

# Preface

This book has been gestating for decades, but owes its birth to a very successful reading/discussion graduate course of the same title held at UCLA in the spring quarter of 2004. I thank David Eisenberg, Mary Kopka, and Todd Yeates for helping keep lively arguments going in class, and later for reading through the manuscript and suggesting improvements.

Special thanks go to Francis Crick for encouraging me to go beyond the published and probable, to the unpublished and never-proven, which turned out to be one of the most interesting aspects of the course. Aaron Klug was especially helpful with background material concerning Rosalind Franklin and DNA, and Jim Watson also shed light on the DNA story in Chapter 5. Gunther Stent helped me work out the logistics of publishing a book of other peoples' reprints, having done the same kind of thing in his annotated Norton edition of Watson's *Double Helix*.

Sandy Geis, representing the Geis Archives and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, was of immense help in providing beautiful examples of her father's art. Much of the quality of the reprinted papers is because of the cooperation of *Nature* magazine and JSTOR, the internet scholarly journal archive. And particular thanks go to Andy Sinauer, Chelsea Holabird, Christopher Small, and Jefferson Johnson of Sinauer Associates, who put together this complex book of reprints and commentary with enthusiasm and style.

Finally, Bill Gelbart must bear immediate responsibility for inducing the labor that produced this work. In the fall of 2003, as Chair of Chemistry and Biology at UCLA, he commented to me, "Dick, if you have indeed changed your mind and don't intend to retire until spring of 2004, don't you think you should teach a course of some kind this year?" When I asked, "What course?", Bill replied, "Any course you choose. Make up a new course if you like." The rest, as they say, is History.