Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Ed Friedman, who started me down this path by inviting me to talk about some of these issues at the Poetry Project Symposium, and to Joel Lewis, who always had something to say about the subject and often guided me to fresh or neglected sources.

Thanks to those who read all or part of the manuscript: Lorna Smedman, Gregory Masters, Rackstraw Downes, Joel Lewis, Cynthia Huntington, and Louise Hamlin. To those who talked about it with me and suggested ideas and poems: Bob Hershon, Donna Brook, Charles North, Christian McEwen, Chuck Wachtel, Patricia Spears Jones, Lucille Clifton, Cleopatra Mathis, Bill Cook, Grace Paley, Bob Nichols, Duncan Nichols, Anselm Berrigan, Steven Levine, Lewis Warsh, Ted Greenwald, Larry Zirlin. For consenting to be interviewed and for permission to quote from that conversation, Ron and Pat Padgett.

To Susan Bibeau, of the Dartmouth College Humanities Computing Center, who saved this manuscript from oblivion at least three times.

To LeAnn Fields, who saw the manuscript’s possibilities before they were fully realized and remained steadfast despite scoffers; Allison Liefer, who was not only informative but
encouraging; and Phil Pochoda, who invited me to send the manuscript to Michigan even though it’s about poetry.

Grateful acknowledgment is made to the University of Iowa Press for permission to quote from *The Last Word: Letters between Marcia Nardi and William Carlos Williams*, edited by Elizabeth Murrie O’Neil (Iowa City, 1994); to Renée Weiss for permission to quote from *David Schubert: Works and Days*, published by Quarterly Review of Literature Poetry Book Series (Princeton, N.J., 1983); to Hanging Loose Press for permission to publish “Bible Stories” from *The Last Dust Storm* (Brooklyn, 1995) and “Two Helens” from *Borrowed Coats* (Brooklyn, 2001) by Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel; to *American Poetry Review* for permission to reprint “Caviar and Cabbage: The Voracious Appetite of Melvin Tolson,” which appeared in the March–April 2000 issue; to Cliff Fyman, for permission to reprint “One Busy Busboy,” which appeared in issue no. 5 of *Transfer* magazine; to Eileen Myles, for permission to reprint “On the Death of Robert Lowell” from *A Fresh Young Voice from the Plains* (Power Mad Press, 1981), and to quote from other works; and to Tracie Morris, for permission to reprint “Project Princess,” which appeared in *Aloud: Voices from the Nuyorican Café* (Henry Holt and Company, 1994).

I’ve tried to acknowledge all other relevant texts that I read while researching this paper in the bibliography. I would, however, like to particularly acknowledge the inspiration and provocation of lectures and texts by Mary Childers, Sharon O’Dair, and the resplendent Tillie Olsen.