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Acknowledgements

When I found out I might be able to publish a polished version of my dissertation in book form, I did not yet know the amount of work that was ahead of me. What started as a simple project mostly aimed at addressing a few oversights and trimming off a passage or two eventually became something completely different. About a third of the original text has been excised entirely and in turn replaced with new or significantly updated material. In addition, numerous passages have been reordered, rephrased, and repurposed. Similarly to the way Jack Kerouac had written *On the Road*, I had been driven by inspiration and copious amounts of coffee when writing this book; however, unlike Kerouac's Benzedrine-driven writing sessions, my approach relied on the vast research I had undertaken after finishing my dissertation as a way of putting the text together. The resulting text, therefore, is not merely a slightly refined version of the original text, but rather a substantially improved and therefore, dare I say, brand new text.

As stated above, this research is based on my dissertation *How We Read: The Reception of the Beat Generation in the United States and the Czech Lands*, which itself draws from my master's thesis *Beats Then and Now: The Reception of Beat Generation Literature*. Therefore, I would like to first thank those who made these two research texts possible. For my master's thesis, I wholeheartedly thank all the professors and staff at Texas A&M University and especially Charles Taylor, Jr., C. Jan Swearingen, and David Chroust. I also must thank the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas for awarding me the William J. Hlavinka Fellowship, which allowed me to study at TAMU in the first place. I am also extremely thankful for the guidance of my supervisor Tomáš Pospíšil, who has fostered my interest in learning since my first days of studies at the Department of English and American Studies at Masaryk University, Faculty of Arts. In addition, I would also like to thank my dissertation supervisors Bohuslav Mánek and Petr Kopecký for providing invaluable feedback on the dissertation, Josef Jařab and Josef Rauwolf for the opportunity to discuss my research with them, and Nigel Marsh for proofreading the text.

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