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First and foremost, I must acknowledge the crucial role of the 280 colleagues who were so convinced of the importance of this project that they took time in their busy professional lives to write on the 62 countries and places that are now in this volume. I thank each one of them for their generous dedication, the time and energy they gave to this “labor of love.”

In 1995, Jack Heidenry, a dear friend of 40 some years, stepped in with an invitation to publish the first three volumes of Continuum International the same week my initial publisher refused to publish a multivolume *Encyclopedia*.

In 1996, Dr. Ray Noonan stepped into his labor with *IES* at a critical time in our early production when we needed a copyeditor and graphic design person knowledgeable in sexology. His invaluable services merited promotion to associate editor for *IES-4*, and as editor for the present volume. *CCIES* would not be if not for his calm, unflappable, and methodical creativity and skills in editing, design, and typography.

Another friend and colleague, Dr. Eli Coleman, director of the Program in Human Sexuality at the University of Minnesota Medical School, must be mentioned. Around 1995, Eli, Kittiwut Jod Taywaditep, and Pacharin Dumronggittu-gule produced a fascinating insider/outsider picture of sexuality in Thailand for *IES-3*. Just before *IES 1-3* went to the printer, Eli, then Secretary General of the World Association for Sexology, diplomatically facilitated WAS endorsement of *IES* as “an important and significant contribution to our understanding and appreciation of the rich diversity of human sexual attitudes, values, and behavior around the world.”

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Evander Lomke, our Senior Editor at Continuum for *IES-4* and *CCIES*, could not have been more supportive and helpful in guiding us through the intricacies of creating and publishing what started as a 400-page single volume dealing with 20 countries and ended as a unique sexological reference and resource.

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Critical Acclaim for

The Continuum Complete International Encyclopedia of Sexuality

1. The International Encyclopedia of Sexuality, Vols. 1-3 (Francoeur, 1997)

The World Association of Sexology, an international society of leading scholars and eighty professional organizations devoted to the study of human sexual behavior, has endorsed The International Encyclopedia of Sexuality as an important and unique contribution to our understanding and appreciation of the rich variety of human sexual attitudes, values, and behavior in cultures around the world.

Recipient of the “1997 Citation of Excellence for an outstanding reference in the field of sexology,” awarded by the American Foundation for Gender and Genital Medicine and Science at the Thirteenth World Congress of Sexology, Valencia, Spain.

Recommended by Library Journal (October 1, 1997) to public and academic librarians looking to update their collections in the area of sexuality: “An extraordinary, highly valuable synthesis of information not available elsewhere. Here are in-depth reports on sex-related practices and culture in 32 countries on six continents, contributed by 135 sexologists worldwide. . . . For all academic and larger public collections.”

Picked by Choice (Association of College & Research Libraries/American Library Association) as Best Reference Work and Outstanding Academic Book for 1997: “Although this encyclopedia is meant as a means of understanding human sexuality, it can also be used as a lens with which to view human culture in many of its other manifestations. . . . Considering coverage, organization, and authority, the comparatively low price is also notable. Recommended for reference collections in universities, special collections, and public libraries.”

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