Markets, Money and Capital

Sir John Hicks (1904–89) was a leading economic theorist of the twentieth century, and along with Kenneth Arrow was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1972. His work addressed central topics in economic theory, such as value, money, capital, and growth. An important unifying theme was the attention to economic rationality 'in time' and his acknowledgment that apparent rigidities and frictions might exert a positive role as a buffer against excessive fluctuations in output, prices, and employment. This emphasis on the virtue of imperfection significantly distances Hicksian economics from both the Keynesian and monetarist approaches. Containing contributions from distinguished theorists in their own right (including three Nobel Prize-winners), this volume examines Hicks's intellectual heritage and discusses how his ideas suggest a distinct approach to economic theory and policy-making. It will be of great interest to scholars and students of economic theory and the history of economic thought.

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Markets, Money and Capital

Hicksian Economics for the Twenty-first Century

edited by

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and

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Preface and acknowledgments

This volume is the result of interaction within the invisible college of former colleagues and pupils of John Hicks. In our view, its scope reflects both the breadth of his approach to different research traditions in economics and the lifelong coherence of his commitment to the understanding of a well-defined set of issues centered upon the relationship between rationality and equilibrium, history and time.

Early drafts of all the chapters were presented at the international meeting 'John Hicks: One Hundredth Anniversary Workshop,' which was hosted by the Cassa di Risparmio in Bologna on October 10–11, 2004.

It is in the recollection of those days of intense intellectual exchange that we wish to express our gratitude to all the institutions that made both that meeting and the publication of this volume possible. In particular, we are grateful to Banco San Paolo IMI, Turin, and Cassa di Risparmio in Bologna for their enlightened support. We are also grateful to the Department of Economics of the University of Bologna for its research facilities during the preparation of this volume.