

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ONE OF THE THINGS I discuss in this book is the way in which any periodization emerges only in an act of repetition, or through a form of historical retrospection. And thus while I did not recognize this until early 2004, the period of the writing of this book was a long one, extending back at least to 1991 with the publication of a portion of what is now chapter 3 in the Duke University situationist periodical, *The Missing Link*. Indeed, the final line of that short essay already contains in seed a major conceit of this book: “As in the final image of T_2 , we still hurtle down a nighttime road, unable to see where we may be headed.” Whether this situation be a tragedy or an opportunity remains, I believe, an open question.

Any book this long in gestation is bound to develop a host of debts, far more than I might possibly recognize here. However, there are a few people I would especially like to acknowledge. First, I thank the members of the Summer Institute—Liz Blasco, Susan Hegeman, Caren Irr, Carolyn Lesjak, Chris Pavsek, Michael Rothberg, Rob Seguin, and Yasemin Yildiz (and now Sophie, Owen, Nadia, Mia, Lonso,

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