ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It has been a long journey from darkness to light. It has been made possible by my teacher, Professor Satish Chandra, who introduced me to the Kota records and suggested the theme to be researched. He has been kind enough to go through some of the chapters and enlighten me on a number of points. It would not have been possible for me to complete this work without his guidance. I shall always remain beholden to him for the interest he showed in my research and the time he spared for me inspite of so many other problems at hand. I am also grateful to Professor Savitri Chandra for her affection and hospitality. It gave me tremendous strength to face all the difficulties involved in carrying on with my work. I sincerely thank both of them for being what they have been to me.

Professor Dilbagh Singh has been associated with my work from its very inception. In the initial stages he taught me to read the script of the Kota documents as well as the terminology used in the records. At the writing stage he came up with so many valuable suggestions and introduced me to several new areas of enquiry that I had to modify the original chapterisation in order to update it. He went through several drafts of various chapters most ungrudgingly and made a thorough scrutiny of the information and arguments presented by me. It has indeed been a wonderful academic experience to work under his supervision.

I take this opportunity to thank all my teachers and friends at Centre for Historical Studies, J.N.U, Rajasthan University and K.M.M, Jaipur, who co-operated with me at various stages of my work and facilitated me in all possible ways. I am also thankful to the Director and staff of Rajasthan state archives, Bikaner and Kota depositary for allowing me to use the documents and helping me to locate the right documents in that massive collection.
It's time now to take note of what my parents Sri Krishna and Sohini have done for me. I shall always remain grateful to them for their love and care. I also thank my brother Ramesh for getting the drafts computerised. My sisters Malti and Nalini deserve special thanks. Their indulgence and solid infra-structural support sustained me in Delhi through thick and thin. I am thankful to Vinod for helping me in so many ways and to Sanjeev for taking time out for preparing the maps needed so desperately. I have no words to thank Bambi who sat with me for long hours to edit the drafts and did such a lot of running around to enable me to take the final print outs. I owe it to her.

Madhu Sethia (Tandon)

Madhu Sethia (Tandon)