PREFACE

The concept of Evolution of Consciousness is the nucleus of discussion in this thesis-work on Thomas Hardy (1840-1928). Hardy has received a lot of critical acclaim, yet he remains unstudied in the context of the concept of evolution of consciousness, in the projection of which his artistic genius and intellect finds spontaneous expression. This shift of emphasis in this research work places the novelist in a unique creative relationship with the nineteenth century philosophy.

I take this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. D.S. Dalal, Head, Department of English, M.D. University, Rohtak, without whose constant encouragement and guidance this work would not have been possible. With his profound erudition, philosophic profundity and mature critical faculty, he helped me acquire a proper understanding of the concept. I recall with gratitude that many of my ideas about Hardy gained clarity and focus in the course of my conversation with him. His expertised guidance and affectionate hospitality are an irreparable debt to me.

I owe a special debt of gratitude to my dear husband Sh. Zile Singh Kharub, E.T.O. who, as ever, unfailingly supported my spirit toward the completion of this work and,
at the expense of his precious time, carefully corrected numerous linguistic errors which I could not altogether avoid. His own deep interest in literature encouraged me to pursue mine seriously and spared me from several errors of judgement by his frank and unsparing criticism. My irreparable debts to my son Vishvajeet and daughter Vishvprïya, who spared me long hours to complete this work, are acknowledged. I am deeply indebted to all my relatives and friends who always wish me well especially my father, Sh. Hari Ram Kadian, for his generous endorsement of my scholarly efforts and curiosity to see this work complete.

My thanks and acknowledgements are due to the Librarians and the staff of M.D.University Rohtak Library, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra Library, Delhi University Library, J.N.U. Delhi Library, British Council Library and Panjab University Library for their kind co-operation and assistance.

I am very much thankful to M/s Arora Typewriters, Rohtak, who typed this manuscript nicely and accurately.

( Krishna Chaudhry )