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Edited by Thomas L. Haskell and Richard F. Teichgraber III

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The essays in this volume provide various perspectives on the meanings that different individuals and social groups have attached to their experience of the market. Based on a wide range of literary, artistic, philosophical, and other historical sources, they explore how the norms and practices that market societies foster have been shifting and conflict-ridden. In speaking of the “culture of the market,” the authors do not assume that culture is simply a reflection of autonomous economic forces, nor do they suppose that the market is always associated with the same cultural forms, independent of time, place, tradition, and human volition. Yet to speak of the cultural implications of the market is to assume that markets, precisely because they are aspects of culture, have cultural concomitants, and that careful observers are capable of identifying at least some of them. Just what those concomitants are, whether they are best understood as preconditions of market behavior or as results of it, and just how necessary or contingent their connection to market activity may be, are open questions on which the contributors to this volume shed new light.

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# The culture of the market

Historical essays

Edited by

THOMAS L. HASKELL

*Rice University*

RICHARD F. TEICHGRAEBER III

*Tulane University*



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Richard F. Teichgraeber III  
Director, Murphy Institute of Political Economy

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## Contributors

JEAN-CHRISTOPHE AGNEW is Associate Professor of American Studies and History at Yale University. He is the author of *Worlds Apart: The Market and the Theater in Anglo-American Thought, 1550–1750* (1986).

JOYCE APPLEBY is Professor of History at the University of California, Los Angeles. Author of *Economic Thought and Ideology in Seventeenth-Century England* and *Capitalism and a New Social Order*, she has written on liberalism and republicanism in early modern thought. She is a past president of the Organization of American Historians.

HOWARD BRICK, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Oregon, is author of *Daniel Bell and the Decline of Intellectual Radicalism: Social Theory and Political Reconciliation in the 1940s* (1986). He is writing a history of the concept of capitalism in U.S. social theory from 1920 to 1970.

MARILYN R. BROWN is Associate Professor of Art History at Tulane University. She is author of *Gypsies and Other Bohemians: The Myth of the Artist in Nineteenth-Century France* (1985), *An Inventory of the DeGas–Musson Papers at Tulane University* (1991), and a forthcoming book, *Degas and the Business of Art: A Cotton Office in New Orleans*.

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JONATHAN DEWALD is Professor of History at the State University of New York at Buffalo. He is the author of *The Formation of a Provincial Nobility: The Magistrates of the Parlement of Rouen, 1499–1610* (1980); *Pont-St.-Pierre, 1398–1789: Lordship, Community, and Capitalism in Early Modern France* (1987); and *Aristocratic Experience and the Origins of Modern Culture: France 1570–1715* (1993).

THOMAS L. HASKELL is McCann Professor of History at Rice University. He is currently at work on a study of agency and responsibility in Anglo-American culture in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. He is author of *The Emergence of Professional Social Science: The American Social Science Association and the Nineteenth Century Crisis of Authority* (1977) and of a two-part essay, “Capitalism and the Origins of the Humanitarian Sensibility,” which appeared in the *American Historical Review* in 1985. He is editor of *The Authority of Experts: Essays in History and Theory* (1984).

MARGARET C. JACOB is Professor of History in the University at the New School for Social Research, and formerly dean of its college. She is the author of *The Newtonians and the English Revolution* (1976), *The Radical Enlightenment* (1981), *The Cultural Meaning of the Scientific Revolution* (1988), and *Living the Enlightenment* (1991). With J. Appleby and L. Hunt, she is coauthor of *Telling the Truth about History* (1994).

RICHARD B. LATNER is Associate Professor of History at Tulane University and former director of the American Studies Program. He is author of *The Presidency of Andrew Jackson: White House Politics 1829–1837* (1979), and a number of published articles on Jacksonian politics.

WILFRED M. MCCLAY is Associate Professor of History at Tulane University. He is author of *The Masterless: Self and Society in Modern America* (1993). His articles and essays have appeared in the *New England Quarterly*, *Reviews in American History*, *American Scholar*, *Commentary*, and *Virginia Quarterly Review*. He is working on a biography of David Riesman.

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CHANDRA MUKERJI is Professor in the Communication Department at the University of California, San Diego, and a member of the Sociology Department and Science Studies Program. She is the author of *From Graven Images: Patterns of Modern Materialism* (1983) and *A Fragile Power: Scientists and the State* (1989); co-editor of *Rethinking Popular Culture* (1991); and author of a number of essays in the sociology of the arts.

WILLIAM M. REDDY is Professor of History and Cultural Anthropology at Duke University. He is author of *The Rise of Market Culture: The Textile Trade and French Society, 1750–1900* (1984) and *Money and Liberty in Modern Europe: A Critique of Historical Understanding* (1987).

RICHARD F. TEICHGRAEBER III is Director of the Murphy Institute of Political Economy and Associate Professor in the Department of History at Tulane University. He is author of *'Free Trade' and Moral Philosophy: Rethinking the Sources of Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations* (1986); his book-length study of the ways in which Emerson and Thoreau understood and experienced the emergence of the market in antebellum America is forthcoming.

MARTIN J. WIENER is Jones Professor of History at Rice University. He is the author of *Between Two Worlds: The Political Thought of Graham Wallas* (1971), *English Culture and the Decline of the Industrial Spirit, 1850–1980* (1981), and *Reconstructing the Criminal: Culture, Law and Policy in England, 1830–1914* (1990).