Acknowledgements

To God, the source and seat of all wisdom I offer praise, humbly acknowledging the blessings through which He has strengthened me to take up and complete this study.

Dr. John E. Abraham (Principal, Kaypeeyes College, Kotagiri, Nilgiris) has an unparalleled talent to spot and nurture dormant potential, the fruits of which I could enjoy even while I was his student for my post graduation. His consent to be my Research Guide gave me joy. I am thankful to him for his help, support and guidance. And also to Mrs. Abraham, for always considering me as a part of the family.

A study, which reflects upon living writers, has its challenges. I tried to seek an attestation of approval from my writers, regarding my analysis and conclusion of their works. Words fail to express my joy when Dr. Nikki Giovanni (Virginia Tech, U.S.A.) sent me a hand-written reply to my questions. With sincerity, I thank her.

The University Grants Commission granted me the honor and resources of Teacher Fellowship, which has gone a long way in helping me to complete this work. Rt. Rev. Thomas Samuel (Manager, Bishop Moore College, Mavelikara) and the CSI Diocesan management offered approval for my availing the fellowship. To them all, I express gratitude.

Prof. Koshy Ninan, Principal, Mrs. Prabha Alice Varkey, Head of the Department of English, and my colleagues at Bishop Moore College, Mavelikara offered me all backing and encouragement. May I thank them all.

It was a joy to be once again part of my alma mater, CMS College, Kottayam and its Department of English, this time as a research scholar. Prof. Korulla Issac, in his capacity as Principal, and with his concern as my brother-in-law, was keen about my progress and completion of the work. To him, to Prof. T. M. Yesudasasan, Head of the Department of English and to all the members of the faculty, I offer my gratefulness.

I record my gratitude to Dr. Padma Srinivasan, Madurai Kamaraj University for introducing me into the world of Contemporary American poetry. I remember fondly the valuable suggestions given by Dr. Issac Sequiera, IACIS, Hyderabad who...
boosted my morale in carrying on with my work. I also thank Dr. V.C. Harris, Director, School of Letters, Mahatma Gandhi University for his timely help.

I wish to thank the librarians of IACIS, Hyderabad; AIRC, Chennai; Madurai Kamaraj University Library and SCILET, Madurai; Mahatma Gandhi University Library; Collins Library, CMS College; School of Letters, M. G. University; and Public Library, Kottayam for their wholehearted cooperation.

I am greatly indebted to my cousin, Carol and her husband Sam for sending me the primary works all the way from California. I place on record my thanks for the genuine interest, help and encouragement I received from my American friends Catherine Rabestine, Alex Papp, Cathryn Johnson, and Kyle Patterson.

Mr. Shibu, Mr. Unni and the staff at Minitek Computers, Kottayam, with their expertise and resource, helped me during the final stages to make the thesis presentable. I thank them all.

My special thanks are due to my dear friend, Mrs. Indu Eapen Vinod for her genuine interest in my work and her readiness to help. Her editing skills and thoughtful observations have been of tremendous help. The encouragement received from my friends, Mrs. Suneetha Thomas and Mrs. Cinny Rachel Mathew, down the years, cannot be forgotten. Prof. and Mrs. George Mathew were pillars of support to me during the highs and lows of the tenure of my research. Dr. Sobhana Kurian's readiness to provide support material was of great help. My erstwhile students and present day colleagues, Hari and Ranjith took efforts to give a final check of the matter. The support received from my mother-in-law, Mrs. K. Eapen and my brother, Mr. Ashish Aby Abraham needs to be specially mentioned. And there are many more whom I wish to thank – those who prayed for me, who enquired of my progress, who encouraged me to move on, and who offered me home and hospitality. I am obliged to them all.

This thesis would never have been a reality had it not been for the tolerance and wholehearted support of my husband, Mr. Jacob Eapen Kunnath. His forbearance has sustained me down the years and has made this work possible. I thank him. The patience and love of my son, Steve Jacob Kunnath is highly valued. My parents, Mr. P.P.Abraham and Mrs. Sosamma Abraham, would have been proud to see me enter the final phase of my doctoral studies. I dedicate this thesis to their memory.
Anne Angeline Abraham