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Hedley Smyth

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AND THE CONSTRUCTION  
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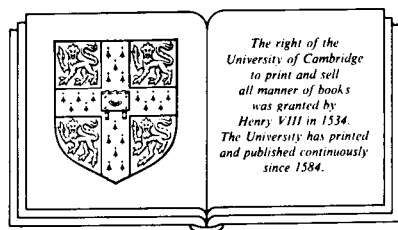
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# PROPERTY COMPANIES AND THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN BRITAIN

HEDLEY SMYTH



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## *Preface*

The aim of this book is to contribute to the formulation of an analysis of the built environment. My interest in the sphere arises from working in development and construction and from my first degree in geography at Sussex University. The material is both theoretical and empirical, and the work endeavours to engage the two in the historical chapters. The research was carried out at the School for Advanced Urban Studies, University of Bristol, between 1979 and 1982 for my doctorate, and was funded by the Social Science Research Council. This book is essentially an edited version of that thesis.

I wish to thank these institutions for their support and the friends and colleagues I have worked with over the years, all of whom have influenced me. The company directors and stockbrokers I interviewed as part of the research contributed more than can be adequately indicated by academic references. On the academic side, I wish especially to thank Sue Barrett for all her help and confidence in my work, Tom Davies and Robin Means for many stimulating discussions and the other postgraduate students who helped alleviate the isolation of research work. Sue and Tom along with Martin Boddy and Alan Murie provided valuable comments on drafts. I used their help and advice together with the views and information from other sources, drawing them all together in the way which most adequately makes sense of the phenomena I researched. The work is therefore my own and I am responsible for any errors of fact or misinterpretation of people's views. I would like to thank Brian Robson and Murray Stewart for encouraging me to write the book from the thesis.

I dedicate the book to the reader.

HEDLEY SMYTH

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