PREFACE

This thesis is based on field investigation among the Dafias of village Betgarh. The investigation was first undertaken at the instance of the Department of Tribal Culture and Folklore Research, Gauhati University, during 1956, where I worked for one year. I am indebted to this Department for a scholarship which enabled me to take up the work. After this I joined the Department of Anthropology, Gauhati University in 1957, and continued my study under the supervision of Prof. M.C. Goswami, M.A., B.T., M.Litt. (Cantab), Professor and Head of the Department of Anthropology, Gauhati University. On my joining the Agro-Economic Research Centre for North East India at Jorhat, I continued to take an interest in the work and subsequently a survey of Betgarh was made under the continuous village survey programme of the Centre.

I owe a deep sense of gratitude to my thesis supervisor Prof. M.C. Goswami, for his valuable guidance and supervision in my field work and in writing the material. For finalisation of my thesis I took much of his valuable time during 1967 – 68, when he was busy in multifarious duties as the Dean of the Faculty of Science of that University.

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However, I am fully responsible for the views expressed and for the omissions and commissions, if any, in the thesis.

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