

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ABSTRACT

I am greatly indebted to Dr. Kenneth MacQuarrie, my supervisor, for his guidance and assistance throughout the production of this thesis. The following is a summary of the thesis.

In this thesis an attempt is made to find out more about the particular sensibility that inhabits the novels of Earl Lovelace. 'The child figure' is the means through which the attempt to draw out this sensibility is made. Lovelace's novels are hardly in the first instance about childhood or children, and a survey of the criticism already done indicates this. Yet this thesis operates on two premises. The first is that there is much about the fabric of his work that suggests the centrality of a child figure. The second premise is the presumption, and perhaps a dangerous one, that the child figure is a reflection of Lovelace's own childhood or at least his attitude to his childhood. The focus being on the sensibility evoked in the novels, the thesis does not present straight biographical investigation. The intention is not to comment on or to evaluate the childhood, but to seek to understand the mind of the artist.