Acknowledgments

The 29th Annual Symposium on Jewish Civilization took place on Sunday, October 30, and Monday, October 31, 2016, in Omaha, Nebraska. The title of the symposium, from which this volume also takes its name, is “Is Judaism Democratic? Reflections from Theory and Practice Throughout the Ages.” All of the papers collected here, with the exception of the study by Alan Mittleman, were delivered at the symposium itself.

The academic sponsors of this symposium represent three major educational institutions in Nebraska: Creighton University (the Klutznick Chair in Jewish Civilization, the Kripke Center for the Study of Religion and Society), the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (the Harris Center for Judaic Studies), and the University of Nebraska at Omaha (the Schwalb Center for Israel and Jewish Studies).

In large measure, the symposium owes its success to two groups of dedicated and talented individuals. First are my academic colleagues: Dr. Ronald Simkins (Creighton), Dr. Jean Cahan (UNL), and Drs. Moshe Gershovitz and Curtis Hutt (UNO). Their generosity, individually and collectively, has been exemplary.

The second group consists of administrative assistants, the individuals who really know how to get things done. In this context, I offer sincere expressions of gratitude to Colleen Hastings, who works with the Klutznick Chair and Kripke Center at Creighton; Kasey Davis, of the Schwalb Center at UNO; and Mary Sue Grossman, who is associated with the Center for Jewish Life, part of the Jewish Federation of Omaha.

As many readers of this volume know well, the road from oral presentation to written publication is filled with obstacles. Our path has been inestimably smoothed over through our relationship with the Purdue University Press. For almost a decade, we have enjoyed the professional and personable staff of the press, under the previous directors Charles Watkinson and Peter Froehlich, and now under co-interim directors Katherine Purple and Bryan Shaffer. They have made us feel comfortable in every way, and we look forward to many more years of association with them.

In addition to the academic and communal organizations mentioned above, this symposium is also generously supported by:

The Ike and Roz Friedman Foundation
The Riekes Family
Acknowledgments

Creighton University Lectures, Films, and Concerts
The Creighton College of Arts and Sciences
The Henry Monsky Lodge of B’nai B’rith
The Drs. Bernard H. and Bruce S. Bloom Memorial Endowment
And others

Leonard J. Greenspoon
Omaha, Nebraska
March 2018
ljgrn@creighton.edu