ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My first and foremost regards in this respect are due to Professors V. Ramakrishna, Department of History and to L.K. Murty, Centre for Regional Studies, for their guidance and constant encouragement in accomplishing this doctoral thesis. I am indebted to these teachers, who have shaped my conceptualization of South Indian Political and Social History to a large extent.

I acknowledge my sincere thanks to Dr. Y.A. Sudhakar Reddy, Reader, Centre for Folk Culture Studies for his valuable discussions and help in presenting this thesis. I have also benefitted from the comments of Dr. P.S. Kanaka Durga, Dr. K.S.S. Seshan, Dr. Rekha Pande, Dr. Shivaram Padikkal and Rev. John Ackidas on several occasions during the course of writing this thesis.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to many of my friends for their help and encouragement, especially to R.K. Laxman, Ketema, M.C. Raja, Jayakar, Mustafa, Venu and Mohanty.

I also recall with gratitude the kind cooperation of the various staff members of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Library, University of Hyderabad, Tamil Nadu State Archives, Madras, and Andhra Pradesh State Archives, Hyderabad. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi, for awarding me a fellowship.

As ever, I am deeply indebted to my parents and other family members, for whose love and care have endured me through these years.

Finally, I am grateful to Dinakar and Brynerd for carefully going through the proofs of the copy, and to Mrs. C.K. Sujatha Veni for painstakingly preparing the typescript.

This thesis is dedicated to the loving memory of my brother Anand K. Babu.

HYDERABAD

K. JOHNSON