# Contents

*Acknowledgments* ix  
*Prologue* xv  
*A Note on the Presentation of Linguistic Material* xx  

## Part I  The Library of Babel  
1 Warramurrungunji’s Children 5  
2 Four Millennia to Tune In 24  

## Part II  A Great Feast of Languages  
3 A Galapagos of Tongues 49  
4 Your Mind in Mine: Social Cognition in Grammar 69  

## Part III  Faint Tracks in an Ancient Wordscape: Languages and Deep World History  
5 Sprung from Some Common Source 85  
6 Travels in the Logosphere: Hooking Ancient Words onto Ancient Worlds 105  
7 Keys to Decipherment: How Living Languages Can Unlock Forgotten Scripts 129  

## Part IV  Ratchetting Each Other Up: The Coevolution of Language, Culture, and Thought  
8 Trellises of the Mind: How Language Trains Thought 159  
9 What Verse and Verbal Art Can Weave 182  

## Part V  Listening While We Can  
10 Renewing the Word 207  

Epilogue: Sitting in the Dust, Standing in the Sky 229