
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

MY AUNT ESTHER LIKES TO REMIND ME that “*uno nunca sabe para quién trabaja*” (one never knows for whom one is working), a saying that does not resonate any louder than when one begins a significant research undertaking. Intellectual investigations, although rooted in set systems of knowledge production, can also serve larger purposes (we would like to think). The question of a work’s value constantly brings one back to that Spanish saying. As this book evolved, I increasingly appreciated the guidance I received from the scholars and fellow educators who had a part in its early production. This book is based on a dissertation I completed in 2002 at the University of California, Berkeley. I am grateful to my advisor, Dell Upton, first and foremost, for the wise feedback he offered as I ventured into what appeared to be unknown trans-Americanist territory. My other committee members, Paul Groth, Laura E. Pérez, Jean-Pierre Protzen, and José Rabasa, inspired me to survey this landscape from their distinct vantage points, and I am indebted to them as well. The America that took shape in my mind was formed from their thought-provoking reflections on my work and, in the end, from their collective voice. I am also forever indebted to the students and educators I met there. The dissertation idea first emanated from invaluable conversations with Gregory Alan Castillo, Lynne Hariouchi, John Loomis, Anoma Pieris, and many others. As the manuscript developed, I gained valuable insight from Denise Bratton, C. Greig Crysler, George Dodds, Clara Irazábal, Stella Nair, Laura Schiavo, Katherine Solomonson, and Mabel O. Wilson. My sincerest gratitude also goes to Luis Carranza, Stephen Fox, and Robert W. Rydell for their in-depth critical readings of the manuscript and for their generous support.

The keepers of the rich repositories I was fortunate enough to visit over the last ten years also deserve ac-

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I am deeply grateful for the support I received from my fellow Latin Americanists at Tulane University, es-

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Ultimately, the historical narrative cannot escape one's subjective reading of the complex arrangements individuals construct for themselves and for others. Because of this, when dealing with abstract subjects and ideologies, insights into people and places have a wonderful grounding and enlightening effect. The big picture I developed with this book drew heavily from my own experiences, but more so from the memories of so many who intersected with this history. I am particularly grateful to Albert and Pete Kelsey, who offered their insightful memories of their grandfather. David Gleave also helped me to fill in the gaps as I followed the course of his father's life. Others offered stories and insights into the numerous projects examined in this book. This combination of archival investigation and familial and personal narratives made this book more than enlightening but also a truly pleasurable undertaking. The richness it has offered me is no doubt a result of my own educational formation, and for this, I would like to thank Stanford Anderson, Reed Kroloff, Donlyn Lyndon, Lawrence Speck, and the late Royston Landau.

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