

## **Preface (1995)**

This book is an interim report on a collective work in progress. It began with a casual conversation between the co-editors in 1991. Discovering that each of us had become aware of threats to the survival of the historical records of anthropology, we decided to organize a two-day workshop to informally assess the situation. As we developed an agenda in subsequent discussion, the workshop rapidly grew into a full-scale Wenner-Gren symposium, which was held early in 1992. By the time the symposium ended, it had become clear that what was needed would be a long-term effort on the part of the discipline as a whole. The sequence of events that followed brought many individuals and organizations into the effort. Some of the results to date are described in this book.

A number of individuals who are not among the authors have contributed to this work, through their participation in discussion along the way or through their aid and encouragement. The participants in the two conferences on which this book is based included John M. Cornman, George F. Farr, Jr., Patricia Galloway, Lynne M. Schmelz-Keil, Annette Weiner, Bonnie Wright, and John E. Yellen. All added a great deal to the conferences and are very much a part of this effort. Laurie Obbink oversaw the conference arrangements with her usual skill and grace. Mark Mahoney assisted on both conferences and ably coordinated the publication and distribution of the two editions of this book. Barbara Metzger was responsible for preparing the index in the present edition.

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This book is dedicated to those anthropologists of the future and others who, in 2050 and beyond, will want and need to have an anthropological record to consult. It is they who have inspired our project.