Acknowledgments

I would like to express my gratitude to a number of people who have assisted in one way or another in the writing of this book. The thesis of this essay had been a focus of attention for me for some time prior to writing. It was an invitation to present my views on the topic “Does the Emergence of Theology mean the Death of Religion?” to the Trinity College Colloquium, however, that finally drew me into this project. I am very grateful, therefore, to Larry Kerslake for the invitation and encouragement to fly that trial balloon. It is a pleasure as well to thank other Trinity colleagues for their advice and encouragement, sometimes despite a lack of sympathy for the thesis being argued here: Kenneth Schmitz, Graeme Nicholson, Bruce Alton, and Abraham Khan. Other colleagues and friends have also given liberally of themselves in discussion and debate of various aspects of the argument developed in this book and I thank them for that: E. Thomas Lawson, L. H. Martin, Ivan Strenski, Hans Penner, Robert Thomas, David Reimer, Susan Story, and John Franklin. I alone, of course, must be held responsible for the thesis presented here. My special thanks also to Victoria Pinnington for her patience in dealing with the revisions to the manuscripts and for the long hours and hard work of getting the draft manuscript of this book into proper form for the publishers.

There are four teachers to whom I owe a great deal. Without their assistance and encouragement over the years I should never have found myself prepared to take up this thesis or any other problem for public discussion. Although I would not want them to be saddled with any responsibility for the substance and argument of this book, I do wish to acknowledge here their importance to me in the intellectual
Acknowledgments

enterprise of which this book is to some degree symbolic, and I therefore dedicate this book to them.

I wish to thank the editors and publishers of the following journals for permission to use material I have previously published in article form: The Dalhousie Review for “Religion Transcending Science Transcending Religion . . .”; Religion for “The Prelogical Mentality Revisited,” and The Scottish Journal of Religious Studies for “From the Open to the Closed Society? Michel Despland on the Philosophy of Religion.”

I am grateful to the Provost and Executive Committee of Trinity College and the Centre for Religious Studies of the University of Toronto for a sabbatical leave during 1986–87 that provided me an extended period of time for the writing of the first draft of this book. And it is also a pleasure to thank the Master and Fellows of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, for the invitation to spend a year as Senior Research Scholar there, which provided an ideal setting for that task. I also acknowledge with thanks the assistance of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for providing me with a leave fellowship and research grant for that year.