This study is primarily aimed at documenting the surviving illustrated manuscripts from the eastern and the western regions of India during the 10th-17th century A.D. The manuscripts studied and documented here are of an art which was at one time very popular. Manuscript painting of the two above mentioned regions, gradually developed their own aesthetic and range of themes and styles during the 10th-17th century. It was felt that a comprehensive study of the subject would throw light on many interesting points of art and history, still not properly utilised. The present work is an humble attempt to initiate the analytical study of the manuscript painting of eastern and western regions of India.

Details of geography, political history and the general history of the painting in India, have not been treated at length. These details are easily available elsewhere, and, in any case, the aim of the present study is not to write a general introduction to manuscript painting, but only to draw attention to that aspect of it that has been chosen. The account may, therefore, not be found to be as exhaustive as it could perhaps be made.
A comparative study of manuscript painting of eastern and western regions of India, presents many difficulties. The written records are few, historical accounts patchy, and collections of paintings dispersed. Within these limitations, especially within the one mentioned last, an attempt has been made to go into the subject as intensively as was possible.

The study is based on the available written records and the manuscript illustrations noticed from some important collections which were made accessible to me. My work in the field convinces me that what I was able to record, forms a very small portion of what must be in existence. I have not entered into the controversies of style as competent authorities have already been alive to these issues.

This dissertation embodies the result of my own research and observations. Although every effort has been made to collect all possible information and to arrange them in a systematic manner, yet I am keenly aware of its shortcomings and the sole responsibility for whatever lapses there are in it, is my own.

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