

The catalogue which follows presents the stone sculptures and the terracottas from Eastern India which are in the possession of the Museum für Indische Kunst, Berlin. The collection is old and was assembled at a time, in the 19th and early 20th c., when the only other large Western institutions to collect art from Eastern India were the British Museum and the Victoria & Albert Museum, and in importance it is to be placed next to the collection of the British Museum. It illustrates specific aspects of the art of eastern India, which are not so commonly collected like votive *caitya.s* or votive slabs, which were found at Bodhi Gayā and are usually disregarded.

A large number of these sculptures have inscriptions, which were read by Dr. Gouriswar Bhattacharya. Besides, two Burmese inscriptions were read by Dr. Tilman Frasch, Südasien-Institut der Universität Heidelberg, whom we thank.

Since it is the collection of this Museum which drew my attention when I was a student, to this Indian school of sculpture which would become the centre of my research, I close somehow a circle with this work. However, its accomplishment would not have been possible, had the former director of the Museum für Indische Kunst, Berlin, Prof. Dr. Herbert Härtel not entrusted me with the writing of this catalogue and had its actual director, Prof. Dr. Marianne Yaldiz not encouraged me. Her definite help acted in a decisive way for bringing into existence this project. All my gratitude goes to her for her enthusiasm and decision to proceed actively with this publication. Both of them entitled me to study, catalogue and publish this large collection of sculptures, for which I feel much honoured.

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