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## Saying And Silence

Frank Farmer

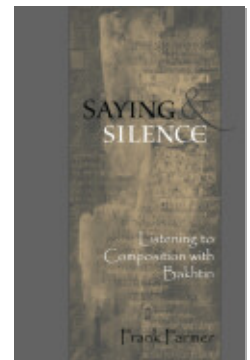
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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The chapters in this book were written over the span of several years and thus represent a chronicle of a sometimes orthodox, sometimes idiosyncratic engagement with the ideas of Mikhail Bakhtin. They also represent, I think, a measure of how my particular struggles with Bakhtin are both reflected in, and refracted through, the momentous shifts in our disciplinary conversation over the last decade or so. On a more personal level, these chapters may even serve to chart those occasions when I have seen fit to change my mind about some aspect or consequence of Bakhtin's thought.

Yet more than this, the chapters gathered here represent a record of the people and universities who provided me with encouragement and support. I would first like to thank the English Departments of East Carolina University and the University of Kansas, both of which extended to me the kinds of institutional assistance without which this book would not have been possible. Nor can I begin to do justice here to the editorial advice and encouragement I received from Michael Spooner, whose optimism and patience sustained this project (and its author) through those predictable, but still critical, hurdles in its coming to print. I also wish to thank my anonymous reviewers for their thoughtful suggestions, as well as Red O'Laughlin for his valuable (and remarkably cheerful) help with all the last-minute preparations of this manuscript.

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And for Linda, intimate outsider, without whose loving perspective these words find no hearing, my deepest gratitude.



Note: Unless otherwise cited by keyword or full title, references to Bakhtin's texts use the following abbreviations:

AA = *Art and Answerability*

DI = *The Dialogic Imagination: Four Essays*

PDP = *Problems of Dostoevsky's Poetics*

RW = *Rabelais and His World*

SG = *Speech Genres & Other Late Essays*

TPA = *Toward a Philosophy of the Act*