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A Case Study of the Shoe, Leather, Hide Sequence

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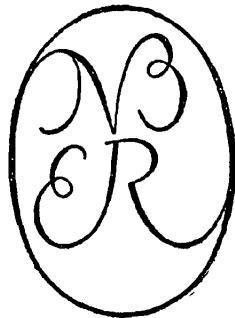
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CONSUMPTION AND
BUSINESS FLUCTUATIONS

A Case Study
of the Shoe, Leather, Hide Sequence

RUTH P. MACK



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To the memory of
WESLEY MITCHELL

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As this manuscript moves to press, the vacuum left by its completion is filled by many thoughts and feelings. One strand of these at least is a pleasure to dwell on—the feeling of gratitude toward the many people whose generosity and competence has become part of the book.

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The more one dwells on the specific manifestations of the general fact—economic investigation today is an elaborate group undertaking—the harder it is to stop enlarging the notion. In the course of this study I have visited a large number of executive offices of shoe distributors and of shoe and leather manufacturers; in each help was unstinting. A number of the same people offered useful suggestions concerning the finished manuscript. Many of the basic data that I used were compiled by the Tanners' Council of America; the investigation has been furthered by their expert statistical work under the direction of Edward Drew and by his comments and criticisms. My debt to the National Bureau of Economic Research has been touched on in acknowledgments to individuals. But it goes further and deeper than this. This book is as much a product of an organization as of a particular member of its staff; it could not have been written without the remarkable library of time series, the group of people that constitute the Bureau's staff at all levels, especially those who have lived with it for years, the feeling of comradeship in values and in tribulations among colleagues, the patient protection that the directorship provides. Yet the most important member of the group who has implicitly undertaken this study has not done so primarily as a critic or informant or colleague but as a friend; my husband, Edward C. Mack, has made the work possible in more ways than I could count.

R.P.M.

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