ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This has been an unusually a long journey, and I have incurred so many debts along the way that it is impossible for me to account for all of them. I would like to thank people who are majorly involved in the outcome of this project.

I wish to place on record my profound sense of gratitude to my research guide, Dr. Prakash Joshi, whose kindness, patience and encouragement were the most important factors in the completion of this undertaking. Dr. Joshi’s insights in the discipline of the research, interpretations of facts and constant encouragement and guidance were the most important factors in the completion of my research. Insightful discussions with Dr. Joshi are as unforgettable as remarkable hospitality extended by him and Mrs. Joshi.

I express my gratitude to Prof. (Dr.) Shripad Bhat, Dean and HoD S. B. L. Centre of Sanskrit and Indological Studies, Board of Arts and Fine Arts for the extended support and for being always supportive. I wish to thank Prof. (Dr.) Manjiri Bhalerao for opening the amazing world of history of Indian Art & Design through the master’s degree course in ‘Indology’. Her inspiring lectures always helped me knowing the history of Indian Art and Design deeply. I am thankful to the staff of Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth — Indology Department.

I owe my sincere thanks to the management and the staff of the manuscript repositories, Dr. Shreenand Bapat from ‘Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute; Mr. Vaishampayan, Mr. Dongre, Dr. Chitale, and Mrs. Veena from ‘Samartha Vagdevata Mandir’, Dhule; Dr. Trupti More and library staff of ‘The Deccan College and Post Graduate Research Institute’; Mrs. Vrinda Dharap of ‘Bharat Itihas Samshodhak Mandal”; Mr. Apte and Mrs. More from ‘Anandashram”; library staff at the ‘Vedic Samshodhan Samsthan’; Dr. Shubhada Nagarkar from ‘Savitribai Phule Pune University’; Dr. Meena Vaishampayan from ‘Asiatic Society’, Mumbai, Mr. V. L. Manjul, and Dr. Dhawedkar. Without their co-operation and support, I would have hugely struggled to get the research material on which this thesis is substantially based upon.

I am thankful to Dr. Sudha Joshi, Dr. Rama Golwalkar, and Dr. Kanchana Bhaisare for their support in various research-related activities.
I take this opportunity to express the gratitude to ‘Symbiosis International University’ and ‘Symbiosis Institute of Design’ for conducting research-related faculty development programmes to enrich faculty members in the research area and providing an opportunity to access library resource. I wish to thank Ms. Vidya and Ms. Urmila — library staff, who provided unconditional support in accessing library material. I thank Prof. Keyur Sahasrabudhe for making available camera equipment for the research work.

In any effort of this order lasting over several years, the support of one’s family is very critical. My husband, mother, brother, relatives, well-wishers, friends, colleagues and blessing of my father and mother-in-law were a perennial source of encouragement. Their love provided the zest that life needs over several years for a specific achievement.

I duly acknowledge the kind support of Dr. Deepak Tilak, Vice Chancellor of Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, and the staff at the Ph.D. section, for their strong support and co-operation in completing this task.

Place : Pune

Date : 28 March, 2017