While I was specializing in Medieval Indian history at the M.A. level at the Centre for Historical Studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, I wrote one seminar paper on the course offered, i.e., the composition and organization of the Mughal nobility. I chose the Hindu element of the Marathas and composed my paper on the basis of original and secondary sources. I must say that the Mughal nobility was composed of a medley of racial and ethnic elements, e.g., the Iranian, the Turanis, the Afghans, the Shaikhzadas, the Rajputs, the Marathas and so on.

Since then my interest in the organization and composition of the Mughal nobility was born. For my M. Phil. I studied the role and status of the Hindu elements of the Mughal nobility as a whole. For my Ph.D., I have studied the subject as a cohesive whole and have prefixed the title of my thesis as follows, "The Mughal nobility: A political, administrative and socio-economic study with special reference to the Hindu noble elements".

My acknowledgement is first due to my supervisor, Dr. Jayanta Bhushan Bhattacharjee, Professor, Department of History, NEHU, Shillong. He guided me in my study from various angles. He took out his valuable time and read out the final draft, and made some invaluable suggestions. My sincere thanks are due to him.

I would also like to thank the authorities of National Archives, Central Secretariat Library, and Nehru Memorial Library, New Delhi, and the authorities of Knud
Baksh Khan Oriental Library and K.P. Jaiswal Research Institute, Patna. Also, the authorities of Jawaharlal University Library, New Delhi, Patna University Library, Patna and NEHU Library, Shillong.

Thanks are also due to my typist Mrs. Sicily Khongji who typed out my thesis with considerable pains.


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