Acknowledgments

My loving thanks goes to my partner, Anthony, for prodding me along when I needed motivation and for those open arms that were always waiting for me—after the weekends spent in front of my computer, in the library, or on the phone, transcribing or interviewing. I am also indebted to my friends, especially fellow poet Eric Schramm. Since our days together at Emerson College, Eric has graciously read my work with interest and excitedly steered me in all the right directions. His insight helped immensely in shaping the book, and his friendship has meant the world. Thanks also goes to Maria Rapoport for her diligent transcription during the crucial final months when the book was being completed. Those who provided invaluable advice include Michael Lowenthal and many knowledgeable friends at Emerson, including Rhea Becker, John Skoyles, and Jeffrey Seglin. Thanks to John, too, for being one of the first to convince me I had something to say. I’d also like to thank Richard Schneider, editor of the Gay and Lesbian Review—Worldwide, for giving me the opportunity to be a part of a magazine where I could hone my craft. Of course, I also owe much to LeAnn Fields of the University of Michigan Press for supporting the project, and to her colleagues Rebecca Mostov, Peter Sickman-Garner, Mary Bisbee-Beek, and Marcia LaBrenz.

But above all, this book was made possible by the twelve poets whose words appear here. Many of these men had never met or heard of me, yet their willingness to take part in my project—and their faith in me as an interviewer—was humbling. Beyond giving insightful, articulate answers to all my questions, they provided a powerful example of what it should mean to be a poet: someone who loves language and
desires to share that passion, unconditionally, with all those who seek
Parnassus.

I thank the editors of the following magazines and journals, where sev-
eral of the interviews first appeared (in earlier, often truncated ver-
sions).

*Lambda Book Report:* “Going to the Source: An Interview with Mark
Doty” (June–July 2002); “Forbidden Paradises: An Interview with
J. D. McClatchy” (October 2002); “An Interview with Rafael Campo”
(December 2003–January 2004); and “Out of Bounds: An Interview
with Poet David Trinidad” (March–April 2004).

*Writer’s Chronicle:* “An Interview with Carl Phillips” (October–
November 2001); “An Interview with Timothy Liu” (March–April
2004); and “An Interview with Alfred Corn” (March–April 2005).

*American Poetry Review:* “Henri Cole: An Interview” (vol. 33, no. 3,
2004).

*Verse:* “An Interview with Reginald Shepherd” (vol. 20, nos. 2–3,
2004).

*Bay Windows:* “A Place to Begin: An Interview with Rafael Campo”
(March 31, 2001).

*Bloom:* “Breaking Past the Margins: An Interview with D. A. Powell”
(vol. 1, no. 2, 2004).