

Acknowledgments

When I first arrived in the United States on a Fulbright fellowship in 1995, the John Carter Brown Library in Providence, Rhode Island, was my new academic home. An unrivaled repository of books published on the Americas from Columbus's days to those of Bolívar, the JCB also offered a superb environment for intellectual exchange with fellow Americanists and Atlanticists. It was therefore no punishment to return to Providence during the academic year 2006–07 on a Mellon InterAmericas fellowship. I would like to thank Director and Librarian Ted Widmer and his staff for providing all the conditions in which scholarship can thrive. Most of this book was written at the library, upstairs and downstairs, inspired by conversations with other scholars using the collection. Particularly stimulating were the discussions I had with Guillaume Aubert and Lyman Johnson, experts respectively on French and Spanish America. Outside of Providence, Mark Peterson and one of the manuscript's anonymous reviewers helped me tremendously with their comments and insights. Last but not least, I have benefited from the support of Aviva Ben-Ur, Alison Games, and Philip Morgan.

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