ABSTRACT

In the present dissertation an attempt has been made to show that the coins of the Gupta kings which tell us very many things about their issuers are also the most tangible evidence of the cultural, economic and artistic excellence of the so-called Golden Age of ancient India.

As is well known, Gupta coins were initially influenced by foreign coins, specially those of the Imperial Kushapas and the Western Satraps. But slowly and progressively Gupta artists shook off all foreign influence and made a mark of their own talent and ingenuity in the coin devices. The present work, also seeks to examine the extent of Gupta influence on post-Gupta coins, circulated in Eastern, Central and Northern India in so far as their devices and artistic excellence are concerned.