The Hearst newspaper chain, at its peak the largest in the history of American journalism, was a mouthpiece for William Randolph Hearst. He used the editorial page to expound his views on national and world events, becoming a major and ever-present figure in the political arena. Despise and hate him as they might — and many of them did — American presidents and politicians could not ignore him, even during his later years. In *The View from Xanadu* Ian Mugridge evaluates Hearst’s attitudes toward U.S. foreign policy issues and the effect of his views on national foreign policy in the first half of the twentieth century.

Hearst is usually remembered as a flag-waving, jingoistic patriot who was anti-British, anti-French, anti-Oriental — anti-almost everything except the United States. He was regarded as an admirer of Hitler and Mussolini, and a staunch isolationist who believed that minimizing American contact with the rest of the world was the only sure way to achieve security.

Using all the journalistic apparatus at his disposal, Hearst trumpeted his views about the conduct of other nations and peoples and, more particularly, about the conduct of his own country in relation to them. The Spanish-American War of 1898 was often described as "Mr Hearst’s war" because of the role he apparently played in pushing the United States into the war. Mugridge investigates Hearst’s journalistic tactics, which seldom varied, and concludes that ultimately Hearst’s flamboyant style militated against his being taken seriously by those responsible for the nation’s affairs.

Exploring the personal side of this very public figure, Mugridge argues that Hearst was a far more complex individual than previous biographers have assumed. He probes beneath Hearst’s largely self-created image to delineate the aspirations, anxieties, and vanities that led Hearst to embrace and advance his positions on U.S. foreign relations.

IAN MUGRIDGE is senior consultant, higher education, at the Commonwealth of Learning and is responsible for policy and program development at the Open Learning Agency in Vancouver, BC.
THE SPIRIT OF WAR PERVADS
THE BREASTS OF ALL AMERICANS.

Patriotic Citizens Advocate Recourse to Arms to Wreak Vengeance Upon Spain for the Cruel and Cowardly Destruction of the Maine.
The view from Xanadu: William Randolph Hearst and United States foreign policy
Includes bibliographical references and index.
ISBN 0-7735-1281-0 (bound)
ISBN 0-7735-1295-0 (pbk.)
PN4874.H8M84 1995 070.5'092 C95-900179-4

This book was typeset by Typo Litho Composition Inc. in 10/12 Palatino.

All cartoons are published courtesy of the San Francisco Examiner. Cover illustration of Hearst Castle (Hearst Monument/John Blades) published courtesy of Department of Parks and Recreation, California.
More years ago than I care to recall or record, I received a letter from Stuart Bernath's father asking if I would consider finishing the project on which his son was working when he died. I agreed but soon discovered that much more than I had expected—almost all the research, in fact—remained to be done. The years that followed involved for me a number of career changes, most of which effectively removed opportunities for historical research and writing, and Hearst lay unnoticed for long periods. I regret this profoundly, most particularly because both Stuart's parents, who asked me to take on his work, have not lived to see its completion. Even so, although this book is not at all what he would have written, the project that Stuart Bernath began is at last finished.

Stuart Bernath's death in his early thirties was a tragedy for those who knew him and for his profession. The promise he already showed would almost certainly have enabled him to become a distinguished historian of U.S. foreign relations as well as a notable teacher. He was a decent, gentle, and civilized man, and he was also my friend. I dedicate this book to his memory.