

Acknowledgments

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My thoughts about marginal prototypes and the selective modeling of literary history continued to take shape over a period of several years and I was fortunate to be able to present them in an ongoing research seminar on Hebrew and comparative literature at Berkeley. Only in these graduate seminars did I begin to learn, with and from my students, how to apply my general ideas about literary trends to a range of textual and critical issues, from the reading of a poem to the critique of literary historiography. During this period I was lucky enough to work with some of the most brilliant students around, many of whom have since become colleagues. In effect, they were colleagues all along. What made the difference for me, however, was this group's collaborative spirit and their active resistance to the "capitalism of ideas" that is the norm in academic culture. In joint projects as well as in widely divergent individual endeavors, their boundless intellectual generosity—with me and with each other—has contributed to a sense of community that I truly cherish.

The conventional money market metaphors that dominate the discourse of acknowledgments—an economy in which the author/owner of a book checks off a list of "debts owed" and "credit due"—

get in the way of expressing what this working/learning together has meant for me, and what each and every one of “my” (ex)students has contributed to “my” book. It is therefore with a troubling awareness of the inadequacies of this discourse that I wish to thank all participants of the graduate seminar group; and to enumerate, in alphabetical order, my more specific gratitudes to those of the group who have had direct input into the book.

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