Acknowledgement

First of all, I would like to thank Professor B. D. Chattopadhyaya, my supervisor, for his keen interest in my research and encouragement. His comments based on the deep insight into early medieval history of South Asia always made me reconsider my perspectives and understandings. It was my fortune that I could pursue my research under his supervision. I am also thankful to Professor Kunal Chakrabarti, my second supervisor, for his several remarks and timely help in administrative matters.

In Delhi, I had valuable interactions with several historians working on early South Asia. I especially thank Professor K. M. Shrimali of Delhi University for his comments and help in many aspects. I also appreciate the remarks of Professor Ranabir Chakravarti of Jawaharlal Nehru University on the present research.

During my research in Kolkata and West Bengal, I received enormous help from many people. I cannot find out any words to express my gratitude to Dr. Gautam Sengupta, member secretary of the Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training, Eastern India. But for his help, my research in West Bengal would not have been as fruitful as it was. I also thank Mr. Sadhan Deb, assistant curator, Maldah District Museum for his help during my field research in Maldah and South Dinajpur. Dr. Suchandra Ghosh of Calcutta University gave priceless help in the last phase of the present research. I thank her sincerely.

In Bangladesh, I was indebted to many scholars for their help: Dr. Enamul Haque, president of the International Centre for Study of Bengal Art, Dr. Md. Shafiqul Alam, director of the Department of Archaeology, Government of Bangladesh, and Professor Shirajul Islam, president of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh in Dhaka. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for their support. I am also grateful to Mr. Sadequzzaman, assistant custodian of the Mainamati Museum, for his care and help during
my field research at ruins of Mainamati.

For procuring photographs of unpublished inscriptions used in this research, I received special help from several people. I would like to thank Professor Gouriswar Bhattacharya and Mr. Gerd Mevissen of Berlin Free University, Dr. Shafiqul Alam and Mr. Nabi of the Department of Archaeology, Government of Bangladesh, Dr. S. K. Biswas of Bangladesh National Museum, and Mr. P. K. Mitra of State Archaeological Museum, West Bengal. I am also thankful to Professors Gouriswar Bhattacharya and S. C. Bhattacharya for their valuable comment on my reading of some of these inscriptions.

I was fortunate enough to have sincere teachers who had guided me in the early phase of my academic life in Japan. I would like to thank Professor Gen'ichi Yamazaki for initiating me to study on ancient history of South Asia and making me realise the importance of primary sources. I am also thankful to Professor Toshio Yamazaki for provoking my interest in copper plate inscriptions both through his excellent works and personal communications. I owe my training as a student of South Asian history to Professors Nariaki Nakazato and Tsukasa Mizushima, my guides in Tokyo University. I thank Professor Nakazato for showing me a standard one should uphold as a scholar and introducing me to fascinating world of the history of Bengal. I am grateful to Professor Mizushima for his sharp remarks on many aspects of South Asian History, from which I could learn much. I owe my Sanskrit learning to late Professor Katsuhiko Kamimura and Professor Ryutaro Tsuchida. I would like to express my sincere thanks to them. I am also thankful to Professor Shingo Einoo, who helped me with his vast knowledge of Sanskrit texts. I am grateful to Dr. Masahiko Togawa of Hiroshima University and Mr. Masahiko Mita of Nagoya University for interesting discussions I could have with them.

For the present research, I am indebted to the following institutions and their staffs: Central Library and Centre for Historical Studies Library,
Jawaharlal Nehru University: Central Archaeology Library, National Museum Library, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, and ICHR library in New Delhi; Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training, Eastern India, Asiatic Society, Indian Museum and State Archaeological Museum in Kolkata; Maldah district museum and Bishnupur Museum in West Bengal; International Centre for Study of Bengal Art, Department of Archaeology, Government of Bangladesh, Bangladesh National Museum, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Bangla Academy and Dhaka University in Dhaka; Varendra Research Museum in Rajshahi. I appreciate their help though I cannot mention each of their staffs.

I would like to thank my parents who understand and accept my choice to be a historian and support me on many accounts. This thesis is dedicated to them.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Jae-Eun Shin, my wife, for all the days we spent together here in India. Her presence enormously enriched both my daily and academic life. It may be my best achievement in my life in India that I could find out my lifetime and best partner in her.

In its different stages, my research in India was funded by Ministry of Education, Sports, Science and Technology, Government of Japan, and Matsushita International Foundation. I would like to thank them for financial support.