Acknowledgments

The Twenty-Second Annual Klutznick-Harris Symposium took place in Omaha, Nebraska, on October 25 and 26, 2009. Like this volume, it was titled “Jews and Humor.”

All of the chapters in this collection, with the exception of the one by Jordan Finken, are based on presentations made at the Symposium. Finken’s paper first appeared as an article, with the same title, in *Jewish Social Studies* 16:1(2009): 85-110, published by Indiana University Press. Finken’s article is reprinted here with the Press’s permission.

The first Symposium that I organized was held in October 1996. The Symposium on “Jews and Humor” is therefore the fourteenth one in which I have played a role—if my math is correct. While we have, over the years, developed positive working relationships with a number of people, the planning and implementation of a Symposium, even one related to jokes and storytelling, are not all fun and games—although a sense of humor is *sine qua non*.

It is equally important to make sure that the people with whom you work combine expertise and experience with their own individual senses of humor. In this regard, I have been, I don’t mind saying, blessed in all respects by my colleagues: Dr. Ronald Simkins, director of the Kripke Center for the Study of Religion and Society at Creighton; Dr. Jean Cahan, director of the Harris Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; and Mrs. Fran Minear, who works with both Ron and me. Additionally, Mary Sue Grossman, of the Omaha Jewish Federation’s Center for Jewish Education, insures that everything runs smoothly at the Jewish Community Center, where our presentations take place on Sunday. An equally committed group of individuals works with us on Monday for an equally smooth series of events on the Creighton campus.

This volume is the second in our collaboration with the Purdue University Press, whose staff, under director Charles Watkinson, has consistently made us feel at home among the growing number of Jewish Studies publications of the Press.

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This volume is dedicated, in loving memory, to Dorothy C. Riekes, whose generous support has enabled us to bring together the community at each Symposium.

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