ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I owe my gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. P. CHAKRAVARTHY, M.A., Ph.D., (Retd). Professor and Head, Department of History, S.I.V.E.T College, Gowrivakkam, Madras, for his able guidance and constant inspiration to my pursuing the research work.

I have to thank many others for their help in bringing out this thesis. I am also grateful to the Commissioner, Librarians and Staff of the Tamil Nadu Archives, Connemara Library, Madras University Library, Salem District Central Library and Record room in Salem Collectorate for enabling me to consult records and books in their respective departments.

I am very much indebted to several of my friends, colleagues and relatives for their help in many ways in carrying out the assignments. Particularly I should thank Dr. BUSNAGI RAJANNAN, Director of Kongu Studies, Salem for his valuable suggestions. My thanks are due to my wife Mrs. K. VIJAYALAKSHMI and Son S.K. GANESH, BHMS., for their encouragement and co-operation.

I express my gratitude to the Commissioner of collegiate Education and the Principal, Arignar Anna Government Arts College, for permitting me to do this part-time research.

S. KRISHNAMOORTHI.