This thesis consists of three parts: (1) Preface, (2) A Critical Edition of the *Lata'if-i-AshrafI* and (3) Notes.

The Preface deals briefly with the salient features of Saiyid Ashraf's life and career, his achievements as a mystic and writer, and a critical study of the *Lata'if-i-AshrafI*.

In giving the life-sketch, care has been taken not to repeat what the hagiologists have already written about him unless it deemed necessary. Nearly all the aspects of his life dealt with here were ignored by his biographers. In this preface, several misconceptions prevalent about Saiyid Ashraf have been removed. In the 13th chapter of the preface, it would be noticed that out of eight historical errors made in the *Lata'if-i-AshrafI* Vol.I, five (I, IV, V, VI, VII) are directly concerned with the personality of Saiyid Ashraf and these have been pointed out and removed for the first time in this work. The dates of his birth and death have been established anew.

Several important aspects of the book, the *Lata'if-i-AshrafI*, also have been brought to light. It has been proved that the *Lata'if-i-AshrafI* was a chief source of the *Mafahat-ul-Uns* and it would be noted that this discovery is apt to minimise the importance of the *Mafahat-ul-Uns*. Its value as a book of Islamic mysticism and its several literary aspects as revealed here, were so far unknown. Thus it would be realised that the major part of the preface itself consists of original investigations.

As regards the edition of the book, the attempt was not kept confined to only collating the MS. of the *Lata'if-i-AshrafI* but efforts were also made to find out its original sources and to check the statements of the book with these sources. The historical and other events have been verified or discarded on the grounds of external evidences and the personalities mentioned in the book have been studied with the help of other books. The utility of the book has been further increased by furnishing notes on the personalities, old places, old and obsolete words and references of Quranic verses, all occurring in the book.