Notes on Contributors

Janice Peck is an associate professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Colorado in Boulder. She is the author of *The Gods of Televangelism: Religious Television and the Historical Crisis of Meanings* (1993). Peck has published articles on religious television and on television talks shows, and is currently working on a book on daytime television talk programming.

Stacey M. Robertson is assistant professor of History and director of the Women's Studies Program at Bradley University. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1994, and she is revising her dissertation, a biography of Parker Pillsbury.

William Barillas is assistant professor of American Studies at Rutgers University. Currently working on a book on Midwestern pastoral literature, he received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 1994.

John E. Miller is professor of History at South Dakota State University. Author of *Looking for History on Highway 14* (1993) and *Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little Town: Where History and Literature Meet* (1994), he is completing a biography of Laura Ingalls Wilder.

George Cotkin, professor of History at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. is author of William James, Public Philosopher (1990) and Reluctant Modernism: American Thought and Culture, 1880-1920 (1992). Cotkin is working on a cultural and intellectual history of existentialism in America.

Kent Blaser is the 1996-1997 president of MAASA. He is a professor of History at Wayne State College in Nebraska. His most recent publication is an essay on New Western History in *Nebraska History* (1996).

Stanley Bailis is professor of Social Science and American Studies at San Francisco State University. He edits Issues: the Journal of the Association for Integrative Studies.

Jay Mechling, professor of American Studies at the University of California, Davis, is the author of more than seventy articles and book chapters, the most recent of which is "The Atom According to Disney," in *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, 1995. He is completing a book on the Boy Scouts and American Culture, and is presently a resident fellow at the University of California Humanities Research Institute.

Bernard Mergen is professor of American Civilization at George Washington University. His book, *Snow in America: A History of Culture and Nature*, will be published in 1997. He is Senior Editor of American Studies International. In spring, 1996 he was a Fulbright Professor at the National University of Mongolia in Ulambaatar.

Michael Zuckerman, is professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania. His most recent publication is *Almost Chosen People: Oblique Biographies in the American Grain* (1994). He is currently working on a history of religion in early America.

Karen Lystra, professor of American Studies at California State University, Fullerton, has authored *Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in Nineteenth-Century America* (1989, 1992). She is presently working on a book about Mark Twain's last years, tentatively entitled "The Funniest Joke in the World: The Untold Story of Mark Twain."

Murray G. Murphey is professor of American Civilization at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to *Philosophical Foundations of Historical Knowledge* (1994), he is the author, with Elizabeth Flower, of *A History of Philosophy in America* (1977), *Our Knowledge of the Historical Past* (1974), and *The Development of Peirce's Philosophy* (1961).

Sam B. Girgus is professor of English at Vanderbilt University. Author of The Law of the Heart: Individualism and the Modern Self in American Literature (1979), The New Covenant: Jewish Writers and the American Idea (1984), Desire and the Political Unconscious in American Literature (1990), and The Films of Woody Allen (1993), he has also edited The American Self: Myth, Ideology, and Popular Culture (1981). He is now at work on a study of classic Hollywood film and American ideology.