PREFACE

In the present work an attempt has been made to study intensively the gold, silver and copper coins of the monarchs belonging to the Imperial Gupta family. We have critically studied the devices of the Gupta coins, but the main focus is on the iconographic details of the deities as depicted on the coins. We have discussed the artistic excellence of the coins as a whole, and that is the most tangible evidence of ingenuity and talent of the Gupta mint-artists. We have also made a somewhat thorough and critical study of later Indian coins, which betray the influence of the Gupta coins. For this purpose we have also referred to some of the contemporary sculptures and seals, which follow the same mode of representations of the deities as may be seen on the coins under survey.

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