INTRODUCTION

Allahabad and its adjoining areas witnessed an extraordinary political and cultural activity through the course of centuries. Innumerable sites, with high archaeological potentialities lie scattered in the region. Partial excavations have been conducted only at the site of Kausāmbī and Bhitā. Important sites like Jhūśī, situated, opposite the holy Sangam, Lachchhāgir, Grīdhakūṭa and Mahāsīyādīn in Handia tehsil and Singror (ancient Sṛṅgaverapura) have not yet been tapped. A clearance of the debris outside the Garhwa Fort would be rewarding.

There have been chance finds from the region during the past 100 years. Their bearing on the history and culture is immense. Some of these have been published by scholars in various magazines and journals, others are still in godowns, museums and private collections. I have made a humble attempt in this thesis to put all the published and unpublished material in a critical and systematic manner. I believe this is the first chronological study of the rich and varied cultural heritage of the Prayāga region. I consider it my good luck to be in service of the Allahabad Museum which has in its collection hundreds of rare archaeological finds from the various sites of the Allahabad district and has given me an opportunity to make their first hand study.

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It is my earnest hope that this humble study will form a basis for a comprehensive evaluation of the Archaeological wealth of the Allahabad region.

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