## Acknowledgments

WITHOUT THE HELP OF MANY PEOPLE OVER THE YEARS, this study would never have reached completion. I owe them thanks for innumerable suggestions and improvements; the flaws that remain are my own. I am grateful to James D. Muhly and James B. Pritchard for advice and warm support in the years when this study was first taking shape as a doctoral dissertation, and I am especially indebted to Tzvi Abusch, who supervised the dissertation in its final years and was an unfailing source of encouragement and perceptive advice. Among the friends and colleagues who have taken the time to offer comments, criticism, encouragement or prodding as the book evolved, I am particularly grateful to William W. Hallo, Sara A. Immerwahr, Robert C. Hunt, Louis D. Levine, Simo Parpola, Julian Reade, and Hayim Tadmor. J.A. Brinkman and Irene J. Winter read the manuscript in its final stages and showered me with helpful suggestions and comments; I am indebted to both of them.

I would like to thank the Chebeague Island Library and its librarian, Martha Hamilton, for years of efficient interlibrary loan service. I am indebted to William W. Hallo, curator of the Yale Babylonian Collection, for granting me access to materials in the collection and for making me warmly welcome there, and to Paul-Alain Beaulieu and Ulla Kasten for cheerfully helping me to find my way around it. For their gracious help and for permission to publish photographs of objects in the collections of their museums, I would like to thank E. Klengel and the Vorderasiatisches Museum of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin; Edith Porada and the Pierpont Morgan Library, New York; C.B.F. Walker and the Trustees of the British Museum; and Annie Caubet and the Département des Antiquités Orientales of the Musée du Louvre. I would like also to thank my editor, Carole N. Le Faivre of the American Philosophical Society, for her tactful and efficient help.

I owe special thanks to my three children, Stephen B. Porter, Anne K. Porter, and Seth H. Porter, for their affectionate encouragement of a mother who has been "doing Esarhaddon" for most of their lives. Above all, I want to thank my husband, Michael H. Porter; without his help and patience, this book could never have been written.