ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It gives me immense pleasure to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have cooperated me in the preparation of this thesis.

First of all I remain ever grateful to my supervisor Professor F.A. Qadri for his scholarly guidance and help, who was also my constant source of inspiration. This work might not have been done without his help.

Secondly, I am grateful to the Head of the Department of History, Professor David Syiemlieh, for his sympathetic help and valuable suggestion in completing this work.

I express my sincere gratitude to Professor J.B. Bhattacharjee, Professor I. Hussain and Professor M. Sharma of History Department who always helped and encouraged me to keep my spirit up in doing my research. I also express my gratitude to all the teachers of the Department of History and other members of the research committee for their suggestion to improve my work.

I am indebted to elderly persons and friends who rendered their knowledge and wisdom, while collecting materials and sources for this work, without any reservation.

I am thankful to Dr. Pradip Kr. Patra, Reader of Gauhati University, Kokrajhar Campus and Mr. Sikhna John Wary, Lecturer of Kokrajhar College, who sincerely helped me in many ways in bringing out this work.

Last but not the least, I am indebted to my family members for their encouragement in doing my research work.

Shillong

The 15th December 2003.