Wealth and Life completes an intellectual history of political economy begun in Riches and Poverty (1996). One of the main themes addressed in both books is the ‘bitter argument between economists and human beings’ provoked by Britain’s industrial revolution. This book takes the argument from John Stuart Mill’s contributions to the ‘condition-of-England’ debate in 1848 up to the decades prior to 1914 in the history of the economics profession as epitomised in the work of Alfred Marshall on economic well-being. The formal and informal writings of John Ruskin, Walter Bagehot, Stanley Jevons, Louis Mallet, Henry Sidgwick, and John Atkinson Hobson are also examined in a sequence of closely interlinked essays that ends with consideration of the twentieth-century fate of the debate between utilitarians and romantics in the hands of F. R. Leavis, Raymond Williams, and E. P. Thompson.

Donald Winch is one of Britain’s most distinguished historians of ideas, and Wealth and Life brings to fruition a long-standing interest in the history of those intellectual pursuits that have shaped the understanding of Britain as an industrial society, and continue to influence cultural responses to the moral questions posed by economic life.
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Wealth and Life
The books in the series will discuss the emergence of intellectual traditions and of related new disciplines. The procedures, aims and vocabularies that were generated will be set in the context of the alternatives available within the contemporary frameworks of ideas and institutions. Through detailed studies of the evolution of such traditions, and their modification by different audiences, it is hoped that a new picture will form of the development of ideas in their concrete contexts. By this means, artificial distinctions between the history of philosophy, of the various sciences, of society and politics, and of literature may be seen to dissolve.

The series is published with the support of the Exxon Foundation.

A list of books in the series will be found at the end of the volume.
WEALTH AND LIFE

Essays on the Intellectual History of Political Economy in Britain, 1848–1914

DONALD WINCH
To D. A. W.
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