

# Acknowledgments



## Some words of thanks

Writing itself is a solitary task, best carried out in a quiet (and sometimes lonely!) place, designed to minimize distractions. But despite this fact, many talented and dedicated people always contribute to the final product. Here, I'd like to thank some of these individuals.

First, my sincere thanks to my Editor, Alan Sturmer. His input helped shape the basic idea for this book and its contents, and his faith in my ability to produce (!) it has never wavered. So, "Thank you", Alan for your support and expert advice.

Next, I want to thank Alison Hornbeck for preparing the manuscript for production—a crucial step and one that must be done very carefully, which she certainly did!

Thanks are also due to Elizabeth Clack for overseeing and directing the production process—truly a key task, and to Sarah Cook for a very careful job of copy-editing, which for me, personally is especially crucial. I know only too well that I make many errors, and calling these to my attention so that they can be corrected is an essential aspect of the process.

Thanks too, to Jennifer Wilcox for preparing the catalog entry, and to Katy Wight for her help with the author information form—a short document, but one that includes important information.

Truly special words of thanks are due to Mr. Dale Chihuly, who granted me permission to feature his amazing, creative art on the cover of this book. I have always been deeply moved by Mr. Chihuly's creations, and cannot imagine a better way of illustrating how the human spirit (and a high degree of talent!) combine to give concrete form to the *possible*.

Last (but of course *not* least!), my warmest appreciation to my wife Rebecca, whose comments and suggestions throughout the months of putting my thoughts on paper, were—as always—creative, constructive, and truly invaluable.

*Robert A. Baron  
Stillwater, Oklahoma*

