

## Preface

In 1962, when Kuhn's *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* first appeared, I was well into my career as a geneticist. My Ph.D. had been awarded in 1958, and four years later I had an active graduate program at UCLA. At that time, it was rare for geneticists to think about the philosophy of science, but it was not rare for scientists in any field to take an interest in the history of how their fields arose. As a student of H.J. Muller (1890–1967), I had taken his courses, which he approached historically—the formation of classical genetics as a series of battles—and these I recounted in 1966 in my first book on the history of science, *The Gene: A Critical History*. Although I was not persuaded that paradigm shifts as Kuhn portrayed them in 1962 applied to the history of genetics, I did not pursue my doubts as my career shifted to human genetics, teaching nonscience majors, and writing Muller's biography. It is thus 55 years later that I find myself writing this book. Neither the history of science nor one's own life is logical or predominantly predictable. I like to think that lives, careers, and the emergence of scientific fields, like evolution itself, owe much to opportunism.

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