Acknowledgments

This book was incited by worry and need—the alarm I felt after the birth of my first child, with no reliable source of income, a temporary worker in corporate America. Somehow I ended up at CIGNA's Philadelphia headquarters, noticing in its library a weird Charles Washington Wright portrait of Benjamin Franklin in a fire hat. For me, this book began then. I acknowledge first the amusing biography of academic projects—products of love and luck, necessity and compromise.

I owe much of my intellectual encouragement to Jennifer Baker, George Justice, Ian Moulton, and Michael Stancliff. I also pay tribute to Dan Bivona, who has become an accidental mentor, and to Betsy Erkkila and David Shields for their constant support. I am grateful as well for the following colleagues and friends: Liz Marini, Teresa Goddu, Darryl Hattenhauer, Devoney Looser, Elizabeth Horan, Duku Anokye, Elvin Padilla, Dottie Broaddus, Max Cavitch, Eric Slauter, Catherine Kaplan, Ormond Seavey, Arthur Sabatini, Allan Gelber, Michael Bérubé, Eduardo Pagán, Houston Baker, Ramsey Eric Ramsey, Ron Glass, Tom Cutrer, Steve Kane, Jon Wells, Bill Warner, Neal Lester, Emily Cutrer, Bert Bender, Dave Golumbia, Angie Michaelis, Meredith McGill, Andrew Parker, Elsa Silva, Bryan Waterman, Ed Russo, Chris Looby, Vince Carretta, Jay Grossman, Frank Shuffelton, John Feffer, Joanna Brooks, Keith Gaby, Ed Gray, Judith Wertheimer, Tom Wortham, Lisa Wells, Mary Davidson, Paul Korshin, Osha Gray Davidson, Hank Ridley, David Lawrence, and Dennis Isbell. Tim Sweet gave the manuscript thorough and constructive editorial input. My research assistant, Stephanie Maroney, has been enormously helpful. An honors seminar, consisting of some of Arizona State University's best and brightest-Vanessa Alvarez, Olivia Amos, Beverly Ashcroft, Casey Lynch, and Betty Wright—contributed insights and questions. John Feneron was an invaluable

production editor. I thank Norris Pope for the vast amounts of patience and advocacy he has given this book.

The images in this text are here because of the following people's assistance: Jennifer Macellaro (the Franklin Papers, Yale University Library), Marnie Goodman (the Hartford Insurance Company), Melanie Tossel (Essex Institute/Phillips Library), Alan N. Degutis (American Antiquarian Society), Carol Smith (the Philadelphia Contributionship archives), Carlos Cortinez, and Joan Lowe and Ellen Morfei (ACE archives). I thank as well the staffs at Van Pelt Library at the University of Pennsylvania, the CIGNA Library (Philadelphia), Hayden Library (ASU at the Tempe campus), Fletcher Library (ASU at the West campus), the Ross-Blakely Law Library at ASU, the New York Public Library, and the Library Company of Philadelphia (particularly Connie King). Dara Kane lent her considerable talents to the cover design.

I have received numerous grants from Arizona State University, as well as a sabbatical in 2001–2. My ideas benefited from the opportunity to give talks at the University of Missouri–Columbia, Arizona State University, the University of Pennsylvania, and various conferences under the aegis of the Society of Early Americanists and the Omohundro Institute. Chapter 4 first appeared as an article in Nineteenth-Century Literature.

My beloved father, Stephen Wertheimer, was the first writer and thinker I admired. I am grateful for his teaching and our many collaborations.

I remember in this underwriting those who have been lost to me through the preceding seven years. The tender of this book is also the gift of what has been received. My family—each person, young and old—has underwritten me in the fullest sense of the word. Mili, Dani, and Aya: I'm here.

Phoenix, Arizona E.W.