The present dissertation is a study of Indra in the Vedic literature, Mahākavyas, Purāṇas, Classical Sanskrit literature, Buddhist and Jaina Canonical texts. The Festivals of Indra, Historical development of Indra-worship and the study of Iconography in relation to Indra have also been discussed at length. The timings of the study is from Vedic period to 12th century A.D. and the geographical boundary is ancient India and the adjacent areas. However, I have not confined my study in the strict limitation of timings and the geographical boundary.

The topic of the present dissertation was suggested to me by Dr. Asim Kumar Chatterjee, Reader, Dept of AIEC, Calcutta University in 1985. Since then he has remained a perennial source of inspiration to me. He has guided me in selection of the topic to various interpretations in the dissertation. I also acknowledge my sincere gratitude to Dr. D. Das, Head, Dept of AIEC, C.U., Dr. D.K. Mukherjee, Carmichael Professor of AIEC, C.U., for providing me with valuable suggestions. I also acknowledge the time to time assistance rendered by the teachers and staff members of AIEC, C.U. I also acknowledge with deep gratitude the valuable guidance given to me by eminent novelist Shri Ananda Sankar Roy, Dr. K.K. Dasgupta, Vice Chancellor, Kalyani University and Prof. A.K. Mahmoed. They have all continued as a perennial source of inspiration to me. I specially mention the names of Dr. Subir Dasgupta, Dipankar Mitra and my husband Purnendu Roy for providing me with all sorts of assistance. I also express my sincere gratitude to Shri Ajit Kumar Chian, Arun Samdadar, Manas Roy, Asit Dutta, Biswajit Malty, Princa Sen, Sat. Dipali Bhattacharya, Dr. Gayatri Sen Mazumdar, Dr. Krishna Biswas, Dipankar Chakraborty, Jual and Mani. I also express my thanks to the authorities of Ramakrishna Mission Institute of culture, National Library, Indian Museum and others.
I would be failing from my duty if I do not express my
gratefulness to Shri Tilek Dasgupta and Smt. Nanitaandy
for excellent speedy typing inspite of lot of inconveniences.

Lastly, I am grateful to all those friends, and seniors
who by their valuable suggestions has benefitted me in course
of production of this dissertation.

Calcutta
1989