Acknowledgements

To Dr Maheswar Neog, Jawaharlal Nehru Professor and Dean, Faculty of Arts, Gauhati University, I am deeply indebted, for his guidance and encouragement during the period of research. To work with him has indeed been a pleasure. Despite his heavy schedule, he gave me help and advice whenever I needed them, without which the present work would not have been possible.

I am very grateful to a number of distinguished teachers of English and Assamese at the Universities of Gauhati and Dibrugarh, for the valuable suggestions they offered and the materials they lent. Some of them figure in the foot-notes and the bibliography, and the fact that I have not mentioned others do not mean that I am unaware of them.

I also owe a great deal to many of my friends and relatives for their help and encouragement during the period of research.

Dibrugarh University,
February, 1977

Pona Mahanta