This is the first systematic attempt to study the sculptures preserved in the Himachal Pradesh State Museum Shimla. Previous studies have been only in the form of stray articles, special exhibition catalogues or the cursory references to a few important sculptures in the books written on the art of Himachal or of the adjacent area. We have tried here to study these sculptures in a comprehensive way keeping in mind to bring out the artistic and cultural contributions that they represent. The present study is not precisely speaking, a catalogue, but most of the important pieces of sculptures have been documented here following the methodology of a descriptive catalogue.

We have divided the work under three chapters. In the first chapter a general introduction to the nature of collection of sculptures in the State Museum at Shimla has been discussed by highlighting some important pieces and also the importance of this collection. In the second chapter we have an objective study of all the important sculptures in this collection. The approach has been a critical analysis of the style and iconography of the sculptures. In the third chapter we have highlighted
the cultural study of the sculptures and also the artistic and aesthetic quality of the sculptures.

The present work was started with the initial supervision of Prof. V.C. Pandey. It is my privilege that Dr. S.N. Chopra, presently Professor in the Department of Ancient Indian History Culture & Archaeology, Panjab University, has been kind enough to agree to supervise this work after Prof. Pandey retired from the University. I am grateful to Prof. Chopra for his constant supervision and guidance which enabled me to complete this work.

I must take this opportunity to express my gratitude to a number of scholars whose valuable contributions in the field of art and archaeology have benefitted me in many ways. In this regard I would like to specially mention the names of Dr. V.C. Ohri, the former Curator of Himachal State Museum and Shri Devindra Handa, Reader in the Department of Ancient Indian History Culture & Archaeology. Dr. Sudhakar Pandey the present Chairman of the Department of AIHCA has been very kind to have given me inspiration throughout my work. My colleague in the Department of Cultural Affairs Archeology and Museums, Punjab S. Mohan Singh, Curator has also given me inspiration and support for which I
remain grateful. I must express here my sincere gratefulness to Mrs. & Mr. S.S. Bedi who have been very kind not only to give me the inspiration and friendly guidance, but also material sustenance throughout the period that I had to take for this work. I am grateful to the institutions and libraries from where I got the required help of all sorts; here I must mention the names of authorities of the Himachal State Museum Shimla, Museum and Art Gallery, Chandigarh and Kamal Art Studio, Mohali for preparing the photographs nicely. I cannot but conclude without recording my sincere thanks and gratefulness to my wife Mrs. Usha who has not only taken many of my burdens of giving me help and support in this work but has been a constant source of encouragement.

Dated: 10.3.1992

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