

Foreword

Written from a socially axonometric point of view, and addressed to the inhabitants in thought of Elsewhere, *Rare Albion, Too*, is a sequel to *Rare Albion*. The first *Rare Albion* identified the presence of what is also called the Confederated States of Columbia. It also established the main outline of *Rare Albion*'s economy by following the induction of its next Monetary Committee Coordinator, whose name turned out to be Victor. As his journey, eventually to Window Castle, *La Fenestra*, unfolded, it introduced first those parts of *Rare Albion* that only visitors encounter – the port of arrival Wellmet, Broken Casino to the West, and the Single Issue Collectivity to the East. Later, the crossroads that signal but deter and render redundant visits to Dead End Grove and Chinatrap; then the hamlet of Comeforth, where twice-daily gold is transformed into a dove.

Rare Albion, Too, picks up the story by following Victor into retirement. It then introduces a number of new characters who are seemingly destined to meet, not only one another, but Victor too. First comes Prudence, a 'reforming' day trader. Next, Ioannis, Maria and Nike. Nike is the great-grandmother of Nick, who is put in charge of curricula in the Financial Literacy Colleges. Then David and Lucky appear on the scene – a youngish entrepreneur couple typical of *Rare Albion*'s economic life.

Then Marshall-Cains and Ziggy. Both 'homeless' in the existential rather than housing sense, their pasts, though troubled, have been put behind them, outshone by the futures they embrace. Their paths lead them to meet in the Financial Literacy College in Folkstown, where they both live. She a musician, moving on to accounting; he a monetary expert, thinking of taking up music. Local philanthropists, Sassy and Robert, and the foreign exchange teller, Constance, complete the 'cast'. As the story proceeds, it becomes clear that all these characters are heading for one shared event...