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THIS BOOK TRACES ITS ORIGINS TO October 2014, when both Ned Alpers and Thomas (Dodie) McDow had participated in a conference at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign titled “The Indian Ocean: History, Networks, and Spaces of the Imagination.” The day after the conference ended, Alpers offered a talk on “Writing and Teaching the History of the Indian Ocean” for “Integrating the Indian Ocean into World History: A Workshop for K-14 Educators,” which had been organized by Professor Antoinette Burton. The talk was based on his experience teaching the history of the Indian Ocean in a world history context at UCLA since 2005. Although the audience was small, the only participant who had also attended the preceding academic conference was Dodie McDow. When Professor Burton subsequently asked Alpers if he would be interested in contributing to the series of which this volume is now a part, Alpers stated that he had just become emeritus, was no longer teaching, and so would like to collaborate with a younger historian who would be teaching Indian Ocean history in the future. Thus was born the collaboration that has produced this book.

Writing together has been a very gratifying experience for both of us, as each brings a different set of research skills and knowledge to the table. As we worked to define the shape of this volume within the structural constraints of the series, we

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were guided both by Burton's inaugural volume for the series on teaching world history and by Trevor Getz's prospectus for teaching African history, which Burton kindly shared with us. We submitted a draft proposal to the press in 2016, and after receiving two very positive reader reports, both of which included many helpful suggestions for improvement, we signed a contract with Duke University Press in December 2016. Over the next couple of years, we exchanged drafts of our individual chapters, edited them for context and language, came to adopt a common voice in our writing, and finally submitted a complete draft to the press in August 2021. The next step in the revision process was a wonderful roundtable discussion convened by Antoinette Burton that was held on Zoom on October 1, 2021, right in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants included Fahad Bishara, Jim Brennan, Steve Fabian, Thavolia Glymph, Matthew Hopper, Doug Jones, Adam LoBue, Pedro Machado, Renisa Mawani, Jenny Peruski, Amanda Respass, Robert Roupail, Lex Sundarsingh, Kerry Ward, and Priyanka Zylstra. We are deeply grateful to all the participants at the roundtable discussion for their enthusiastic encouragement and critical assessments. Because they followed up the roundtable exchanges with specific written comments to us, we particularly wish to thank Antoinette Burton, Pedro Machado, and Kerry Ward, as well as Matt Hopper, who sent us copies of their own Indian Ocean history course syllabuses. Along the way we also learned from the syllabi and assignments of Jane Hooper, Johan Mathew, Roxani Margariti, and Rebekah Pite. Encouraged by the many detailed and enthusiastic suggestions, we proceeded to revise our text in response to our helpful critics and submitted the revised draft to the press in early 2022.

We received two very enthusiastic external reviews, again with some valuable suggestions for additions and inquiries about specific details in our text. We are especially grateful for the extremely detailed attention paid to our draft by one of the external readers for the press. Over the summer we worked on the text accordingly and sent the revised manuscript to the press in September 2022. After some excellent final recommendations by Antoinette, we finished final editing in February 2023. We are also grateful to project editor Michael Trudeau at Duke University Press

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for his exceptional assistance. This was a lengthy process, but we have no doubt that the final product benefited unusually from the input of so many informed reviewers.

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