Acknowledgments

MUCH of the research and much of the writing of a first draft of this book was completed while I was a member of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, in 1953–1955. To the Institute's distinguished director, Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, and to the late Edward Mead Earle, I am especially indebted for the privilege of those two unhampered years of research and study. I wish to thank Mrs. Marian Hartz for secretarial assistance and Miss Judith Sachs, librarian of the Institute, for guiding an importunate visitor to needed reference materials and to the riches of the great Rosenwald collection of rare books in the history of science.

The completion of the manuscript was postponed until I could consult the second volume (1957) of Lavoisier's *Correspondance*, covering the years 1772–1775. In the meantime, with the resources of Cornell's fine basic collection in the history of science, I was able to dispose of certain controverted matters—such as the dating of Lavoisier's February memorandum—and publish the results separately as articles. At all stages of my investigations I have drawn extravagantly on my treasury of grace with the devoted staff of the Cornell University Library. I owe special thanks to Dr. Felix Reichmann for his speed

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

and skill in obtaining rare books for the collection and to Miss Josephine Tharpe and Miss Frances Lauman for the many services reference librarians in their mysterious way know how to perform. I wish also to thank their colleagues in the other American libraries where I have worked, especially the Harvard University Library, the Princeton University Library, and the libraries of the New York Academy of Medicine and of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. For their willingness to send rare books and periodicals on interlibrary loan, I am grateful to a number of institutions and persons, especially to the Yale Medical Historical Library under the direction of Dr. Frederick Kilgour and to the University of Wisconsin, which has generously made available rare items from its remarkable collection of works in early chemistry.

Like many another foreign scholar, in Paris I have enjoyed the hospitality of the Bibliothèque Nationale, the library of the Institut de France and of the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle. At the archives of the Académie des Sciences I have been helped on repeated occasions by Mme Pierre Gauja and her staff with that unfailing courtesy and efficiency they have shown so many visiting historians of science.

Aid and stimulation have come from many friends and fellow workers in the history of science; chief among them are Professor Marie Boas, Dr. Uno Boklund, Dr. Maurice Daumas, Dr. Eduard Farber, M. René Fric, Professor Aaron Ihde, Professor Milton Kerker, Father Patrick John McLaughlin, Professor Robert Schofield, Professor Cyril Stanley Smith, and Dr. Owsei Temkin. Mr. Denis I. Duveen has lent generously from his rich collection of

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Lavoisier's books and manuscripts, has discussed with me many aspects of my problem, and has given me the benefit of his deep bibliographical knowledge and wide familiarity with Lavoisier's work.

I am glad, also, to record my appreciation to the members, past and present, of my seminar in the history of science at Cornell who have heard parts of this study presented for their candid and constructive comments. In particular, I wish to thank Miss Rhoda Rappaport and Mr. Roger Hahn for many helpful suggestions and for their careful reading of the manuscript. I assume, of course, full responsibility for the errors of commission and omission that are sure to be called to my attention by others, or that I shall have the dubious pleasure of discovering—too late—for myself.

The final versions of the typescript—the work of Mrs. Anita Reed, Mrs. C. C. Arnold, and Mrs. Robert M. Garcia—were prepared with the help of a subsidy from Cornell's Faculty Research Grants Committee.

Apologies are perhaps due to the reader for my practice of leaving all my citations in the original French; still more, perhaps, for my decision to reproduce all texts exactly as I found them. Thus some citations appear with modernized spelling and punctuation, others as they were printed in the eighteenth century, and still others as they appear in the contemporary manuscripts with their fanciful disregard of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. In part, I wished to conform with the example set by the editor of the *Correspondance de Lavoisier*; but my principal reason was that I wished to make available to scholars, in the body of the work and in the appendix, all

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documents known to me bearing on this phase of Lavoisier's career and to intrude upon them as little as possible. We have long wished to have these documents brought together; and those who may be disposed to challenge my interpretation with my own weapons will find them here unruined and with their original temper.

HENRY GUERLAC

December 15, 1960