This volume presents papers originally delivered at the symposium “Ernst Herzfeld and the Development of Near Eastern Studies, 1900–1950,” held from 3–5 May 2001 at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. The idea for the symposium was born in 1998, when we began an unexpectedly extended discussion of mutual interests in the history of research in general and the enigmatic personality of Ernst Herzfeld in particular. The program received its final form over the course of intense consultations in Washington, D.C., facilitated by Stefan’s tenure in 1999–2000 as Frese Senior Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art.

The symposium’s aims were twofold: to reexamine the contributions of this pioneering and controversial figure in the field of Near Eastern studies, and to place them in the broader intellectual, institutional, and political frameworks of his era. The results, we hoped, would contribute new information and perspectives on the development of Near Eastern studies and their various sub-disciplines, all of which were, not least, shaped by Herzfeld.

All but one of the papers in this volume were originally delivered at the symposium. We regret that one paper has not been included here. Peter Machinist, professor of Bible and Near Eastern studies at Harvard University, who spoke on “German Immigrants and the Study of the Ancient Near East,” will publish his research elsewhere as part of a broader study. Elizabeth R. Ettinghausen, who attended the symposium and during the final discussions presented a moving account of Herzfeld’s last years, kindly agreed to contribute a paper drawing on her personal acquaintance with Herzfeld as well as new research into archival sources.

Both the symposium and its publication owe much to the efforts, support, and encouragement of a variety of individuals and institutions. We are pleased to acknowledge that the symposium was organized in association with, and with financial support from, the Iran Heritage Foundation. It was made possible by a generous grant from Marietta Lutze Sackler, M.D., who also supported the costs of the
publication. In addition, we are most grateful to the Fritz Thyssen-Stiftung, Cologne, whose critical support made possible the participation of the German speakers. A grant from the Ebrahimi Family Foundation enabled Ali Mousavi to carry out research in the Ernst Herzfeld Papers in Washington, D.C., in January 2001.

In 1946, Ernst Herzfeld gave the bulk of his papers to the Freer Gallery of Art, and the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives remains the chief repository of Herzfeld’s scholarly estate. Thus there could have hardly been a location more appropriate and better suited for the symposium than the Freer Gallery of Art’s Meyer Auditorium. We gratefully acknowledge the encouragement of Milo C. Beach, then director of the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, and Thomas W. Lentz, then director of the International Art Museums Division, Smithsonian Institution, who made available the support of many staff members for the myriad essential tasks that contributed so substantially to the symposium’s success. We owe special thanks to Dr. Hans Seidt, then head of the cultural affairs department of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Washington, D.C., for the enthusiasm and support he showed for the project from its inception, and to the embassy, which hosted a garden reception for the speakers.

During preparations for the symposium and the publication, the co-organizers as well as many speakers benefited greatly from the efforts of Colleen Hennessey, then archivist in the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives. We are all deeply indebted to her for her keen interest, generosity, and invaluable assistance. Indeed, more than half of the contributions published here draw specifically on the Ernst Herzfeld Papers. We hope that the symposium proceedings will encourage further research on the development of Near Eastern studies that draws on these and other rich resources housed in the museum’s archives.

The publication of the proceedings owes much to Julian Raby, director of the Freer and Sackler galleries, and James T. Ulak, deputy director, who provided wholehearted support for Ann Gunter’s efforts as well as for a variety of staff members to devote both time and expertise to the project. Colleen Hennessey, David Hogge, and Linda Raditz provided essential help with requests for material in the Ernst Herzfeld Papers. John Tsantes and Michael Bryant, photography department, furnished their usual superb photographs as well as expert advice on the illustrations. Mariah Keller, Jennifer Alt, DeeDee
Clendenning, and Angela Jerardi contributed editorial and organizational skills critical to bringing the publication to fruition.

Trudy Kamperveen and Olaf Köndgen of E. J. Brill, Leiden, both expressed enthusiasm for this publication from the beginning, and have patiently continued to furnish encouragement and support.

In addition, Ann owes special thanks to Julian Raby for reaffirming the privileged role of symposia and scholarly publications among the multiple intellectual functions of the Freer and Sackler galleries. She would also like to thank John A. Larson, museum archivist, Oriental Institute, Chicago, for assistance during her research there, and the curatorial and registrarial staff of the Field Museum, Chicago, in particular Ben Bronson, Stephen E. Nash and William J. Pestle, for allowing access to the objects and records of material acquired from Herzfeld. Stefan would like to thank the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., and its former dean, Henry A. Millon, for the amiable working atmosphere during the preparation of the conference program. Special thanks go to his wife, Christine, and his son, Robert, who for years of intense occupation with Herzfeld had to endure minute details of the life and thoughts of an “additional family member” they had never met.

Like every symposium organizer, we were occasionally apprehensive about the success of the enterprise. In fact, the response to the program announcement was overwhelming. Although we knew the time was ripe for a symposium treating the history of research in the Near East, we were nonetheless surprised and gratified by the enormous interest in Herzfeld from individuals representing such a wide array of fields. The symposium was attended by up to two hundred participants, in addition to the speakers. We would very much like to thank them for their stimulating interest.

Finally, but hardly least, we owe deepest appreciation to our speakers and authors, whose efforts, learning, and innovative scholarship made the symposium both successful and enjoyable. They suffered cheerfully through the long process of preparing the papers and several rounds of editing for publication, and we hope that they share our delight in the exciting and fruitful exchange of information and ideas this volume represents.

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