**PREFACE**

The erstwhile State of Travancore and Tinnevelly are the two nearest regions which are closely related to each other. Yet they must have necessarily have stood at different times and different relations to each other. The political and diplomatic relations of these two regions are historically important. It was due to the relation among themselves which seems to have been peaceful. Even during the early Pandiya and Chola period, a major position of South of Travancore was part of them. Certain places of Tinnevelly were under the possession of the rulers of Travancore in the 15th, 16th and 17th Centuries. This can be proved by a number of inscriptions found in the two regions. It is well-known that even the Arcot Nawabs invaded these regions and tried their level best to occupy them. However, a decisive battle was fought at Kalakkad in which the Nawabs were defeated and Travancore occupied it. A treaty between the rulers was concluded. According to the treaty, the dispute was settled in the year 1766.

Even after the treaty, there was dispute regarding fixing Kalakkad as the boundary between Tinnevelly and Travancore. After the series of war, the boundary dispute in the east between Tinnevelly and Travancore came to an end with amicable settlement of the British Resident Colonel Cullen. The political and diplomatic relations between Travancore and Tinnevelly occupy a major place in the history of entire Tamilnadu. The various and important affairs and dealings between these two regions have not taken up by any scholar for a detailed and systematic study and
hence the topic, ‘History of Political and Diplomatic Relations Between Travancore and Tinnevelly (1740-1851)’.

In bringing out this work many scholars rendered encouraging support and valuable assistance. It is my duty to place on record and deep sense of gratitude to my Guide, Dr. K. Murugiah, M.A. (Hist.), M.A. (Pol.Sci.), M.A. (English), Ph.D. and Co-guide Dr. P. Sermakan, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., for their unmatched guidance and inspiring encouragement in completing this work successfully. I extend my heartfelt thanks to prof. Dr. A. Meenakshisundarakarajan, M.A., M.L.S., C.J., Ph.D, Principal, S.T. Hindu college, Nagercoil. I also extend my sincere gratitude to my professor. P. Samarasam, M.A., M.Phil., Principal, Mano College, Sankarankovil, and Prof. S. Sathiyaamorthy popularly known as present day Kambar and founder of the Kamban Kazham, Tirunelveli.

I also express my thanks to the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Controller of Examinations, and Research Co-ordinator, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, also extend my sincere thanks to Prof. Dr. B. Maria John, M.A., (Hist.), M.A., (Indian Culture), M.Phil., Ph.D. Head of the Department of History and all members of the History Department, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli for their encouragement and moral support.

I am greatly indebted to the Director and the Librarian of Kerala Council for Historical Research for unfailing assistance and co-operation. I extend my thanks to the management and the staff members of my Department for helping me to undertake the research leading to Ph.D. degree.
I thank the Commissioner of Tamilnadu Archives for permitting me to consult the records available in the Archives. I extend my thanks to the staff members of Tamilnadu Archives for supply relevant records, and I also thank the Government of Kerala for giving access to consult the records of the Government Secretariat, Trivandrum and the Kerala State Archives, Nalanda, Trivandrum.

I am happy to extend my sincere thanks to the members of the Legislative Library of Kerala, Public Library and University Library, Trivandrum for their kind help.

I remember with gratitude all my dear and near ones who assisted me with materials and guidelines to make the venture a success. My respectful gratitude is due in a large measure to my parents Thiru S. Karuthapandi and Mrs. K Lakshmiammal, my uncle S. Durairaj Pandian, my brothers P.S.K. Karpandian, P.S.K. Chinnadurai, and my sisters R. Durachiammal, G. Lakshmiammal, my wife S. Shunmugathai, my sons S. Karthick, S. Satheeskumar and relatives. I am failing in my duty if I do not express my thanks to the Win-Tech Computers, Nagercoil for the neat execution of this entire work.

A. Shunmugaiah