ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all I would like to express my extreme gratitude to my research supervisor, Dr. Joy Varkey for his critical comments and valuable suggestions on my work at all stages of my research. His timely advice helped me a lot to overcome certain difficulties in research methodology. My discussions with him helped me in developing the theoretical and interpretative framework of this study. I believe that the completion of this thesis is the result of his whole hearted support and creative guidance.

I am deeply indebted to Prof. Dr. K. S. Mathew, Director, Institute for Research in Social Sciences and Humanities (IRISH) for his creative suggestions and providing research facilities at the Institute. His research library at home is a great mine of primary information for maritime studies. He permitted me collect valuable information about the Kolathiris from this library. His whole hearted support and blessings were the constant source of inspiration for my work.

I am sincerely grateful to Prof. Dr. M. G. S. Narayanan, for his precious comments and suggestions that helped me understanding important historical changes in Kolathunad. He was so kind to give me some valuable primary sources that was highly helpful for this thesis.

I am also deeply indebted to Prof. Dr. Kesavan Veluthat for providing me valuable source materials for this study as well as for his valuable suggestions.

Generosity and unending encouragement of Dr. James John, Head of the Department of History, St. Thomas College, Palai, influenced me a lot from the very beginning stage of my research. I am truly sincere to him.
Dr. R. P. Raja very sincerely imparted valuable ideas and suggestions for this study. He provided me a lot of primary sources, books and articles on the history of Kolaswaroopam and its relation with Travancore. It is the apt time to remember his affectionate and critical advices. I use this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to my beloved uncle Dr. R. P. Raja for his constant encouragement.

I would like to offer sincere thanks to my loving uncle Ravindra Varma, a senior member of Chirackal Palace. He taught me about some unknown areas of the history of Kolathiris. As a Trusty of Chirackal Devaswam, he permitted me to take snaps of architecture of their temple. I never forget the help and support of his wife Santha Thampuratty also. I am thankful to them and their family members. The late Narayanan Nampoothiripadu of Karumarathu Illam was a resourceful person in the history of Kolaswaroopam. He enriched my mind with a lot of ideas related to Kolathiris. I extend my gratitude to him. I remember him with grateful heart.

I am obliged to my uncle K. N. Neelakantan Nampoothiri, Kolasseri Mana, for his generous help and support. The members of different branches of Kolaswaroopam gave me continuous encouragement and I express my gratitude to those who helped me in this regard.

I would also like to use this opportunity to convey my gratitude to J. Rejikumar, the Director of Archives, Trivanrum, Ms. S. Parvathy, the archivist, Directorate of archives, Trivandrum, S. Mohan Kumar, archivist, Central archives, Trivandrum, C. P. Abdul Majeed, archivist, Regional Archives, Calicut
and all staff of Tamil Nadu Archives, Egmore, Chennai for giving me all the important documents for this research.

I also extend my sincere thanks to Dr. T. K. Sebastian, Deputy Director, IRISH, Rev. Sr. Mary Georgina, Secretary, IRISH, Shri. Shajimon. T. J, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Nirmalagiri College, Shri. Jose M.V, Associate Professor, Department of History, N A M College, Kallikandi, Dr. Ashok Alex Philip, the Principal, Peet Memorial Training College, Mavelikkara and Shri. Binoy Joco for their assistance and support during the course of my research work.

But in all sense without the help and support of my beloved father C. R. Raghava Varma Raja, my mother E. S. Usha Bayi and husband O. Rajesh, who accompanied me whenever I go away from home for research, and imparted their own suggestions my thesis would not have appeared in its present form. Their sincere encouragement, advice, blessings and support inspired me a lot in all stages of my thesis work.

Finally I would like to place on record my indebtedness to Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, for granting me Junior Research Fellowship for two years for the completion of this doctoral research.

Place:  
Date:  
Manjusha. R. Varma