PREFACE

The present work, *The External Relations of the Ahom Government with Special Reference to the Diplomatic Exchange*, aims at a comprehensive study of the type of external intercourse of the Ahom Government had with foreign powers, independent and tributary, and also with the tribes.

The work is divided into 9 Chapters, the first of which is devoted to the Ahom people, their origin and also a short history of their rule in the Brahmaputra valley. Chapter II deals with the system of government, which Siu-kā-phā, the first Ahom king had brought with him and was introduced in his new kingdom. It also deals with the different stages of the reorganization of the administrative machinery which was effected by the Ahom rulers during their long rule. The next four Chapters are devoted to the general discussion of the external relations with various, tributaries. Chapter VII and VIII are discussed with the agent of the diplomatic intercourse and the receptions of the foreign envoys in the Ahom courts, and the Ahom envoys in the foreign courts. The last Chapter deals with the type of diplomatic correspondences—the form and style of letter, the different subject matter, contents, presents, etc.
I avail myself of this opportunity to acknowledge my indebtedness to Dr. J.N. Phukan, Reader, Department of History, Gauhati University, who guided and helped me at every step of my work. Without his invaluable help and co-operation, I would not have been able to finish my work.

I express my deep sense of gratefulness to the authorities of the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi for extending me the financial help which enabled me to finish the thesis.

I extend my gratefulness to Dr. K.P. Sinha, Reader, Department of Sanskrit, Gauhati University, for his unprudging help in my work.

I am also thankful to Prof. V.B. Mishra, Professor and Head, Post-Graduate Department of History, Gauhati University, the staff of the Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies, Mr. & Mrs. T.N. Madhavan and Maligaon Zerox for their help and encouragement throughout my work.

Lastly, I express my gratefulness to my brothers, who supported me financially and morally throughout my work.

Miss I.S. Mumtaza Khatun
Gauhati