ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the staff at Edinburgh University Press, particularly Gillian Leslie and Richard Strachan, for their interest in and support of this project from its early stages. The same appreciation is due to series editors Linda Badley and R. Barton Palmer, who offered invaluable insight and support. Joe Mai, Thérèse Migraine-George, Denis Provencher and Thibaut Schilt all generously offered constructive input on the initial proposal and/or individual chapters. I am grateful for their advice, insights and close readings. The University Research Council and the Charles Phelps Taft Research Center at the University of Cincinnati provided research funding and the Center for Film and Media studies at the University of Cincinnati provided a very helpful course release while I was at a critical stage of writing.

This book is part of a long and winding detour from what began as a single chapter on road movies in my doctoral dissertation at the University of Texas at Austin. As such, it is the product of many conversations with my committee members Hélène Tissières, Dina Sherzer, Michael Johnson and Madhavi Mallapragada. Although *French-language Road Cinema* deals with an entirely different corpus and is its own project, it grew from the seed of that dissertation topic. Another building block for this book was furnished by the collection of similar if not precisely identical scope that I co-edited with Thibaut Schilt, and everything in the following pages is part of an extended dialogue on French-language road cinema and its parameters that I have undertaken with Thibaut and the contributors to that volume. In the meantime, I have refined by thoughts on French-language road cinema in the course of numerous discus-

sions with students in my classes on the topic at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Cincinnati. Each group brought new perspectives and insights to the films that would make up my corpus. Rebecca Deaton, who was a MA student in one of those courses, later provided editorial assistance. Lastly, Chapter 3 first appeared in modified form in *Transfers: Interdisciplinary Journal of Mobility Studies* and a different iteration of Chapter 4 first made it to print as an article in *Contemporary French Civilization*. The anonymous input of referees for each of those journals and the support of the editors has played no small part in the final shape of my arguments.