PREFACE

The present thesis is an attempt to assess the impact of Shakespeare on Hindi Literature. For the pursuit of this work, I was awarded a research Fellowship in the Department of English, Aligarh Muslim University, in December, 1960. This Fellowship is a segment of a scheme of research in comparative literature, drawn up in the same year by Professor A. Bose, then Head of the Department of English at the University of Aligarh, and approved and financed by the University Grants Commission.

I commenced this work in December, 1960 under the supervision of Dr. C.P. Govil, Reader in the Department of English, Aligarh Muslim University. In procuring my source materials most of which are rare, out of print and obscure, I had to face many difficulties: I had to go through files of old periodicals and publications, not infrequently finding a grain in heaps of chaff. In search of the necessary data, I had to visit Allahabad, Lucknow, Varanasi and Calcutta and to explore the dust-laden stacks of the Allahabad University Library, the Allahabad Public Library, the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan Library, Allahabad, the Lucknow University Library, the Banaras Hindu University Library, the Nagri Pracharin Sabha Library, Varanasi, the Calcutta University Library, the National Library, Calcutta, the Asiatic Society Library, Calcutta, and the Hanuman Pustakalaya, Calcutta. I am grateful to the authorities of the Aligarh Muslim University for making available to me the travel-grant twice, in 1962 and 1963, so that I could
visit all these places and gather all the necessary data. I am much beholden to the authorities of all these libraries for providing me with all facilities. I am also thankful to the authorities of the London University Library and the Bombay University Library for placing at my disposal certain rare books and periodicals. I owe a sense of deep gratitude to the authorities of the Maulana Azad Library, Aligarh Muslim University, particularly Mr. Hashim who procured books for me on loan from the various Indian and foreign libraries.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all those scholars who offered me unstinted help and encouragement in the course of my investigation. I am specially grateful to Professor A. Bose, Head of the Department of English, Calcutta University, who has taken a keen interest in my work from the very outset and has helped me with his valuable advice on a number of occasions. My thanks are due to Professor S.C. Deb, former Head of the Department of English, Allahabad University, who gave me several valuable suggestions, and to Professor B.A. Khan, Head of the Department of English, Aligarh Muslim University who has been a source of help and encouragement to me in a number of ways.

In the end I must say that I owe a debt of profound gratitude to Dr. O.K. Govil, my supervisor, without whose unfailing help, guidance, and encouragement this work would not have seen the light of day.

Department of English,
Aligarh Muslim University,
Aligarh.

March 1965.