PREFACE

Britain in 1944–1946 was at a pivotal time in its history. It emerged victorious from the greatest war in history but economically drained. The two sources in this volume aid our understanding of the financial diplomacy that was crucial in efforts to secure a stable economic future. The diary of Frederic Harmer captures the intense process of negotiations and chronicles the emotional and physical toll they took on the participants. Its value is evident from the extracts included in biographies of John Maynard Keynes by Donald Moggridge and Robert Skidelsky and in L.S. Pressnell's official history. In using the diary for my study, *Dean Acheson and the Obligations of Power* (2017), I realized it deserved to be published. As I worked on the diary, I came to recognize the importance of Robert Brand in British financial diplomacy; and yet he was someone whose role has hardly been addressed. As a result, this book also contains his reports, which reveal not only his great technical expertise but also his deep understanding of the United States and his perceptive insights into cultivating better Anglo-American relations.

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I greatly appreciate the permission to publish granted by copyright holders: James Harmer for the diary and two of the letters of his father, Frederic Harmer; John Polk for a number of private letters by his grandfather, Robert Brand; Barbara Jeffrey for two letters by her father, Austin Robinson; the Borthwick Institute, University of York for extracts from the Halifax Diary; and the Provost and Scholars of King's College, Cambridge for a letter by John

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Michael F. Hopkins

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