Acknowledgements

The subject of the present study, which is a slightly modified version of my Ph.D. thesis titled *The Formation and Early Development of the Brahmanical Group of Directional Guardian Deities in Indian Art (until c. 1000 A.D.)*, has been chosen under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Adalbert J. Gail of the Institut für Indische Philologie und Kunstgeschichte, Freie Universität Berlin. I am grateful to him for his support extended throughout my work on the subject. I am also indebted to Prof. Dr. Marianne Yaldiz, Director of the Museum für Indische Kunst Berlin, and the Council of the Ernst Waldschmidt Foundation, for considering the publication of my dissertation under the auspices of this renowned institution.

I would like to thank those who most kindly assisted me during my two visits to India, in 1992 and 1995: Prof. M.A. Dhaky, Dr. U.S. Moorti and Shri J.S. Yadav of the Center for Art and Archaeology, American Institute of Indian Studies (A.I.I.S.), then at Ramnagar, Dr. T.K. Biswas, Joint Director, Bharat Kala Bhavan, Varanasi, Dr. R. Nagaswamy, former Director, Department of Archaeology of Tamilnadu State, and the late Dr. Françoise L'Hernault, former Head of the Centre d'Histoire et d'Archéologie, École Française d'Extrême-Orient. I also thankfully acknowledge the kind technical and other assistance rendered by the archaeological officers at Ālampur and the temple authorities at Ālampur and Dharmapuri.

The following institutions most kindly provided me with photographs and the permission for publication, the Center for Art and Archaeology, A.I.I.S., Gurgaon, the Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi, the French Institute at Pondicherry, the Rijksmuseum voor Volkenkunde, Leiden, the Linden-Museum, Stuttgart, the Museum für Indische Kunst Berlin, and Sotheby's. While it is both my duty and pleasure to acknowledge the assistance also rendered in this respect, by friends as well as teachers and colleagues: Prof. Dr. Michael Meister, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Prof. Dr. Karel R. van Kooij, Rijksuniversiteit Leiden, Prof. Dr. Klaus Bruhn, Freie Universität Berlin, Dr. Gerd Kreisel, Linden-Museum Stuttgart, Privatdozent Dr. Joachim K. Bautze, Südasien-Institut, Universität Heidelberg, Dr. Gouriswar Bhattacharya, Ms. Martina Stoye, M.A., Ms. Petra Haubold, Dr. Falk Reitz, Ms. Britta Schneider, M.A., Ms. Gudrun Melzer, Mr. Jürgen Neuß, M.A., Mr. Otto Schorr and Mr. Gerd Mevissen, M.A. Photographs without any specification of copyright are by the author. Further, I am beholden to Ms. Vandana Nadkarni, M.A., Dr. Louis Nebelsick, Mr. Mansour Mansour and, again, to Mr. Gerd Mevissen for kindly assisting me in various ways, while I am alone responsible for all the mistakes which might have crept in.