ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This thesis entitled "Agneeiswarar Temple at Thiruppugalur - A Study" is the outcome of my research on the subject as a Ph.D student in the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Madras, from the year 1989 to 1995. At the outset, I wish to thank the Syndicate of the University of Madras and the Director of Collegiate Education, Tamilnadu, for having given me permission to do research in the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Madras. I also thank the authorities of the U.G.C., for awarding me one year U.G.C. F.I.P fellowship for the same.

I record my deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor Dr. S. Gurumurthy, Professor and Head, Department of Ancient History and Archeology, University of Madras, for his unfailing guidance throughout the course of my study. But for his support and encouragement my research study would not have taken this shape.

I am greatly indebted to Sri. K.R. Sundararajan, Secretary and Correspondent, Meenakshi College for Women, Madras, for having permitted me to pursue research on F.I.P and later, on part time basis.
I thank Ms. K.S. Lakshmi, Principal, Meenakshi College for Women, Madras, for granting me permission to take up this research work under F.I.P. scheme and for her encouragement and kindness during the period of my research.

I thank Dr. K.V. Raman, former Professor and Head of the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Madras, for his suggestions. I also thank Dr. P. Shanmugam, Reader, and Dr. A. Ekambaranathan, Lecturer in the above Department of Ancient History and Archaeology for their useful comments. I appreciate the help of the other members of the department especially Mr. Ranganathan for his valuable aid in drawing plans.

I am grateful to the Chief Epigraphist, Archaeological Survey of India, Mysore, for giving me free access to the originals and transcripts of the inscriptions. I thank the Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Board, for permitting me to take photodocumentation of the inscriptions and some other important information of the Agneeswarar temple.

My thanks are also due to the authorities of Vēḷakkurichi Mutt for providing me with useful data related to the temple as well as the Mutt.

I record my thanks to the staff of the Velakurich Mutt, HK & CE at Thiruppanalur, particularly Mr. Balasubramanyam, Accountant, Pranatharthi Bhara.
Gurukkal, Murugan and Swaminathan of Mayuram for their valuable help during the course of my field work at the Agneeswarer temple, Thiruppugalur.

I would like to thank Mr. Subramanya Rao, ex-employ the Tanjore Palace Devasthanam for providing help in typing during the initial stage. I thank Dr. V. Vakula, Head, Department of History, Meenakshi College for Women, Madras, for her encouragement and assistance in writing my thesis at all stages of my work between 1989 and 1995. I wish to thank my colleagues in History and Tamil Departments, Meenakshi College for Women, Madras - 24, for their support. I record my appreciation for the help rendered by Dr. S. Radha Saraswathy, English Department, Meenakshi College for Women, in the final correction of the thesis.

I also convey my thanks to the authorities of Madras University Library, the Librarian, Meenakshi College for Women, the Government Oriental Manuscript Library, the State Archaeology Departmental Library, The Connellemara Library, Theosophical Society Library, Maraimalai Adigal Library, U.V. Swaminatha Iyer Library and Annamalai University Library for their courtesy in supplying books and records required by me.
Above all my thanks are due to my family for their cooperation, encouragement, assistance and understanding without which I would not have completed the thesis. I would like to thank my nephew G.A. Ramanujam for computerising my thesis. I also thank Mr. Sarathy and Mrs. Janana for their timely help.

Rukmani Vathanam
Lecturer Senior Scale
Meenakshi College for Women,
Madras 600 024.