I am indebted to many people for their help and encouragement over the few years that I have taken to complete this work. My introduction to criticism came by way of Aristotle's Poetic in the M.A. Class of Professor A.G. George, carried over to the M. Phil seminars and then on to the Supervision of the present thesis. The association has been a long one, during which he has provided me with invaluable help, advice, encouragement, and moral support, often at times, I felt, when he was under great strain himself. To him I owe a large intellectual debt which can be acknowledged but not repaid.

I express my deep appreciation to Professor Northrop Frye for his response to my enquiry, his interest in my project, and for his suggestion and encouragement. My thanks to Dr. Robert D. Denham, Chairman, Emory & Henry College, Virginia, U.S.A., and Professor Murray Krieger, University of California, U.S.A. for their generous response to my enquiries and for ungrudgingly sending me their published works. I am deeply grateful to Ms Betty Trevor for responding
to my frequent requests for material from the University of Toronto Library, Canada. Thanks are due to my brother-in-law Dr. A.K. Nath of Jadavpur University, Calcutta, who helped in every way possible to make my rounds of the Libraries of Calcutta interesting and rewarding.

A number of organizations have also assisted me. The American Studies Research Center, Hyderabad, deserves a special word of thanks as also the Jadavpur University Central Library and The Department of Comparative Literature. Working there was a pleasure. A Junior Research Fellowship from the North-Eastern Hill University enabled me to begin this study.

I also wish to thank those of my friends, who wish to remain anonymous, who helped me financially and otherwise at the time of completing this study. I am grateful to Mr T. S. Manwar who has made a special effort in typing the manuscripts. In conclusion, I am furtively thankful to those who provided the obstacles. They helped make an otherwise routine task, interesting.

SHILLONG:
1st August 1987.

ANJAN K. NATH