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## Preface

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## PREFACE

I am grateful to Professors Manning Dauer and Frederick Hartmann, of the University of Florida, and particularly to Professor Alfred Diamant, of Haverford College.

I find myself in debt to many Belgians whose suggestions and insights sharpened my understanding of the royal question. I hope that they will feel that I have helped to clarify a part of their history and politics which has too long been in the shadow of doubt and surmise.

I do not know Flemish; consequently, there are no Flemish sources in the bibliography. I do not believe, however, that this omission has prejudiced my study. Had I an anti-Leopold bias, it could be attributed to a failure to use Flemish materials, which are overwhelmingly pro-Leopold. But I am neither pro-Leopold nor anti-Leopold, and when I question his behavior I do not do so from that point of view condemned by the Walloons and defended by the Flemings. Moreover, the position of most Flemings was the same as that of the pro-Leopold Social Christian party, the Catholic party, while the position of most anti-Leopold Flemings followed either the Socialist or Liberal line. Source material concerning these parties was available in both Flemish and French. Furthermore, all official governmental publications, including the transcriptions of the parliamentary debates, appear in both languages, as do the publications of the trade unions and other nation-wide organizations. Finally, the major works about Belgian history and politics, as well as the articles in most learned journals, are written in French.

All the French sources were translated by me, and I am responsible for their accuracy.