One might expect that coediting a collection of twelve essays by scholars who hail from seven different countries (England, France, Israel, Norway, Poland, South Africa, and the United States) would add considerably to the logistical complexity of the task. It is a tribute to the professionalism and cooperative spirit of our contributors that the task of editing this book has been not just logistically smooth but thoroughly enjoyable. We are, therefore, deeply grateful to have had the opportunity to work with each of our contributors.

We owe our own collaboration on the volume to the good offices of the Centre for Advanced Study in Oslo, Norway, directed by Willy Østreng. CAS provided funding for the three of us to participate in a research project proposed by Jakob entitled “Narrative Theory and Analysis” during the 2005–2006 academic year. CAS supported not only that project but also a colloquium on Joseph Conrad in September 2005 that served as the genesis of this book. In addition, CAS generously contributed funding to offset the publication costs of this volume. We have also benefited from the collegial intellectual atmosphere fostered at CAS by the other members of the research team, Daphna Erdinast-Vulcan, Anniken Greve, J. Hillis Miller, Beatrice Sandberg, Anette Storeide, Susan Suleiman, and Anne Thelle.

We are very grateful to Sandy Crooms, acquisitions editor extraordinaire at
The Ohio State University Press, for her careful shepherding of the manuscript through the review process. We thank Peter J. Rabinowitz and the anonymous Press reader for their excellent advice about revising our Introduction, improving the individual essays, and adding the Afterword.

Finally, each of us wants to thank the other two for helping to construct a better book than any of us could have constructed on his own. But each of us is happy to blame the other two for any remaining flaws in this one.