Preface and acknowledgements

This book is a result of the Center for Research in Regulated Industries (CRRI) 17th Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics which was held from May 27 to May 30, 2009 in Bordeaux, France. 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 17 conferences, 3 workshops and now 16 edited volumes as part of CRRI's program on Postal and Delivery Economics.

The 2009 Conference was made possible by the support of its generous sponsors. We would like to thank the 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, Maynard Benjamin, Jody Berenblatt, Kristin Bergum, Robert Bernau, Geoff Bickerton, Dan Blair, Lawrence Buc, Bernhard Bukovc, Philip Burns, Eduardo Cardadeiro, João Castro, Jeff Colvin, Julien Coulier, Robert Curry, Bernard Damiens, Gene Del Polito, Paul Dudley, Richard Eccles, Charles Fattore, Stephen Ferguson, Alessandra Fratini, Lee Fritschler, Stephen Gibson, Stefano Gori, Greg Harman, John Hearn, Jan Bart Henry, Richard Hern, Stuart Holder, George Houpis, Christian Jaag, Luis Jimenez, Denis Joram, David M. Levy, Walter Maschke, Leonardo Mautino, James Pierce Myers, Heikki Nikali, Louis O'Brien, Chris Osborne, Wolfgang Pickave, Alberto Pimenta, Leon Pintsov, Gerard Power, Bernard Roy, Jim Sauber, Michael Scanlon, Gennaro Scarfiglieri, Michael Shinay, Paul C. Smith, Nancy Sparks, Gregory Swinand, Joëlle Toledano, Urs Trinkner, Mark van der Horst, Joost Vantomme, 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 17th Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics, benefited greatly from the efforts of our host La Poste. Bernard Roy, who has had a long and fruitful association with the conference, was a gracious host. He and his colleagues, including Denis Joram, 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, Joëlle Toledano of ARCEP, Jean-Paul Bailly of Groupe La Poste, and Robert Campbell of Mount Allison University. These speeches addressed current issues of regulation and postal reform against the background of the ongoing financial crisis, maintaining the conference tradition of stimulating presentations by distinguished leaders in the industry.

We benefited from the contributions of Karen Walters. Karen, Assistant Director of CRRI, provided assistance in support of the conference and this book. We would like to thank all authors and participants of the conference, without whom the conference and this 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.

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