ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Words fail to express my deep sense of gratitude to Professor M.C. Goswami, Head of the Department of Anthropology, University of Gauhati, who guided me through the research with an abiding care and affection.

Dr. D.N. Majumdar and other members of the teaching and administrative staff of the Department liberally extended to me all assistances whenever sought for. I am grateful to all of them.

It is the people of Garo Hills to whom I owe the greatest debt for the ungrudging help and cooperation they extended to me during the course of my investigations. I am to remember in particular, the people of Darengri who hosted me, and specially, Jefferson Rangsa Marak, Cryston Rangsa Marak, Sunonsing Agtok Sangma, Poljon Sing Sangma, Dinesh Nengminza Sangma, to name a few, for their constant and unhesitating response to my needs.

The completion of my investigation was made possible by a Teacher-Fellowship of the University Grants Commission, granted during 1976-77. I am grateful to the authority of the Commission for such an assistance.

I am very much thankful to Sri Ramesh Sharma for all the assistance he has rendered for getting the manuscript typed.

A number of my friends and my wife constantly encouraged me with their good-will and spontaneous help for completing my dissertation. I am thankful to all of them.

Parimal Chandra Kar