ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Personal thanks are rather difficult to express adequately in formal words. Yet it pleases me to avail this opportunity to thank all those Steinbeck studies and scholars who have greatly benefited me.

I gratefully acknowledge my greatest debt to Mr. M.M. Rai Jami of Rajasthan University, Jaipur, for having initiated me into the study of American humour; to Professor Walter Blair (Chicago), Hamlin Hill (New Mexico), and Brom Weber (California), the eminent scholars of American humour, who had been kind enough to me in replying my queries and explaining me the intricate and typically American tendencies of their humour—a field to which I was not fully exposed.

The present work was originally started under the able supervision of the late Dr. Salamatullah Khan, whose sudden and demise greatly deprived me of his experienced guidance and critical insight. I owe him a deep sense of gratitude.

This work could not have been completed, had Professor Warren G. French not come to my rescue. In him, I had a sort of extra-guide and gentle mentor. Not only that he simply went through the chapters of my thesis, but also, as he is a distinguished Steinbeck scholar, suggested
me some specific references to improve the quality of my endeavour that would have otherwise eluded me. I am really thankful to him for his generous and untiring help and for his sustained interest in my work.

My thanks are due to Professor D.N. Pandit, my senior colleague and the Head of English Department (now retired) whom I had to consult frequently in the course of preparation of this work; to my elderly friend Mr. H.S. Gupta, whose interest in the writings of Henry Louis Mencken also greatly helped me. He also deserves my thanks.

I tender my sincere thanks to the ASRC, Hyderabad, for the various kinds of help in the form of books, fellowship and xeroxed copies of articles from time to time. Gujarat University Library and M.J. Library, Ahmedabad, also deserve my thanks.

I also offer my gratitude to Mr. Pankaj A. Parmar, my friend, who, in spite of his busy schedule and personal inconvenience, typed out this dissertation with great pleasure.

Hashkoor Ali