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I am honored to be involved with the Gutenberg Program, through which I have been educated on a wide of array issues relating to the digital medium of intellectual production, scholarly exchange, and consumption of academic texts. In this book I consider Afghanistan primarily in terms of interregional trade patterns that are set within larger global process involving capitalism and colonialism. The Gutenberg award provided an opportunity to refine my understanding of those two symbiotic global meta-forces and to identify a number of specific connections between "Afghanistan" and the outer world. Gutenberg funds allowed me to explore a fascinating connection between Afghanistan and the wider world in 2005, when I surveyed archival records relating to the presence of "Afghans" in Australia during the nineteenth century. My brief attention to the Australian connection was framed in the context of nineteenth-century colonial labor migrations and it revealed substantial ambiguity concerning the historical and social category of "Afghan." The data trails relating to the 'settling of the outback' I followed in Australia led more toward camels than human beings in many ways. Issues relating to "Afghans" and their camels in Australia are not explored in this book, but I would like to mention my thanks to the staffs at the Gepps Cross Branch of the South Australia State Archives and at the State Library of South Australia in Adelaide, and the State Archives of New South Wales in Sydney for giving me much to consider, pursue and write up in the future. I also thank Professor Robert Darnton, a primary architect of the Gutenberg Program, for his encouragement to cease exploring the many connections between Afghanistan and the larger world I had originally, and overzealously, planned to incorporate into this book. At Columbia University Press Kate Wittenberg has been enormously attentive and accommodating throughout my Gutenberg experience, and I am grateful to her for sustained commitment to the program and support of my work. I thank Nathaniel Herz, Risa Karaviotis and Merran Swartwood for their careful oversight of this book's production, and Laura Lawrie for the improvements she made to the text itself. I have enjoyed my interaction with the 2004 cohort of Gutenberg authors, and learned much from the books that have appeared in the series as a whole. The bonds of solidarity that have developed across the "generations" of Gutenberg authors is encouraging, and I am pleased to mention my gratitude to Drs. Tonio Andrade, Anne Hardgrove, Sarah Lowengard, and Laura Mitchell for taking the lead in a number of important areas. I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Arnita Jones and the American Historical Association more broadly for all forms of support for the Gutenberg program. Dr. Robert Townsend at the AHA has been engaged and helpful throughout my tenure in the Gutenberg program, and I am especially grateful for his critical

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