CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 1
The Complex of Texts in Context: Understanding Mappila Literary Culture

CHAPTER ONE 21
Studies in Mappila Literary Culture: The Epistemic Violence of the Looking Glass

CHAPTER TWO 47
The Birth of the Prophet of God: Mawlad Narratives and the Mappila Tradition

CHAPTER THREE 76
“The Ruby that Is Alif”: Arabic Malayalam and Mappila Literary Formation

CHAPTER FOUR 106
Text and Textuality: the Poetics and Performance of Muhyiddin Mala

CHAPTER FIVE 144
Poetics of Piety: Genre, Self-Fashioning, and the Mappila Lifescape

CHAPTER SIX 176
“Blessed Are the Ones who Sing this Garland”: The Mala and Contemporary Mappila Devotion

CONCLUSION 203
Genre, Devotion, and Self-Fashioning: Reflections on the Poetics of Piety

WORKS CITED 215

APPENDIX 237