THE CREEDY COLLECTION
OF IMPORTANT ECONOMICS BOOKS

John Creedy is the Truby Williams Professor of Economics at the University of Melbourne. He was appointed to that chair in December 1987, having previously been Professor of Economics at Durham University (1978–86) and Pennsylvania State University (1986–87).

Professor Creedy is a widely published author in the History of Economic Thought, Labour Economics, Public Economics and Public Finance. He has authored or co-authored 34 books, and edited a further 17. His other publications include 54 book-chapters and over 240 refereed journal articles.

Professor Creedy has collected books throughout his career, sourcing them from around the world, and particularly from some of Britain’s leading booksellers. The collection he has assembled – the Creedy Collection of Important Economics Books – is of considerable significance to the history and bibliography of economics. Comprising approximately 3,000 volumes, the collection is more than a research library. It is also a bibliophile’s library. John’s wide scholarly interests are reflected in the collection, which covers all major classical and neoclassical economists and most major subject areas in economics.

Naturally, the collection is particularly strong in the areas of Public Economics, Income Distribution and Poverty, and the History of Economic Thought. Further large sections traverse Monetary Economics and Monetary History, International Trade and Development, Demography and Labour Economics, the Economics of War, Demand Analysis, National Income, Statistics and Econometrics, and Economic History. In addition there is a substantial amount of material on Australia and New Zealand.

Among the collection’s important works by major economists are numerous association copies and rare editions, including many firsts. Selected highlights from the collection include the following.


never issued in large editions, have become extremely rare, and are greatly sought after, not only by the regular collectors of the literature of economic theory, but by the workaday economist, endeavouring to provide himself with indispensable instruments of his craft’ (Wicksteed, 1933, p. 228).

In addition to the volumes listed above, the Creedy Collection features a large number of other nineteenth- and twentieth-century titles, including signed and association copies such as Schumpeter, Economic Doctrine and Method (H. D. Dickinson’s copy, with corrections in his hand); Salter, Recovery (signed and inscribed by the author to Sydney and Beatrice Webb); E. Roll, Elements of Economics (signed by J. La Nauze); E. H. Chamberlin (ed.) Monopoly and Competition and their Regulation (signed by Ruth Cohen, with proofs of her review); T. E. Cliffe Leslie, Essays in Political and Moral Philosophy (author presentation copy); A. J. V. Durell, Parliamentary Grants (review copy, signed by E. H. Davenport); F. C. Mills, The Behaviour of Prices (signed by D. B. Copland); Gonner (ed.) Ricardo’s Economic Essays (signed by N. F. Hall); T. W. Hutchison, Review of Economic Doctrines 1870–1929 (H. D. Dickinson’s copy); F. H. Knight, The Ethics of Competition (1935) (signed by N. F. Hall); H. D. Dickinson, Institutional Revenue (inscribed ‘To Dr E. Cannan from the author with gratitude 1932’); Daniels and Campion, The Distribution of National Capital (signed by N. F. Hall); Political Economy Club, minutes 1899–1920 and Questions 1821–1920 (signed by N. F. Hall); and numerous books signed and inscribed by their authors to Professor Creedy.