

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The idea of this volume originated in a conference titled “Maritime Animals: Telling Stories of Animals at Sea,” held at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London, on April 25–27, 2019, and seven of the chapters had their beginnings as papers presented at that event. I would like to thank the National Maritime Museum for hosting the conference and for their generous support for this project, which is based on the research I conducted in the museum as a Caird Short-term Research Fellow. I am particularly grateful to Robert Blyth, Lizelle de Jager, Nigel Rigby, Aaron Jaffer, Andrew Choong, Susan Gentle, and Liza Verity for their invaluable support and input, and to Sally Archer and Beatrice Okoro of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, for kindly granting permission to use two images from the museum in this book. My special thanks also go to Thom van Dooren, one of the conference’s keynote speakers, for suggesting that all the contributors to this volume take on the challenge of telling maritime stories from the perspective of one particular species of animal. Several other papers from the “Maritime Animals” conference have been collected in the *Journal for Maritime Research*, the journal of the National Maritime Museum, as a special issue on “Animals at Sea,” edited by myself (22, nos. 1–2 [2020]). Unlike the present volume, which takes a species focus, the essays collected there focus on particular ships and maritime operations to tell stories of animals at sea, and this issue will be of strong interest to readers of the present volume, as it sheds a complementary light on the topic.

The editing of this collection fell during the period of the COVID-19 crisis, which had affected all of us in many different ways, and I know some of the contributors were hit harder than others. I am very grateful to all of them for their support and understanding, without which this volume would never have been possible. I would also like to thank the two reviewers, Jakobina Arch and Andrew Kincaid, for their insightful

comments and suggestions, which allowed us to improve the manuscript, and also to Ben Grant, Charlotte Sleigh, William Gervase Clarence-Smith, and John McAleer for their valuable input into this project. Last but not least, I am hugely grateful to Kendra Boileau and Nigel Rothfels at the Pennsylvania State University Press for their kindness and guidance throughout the process, and to Josie DiNovo, the Press's editorial assistant, for overseeing the final manuscript preparation. It was a real pleasure and privilege to work with them.