
Preface to the second edition

A Handbook of Cultural Economics has proved to be a useful source for students, teachers and many others wanting to find out about cultural economics. Its strength is that it is a compilation of chapters written by experts in their subject and I am indebted to them for their collaboration in producing this second edition. Many of the topics and authors in this edition are the same as those in the first edition, although a significant number of new ones are included and a few have been replaced. There are entirely new chapters that directly reflect developments in the subject, and almost every other chapter has been revised, more or less, depending upon recent research results, data and literature in the field and upon other factors, such as the impact of technological change. A few chapters remain as they were in the first edition for a variety of reasons – little new work has been done on the topic, the author was not available or even contactable and, sadly, two authors, James Heilbrun and Dick Netzer, both died in 2008. Rather than replace their chapters with ones written by other authors, their chapters (and those of some others whose authors could not be reached) have been retained from the first edition as they continue to make a contribution to cultural economics. In those cases, I have, as editor, added further reading. In a few cases, a chapter has been rewritten by a new author or authors. Inevitably, the addition of new chapters and revisions to former ones threatened to increase the length of the book, and in order to accommodate these improvements, several chapters from the first edition have not been retained.

Paul Stepan has ably and patiently assisted in the preparation of the second edition, and I am most grateful to him for that.

