

## Acknowledgments

**T**he writing of a biography may be less social than some forms of human production, but it is social nonetheless. My debts begin with several mentors who expanded my sense of the possibility of the past and guided me through the various incarnations of this biography. At Reed College, among many fine teachers, Ray Kierstead, Richard Fox, Julia Liss, and, above all, Casey Blake inspired me to take up cultural and intellectual history. At the University of Oregon, Howard Brick pointed me in the direction of Sidney Hook and, after I had warmed to the topic, provided me with valuable insight, criticism, and encouragement at every stage. Blake and Brick were exemplary teachers and advisers, and I continue to learn a great deal from each. At the University of Rochester, Robert Westbrook, Daniel Borus, and the late Christopher Lasch, whom I admired, further deepened and challenged my understanding of twentieth-century American intellectual history. My courses and conversations with Westbrook, along with his exacting and astute (if hieroglyphic) marginal notes, were particularly crucial to refining my thinking on American pragmatism.

Reconstructing Hook's life would have been far more difficult without the aid of those who shared their personal memories with me. His widow, the late Ann Hook, and his two sons, John B. Hook and Ernest B. Hook, were very gracious. Ernie Hook not only read the entire manuscript but

spent virtually an entire day on the phone, giving me his reactions and advice without the slightest gesture toward censorship. Against the many horror stories of families thwarting the efforts of biographers, the Hook family stands as shining counterexample, especially since my political assessment of Sidney Hook is not shared by them, in the main.

Others who by various connections knew Sidney Hook between the 1920s and 1950s were very helpful and forthcoming, among them Daniel Bell, Theodore Draper, Sender Garlin, Albert Glotzer, Corliss Lamont, Freddy Paine, Meyer Schapiro, Morris U. Schappes, Diana Trilling, David Weiss, and B. J. Widick. In the case of a controversialist like Hook, the cooperation of such personal witnesses cannot be taken for granted. On several occasions I found my inquiries declined, often because of the suspicion or presumption that a biographer will automatically grind axes for his subject. The experience has convinced me that no biographer of Sidney Hook will satisfy every reader, though I hope through the exercise of rigorous, independent judgment to have repaid those who trusted me with their memories and perceptions. They have, no matter what, my gratitude.

Many who did not know Hook personally but lived in political proximity to him gave me assistance on various historical points. Survivors of the revolutionary anti-Stalinist socialist groups of the 1930s, including the American Workers Party and the Trotskyist movement, helped me to understand that experience: Alexander Buchman, Leon Goodman, Morris Lewitt, Ted Selander, and Mark Sharron. Herbert Aptheker, Dorothy Healey, and A. B. Magil, all Communists in the 1930s, answered my questions. Minor queries on the American Communist Party were answered expertly by historians Maurice Isserman and Harvey Klehr.

The principal research for this work lay in Hook's many published writings, for which Barbara Levine's *Sidney Hook: A Checklist of Writings* (1989) was indispensable. Hook's correspondence is scattered far and wide; a complete list of repositories consulted appears in the appendix. The most important collection by far is the Sidney Hook Papers at the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace at Stanford University, where 185 boxes of Hook's personal papers and effects have been immaculately organized and catalogued in the superb register compiled by archivists Dale Reed and Rebecca Mead (1991). Many archivists assisted me, but Reed's help with a steady stream of requests over the years merits a special note. Grants from the University of Oregon Department of History, the Graduate School of the University of Oregon, and the Dexter Perkins Fund of the Department of History at the University of Rochester made my research possible. Above all, the generosity of my mother and father permitted me to reach the people who knew Hook as well as the archives that hold ma-

terial on him. For all that my parents gave and continue to give me, including a love of learning and commitment to the public sphere, I dedicate this book to them.

In addition to Howard Brick and Robert Westbrook, the following people read the manuscript in whole or in part: Casey Blake, Daniel Borus, Joseph Fracchia, Jack Maddex, Jeffrey Ostler, Daniel Pope, and Alan Wald. Wald and I have had countless sharp, and therefore extremely useful, disagreements about the history of the intellectual left. He generously shared with me his substantial, thorough correspondence with Hook, now to be included in the Hook Papers at the Hoover Institution for use by other scholars. Because I began my research after Hook's death, I am indebted to S. A. Longstaff, Howard Brick, and Theodore Draper for permitting me to see the notes they took during interviews they conducted with Hook for their own research. I imposed upon Joseph Fracchia and Celia Applegate to translate from German, Michael Donnelly from Russian. Sally Hollier helped with a last-minute scramble for photographs. Peter Agree, my editor at Cornell, wisely paired the manuscript with Robert Cummings and Gregory Sumner, readers whose astute criticism proved immensely useful in the process of revision.

One area of agreement between pragmatism and Marxism, as the young Sidney Hook realized, is their mutual conviction that theory has little value without some connection to lived experience. This book is no exception. The understandings of socialism and democracy expressed in these pages owe much to my friends and comrades. In *Solidarity* and on the editorial board of *Against the Current*, especially, my politics have been tried, tested, refined, refuted—and in the end enhanced immeasurably. I am confident that the issues addressed by this biography are not of antiquarian interest, that they have a direct and practical import which will become apparent when popular power and social justice are again placed on the stage of history by egalitarian movements from below.

Last but always first, Carol Hollier accompanied me across the continent and back, assisted me in my research, and made it all worthwhile. With her by my side, I have written history under circumstances of my choosing. Serendipitously, our daughter Emma Eleanor arrived as this manuscript was making its way across the copyeditor's desk. Nothing adequately expresses the happy revolution Emma has brought to our lives, turning everything upside down, sometimes literally, and reaffirming my hope and wonder at the untold possibilities of the new.

*Addendum, 2005.* In my acknowledgments to the first edition I should have thanked Scott McLemee for pointing me toward Granville Hicks's doggerel, and I am glad to rectify that glaring omission now. Regarding this

new University of Michigan Press edition, I would like especially to state my gratitude to editor Jim Reische for his enthusiasm and leadership, and to Alan Wald for bringing the book to the Press's attention. My family has grown in these eight years, so let me take the chance to express to Carol, Emma, Nowelly, and Rosa that you continue, against all odds, to fill me with personal conviction in the promise of the world.

CHRISTOPHER PHELPS

*Eugene, Oregon, and Mansfield, Ohio*