Acknowledgments

What began as a project for my sabbatical in the winter term of 2009/10 turned into a five-year (ad)venture. Through all delays and extended deadlines, Karin Werner, Johanna Tönsing, and Jennifer Niediek at transcript have remained patient and encouraging.

Over the years, I have had much help in matters of research, and I owe very special thanks to Tanja Aho, Jasmin Dragaschnig, Judith Lakamper, Christine Oswald, and Katrin Schmidt for their assistance. For individual chapters (at times in the shape of talks and workshops), I received much appreciated critical feedback as well as positive reinforcement from Elisabeth Bronfen, Cedric Essi, Herbert Sirois, Werner Sollors, Florian Tatschner, Harald Zapf, and Meike Zwingenberger. Alexandra Ganser and Katharina Gerund have read and commented upon larger parts of the manuscript, and they eventually were the first to 'try it out' in the Erlangen American studies-classroom. Their test-runs have helped to eliminate confusing passages as well as study questions seminar participants were reluctant to answer. After all, this is a book for students of American studies. Many thanks also go to the participants of my teacher training seminars on American mythology in Munich and Nuremberg.

Sebastian Schneider has been an admirably thorough reader and a superb text editor, who has made this project his first priority when other things were pressing. His keen eye for dispensable words (or even half-sentences), for bibliographical inconsistencies, and for stylistic improvements have made this a much better book. Stephen Koetzing has been of invaluable help in matters of research and has handled difficult inquiries of all kinds; above all, he has produced the final manuscript with painstaking diligence – as always, I should add. I am much indebted to both of you. Finally, Klaus Lösch has carried the burden of constant interpellation as local expert and has come to wonder whether he has ever known me 'without the book;' he has persistently questioned the politics of each chapter

while helping me shape the argument. The final result owes much to his critical comments and helpful suggestions, not the least its title.

All efforts have been made to contact copyright holders of illustrations. Should any have unintentionally been overlooked, the necessary arrangements will be made at the first opportunity.

Erlangen, May 2014

Heike Paul