ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank:

The University Grants Commission for making it possible for me to re-enter academia, with all the pleasures and benefits that followed from this.

My supervisor, Dr. S. Viswanathan, scholar and gentleman, one of the very few persons I know for whom my respect has never diminished.

Dr. Narayana Chandran, for his many kindnesses, and for perhaps the most enjoyable "scholarly shop-talk" I've ever heard.

Dr. Kulkarni and Dr. P. Dasgupta, for stimulating discussions, encouragement, and companionableness.

Ansari, Pavan and Dr. Venkat Rao of C.I.E.F.L. for ideas, books, and spiritual solace through the long nights; and Pavan and Tarakeshwar for fighting the good fight in the arena of the seminar-hall.

Poroma (and her friend Maryjane) for occasional, but memorable, conversations.

S.V. Srinivas, Anil, Bindu and Sharmila, for helping to regulate the neurosis that is so much a part of the end-of-thesis syndrome.

Satyanarayana, Rekha and Srilata, batch-mates and friends.

Varadarajan and S.Ravindran, for helping me to find some obscure texts, and for enthusiastic discussions of even more obscure ones.

Dr. Surinder Jodhka, Snehasudha, and Sohail; Dr. Sanjay Palsikar and Prarthana; and Dr. Raviranjan, Sushma and Tanmay, for solidarity in times of trouble.

Mr Murthy and Mr. Raja, who have helped, more than most, to make the English department the civilized place that it is.

Keshava Kumar and Prasad, for being exemplary uncles to Richard.

Uma and Mohan, such good friends that they are, by now, virtually family.

Hilary, my sister, for her support through the years.

Thatha, Pati, Thangam, Sarada and Eswar, for welcoming me into the fold.

Vidya and Richard, for everything.