Acknowledgements

With gratitude and love I hereby record my indebtedness to the late Dr. S. Mark Joseph, M.A., Ph.D., formerly Head of the Department of English at St. John's College, Palayamkottai. It was under his guidance that I started my research. Great as a scholar and as a man his very personality made me do research under his supervision.

I had the good fortune of having Dr. S. Ravindranathan, M.A., Ph.D., Professor and Head of the Department of English in the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University as my co-guide when the late Dr. S. Mark Joseph was my guide. Dr. S. Ravindranathan showed me the direction that my research should take. I recollect with delight and gratitude the fruitful discussions we had.

I thank my guide Dr. K. Balasubramanian, M.A., Ph.D., Reader in English in the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University in Tirunelveli, for his guidance to me as one of his research scholars. In mind as well as in spirit he gave me the much-needed guidance and support. I got the benefit of his erudite scholarship and rich research experience. Moreover his enthusiasm, fervour and confidence inspired me and helped me sustain my interest and morale in bringing out the thesis.
Doing research in this part of India on an American writer without a visit to the Indo-American Centre for International Studies in Hyderabad will remain incomplete. The lot of critical materials available there helped me in viewing the subject of my study from different perspectives. Moreover the help given and kindness shown by those at the center enthused and encouraged me.

The American Information Resource Center in Chennai, another rich source of information on American writers and their works, contributed very much to my research. The courtesy and promptness with which the staff helped me whenever I went there or when I made long-distance telephone calls was very encouraging. I hereby express my thanks to them.

Dr.V.Ganesan, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., and his wife Dr. Mrs. Kalpana Ganesan, have been of great help to me in gathering research materials. Moreover their words of encouragement helped to boost my morale. I thank them very much.

I thank my colleague Mr David Augustine Karunaharan, M.A., M.Phil., who gave his valuable time in assisting my research.

I thank Mr.P.Sushil Kumar, M.Sc., B.Ed., who carried out the typing of the thesis with painstaking efforts, diligence and interest.
My eldest brother Mr. Innocent Samuel Tilak, B.E., who is in Chennai helped me in the collection of research material. With love and regard I thank him.

I thank my friends and relatives who encouraged me in this endeavour.

Finally I thank my wife Mano and children Jeffrey and Jennifer whose support was essential to my study.