ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This dissertation was undertaken and completed under the supervision of Dr. G.S. Amur, Professor and Head, Department of English, Marathwada University, Aurangabad. With his rich critical insights, patient guidance and keen interest, Dr. Amur was a great source of encouragement at every stage of the work. This formal acknowledgement is an inadequate expression of my gratitude to him.

I must also make a grateful mention of the help given by my friends, B.S. Bawiskar, Kumar Bhoomkar and Kalidas Deshpande in getting me some of the books I urgently needed. Their help has greatly facilitated the completion of this study.

Thanks are also due to: the Marathwada University authorities for their generous offer of a travel grant, the Director, American Studies Research Centre, Hyderabad, for awarding me a Teacher's Study Grant, the Librarians, Marathwada University, and USIS, Bombay, for promptly loaning some of the books I needed in the course of my research.

I must also thank A.K. Shastri for his careful and conscientious typing of the thesis.

My major debt of gratitude, however, is to Jagannath Chede, who, during all these years of our friendship, has silently taught me the meaning of the term community.
....the sad heart of Ruth, when, sick for home,
She stood in tears amid the alien corn

Keats

On a summer midnight, you can hear the music
Of the weak pipe and the little drum
And see them dancing around the bonfire:
The association of man and woman
In daunsinge, signifying matrimonie --
A dignified and commodious sacrament.
Two and two, necessary coniunction,
Holding eche other by the hand of the arm
Whiche betokeneth concorde. Round and round the fire
Leaping through the flames, or joined in circles,
Rustically solemn or in rustic laughter
Lifting heavy feet in clumsy shoes,
Earth feet, loam feet, lifted in country mirth
Mirth of those long since under earth
Nourishing the corn.

T.S. Eliot