★ ★ ★ Acknowledgments

Many thanks must be expressed to those who played a vital role in making this book a reality. I am grateful to Charles McGovern at the National Museum of American History for his insights and for encouraging me to apply for a ten-week fellowship at the Smithsonian Institution. I also greatly appreciate the efforts of many others at the Smithsonian, the National Archives, the Library of Congress, the Treasury Department, and the Schomberg Center for their help in finding research materials. Special acknowledgment must go to Gary Gerstle of Catholic University, who planted the seed for this book by calling for more study in the area of World War II bonds.

Thanks also to the members of my committees at the University of Minnesota who offered constructive criticism at various stages of the project: John Fiske, Phil Furia, David Noble, Riv-Ellen Prell, and John Wright. I am especially grateful to Elaine and Lary May for hosting the American Studies dissertation group, to the members of the group, and to Rudolph's Barbecue for its excellent coleslaw. I am deeply indebted to Lary May for his vision, advice, and encouragement. This book would not have been possible without his unflagging support.

A number of anonymous readers were extremely helpful in reshaping and refining the work. Much thanks to Craig Gill at the University Press of Kentucky and to Mark Hirsch and Karin Kaufman of the Smithsonian Institution Press for their sagacity in the editing process. Finally, thanks to those who made the writing of this book a much more pleasant affair. A big Iconohug to Vickie Abrahamson and Mary Meehan, my partners in crime, and to Shannon Forstrom for her faith and laser printer.