Acknowledgements

It is with a profound sense of gratitude that I offer this work at the Lotus Feet of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, without whose blessings I would not have been able to attempt it. It is a pleasure to acknowledge my indebtedness to Dr Prafulla Kotoky, M.A., D.Phil., Reader, Department of English, Gauhati University, under whose supervision the work was done. My most respectful thanks are due to Professor V.K. Gokak, Vice Chancellor, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prasanthi Nilayam, Andhra Pradesh, for his loving encouragement and valuable suggestions. I am also thankful to Professor H.N. Gohain, Head of the Department of English, Gauhati University; Professor Minodhar Barthakur, Head of the Department of Geography, Gauhati University; and Professor Mukund Madhav Sarma, Head of the Department of Sanskrit and a former Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Gauhati University (currently on a foreign assignment), for their encouragement throughout my work. I would like to express my thanks to the Librarians and the members of staff of the following libraries: the Gauhati University Library, Gauhati; the Calcutta University Library, Calcutta; the National Library, Calcutta; and the Delhi University Library System, Delhi. I am also grateful to Mr. Harish C. Gupta, Deputy Librarian, National Library, Calcutta, for his kind and invaluable help in locating a number of reference books and for arranging inter-library
loans of books and microfilms from abroad. My affectionate thanks are also due to my brother Jatinder K. Aurora who procured for me from Sydney and London such useful works of reference as were not available in India. My thanks are also due to Miss Sunanda Sinha for her kind help in preparing the bibliography. Finally, a word of sincere thanks to Mr Surjya Das for doing a neat job of typing the thesis within a short time.