PREFACE

This is a collection of essays on urban history of Calcutta. Two of these had already been published and I am grateful to Cambridge University Press and the editorial board of Modern Asian Studies, Cambridge, for allowing us to reprint them here. The last essay is a preliminary report of our pilot survey of Calcutta in 1806 with the aid of Computer.

I am grateful to the Australian Research Grants Council and the University of Sydney for providing me with funds for our research project. I wish to acknowledge the help and cooperation that I received from the librarians, record keepers, curators and the staff of the following organizations: National Archives of India, National Library, State Archives of West Bengal, Victoria Memorial Hall and the Library and Records Room, Corporation of Calcutta. I am particularly grateful to Sri Priya Gupta, formerly Commissioner, Calcutta Corporation, for allowing me to microfilm the House Assessment Books. I am also indebted to Saurin Roy, formerly Deputy Director of Archives, National Archives of India, and to Chittaranjan Banerjee, formerly Deputy Librarian, National Library, for comments and advice. Hitesh R. Sanyal of the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, has helped me to identify many caste names. Pratama Sen, Kathie Robinson, and Denise Hare have helped me with research. We are indebted to Brian Rowswell of the Computer Centre, University of Sydney, for his help with the Computer program.

This survey would not have been possible without the aid of Alison Errington and Victoria Worstead. They are in fact co-authors of the survey but are not responsible for my mistakes.

Sri Sati Ranjan De Sarkar has typed the survey including the Tables. Sri Mihir Maity of City College, Calcutta, has helped me with the maps. I am most grateful to Sri Radharaman Mitra for his advice.

Calcutta, November 1976