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It took two publications for me to realize that there was a book here. The first was research I initiated around the significant digital archive of films curated for the Colonial Film project by Lee Grieveson and Colin MacCabe. This research was first published as an essay in their anthology *Empire and Film*, which received the Society for Cinema and Media Studies best anthology essay award in 2013. The second was a piece I wrote for Jennifer Bean, Anupama Kapse, and Laura Horak's *Silent Cinema and the Politics of Space*. I am truly grateful to the editors of both these collections for giving me a platform to explore my interests. Lee miraculously reappeared near the completion of this book and has become an invaluable friend and ally. His questions on sections of my book were immensely clarifying. His advice and missives made the run-up to publication easier and more fun and continue to illuminate many things. I am fortunate that smart readers offered me formative feedback at various stages. Geeta Patel and Anjali Arondekar, sharp critics with big hearts, helped me refine this project early on. I could not have asked for a more incisive reader of the entire manuscript than Jennifer Peterson, whose feedback was all

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