

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is the product of years of collaboration across two continents. A host of conferences—in Santa Barbara, under the aegis of the University of California Digital Cultures Project, on “Interfacing Knowledge,” “Copyright and the Networked Computer,” and “Digital Retroaction”; in Sheffield, England, on “Scenes of Writing”; in Trondheim, Norway, on “Literature, Technology, Imagination”; and in Stirling, Scotland, on “Textual Cultures”—led in 2007 to the event that generated this volume and its argument: a conference at New York University (NYU) entitled “Mediating Enlightenment Past and Present.” As we go to press, our ventures together continue in the form of The Re:Enlightenment Project—an effort both to pursue our inquiries into Enlightenment and the history of mediation—and to put what we have learned to work in the world. The publication of *This Is Enlightenment* in spring 2010 will coincide with the Project’s first public “Exchange,” “Futures for Knowledge and Institutions” at the New York Public Library.

Conceptual and material support for the 2007 conference came from our Norwegian colleagues. Knut Ove Eliassen not only suggested that we focus on the notion of “mediating Enlightenment,” he also became cosponsor of the event. We would like to express our deep gratitude to the Faculty of the Humanities at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology for their generous contributions at two key stages of our work. Their financial support played a crucial role in the success of the conference and in the publication of this volume.

We are grateful as well for the intellectual and financial support of Richard Foley, dean of the School of Arts and Science at NYU. Together with President John Sexton, he has transformed the university through a creative burst of hiring and the encouragement of new disciplinary constellations. Thanks as well to former NYU trustee Kevin R. Brine for his role in that transformation. Financial support for the conference came from across NYU, including Jane Tylus, director of the Humanities Initiative, and Deans Catharine R. Stimpson, George W. Downs, Edward J. Sullivan, and Matthew S. Santirocco. Eileen Bowman, on loan from the Institute for the History of the Production of Knowledge, was a superb conference coordinator. Professors Mary Poovey, Paula McDowell, and John Guillory of NYU's English department constituted the local organizing committee. The department provided valuable support for both the conference and, through its Abraham and Rebecca Stein Faculty Publications Fund, the publication of this volume.

Yohei Igarashi and Seth Rudy, doctoral students in English, were our editorial assistants for this volume. From bibliographic and proofreading work to their insights into essays to their courage in facing the logistical nightmare of coordinating multiple files from so many authors, their efforts were extraordinary. Our gratitude is correspondingly deep.

Alan Thomas's ideas regarding the role of the polemical in contemporary scholarship put the argument of *This Is Enlightenment* on track, and his later critiques kept it there. Thanks also to Chicago's Randy Petilos for helping us to navigate the complexities of illustrations and copyrights and to Maia Rigas for her copyediting skills and patience.

Finally, Cliff would like to thank Leslie Santee Siskin for mediating when and where it counts—in the world of ideas we share professionally and in private moments of loss and cheer. Bill would like to thank Elizabeth MacArthur, a joyful intellectual companion and a scholar of the French Enlightenment in her own right, for exacting, but always invaluable, criticism of this project.

*Clifford Siskin and William Warner  
New York and Santa Barbara, 2009*