Benjamin's Library
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Acknowledgments

While this book had its beginning and its end in Benjamin’s city of Berlin, no book is ever really written in one place. Rather, it emerges in the extended conversations with the people with whom one works and lives, on the one hand, and in the encounters with the books, projects, and institutions that one has as one writes, on the other.

In the case of Benjamin’s Library, many of these conversations and encounters of course did occur in Berlin, and I am indebted to both individuals and institutions there for the material and intellectual help they have afforded me over the years. In particular, I would like to thank Peter-André Alt and Hans Feger of the Freie Universität, Conrad Wiedemann of the Technische Universität, and also my longtime friend, Wilfried Barner of the Universität Göttingen, who was the one who got me interested in the Baroque to begin with and who was generous enough to meet with me when he was in Berlin. I also first met Uwe Steiner (Rice University) in Berlin many years ago and have admired his work on Benjamin since. Another longtime friend, Ulrich Joost (Universität Darmstadt), made time to see me whenever we intersected in Berlin, and also never complained when I shot off an e-mail asking him to help me with locating arcane books and information (and also never disappointed me in finding out what I needed to know). Ursula Marx and Erdmut Wizisla of the Walter Benjamin Archiv, Akademie der Künste, Berlin, and the staff of the Preußische Staatsbibliothek at both Unter den Linden and Potsdamer
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Quite a number of years ago in Berlin, my daughter, Jordan, was picked up by a friend’s father who was going to take her and her friend to the movies. He asked why she was living in Berlin for a year, and she replied (I am told): “I’m here with my parents. My dad is a philosopher, and my mother is writing a book about some guy named Benjamin.” Here’s the book, Jordan. It’s for you.