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Preface

I AM immensely grateful to all the contributors to this volume for their helpfulness, for their obedience over the length of their articles and over the time-limits set, and for answering queries so promptly and clearly. I was told that editing a collection of essays was one of the quickest ways to lose hair and friends: nothing could be further from the truth. I am particularly grateful to those contributors who made changes to their provisional titles and articles following changes in the initial 'team' and the need to accommodate two late changes of topic. My task has been made a simple one by the skill and understanding displayed by Sarah Mahaffy of the Macmillan Press. My wife agreed to our summer holiday in 1980 consisting of five weeks during which I spent the morning in record offices in some nice and some nasty county towns (the fruits of which are below) and the afternoons making amends to her and my children. For this, and much other forbearance in connection with the preparation of the book, she deserves my heartfelt thanks.

J.S.M.