

Report I

Śilpa-sahasradala

Dr. N.P. Joshi*

The project, entitled as above of compiling a Directory of some unique, rare and uncommon Brāhmanical Sculptures including those evincing any of the interesting iconographic features, or even those confined to particular regions of our country, was undertaken last year. Accordingly the aim, scope and the line of action were discussed in a short note published in Bulletin number 9. Any sort of Directory of this nature without copious illustrations would certainly be of little use; but at the same time, procuring sharp photographs of best quality and that too with necessary permission to publish them was no less a tedious task. Hence it was decided to have line drawings of all the important sculptures. Thus started the work of preparing inventory cards, writing section-wise Introductions and illustrating the same with line drawings. Here is a brief report of the work completed during the year under review.

First draft of sections dealing with Gaṇapatī, Skanda, Brahmā, Śiva and Sūrya, as detailed below is ready; and would shortly undergo the process of editing.

Deity	Total Entries	Total Sculptures discussed	Total Line Drawings	Total pages
Gaṇapatī	41	72	44	22
Skanda	16	32	18	13
Brahmā	16	33	12	11
Śiva	126	242	88	51
Sūrya	61	114	43	28

* Ācārya, Jñāna Pravāha, Centre for Cultural Studies & Research, Samneghat, Varanasi.

Presently the work on Viṣṇu is in hand.

In course of the work, very useful material for scholars, students of Hindu Iconography and even general readers interested in the subject has come to light. It would not be out of place here to mention a few pieces of extra ordinary nature :

Gaṇapati

Gaṇeśa flanked by elephants; Gaṇeśa in race competition with Skanda; Gaṇeśa as an elephant, Gaja-vināyaka; Human headed Gaṇeśa; Four legged, four handed Gaṇeśa; Pañca-vināyaka; Six-headed Gaṇeśa; Gaṇeśa with Mātrkās; Viṣṇu dancing on Gaṇeśa; Pañcamukha Gaṇeśa with three miniature elephants on the right tusk of the central trunk.

Skanda

Golden plaque showing two-armed Skanda; Skanda in Gandhāra art; Skanda with double peacocks; Śāstā; Skanda - ṣaṣṭhī; Brahmā - śāstā and Varāha - saṁhāra; Skanda Caturātmā.

Brahmā

Brahmā (Prajāpatī); Brahmā in Assam; Brahmā - Sāvitrī; Brahmā - Sāvitrī - Sarasvatī; Virumāṇḍī.

Śiva

Śiva-*liṅga* with gaṇas; Pañca-*liṅga*; Five-faced *liṅga*; Śiva with lion; Śiva-Gāndhāra; Maheśvara - Mahākāla; Śivalingin form; Śiva's foot prints; Naṭarāja holding a lion; Naṭarāja with Gaṅgā and Gaurī; Naṭarāja with Gaṅgā and Yamunā; Dviliṅgī Lakulīśa; Dakṣiṇāmūrti with Pārvatī; Bhairava three legged; Śiva-Pārvatī-vivāhamūrti; Umā-Maheśvara with baby Skanda; Umā-Maheśvara dyūta-krīḍā; Umā-Maheśvara-Umā four handed; Ardhanārīśvara with Lakṣmī; Sadāśiva; Ekādaśamukha, twenty-four handed Śiva; Maheśvara-Mahāvarāha; Śiva as a bird with Matsyāvatāra Viṣṇu in beak, Talagaon figure; Gaṅgā-visarjana-mūrti; Ajamukha-Śiva?, Kirātamūrti.

Sūrya

Sūrya on horse; Dvādaśāditya; Sūrya with lions; Sūrya on Udayācala; Sūrya - Kathā; Āditya - Nārāyaṇa; Sūrya with Viṣṇu's Incarnations; Sūrya with three faces; Sūrya - Varāha (Āditya-Varāha); Sūrya and nava-graha-maṇḍala, Nepal; Candra-maṇḍala with Kalās; Rāśī - maṇḍapa; Depiction of *praharas* and *nakṣatras*.

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