ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is my duty to thank Prof. Tan Chung who as my guide helped me throughout in all aspects of my research. Having had the privilege to work with him, it was a pleasure to discuss with a scholar of great erudition, knowledge and a sense of history. He was also kind enough to lend his personal collection of photographs of Guanyin from various museums of the world.

I am grateful to Prof. H.P. Ray who was always available at the University for discussion and guidance. However busy he was, he found time to discuss with me on various subjects and he also provided references of research scholars abroad who were doing research in the same discipline.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not thank Prof. Duan Wenjie, Director of the Dunhuang Academy. Prof. Wenjie not only provided access to various caves in Dunhuang, but permitted me to attend the second International Seminar on Dunhuang art at Dunhuang and let me present a paper.

But for the presence of my friend Yang Fuxue and his wife Yue mei of Dunhuang Academy, my stay in Dunhuang would have been extremely difficult. They looked after my comforts in Dunhuang and Yue mei accompanied me in my visits to Longmen and Xian. My special thanks to the Vice Director of Longmen Institute Zhang Naizhu, who took me around Longmen caves and gave me valuable insights on the carvings.

The IGNCA where I worked gave me full access to all the books and literature related to my subject of research. My thanks to the Academic Director and the staff of IGNCA.

A special word of grateful thanks to Dr. P. Banerji, an eminent archaeologist and former Director of National Museum. I was always spell-bound whenever he discussed any aspect of Buddhism and Buddhist art. It was easy to get along with him and even get away with foolish questions!

Lastly I am grateful to the library staff of IGNCA and my colleagues of East Asia Division of IGNCA whose cooperation was always available.