## Acknowledgments



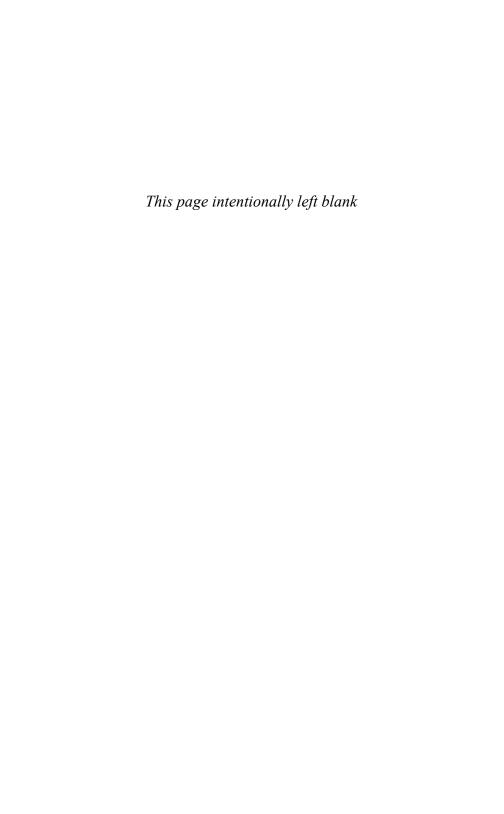
Tf I had followed the conventions of academic philosophy, this book **L** would not exist. Who would advise a second-year graduate student to revise and expand his master's thesis and submit it to a university press? My thesis committee—Randall E. Auxier, Kenneth W. Stikkers, and Stephen Tyman—did just that. I thank them for giving me the confidence to revise and expand that study, which led me to work for over three years to create this book. I especially thank my advisor, mentor, and friend, Randall E. Auxier, for the years of conversation on Josiah Royce and American philosophy that helped birth this book. I also thank Helen Tartar for taking a third-year graduate student seriously when he submitted a book proposal on Josiah Royce's ethicoreligious insight and ensuring that it got a fair hearing. In addition, I would like to thank my fellow Royce scholars for encouraging me to write this book, especially Kim Garcher, Celia Bardwell-Jones, Jason Bell, Jackie Kegley, and Kelly Parker. Furthermore, I would like to thank my colleagues in the Philosophy Department at Grand Valley State University for providing me with a welcoming environment during the last stages of revising and editing this book. I would be remiss if I neglected to thank Eric Newman, managing editor of Fordham University Press, and Mary Christian, my copy editor, for their expert advice on how to improve this book. Heeding their advice has made this book much better than it would have been otherwise.

Because I am more than just an academic philosopher, I would like to thank those teachers and staff from Essex High School to Christopher Newport University who inspired me to pursue "the life of the mind," as Cornel West puts it. You know who you are. During my graduate studies, I met many wonderful and talented academic philosophers-in-training who occasionally offered words of encouragement, a sympathetic ear, and even some memorable arguments. Of those I met, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Dwight Welch, Tommy Curry, Tanya Jeffcoat, Bruce Buchanan, and Jason Hill. I could not ask for better friends and intellectual interlocutors than these. To those college friends I have lost contact with over the years, I appreciate the time I spent with each one of you. Whether we lost touch because of a tragic misunderstanding or a failure to communicate regularly with one another, I have not forgotten about you and what you mean to me. The same goes for those secondary and grade school friends whom I have lost contact with over the years.

I also would like to thank the students whom I taught at Grand Valley State University during the fall 2007 semester. It was thanks to them that I was able to think of a suitable title for this book. Originally, the title was supposed to be just, Encountering Josiah Royce's Ethico-Religious Insight. However, I was dissatisfied with that title; it sounded too academic, too bland. One of the manuscript reviewers felt the same way I did. For several months I searched for a suitable title. During that time, I graded more than 900 paper assignments. Over the course of grading those assignments, I had gotten into the routine of writing the phrase "not quite" in the margins beside those parts of the paper where I thought that a student did not quite understand a certain position. I realized that this is the way I feel about Royce most of the time when I read his writings about God. Despite the fact that I think Royce's ethico-religious insight is perhaps one of the best available modern descriptions of God, I cannot shake the feeling that Royce himself could never quite transcend his (overly) conceptual descriptions of God and let his readers intuit the God he describes: God the cosmic fellow-sufferer and God the loving Interpreter-Spirit. What better way to voice my thoughts on his ethico-religious insight than to entitle this book, Yes, But Not Quite: Encountering Josiah Royce's Ethico-Religious Insight?

Most important, I thank my wife, Crystal; my sons, Anthony and Christopher; my mother; my nieces and nephews; Anthony's maternal relatives; and my goddaughter, Destiny, for supporting me during the long writing process. They have collectively paid a debt that I can never repay.

Let me conclude by thanking Indiana University Press for its permission to revise and republish several lengthy passages from my article, "Concerning the God That Is Only a Concept: A Marcellian Critique of Royce's God," *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society: A Quarterly Journal in American Philosophy* 42.3 (Summer 2006): 394–416, in the fifth chapter of this book.



## YES, BUT NOT QUITE



