Seeing the work of several years take a concrete shape is a pleasure unmatched by anything else. More so, when the focus has remained constantly on the problem in hand. The present research effort shaped out of my inquiry into the prose works of Eliot while I was reading for my master's degree in English of this University. It takes a close look at the whole gamut of issues involved in Eliot's prose writings with a view to arriving at the broad parameters of 'Eliot's poetics'.

My work, which began initially under the guidance of Professor R A Dave (formerly Head of the Department) in February 1983, was yet to take off when he retired in 1986. Thereon, his successor in office and my present supervisor, Professor K D Kurtkoti, helped me identify the problem areas to begin with and guided the progress of this research work. A number of marathon sessions with him cleared the cobwebs of of doubt and my initial anxiety gave way gradually to a new confidence. It was at the feet of Professor Kurtkoti that I learnt to value the three constants of literary research: analysis, interpretation and application,
as well as to use established critical opinion to make newer forays into literary works instead of depending wholly on critics. My love for literature, in general, and Eliot, in particular, grew and blossomed under his watchful eyes. Words are poor substitutes for feelings, especially those of gratitude. I will rest content in bowing my head in silent reverence to both of my teachers.

The strengths of this thesis are due to Professor Kurtkoti and the faults are mine entirely.

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Finally, I would like to dedicate the thesis to the fond memory of my late father, Mr Gulam Hussain Khan, whose dream it was to see me become a 'doctor'. I see this as an effort made towards the realisation of his dream.