## **Acknowledgments**

Thanks to John Fitzgerald, my advisor whose feedback was invaluable to this book and whose office door was always open. His sage advice and unwavering support are much appreciated, and every student should be so lucky as to have a mentor like him.

Thanks to Blake Leyerle, John Meier, and Candida Moss, the members of my dissertation committee who helped guide this project from its beginnings to the manuscript it is today. I am extremely grateful for the time they so graciously spent reading my work and helping me improve it.

And thanks to my family—my parents, James and Cynthia; my sister, Whitney; and my wife, Beth—for all their love and encouragement throughout the years. I would not be where I am today without them.