ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Government of Madhya Pradesh granted me Governor's special scholarship (1956 - 1958) to enter upon a course of study for the Ph.D. degree of the Aligarh Muslim University. I had to prepare this thesis under great difficulties as the works compiled by the Shaṭṭāri sufis were not available in the Aligarh Muslim University Library. I travelled extensively in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bombay in search of material for my thesis and consulted a number of private and public collections in these areas.

I owe my thanks to the following gentlemen who permitted me to use their private collections:

Shaikh Niamat Ullah Sajjadah Nashin of the Khānqāh, Maner,
Shaikh Murad Ullah of Maner,
Shaikh Muhammad 'Ali of Maner,
Nawāb Shāh 'Ali of Islāmpur and Panhar,
Nawāb Najm u'd-din of Bihar,
Nawāb Ahmad Hasan Khan of Bihar,
Shāh Ghulam Hasnain of Phulpāri,
Shaikh Iz u'd-din of Phulpāri,
Sajjadah Nashin of the Khānqāh, Islāmpur,
Sufi Ahmad 'Ali of Dasna,
Nawāb of Rasulpur,
Khādim of the Dargāh-i-Hadiat Ullah, Hajipur,
Shahji Sajjādah Nashin of the Khānqāh-i-Shah Munam, Patna city,
Shaikh Muhammad 'Ali Sajjadah Nashin of the Khānqāh-i-Arzān Sabīb, Patna city,
Nawāb of Chunar,
Mīrzā Asad Beg of Mīrzāpur,
Nawāb Mīrzā Haidar Beg of Jaunpur,
Nawāb Maulvi Muhammad Umar of Machlishahir,
Shaikh Muhammad Mustufā Sajjadah Nashin of the Khānqāh-i-Rasḥidiyyah, Jaunpur,
Maulvi Fasih-u'd-din of Jaunpur,
Sajjadah Nashin of the Barood Wāli Khānqāh, Lucknow,
Sajjadah Nashin of the Taksāl Wāli Khānqāh, Lucknow,
Sajjadah Nashin of the Khanqah, Kakori,
Maulvi Ayaz 'Ali of Rewa,
Raza Hadratji of Gwalior,
Gadi Malejaj u'd-din of Dholpur,
Shah Akbar Ullah Sajjadah Nashin of Khanqah-i-Shaikh Burhan,
Burlhanpur,
Ghalam 'Ali Shah of Ahmadabad,
Sayyid Ajaz Ahmad Sajjadah Nashin of Dargah-i-Shaikh Sabir Kalwar, and
Khadij Ali, Ajmer.

I am grateful to the authorities of the Asiatic Society
Library Calcutta, National Library Calcutta, Victorion Hall
Museum, Calcutta, Raza State Library, Rampur, Muslim University
Library, Aligarh, Patna University Library, Lucknow University
Library, Dar-ul-Uloom Nadwa, Shibli Academy, Azamgarh, Fort
Library, Rewa, Dasna Library, Asthavan Library State Library,
Dholpur and Oriental Khuda Bakhsh Public Library, Bankipur for
their kindness in allowing me to use the material in their
possession.

I acknowledge my thanks to the District Magistrate of
Muzaffarpur who permitted me to use the documents that are
preserved in the Land Record Office.

Most of the private collections that I have used have
no catalogues and the books were found buried under the layers
of dust. I had to remove the dust, sort out books of my subject
and then take down notes from them. This labour would have
completely broken down my spirits had not my father Qazi Jala-
u'd-din Ahmad Sahib, encouraged and inspired me to pursue my work
with zeal and courage. I cannot express in words the debt that I
owe to him.
This work would not have been completed if my teacher Professor K.A. Nizâmi would not have helped me at every stage. I owe a debt of gratitude to him which is beyond words to repay. I am also grateful to Prof. Muhammad Habib, who was always ready to give me the benefit of his profound erudition. Prof. S. Nurul Hasan, Head of the Department of History, helped and encouraged me in different way and I feel deeply beholden to him. Dr. R.S. Tripathi, Reader in the Department of Sanskrit, Aligarh Muslim University explained to me many difficult problems of Hindu mystic philosophy and Prof. Hasan Askari helped me a lot during my stay at Patna. I am grateful to all these scholars for the kind help and encouragement that I have received from them.