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978-0-521-23611-9 - Mammon and the Pursuit of Empire: The Political Economy of British Imperialism, 1860-1912

Lance E. Davis and Robert A. Huttenback

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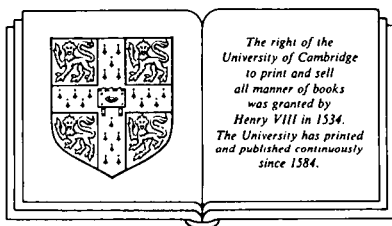
*The political economy of
British imperialism, 1860–1912*

LANCE E. DAVIS

and

ROBERT A. HUTTENBACK

with the assistance of Susan Gray Davis



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Preface

Hard by Westminster, font of British power, and on the Thames Embankment, stands the statue of Boadicea – Queen of the Iceni, who died in 61 A.D., “after leading her people against the Roman Invader” as the words on the statue’s base relate. On the obverse side, another inscription manifests the virtues of the dictum, “if you can’t beat them join them,” for it intones:

Regions Caesar never knew

Thy Posterity shall sway.

And indeed they did.

This book deals with an aspect of the remarkable expansion of an island nation into the far reaches of the earth. Its completion has consumed better than a decade and has taken the authors into all manner of unlikely places. Official records are by and large kept in known and accessible archives. Private papers and company records are frequently a different matter. Thus the imperatives of research required work in an abandoned meat-packing plant that was virtually without light and furniture and where even in the middle of summer the temperature numbed the extremities. In one case the relevant documents pertaining to a still-existing firm were under the floorboards of the managing director’s office. Vickers provided a penthouse and the records of Lloyds Bank were kept in the specie room under the constant gaze of television cameras.

Through it all, the authors received the support of a vast multitude of people and institutions and they are duly grateful. Special thanks are due not only to Susan Davis but to Curtis Mosso, without whose genius in the area of computer programming the authors would still be mired in unresolved data problems, and to Benjamin Kamhi, their prime research assistant, who patiently endured many difficult moments. Other research assistants included Charlotte Atkins, Eli Azar, Marta Burg, Meredyth Cable, Richard Castro, Gerald Czuleger, Richard Dulaney, Robin Fleming, Guy Gadbois, Matt Gallman, Catherine Garnett, Alan Gin, Moira Hill, Charles Keene, Tina Kelly, Peter Liss, Kathy Loh, Catherine Lolov, Michael Lowrie, Rudy Lucero, Kathrine Mack, Margaret McCandless, Larry Miller, Collette Moulton, Jennifer Owen, Christine Partridge, Sandra Petersen, Rebecca Rothenberg, Bret Roy, Dianna Schulte, Natalie Seaman, Claus Su-

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verkropp, Howard Tarre, Rob Taylor, Tulsi Uprety, Bruce Vogen, and Andrea Woodward.

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Finally, many individuals and institutions gave generously of their time and deserve both great thanks and recognition. Although this list is not exhaustive their ranks include Mr. J. Lingwood and Mr. Colin Turnack, Pacific Steam Navigation Company; Mr. R. Evan, Council of Foreign Bondholders; Miss B. Ramsbotham, National Coal Board; Mr. T. D. Scrase, Gittins and Co., Stock and Sharebrokers; Mr. Allan F. Mack, Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. E. F. Holman, the Merseyside Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. A. A. Duncan, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce; Mr. R. G. Donkin, the Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust Co., Ltd.; Mr. Colin Allflatt, Brooke Bond Liebig Ltd.; Mr. W. A. L. Seaman, County Record Office, Tyne and Wear County Council; Mr. J. R. Knight, the Stock Exchange, London; Mr. J. G. Curtis, Matheson and Co., Ltd.; Mr. J. Claydon, Cambridge University Library; Mr. J. L. Cleland, Reference and Access, Commonwealth Archives Office; Mr. James Mair and Ms. Dorothy Lemon, Sidlaw Industries; Mr. John Barker and Mrs. Auld, University of Dundee Library; Mr. Edward Kaye, United Africa Company; Mr. Michael Moss and Ms. Elsbeth Simpson, Glasgow University Library; Mr. John Goodchild, Wakefield Central Library; Mr. Peter Kale, Company Records Office; Miss J. M. R. Campbell, National Westminster Bank Limited; Mr. R. A. Hobson, Lloyds Bank International; Ms. R. Vermette and Mr. Eric Swanik, Legislative Library, Winnipeg; Mr. C. Arden-Clark, UAC International; Mr. J. Hare, the Courage Brewing Company; Mr. C. Bruce Fergusson, Public Archives of Nova Scotia; Dr. J. Neville Bartlett, King's College; Mr. Ronald Stevens, Kleinwort, Benson Limited; Ms. Mary McRae, Archives Office of Tasmania; Mr. G. R. Cavendish, Commonwealth Archives Office; Mr. H. Adolphe, Archives Office, Mauritius; Mr. F. Burnham Gill, Department of Tourism, Newfoundland; Ms. Margaret Medcalf, Batty Library; Mr. W. D. Walls, Place Bell Canada; Dr. B. J. T. Leverton, Natal Archives Depot; Mr. M. E. Freeland, Reserve Bank of Australia; Mr. L. J. Hanley, Commonwealth Archives Office; Mr. Freeman Clowery, Bank of Montreal; Mr. B. T. Burne, Commonwealth Archives Office; Mr. J. H. Davies, Chief, Cape Archives Depot; Mr.

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Research was conducted in virtually every British archive, most notably in the Public Record Office and its English and Scottish Company Record Offices, the archives of the coal and steel industries, and county and city record offices throughout the length and breadth of Great Britain.

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koloff, and Charlotte Ericksen. Ron Twisdale undertook the complex task of preparing the index.

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