The scope of the study of Buddhism in Nepal is vast, almost limitless. Nepal offers a unique field of research into Buddhist literature. Mr. B. H. Hodgson discovered in the libraries and monasteries of Nepal the original documents of the Buddhist canon in 1823 A.D. Most of these mss are preserved in Nepal even to-day. Besides these, a large number of Nepalese inscriptions, which are of Buddhist inspiration, are discovered in Nepal and some of the monasteries in Nepal are so rich in images that they can be said to constitute small museums by themselves. Thus Nepal is regarded as one of the most important places for Buddhist research up till now. However, out of a large number of works on Nepal, we get no book solely devoted to Buddhism in Nepal of all ages. Thus I have tried to present an understandable complete image of Buddhism in Nepal. I have spared no pains to find confirmatory evidence for the views expressed, both from mss. well as from inscriptions of Nepal. The preparation of the thesis involved considerable field-work in the Nepal Valley. I have visited several shrines in the Nepal Valley for this purpose.

This book is the product of my thesis work for Calcutta University (Department of Pali). It is written mainly on the basis of the Nepalese inscriptions and the colophons of mss. found in Nepal up till now as source materials. This book is concerned with Buddhism in Nepal. The work has five chapters and an appendix with three sections. The first chapter studies the introduction of Buddhism into Nepal. The second chapter discusses the spread of Buddhism and the Buddhist Schools in Nepal. The third chapter is an attempt to describe the monks and monasteries in Nepal. The fourth chapter gives us a pen-picture of the Buddhists of Nepal and their social and religious life. The fifth chapter, the concluding one, deals with the Buddhist Arts and Architecture in Nepal. The appendix contains a list of mss. explored in Nepal and a list of important and famous monasteries, which are mentioned either in the colophons of mss. or in the Nepalese inscriptions of different ages, and gives us an outline of the decline of Buddhism in Nepal. The second and the third chapters of this book contain the vital portion of this thesis.
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