PREFACE

The thesis A Cultural history of the Kacharis of the North Eastern India with special reference to their activities in the N.C. hills and Cachar is the product of a labourious research which I have undertaken as a research scholar of the university of Guwahati.

Serving in a college situated in a remote corner of the country and separated from the mainstream of Indian culture there were difficulties in the collection of sources as well as in the preparation of the thesis. Still by the grace of fortune I have been able to survive in the midst of odds and the thesis is now ripe for submission.

I have made all possible efforts to raise the structure of the thesis primarily with the aids of original sources. Original sources invariably mean contemporary literature (religious and secular), archaeology (including numismatics), and accounts of foreigners. Secondary sources include anthropological works of the eighteenth, nineteenth and of the present century along with a horde of reference books in English and in Indian languages. Journals Indian and foreign have been consulted along with gazetteers and census Reports for the facts and figures of modern times. Since the Kacharis left no written records of their past writing of their history demands that sources obtained from traditions and folk culture should be verified in terms of a scientific and in a methodical way. This was my perspective throughout.
The research centres of Gauhati have a valuable collection of source materials on the history and culture of the North Eastern India. I got all possible co-operations from them.

Enemies and friends were many with their antagonistic and encouraging attitudes to my research work. I recognise the friends and antagonists with what they deserve from me.

The only thing I crave here, is, the entire thesis has been prepared by a careful scrutiny of sources lying scattered in libraries and in research centres, as well as in the field in the midst of the tribals in the hills and plains, and so the thesis focuses an accurate picture of the past of the Kacharis. My main purpose was to uphold the truth at all costs. It was not my aim to sacrifice historical perspectives for the sake of literary value.

I undertook all responsibilities in the collection of sources and for the purpose travelled extensively at times when nature and adversaries stood as formidable as possible. Constant consultations with my guide Dr. N.N. Acharyya rendered me adequate aids on such occasions. Those historians and scholars of the North East India and outside encouraged me to stick to the work in adverse circumstances my gratitude to them is quite logical.

(Debasis Sen)