

Preface

“The Archaeological probings in the District of North (Uttar) Dinajpur”, is the result of five years of extensive and exhaustive field survey that I had undertaken under the guidance of Dr. Mandira Bhattacharya, Department of History, North Bengal University.

The District of Uttar Dinajpur is one of the youngest in West Bengal that has emerged in the beginning of the last decade of the 20th Century. Though the district is archaeologically potential, many scholars are of the opinion that the proposed area is outside of the periphery of ancient Bengal, remaining as a frontier state.

Obviously a little attempt has been made to unearth its archaeological potentials. But the iconographic specimen found in large numbers in different parts of the district opens up vast possibilities of research. This has attracted my attention and hence the task has been taken to bring into limelight those untapped and unknown historical places.

Consequently, the thesis ^{attempts to} alter the archaeological map of the district which may add important historical data to the History of Bengal. This will therefore, serve as an important source material for future study, to help the students of history, researchers and teachers of the historical source materials lying in different parts of the region.

I owe a deep sense of gratitude to Mrs. Mandira Bhattacharya, Deptt. of History North Bengal University, whose learned guidance in conducting this research work is an immense source of energy. It is she who for the first time has exposed the importance of the area and aroused my interest.

I am really thankful to Sri Shovan Dutta, an unemployed graduate and photographer who through out the years has accompanied me in my field survey and removed my solitude in unknown lands.

The Police Superintendent of the District and the Officers-in-Charge in different police stations have earned my thanks by supplying data on images kept in those stations and allowing me to take photographs of those precious historical objects.

I thank my wife Smt. Sangita Ghosh who always revived my spirits by giving mental support and later on extending financial support in conducting and printing my thesis.

I shall always remember with gratitude the assistance of the Library of N.B.U. and therefore, owe to all the staff of the Library. I must mention the learned advice of Dr. Himangshu Sarkar, former lecturer of Kaliyaganj College and Dr. M.M. Jana, Deptt. of Geography, North Bengal University. I am also grateful to my Principal, Major B. K. Jha, Army School Bengdubi for permitting me to conduct this work.

Lastly, I must say that despite all the care taken, a few errors may have crept into the printing, but I am sure that the merit of this thesis will compensate for such errors.

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30th May 2000.*