

# Acknowledgments

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The publication of a book provides a special opportunity to reflect and express gratitude. At first glance, writing a book appears to be a solo affair, but in reality it is the worst group project of all time, in that so many people play important roles, and one person takes the lion's share of credit. Let me try to remedy that injustice here, paying thanks to some of the many who contributed.

Carolyn Dean and Maud Mandel continue to be trusted advisers, colleagues, and friends; I have relied on immensely on their support. I was also fortunate enough to have not one, but two, amazing sets of boots on the ground in France when I was unable to travel. Nathan Vanelli and Nicolas Montano provided invaluable research assistance, and I can honestly say I would not have been able to complete this book without them. Relatedly, archivists at the Air France Museum went above and beyond to help, especially when visiting the museum in person was not an option. Sarah Bochicchio has evolved from my student to my trusted friend and colleague, and she graciously read and commented on every word in this manuscript, a task she undertook with far more enthusiasm than its quality warranted at the time. Various research groups including the Boston French History Group, the Brown University Modern Europe Colloquium, the Soft Power Workshop, and the Gender and French History Group all read selections of this book, which is infused with their generous wisdom and counsel. Friends in the field including (but certainly not limited to!) Michèle Plott, Margie Anderson, Elizabeth Everton, and Joel Revill also provided excellent and needed advice. My colleagues in the history department of UMass Boston are a wonderfully supportive group; their counsel has contributed immensely to this publication, and I feel so lucky to be able to work with them all.

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My husband, Will, and our children, Alex and William, are my whole world. Their presence, whether they like it or not, infuses the pages of this book, and there is no way this book would exist without them. The love I have for them makes me continue to have hope for the future and believe that all things are possible.

The writing and publication of this book coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, which has taken so much from so many around the world. For me and for my family, it took our beloved father, Patrick Ricciardi, who passed away in February 2021. He was a happy, funny, generous man; he did not share my interest in French history in any way, but he always offered his pride and support, and that proved to be invaluable. To know that he was always in our corner was an immeasurable gift for me and my family, and we miss him terribly. This one’s for you, Dad.