I first became interested in Jack London and his writings when USIS, Bombay presented to me a number of books on American Literature, as a gift from American friends. Among these books, there were five novels written by Jack London namely, 'The Call of the Wild', 'The Sea Wolf', 'Martin Eden', 'White Fang' and 'The Star Rover' and one book of short-stories, 'The South Sea Tales'. I became the member of both the American Library, Bombay and ASRC, Hyderabad, and began my study of Jack London.

London is a prolific and voluminous writer. In sixteen years, he produced more than fifty books, besides letters, articles and reviews. It is not possible to discuss every thing he wrote, so I concentrated my studies on Jack London as a man and his popular novels and social studies.

London is a bundle of contradictions. One cannot find any logical consistency in his views. No amount of manipulation can make London, a systematic thinker or philosopher. He was attracted by all the new ideas propounded in his times. But this very inconsistency, contradictions and toying with ideas, have contributed to his
immense popularity.

In order to understand London, one must know his life-story and his times. An effort has been made to discuss all the above aspects in the first chapter. London was one of the most autobiographical writers in American literature, hence the autobiographical element in his works, has been considered in this study.

In this dissertation, for the first time, the themes of Jack London's novels and social works, have been critically examined in one volume. Jack London professed himself to be socialist. His socialistic writings show his sincerity. All his socialistic works have been examined in one chapter.

Though London has not formulated any theory on the craft of fiction, he had his own brand of technique. An attempt has been made to evaluate the same in the concluding chapter.

Jack London has been the most translated American author. According to UNESCO report, in Europe, he leads all other American authors, in the number of books, translated, into their languages. In U.S.S.R, he is the most published American
author. Jack London has achieved a popularity so wide-ranging and long-standing, that he has become a permanent legend in the American heritage.

At present, the Jack London revival is in full bloom in U.S.A. Eminent scholars are making their valuable contributions to his revival. Three separate periodicals devoted to London, namely 'Jack London Newsletter', 'London Collector' and 'What is new about Jack London', are now being published in U.S.A. His birth centenary has been celebrated with great eclat, throughout America on Jan. 12, 1976.

My humble contribution is designed to show that though Jack London cannot be listed among the front-rank of American writers, his place in the second-rank is secure and assured.