Blake Edgar, acquisitions editor for the University of California Press, has my thanks for asking—just as my previous volume with the University of California Press (Folsom, 2006) was rolling off the presses—whether I had another book in the offing. Here ’tis. Blake, as well as Wendy Ashmore, Tom Dillehay, Donald Grayson, Torrey Rick, and David Hurst Thomas read the entire manuscript, and provided detailed and helpful comments. Daniel Mann and Stephen Zegura, geologist and geneticist, respectively, provided constructive, detailed critiques of chapters 2 (Mann), and 5 and 6 (Zegura), thereby saving me possible embarrassment in venturing into disciplines not my own. I am extremely grateful for the help of all, and hereby absolve them of blame for any lingering errors.

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In the fall of 1992, when I was writing Search for the First Americans, my children were four and six years old. And so I wrote at my university office to avoid the wonderful and welcome distractions of home. The children have since flown the nest for their own universities far away. And so I wrote First Peoples in my son’s room—now converted to an office. But I miss those wonderful distractions that used to be home. Shadow the dog tried his best to fill the void, but it was just not the same.

David J. Meltzer
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