PREFACE

My interest in American Literature began right from my M.A, when Professor Dr. P. Marudanayagam offered a course on American Literature. This interest further gained momentum when I was working on Barth’s *Sot Weed Factor* for my M.Phil project. But the fusion of the American Academic novel was a suggestion given by my guide, Dr. P. Marudanayagam and I immediately agreed to work in this area because during my M.A, Dr. N. Natarajan had taught an academic novel, *Maurice Guest* by Henry Handall Richardson and I was deeply moved by the novel. I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. P. Marudanayagam for initiating me into this study and guiding me to a fruitful culmination. What touched me profoundly was Dr. P. Marudanayagam’s keen sense of observation and valuable critical insights. Inspite of his busy schedule, he always had time for my discussions with him regarding my dissertation and I thank him immensely for that. If not for him, this dissertation would not have been possible.

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