

PREFACE

The Traditional art and craft of Sub – Himalayan Darjeeling is the national heritage of our country. This region possesses a wealth of prosperous Traditional knowledge. This wealth of knowledge appears to be ample to meet the challenge of the changing times, because the import of sophisticated technology has thrown away many traditional professionals out of their works. The research may illustrate themes of traditional art and crafts culture of sub – Himalayan Darjeeling region. The geographical area of Sub – Himalayan Darjeeling is treated as a cultural crossroads, where a variety of influences have met, combined and preserve, with a remarkable continuity, up to present context. This approach is many respects original and even investigational. The traditional art and crafts of Sub - Himalayan Darjeeling region are the total outcome of long struggle towards the enrichment of all the people and culture of that region and the period it is very important that the scientific discussion of such traditional knowledge be carried out without loss of time before they disappear from the position or change the traditional features.

I would like to express my special appreciation and thanks to my supervisor Dr. Sudash Lama, who has been a tremendous mentor for me. I would also like to thank my respected teachers of the department of History, University of North Bengal, Prof. Bijoy Kumar Sarkar, Dr. Dahlia Bhattacharya, Sri Varun Kumar Roy, Smt. Amrita Mondal, Dr. Deepsikha Acharya, Dr. Verma Priyadarshini, Dr. Tahiti Sarkar.

I would also express my special gratitude to respected Prof. Ratna Roy Sanyal (retd.), Prof. Ananda Gopal Ghosh (retd.) and Prof. Anita Baghchi (retd.) for their co-operation.

A Special thanks to librarians and staffs of North Bengal University, A.K.M. Heritage Museum, University of North Bengal, the authorities of various monasteries of Darjeeling District; Asiatic society of Bengal National Museum; New Delhi, Tibetan Refugee Self

Help Centre; Darjeeling; Tourism Department, Govt. of west Bengal for kind help they extended to me.

At the end I would like to express my appreciation to my families who are always supported me.