ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The present study HISTORY OF THE ZAMORINS OF CALICUT (A.D. 1500 – 1800): A POLITICO - CULTURAL STUDY is the outcome of my research work on the thesis in the various archives, record offices, libraries and field. The scope of this study is multifarious so as to include the social, political, cultural and economic life of the people in the kingdom of Calicut from AD 1500 – 1800. Its purpose is to lay bare, the various political and cultural trends and currents that affected the kingdom of Calicut and to tell how it responded to become modernised.

Besides, it throws light on the impact of Zamorin’s relations with the Western Countries as well as the native powers of Mysore, Cochin and Travancore. It also tries to shed light on the unsteady stand of the Zamorins and the misfortunes that befell on Calicut. Further, it tries to tell us how the diplomatic and military failures of the Zamorins tarnished their reputation and threw them into the deaths of decline. Though the Zamorins failed in other fields, the study tries to lay emphasis on their patronage of the arts and crafts, language and literature, culture and religion. In addition, the study tries to unravel how the Zamorins policy of toleration harmonised the various religious segments and led to the emergence of a cosmopolitan culture that modernised Calicut.

The word Zamorin is italicized in order to stress the importance in the princely institution in the history of Calicut. Besides, important places, persons, major events etc are presented in bold characters for the sake of giving due importance to them. Even vernacular words are presented in English spellings without applying diacritical marks, to maintain the uniformity to the narrative.
In completing this study I sought the advice and assistance of several scholars. Foremost among them was my guide and supervisor Dr. K. Sadasivan, Professor & Head, Department of History, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli. His scholarly guidance enabled me to complete the research in its present form. His great intellect, creative originality and critical perspectiveness formed the foundation for this research work. The frequent discussions with him on different aspects of the subject of thesis inspired me to probe deep into the study. His stimulating, enriching and valuable suggestions at the different stages of progress in the work helped me to design the study in its present form. His ungrudging and untiring assistance is something that I will never forget. In brief he is a guide who is through and through for his scholars. The time spent under him was a joyous and fruitful experience.

I am thankful to the Faculty Members of History Department, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University.

I am extremely grateful to Dr. P. Ramachandran, (Retired) Professor in History, S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil, Dr. R. Kartheesan, Reader in History and the Faculty Members of History, Arignar Anna College, Aralvaimoli, Dr. T. Dharmaraj, HOD of History, St. Jude’s College, Thoothoor, Dr.Gunasekar, Lecturer in History, Government Arts College, Vilupuram, Dr.P. ChandraSekar, Reader in History, Raju’s College, Rajapalayam for his valuable suggestions, assistance in translation for their various assistance and support.

I like to place on record the help and guidance received from Prof. M.E. Manikavasagom, Former Prof. and Head of the Department of History, Arignar Anna College, Aralvaimoli.
I express a deep sense of gratitude to Prof. M. Sankaralingam, M.A., Ex. M.P. founder of this college, Dr.S. Manakavalaperumal, MBBS, M.S., MNAMS, the Secretary of Arignar Anna College, Aralvaimoli for their kind permission.

I extend my sincere thanks to the members of the Tamil Nadu Archives Chennai, National Archives, New Delhi, and staff members of Kerala State Archives Thiruvananthapuram, for providing assistance in accessing data in connection with my research. I extend by sincere thanks to the members of the staff of Kerala University Library and Kerala Public Library, Thiruvananthapuram, Centre for Development Studies Library, Ulloor, Cannimara Library, Madras, Arignar Anna College Library, Aralvaimoli for their help and co-operation in the collection of data.

I also record my thanks to the authorities of the Manonmanium Sundaranar University for having permitted me to undertake this research work.

I extend my thanks to J. Sathish, B.B.A., M.B.M., M/s. Nett Korner, Nagercoil for their careful and laborious typing and binding in the prescribed form.

I remain indebted to my wife, children and friends for their constant encouragement and support whenever I was in need of them.

Above all I thank God, the almighty for his richest blessings and wisdom in making the research study a possibility.