

Beggar Thy Neighbor



A. Jackson Inv.

Boitard Sculp.

The Prodigals Nurse; or Modern Heir.

From Parents & from Friends set free; To Nurse, the Us'ur'er, he applies, —
Young Squander comes the town to see; Who neer for Cent per Cent denies. —
Debauch'd by Party and by Whores, Learn Hence, ye Rakes, when old One's gone
Dad stops his Hand in paying scores. Th' Estate ye have is not your own. —

Published according to Act of Parliament May 1750.

Beggar Thy Neighbor

A History of Usury and Debt

Charles R. Geisst

PENN

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS

Philadelphia

Copyright © 2013 University of Pennsylvania Press

All rights reserved. Except for brief quotations used for purposes of review or scholarly citation, none of this book may be reproduced in any form by any means without written permission from the publisher.

Published by
University of Pennsylvania Press
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-4112
www.upenn.edu/pennpress

Printed in the United States of America on acid-free paper

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Geisst, Charles R.

Beggar thy neighbor : a history of usury and debt / Charles R. Geisst. —
1st ed.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-8122-4462-5 (hardcover : alk. paper)

1. Usury—History. 2. Usury—Religious aspects—History.
3. Usury laws—History. 4. Debt—History. I. Title.

HB551.G45 2013

332.8'309—dc23

2012022355

Frontispiece: Louis-Philippe Boitard, *The Prodigals Nurse; or Modern Heir* (1750). Engraving. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C. 20540 USA. The lines beneath the image read: “From Parents & from friends set free, / Young Squander comes the Town to see; / Debauch'd by Party and by Whores, / Dad stops his Hand in paying Scores / To Nurse, the Us'rer, he applies, / Who nee'r for Cent per Cent denies. / Learn Hence, ye Rakes! when old One's gone / Th' Estate ye have is not your own.”