PREFACE

This thesis, entitled *The Short Fiction of Henry James: A Study*, is the outcome of my research in the Department of English, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati.

This study has been a challenge to me. It has been a highly enriching experience to work on the short fiction of Henry James.

The present thesis is divided into five chapters. In the first chapter *Henry James – The Master Story Teller*, a brief history of the short-story is taken up, and also James's contribution as a short-story writer. The second chapter *The Master's Own World* is a study of the representative works from all the three major periods of James’s productive career – the early, middle and later years, roughly from the early 1870's to 1910. The third chapter *The Master's Women Characters* is a formal analysis of action and situation in the selected Short Fiction of Henry James which would help in understanding his women characters. A special mention is made in this chapter of Alice James, sister of Henry James and the profound influence she had on James. In the fourth chapter *Henry James – The Master Craftsman* an attempt is made to focus attention on the technical aspects of some of James’s masterly brevity’s. The last chapter *Henry James – The Master Artist is a*
summing up of his style, ambiguity, his peculiar method of 'dramatizing the mental impressions' and thereby making a claim for an indisputable seat among the Olympians as a Master Craftsman. For the sake of convenience, I have used American spelling throughout this thesis. In some of the notes, more page numbers are mentioned as only the idea of the critic has been paraphrased.

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to my Research Supervisor Dr. M.A.K. Sukumar M.A.,M.Phil,Ph.D for the counsel, advice and help I received from him at every stage.

I am grateful to the IACIS and their staff for helping me with books and journals for my research work.

I am indebted to my mother Mrs. Krishnaveni Ispahani, and my brother Mr. Victor Ispahani for the concern and counsel which I received at various stages of my research work.

Finally, I am deeply thankful to my husband Muneer Moulali who has been a continuous and constant source of encouragement, inspiration and guidance, both at the personal and academic levels. Without his help this work would not have come to the present form. His constant encouragement kept me going.

I thank all my friends and well wishers for their help and encouragement at different stages.
I thank my children Sameer and Mahima for their love and affection throughout.

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Date: 30 Jan 2002

(SARALA MOULALI)