

## ***Book Reviews***

*KUSHĀṆA STUDIES NEW PERSPECTIVES*, B.N. Mukherjee, Firma KLM Private Limited, Kolkata, 2004, pp. VIII + 435, index, black & white plates, hard bound, price - Rs. 800/-.

The author of the book entitled "Kushāṇa Studies New Perspective" is an internationally acclaimed authority in the world of Indologists, Padmashree Professor B.N. Mukherjee.

In his comprehensive, lucid, analytical work, former Carmichael Professor of Ancient Indian History and Culture, has on the basis of newly found various coins, epigraphs, excavation, literary text, brought out the fact that, clear impact of Kuṣāṇas is discernible on administration, art, coinage and other fields of Guptas. He in his brilliant exposition has established the fact that the age of the imperial Kuṣāṇas was one of the most creative periods in the history of the orient.

On the basis of Rabatak and other inscriptions he has rightly drawn the conclusion that the Kuṣāṇas kingship was hereditary in early phase and that the absence of coins of Kaniṣka II is because he was a co-ruler of Huviṣka and never was a senior or supreme ruler. He has aptly opined that the imperial Kuṣāṇas laid stress on the cults of the empire and the emperor but never created any obstacle for those who believed in other cults thereby allowing religious toleration and growth of syncretistic ideas.

His analysis that Kuṣāṇa empire had relations with the Vanga and Kalinga is based on solid evidence. Prof. Mukherjee's numerous books in the field of Kuṣāṇa history bear the stamp of his deep scholarship and Rise and Fall of the Kuṣāṇa Empire was a landmark. The present book, however, updates all informations and researches on the subject.

The Appendices and Maps are useful. The book is marked by thoroughness and meticulousness.

The reviewer would like to congratulate him for this valuable work highlighting various aspects of initial, political, chronological, administrative, religious, socio-economic and commercial History.

**Prof. Manjushree Rao**