

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A. Mitchell Palmer declared on several occasions his willingness to have "history" render final judgment on his actions as a public official. Even before he left office, however, Palmer took steps to make it difficult for historians to reach a verdict. He removed most of his important records from the Alien Property Custodian's office and from the Justice Department files, and these, as well as almost all his other papers subsequently disappeared.

It would have been almost impossible to unravel the story of Palmer's career, even to the extent that I have, without an extraordinary amount of assistance. In tracking down letters to and from Palmer I frequently received aid beyond the call of duty, especially from the staffs of the manuscript and newspaper divisions of the Library of Congress, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the New York Public Library, the Free Library of Philadelphia, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, the Easton Public Library, the Monroe County Historical Society, and the Yale, Princeton, and Columbia University Libraries. Archivists in the Justice Department and Labor Department divisions of the National Archives helped me find important documents including reports on investigations of Palmer's activities. Several scholars, among them Donald Johnson, Father John Smith, Clarke Wilhelm, and Kurt Wimer shared with me the fruits of their own research; and most helpfully they allowed me to use their copies of correspondence to which I did not have access. Many of Palmer's friends, relatives, and associates supplied me with information which I could not otherwise have obtained; these interviews and letters are listed in the foot-

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