This brief study is aimed at documenting, as best as is allowed by circumstances, the work done in the Hindu monastic establishment in the Punjab plains by way of painting. The circumstances are by no means easy: much work in the form of miniatures has disappeared in the last fifteen years, and most of the murals are in a state of sad neglect, being scratched or on the point of being whitewashed. There is, thus, some kind of urgency about the study which was in some ways inspired by the pioneering attempt made by Mrg to draw attention to murals in the Pahari region. I felt that the work in the plains was equally deserving of being noticed and recorded and the present study, with all its flaws, embodies an attempt.

A part of the work done here is also generated by the valuable work of Dr. Karuna Goswamy, Vaishnavism in the Panjab Hills and Pahari Painting, which drew attention for the first time to a great deal of material that had gone unnoticed by scholars. In some ways my work represents an enlargement of the approach taken by her. The profuse references to her study in my work would indicate the extent to which it is indebted to her's.
I have confined myself to studying the work done in the monastic establishments in the plains, and not in isolate temples or secular buildings of which also surely there is a great deal in the Punjab. But this was done so that a sharper focus could be achieved and the study reach some depth.

Most of the work presented here was done through intensive field work with all the difficulties it presents. Photographing details in remote corners of delapidated building is not always easy; gaining access to collections is sometimes a difficult matter; and one cannot take everyone's co-operation for granted. I am conscious that this study has some gaps and many faults. I can only say that it represents an honest effort to negotiate a subject that is often neglected and not wholly easy to piece together.

In the completion of this study I have received generous help which I wish to acknowledge here.

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