

Preface

It may be pointed out at the outset that the inscriptions included in the list could not be arranged in chronological order as they were included during the work as and when noticed and found available. We did not like to disturb the order as arranged by J.F. Fleet in his *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum*, Vol. III and further added to the list the other inscriptions which he could not include in his work due to their non-availability and non-publication at the time when he published his work. The criterion for the selection of the inscriptions and the seals has been the relevance with the Gupta history and the area supposed to be under the direct rule of the Guptas.

The present work, to some extent, is a break-away from the traditional type of research. This work follows the lines set in by F.T. Wainright and Dr. H.D. Sankalia in their works *Archaeology and place-names and History* and *Studies in the Historical and Cultural Geography and Ethnography of Gujarat* respectively.

Some people may ward off the idea in a name by saying merely "what is in a name?" But we find even now the people taking time to give a name to their child. They may even sometime talk about the justification of the name by the child which is expressed by a Sanskrit dictum *yathā nāma tathā guṇaḥ*.

A person is identified by his name by the family members as well as by others. Man lives with his name in this life and even after death the name survives. There is a taboo about the secret name not to be disclosed or made known to others for fear of sorcery or black-magic or ill-effect by the spirits.

It may also be mentioned that some people may give the names to their children quite thoughtfully—it may be after a god, a hero, a character from some fiction, while others may