PREFACE

The topic of the Ph.D thesis selected by me is “A Critical edition of Diwan-e-Mirza Kamran (Persian text) with introduction and notes” under the supervision of respected Prof. Maria Bilquis. The reason why I selected this topic is because it will afford an opportunity to the students of Persian literature to form an estimate of the merit of Kamran as a poet.

Moreover, it will place before the students of the history of Persian Literature in India, the valuable text of the poems of this Mughul prince of the sixteenth century and will enable them to form a better judgement of the literary attainments of the Timurides in India, and to appraise the value of their contribution to Persian literature.

Since Mirza Kamran is comparatively less known and material about his life and events etc. is difficult to find, and there also does not exist consensus among historians and Tazkira Nigars about his life and works, I must very sincerely acknowledge my gratitude and thanks to my most esteemed and learned supervisor Prof. Maria Bilquis, who has helped and guided me all along in the compilation of my thesis. To be honest, it would have been impossible for me to complete my thesis without her guidance.

I have been fortunate to get the most valuable help and guidance from great scholars like Padam Shri Prof. Nazeer Ahmad, Professor Emeritus A.M.U. Aligarh and Padam Shri Prof. Ameer Hasan Abidi, Professor Emeritus University of Delhi. Their kind support and encouragement have been very valuable to me, and have enhanced the value of my work.

My heartfelt thanks to Prof. Azarmi Dukht Safavi, who has always
been very sympathetic to me in all respects.

Prof. Tariq Hasan too has been very kind and helpful to me, and I am indebted to him for always making time for me in his busy schedule.

I am also thankful to my dear uncle Dr. M.A. Rizvi, for always being available for detailed discussions, and for his keen interest in improving the language of my write-up. Besides he took the pain of proof-reading it as well. His help proved invaluable to me.

I must also thank Dr. Kaleem Asghar for the advice and guidance given to me.

I am also grateful to Dr. Ziauddin Ansari, Director of Khuda Baksh Library, Patna and Dr. Wiqarul Hasan Siddiqi, Director of Raza Library, Rampur, U.P. who allowed me to make use of the manuscripts of Diwan-e-Mirza Kamran preserved in their collections.

I am also obliged to the director and staff of Maulana Azad Library, A.M.U. Aligarh for their extremely valuable cooperation at all times.

My thanks to the National Library of Singapore and to the Departments of History, Islamic studies and Arabic, A.M.U. Aligarh. Mr Shamshad Ali, seminar in-charge, Deptt. of Persian, A.M.U. was also quite helpful.

All the seniors, classmates and the entire staff of the Persian Department Aligarh Muslim University were also kind and sympathetic to me and deserve my thanks.

I wish to express my thanks and gratitude towards my parents who enabled me to pursue my studies.

I must acknowledge my gratitude towards my husband, Mr. Akif Zaidi,
who encouraged me to complete my thesis, and to my in-laws for their understanding and sympathy.

Let me also thank my brothers and sisters, especially my eldest brother Mr. Zakir Ali Abidi, who did not let me feel the loss of my beloved father S. Afsar Ali 'Baqa' Abidi after his sad demise in 1987.

I must mention that Mr. Taskeen Ali Khan painstakingly typed out the contents of my thesis.

SHABISTAN BAQA