

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

I express with all the sincerity my deep sense of gratitude to Late Dr. R. Subrahmanyam, a distinguished Archaeologist, Historian, and former Professor and Head of the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, Nagarjuna University, under whom I first registered for my Ph.D. After his sudden demise, I pursued my work under the able supervision of Dr. B. Rajendra Prasad, Reader, in the same Department. I express my deep sense of gratitude for his scholarly advice and efficient guidance in completing the thesis.

I am very much thankful to Dr. B. R. Subrahmanyam, Professor and Head of the Department of History and Archaeology, for the general interest he has been showing in the progress of my work.

I am thankful to my husband L. Babu Vara Prasad for his co-operation in completing the thesis.

I thank the staff of the State Archives, Hyderabad for extending their co-operation in course of my research.

I thank the Authorities of Nagarjuna University for awarding me the University Research Fellowship for three years.

I thank Dr. Ramalakshmi, Reader, Department of History and Archaeology, and Dr. R. Saraswathi, Reader, Department of English for their suggestions and advice.

I acknowledge with gratitude the encouragement given to me by the Librarian of Nagarjuna University and his staff.

I thank the staff of the Department of History and Archaeology and my friends in this Department for their encouragement and co-operation.