Acknowledgements

This study, from its inception as an idea to its completion in the present form owes immensely indebted to my research supervisor, Dr. M.T. Narayanan. His patience and generosity with time, his lucid comments and suggestions on the numerous drafts were indispensable for the completion of this work. I owe immensely to Dr. Pius Malekandathil, Professor, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, who took me on to the right track in the field of research---always a source of inspiration and an educator on the *modus operandi* of research. I profusely thank my teacher, Ms. Sheela F. Christina, Associate Professor of History, Malabar Christian College, Calicut, who really initiated me into the field of research. No words can convey my indebtedness to Dr. George Pati, Associate Professor, University of Valparaiso, Indiana, US, for his constructive criticism and the unflinching support he rendered at the times of my encounters with the challenges of research.

I express my unreserved gratitude to Prof. S. Sivadasan, Head of the Department of History, SSUS, Kalady, for the support and encouragement he has imparted to me at the times I found it difficult to go on. I place on record my deep feelings of love and gratitude to my teacher Prof. S. Ramachandran Nair, who is a walking book of reference on many areas of exploration. He was always ready with instant answers and ever willing to spare time for me with a helping hand. I also remain indebted to my teachers at Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit for my philosophical and ideological education. Research would have been impossible without generous financial support from the Kerala Council for Historical Research and I place on record my gratitude to Dr. K.N. Panikkar, Chairman, KCHR and Dr. P.J. Cherian, Director of KCHR.

It is with deep gratitude I recall the help and prompt service rendered by the staff and the Librarian of the University Library of SSUS, Kalady. I express my sincere thanks to Mr. C.P. Abdul Majeed, Archivist of Regional Archives, Calicut, Mr. U. Ramesh, Archivist and Curator of State Bank of India Archives and Museum at Kolkata and Dr. K.K. Kochukoshi, Librarian of Central Reference Library, Kolkata, for their help and co-operation to set in motion the ponderous wheels of bureaucracy to
make my work considerably smoother. It is also of great pleasure to acknowledge the debts I owe to the staff and Directors of various repositories, libraries and institutions I visited in Kerala and outside, and in particular I would like to thank Mr. Verghese Samuel and Mr. V.M. Sugesh of the Regional Archives at Calicut who have gone beyond their call of duty to help me acquire documents and artifacts necessary for this study. I extend my sincere thanks to Ms. Marykutty Jose, Head of the Department of History, Mount Carmel College, Mala, and Mr. M.C. Vasisht, Associate Professor, Malabar Christian College, Calicut, for providing me many valuable materials on the topic of research which have been of immense help to me.

I acknowledge my deep gratitude to Mr. C.V. Abraham, Assistant Professor of English, St. Joseph’s College, Calicut, a constant source of help and support who painstakingly went through the draft of the thesis and made necessary corrections and suggestions. The individuals who have helped me at the various stages of my research venture are simply too numerous to mention by name. Many have given me hospitality, interviews, access to relevant materials in their possession, and references to other people who were of further help to me. To all of them I express my sincere thanks for sharing their time, knowledge and resources. My parents have always encouraged me to strive for the best and it is their love and prayers that set me on this path.

Kalady
25 March 2013

Shinoy Jesinth