Preface

This book in its present form would not have been possible without the support, and insights, of colleagues, institutions, friends and family.

I am particularly grateful to the National Endowment for the Humanities for supporting this project with a summer stipend, which allowed me to complete the final version of several chapters. The University of Pittsburgh faculty development grant generously permitted me to pursue research in Paris.

Alice Kaplan has been a great inspiration from the time I began graduate studies to the present. I am grateful for her rigorous reading of my manuscript and her constant encouragement. Ora Avni encouraged me to present parts of this book as talks, and her comments on my manuscript were always extremely helpful. I have also benefited from the input and constant support of Antoine Compagnon. My thanks too to Suzanne Guerlac, who encouraged me to send the manuscript to Stanford University Press.

Yves Citton, Mathilde Doubinsky, Elizabeth Houlding, Cheryl Morgan, Aparna Nayak, Pani Norindr, Rosie Reiss, Dan Russell, and Mark Sanford provided me with intellectual support while I was working on this project. Rich Watts read the entire manuscript twice, and his suggestions about style and sources were always helpful. Special thanks also to Keith Sears for his advice on legal matters.

My colleagues and students at the University of Pittsburgh have always been extremely supportive and encouraged me to develop many of the ideas in this book. Monika Losagio provided me with

vi Preface

valuable assistance and advice over the last few years. My thanks also to André Braga for his expertise in computers.

I am extremely grateful to Dennis Looney for his assistance and critical acumen. John Feneron and Mitch Tuchman were invaluable in bringing the manuscript to its final form.

My greatest thanks go to Sophie Queuniet. Her intelligence and generosity helped me bring vague ideas into book form.

One final note. My parents showed me unfailing support over the years. My mother tirelessly answered my questions and my father read several chapters of the manuscript: his comments and his arguments helped give the manuscript the form that it has today. This book is dedicated to his memory.

P.W.