`Acknowledgements

I owe my special thanks to a lot of people and numerous sources that helped me in many ways in the completion of my thesis. But foremost, I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to my research supervisor Prof. M. F. Salat, for his guidance, help and encouragement at every stage of my research.

I am indebted most sincerely to Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute for giving me Doctoral Fellowship grant to visit Canada and collect invaluable data for my research. I wish to thank Calgary University, Canada for providing me office space and McEvann library of the university for allowing me the use of library facilities during my stay in Canada. My thanks are due also to American Study Research Centre, Hyderabad, Smt. H. M. Library of M. S. University of Baroda and the library of the Centre for Canadian Studies at Baroda.

While my work was in progress, I was fortunate to meet many Canadianists and other scholars who helped me in ways too numerous for me to be able to list here. I sincerely acknowledge my debt of gratitude to them. They are: Jeanne Perreault, Victor Ramraj, Fred Wah, Cheryl DPaoli, Shauna Cunnigham and Jeannette Neville. I owe similar debt to Indian Association for Canadian Studies for providing opportunities of useful interaction with Canadianists from India and abroad at its seminars and conferences.

I owe a special vote of thanks to my typist and the book binder, all of them who helped in bringing the thesis in this final shape. My thanks are due also to my friends Madhurita, Charul and Seema for constantly giving me support and encouragement.

Finally, I must acknowledge my very special debt to my family members for all that they have done for me.

Zakia Firdaus

October 2005.