Posten Norge AS; Postwatch; Sidley Austin LLP; TNT Post; IBM Global Business Services; Bird & Bird; Comreg; Frontier Economics; Aspen Institute; Fratini Vergano; Oxera Consulting Ltd; Parcel Shippers Association; Brown Rudnick LLP; International Post Corporation; Association for Postal Commerce; d’Alcantara Economic Consulting; Global Envelope Alliance; Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis LLP; London Economics; National Association of Letter Carriers; New Zealand Post; SLS Consulting, Inc.; Venable LLP; and Haldi Associates.

We would like to thank sponsors not only for financial support, but also for their advice and encouragement, and for serving on the organizing committee. In particular, we would like to thank Nabil Allaf, José Amado da Silva, John Baldwin, Kristin Bergum, Jody Berenblatt, Robert Bernau, Geoff Buckerton, Lawrence Buc, Philip Burns, João Castro, Sophie Colman, Gene Columbo, Jeff Colvin, Julien Coulier, Robert Curry, Gonzales d’Alcantara, Bernard Damiens, Gene Del Polito, Paul Dudley, Jane Dyer, Richard Eccles, Jutta Fabjan, Charles Fattore, Stephen Ferguson, Alessandra Fratini, Beat Friedli, Stefano Gori, John Haldi, John Hearn, Richard Hern, Jan Bart Henry, Stuart Holder, George Houpis, Helen Jenkins, Luis Jimenez, Peter Koppe, Daniel Krähenbühl, Ian Leigh, David M. Levy, Walter Maschke, Leonardo Mautino, Karen Meehan, Heikki Nikali, Louis O’Brien, Chris Osborne, Wolfgang Pickave, James Pierce Myers, Alberto Pimenta, Leon Pintsov, Frank Rodriguez, Bernard Roy, Jim Sauber, Michael Scanlon, Gennaro Scarfiglieri, Michael Shinay, Nancy Sparks, Gregory Swinand, Joëlle Toledano, David Treworgy, Urs Trinkner, Marie Turrell, Mark van der Horst, Anton van der Lande, Ian Volner, Sture Wallander, John Waller, Tim Walsh and David Williams.
The host country plays an important role in these conferences. This year’s conference, the 16th Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics, benefited greatly from the efforts of our host CTT Correios. Alberto Pimento, who has had a long and fruitful association with the conference, was a gracious host. He provided both advice and assistance on numerous occasions and contributed greatly to the success of the event.

We would like to thank our distinguished dinner speakers, Eduardo Cardadeiro of Anacom, Carlos Dias Alves of CTT Correios, and Michael Critelli of Pitney Bowes. All of these speeches were very interesting, maintaining the conferences’ tradition of stimulating presentations by distinguished leaders in the industry.

We benefited from the contributions of Christian Jaag and Karen Walters. Christian was of considerable assistance in discussions on the book and other topics in regulatory economics during his visit to CRRI in the summer of 2008. Karen, Assistant to the Director of CRRI, provided assistance on behalf of the conference and this book coming into the process at a difficult time in June following the departure of two staff members. Finally, we would like to thank all participants to the conference without whom the conference and the book would not have been possible.

The usual disclaimers are applicable. In particular, the views expressed reflect the views of the authors and are not necessarily those of the sponsors.

Michael A. Crew and Paul R. Kleindorfer