Acknowledgments

The roots of this book go back decades to when I was fortunate to learn of rhetorical invention during my MA study at St. Louis University with Fr. Walter Ong, whose writings about Peter Ramus stimulated my interest. Then at the University of Michigan, when I was beginning my dissertation on invention in composition, I met my good friend Richard Young coincidentally at a CCCC, and we began a series of dialogues on invention that have continued to this day. I owe thanks to my fine students in Detroit and West Lafayette who have collaborated with me in developing and teaching inventionial heuristics to guide students’ writing. Through my years teaching at Purdue, I have had the good fortune of working with excellent graduate students, who have contributed to my investigations into the history and theory of invention. Their narratives about inventionial issues form a part of the intertext of this book. I am grateful to members of our women’s reading group at Purdue, Shirley Rose, Janet Alsup, Mickey Harris, and Linda Bergman, who have been critical readers of this text, offering good advice. As an editor for this series, Charles Bazerman has also offered excellent suggestions, as has David Blakesley at Parlor Press. I owe a debt to friends like Jim Berlin, Ulla Connor, Ed Corbett, Janet Emig, Richard Enos, Sharon Hamilton, Patty Harkin, Regina Hoover, Jim Kinneavy, Andrea Lunsford, Gene Montague, Louise Phelps, Jim Porter, Pat Sullivan, Irwin Weiser, and Ross Winterowd for our conversations about rhetoric and teaching over the years. Special thanks go to Janet Atwill for her invaluable assistance with the manuscript, to Kelly Pender for her fine chapters, and to Julia Romberger for her careful editorial work on this text.

My family has kept me going during the long gestation of this work: my mother and father, my sister Carolann, niece Erica, nephews John and Bradley, and my step-sons David, Cameron, and Daniel and their families. Most of all, I dedicate this book to the memory of
my husband, David, whose love sustained me through the many years leading to this book’s development.

Janice M. Lauer