PREFACE

I have enjoyed preparing this thesis on the kinship system of the Meitei for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Anthropology. The work was carried out under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Ch. Budhi Singh, a Professor of the Department of Anthropology, Manipur University. As such, I owe him a special debt. The Department of Anthropology, Manipur University provided me a cordial atmosphere of every stage of my work for what I remain grateful to it.

The present study is based on the old manuscripts, which were the works of scribes of historic period and empirical field work. To analyse and study the archival works, I took much help from Sri N. Ibochou Singh, Pandit Yaima, Sri A. Chitreshwor Sharma and Sri M. Narendra Singh. I express my sincere gratitude to them. I conducted a series of fieldwork from various parts of Manipur for the purpose of comparative analysis. Without the help of sympathetic informants, my ambitious endeavour would not have reached fruition. I extend my gratefulness to these informants at my field sites. Mr. H. Hamlet, a resident of Andro Khunou Leikai, seriously helped and accompanied me in my field investigation in his own village and the neighbouring villages, Kamu Yaithibi, Leirongthel, etc. It is my pleasure to convey my deep sense of gratitude to him. Dr. Lai Imo, K. Doren Singh and Mr. Inaocha Mangang, an artist, also helped me while conducting ethnographic fieldwork for which my special thanks are due to them.

In the present thesis, there are four maps excluding the map showing the field sites of this work. Sri Mutua Bahadur, Director, Mutua Museum, Keisampat, Imphal helped me for drawing the maps. He also provided the map of Kangla that shows the site of emergence of seven clans—Yeks. He also gave me the clue to the totemic—Paphal and Taoroinai, the serpent represented in the symbolic colours of all the Meitei clans.
In the course of this study I got the benefit of holding discussions also with Mr. L. Mani Singh, Senior lecturer in Anthropology, Kha-Manipur College, Kakching, Manipur and Mr. Kh. Bimol Singh, Lecturer in Anthropology, Thambal Marik College, Oinam, Manipur. I wish to take the opportunity of thanking them too for the said service.

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(Thiyam Rabikanta Singh)