Preface

Anybody embarking on a history of the Leeds Jewish community is indebted to those enthusiasts who laid the groundwork for future enquiries. In particular, I and my fellow authors have learned a great deal from the writings of Louis Saïpe and Murray Freeman, who have been frequently cited in these pages. We also build on the valuable compilation of words and images produced by Diane Saunders and Philippa Lester in *From the Leylands to Leeds 17*.¹ This book attempts something different but would not have been possible without the valiant efforts of those who went before us.

I have been much encouraged by the wide-ranging support the book's gestation has attracted. During the early stages, it was most helpful to have the endorsement of the Leeds Jewish Representative Council, the Leeds Jewish Historical Society, the Thoresby Society and the Leeds Civic Trust. Members of the community came forward in large numbers to produce family archives, photographs, reminiscences and documents. We place on record our warmest thanks to Sue Appleson, Cliff Barnett, Brenda Baskind, Tracy Bickler, Lee Bloomfield, Liz Bradbury, Neville Bush, Ruth Bush, Brian Daniels, James Denton, Helen Frais, Jill Franklin, Tim Friedman, Philip Glynn, Harvey Kleiman, Antony Ramm, Laurence Saffer, Victoria Sandler, Malcolm Sender, Malcolm Shedlow, Craig Simons, Steve Waldenberg, Alwyn Ziff and Suzanne Ziff. My apologies if lapses of memory have left anyone out.

I am most grateful for access to, and permission to quote from, the archives of the Leeds Jewish Welfare Board and the Leeds Jewish Housing Association. The staff at Leeds City Library have been unfailingly helpful and facilitated the use of their holdings. I am grateful to the University of Leeds and Mishcon de Rea for permission to use Jacob Kramer's portrait of Selig Brodetsky. Our editors at MUP have been a source of encouragement and advice and I thank Tom Dark and Rob Byron most warmly for seeing the book through to publication.

An edited book is by definition the work of many hands and I wish to place on record my thanks to my team of authors for their support and cooperation throughout. They treated my frequent requests with stoicism and good humour. I hope they now feel proud, as I do, to have been part of such a worthwhile and fruitful project.

I trust that readers will agree that we have collectively produced a unique and valuable addition to the historiography of both Leeds and its Jewish Community. However, our writing would not be in the public domain, nor our book published, if it had not been for the generous subvention of our benefactor. I, the authors and Manchester University Press are most grateful for this financial support, without which publication would not have been possible. I am pleased that it turned out to be a family affair!

Note

- 1 Leeds 17 is the postal district of the main Jewish residential area from the 1950s and 1960s onwards (now LS17). Several of the contributors to this volume, including me, refer to Jewish social progress being matched by a geographical progress northwards up the A61; that is, from the original settlement in the Leylands, to Chapeltown, then to Moortown and Alwoodley (LS17).

Derek Fraser
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