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BUDDHIST PAINTINGS
OF
TUN-HUANG
IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM, NEW DELHI



LOKESH CHANDRA
and
NIRMALA SHARMA

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The Tun-huang caves are the sparkle of Buddhist art over the centuries. Situated at the foot of the Mountain of Singing Sands, they are the brush of the Buddha, where an itinerant monk Yüeh-ts'un watched the iridescent peaks in the sheen of blue satin, settled down to excavate the first cave in AD 344, and to paint its walls with colours brought by birds, as the folk legend has it.

Buddhist Paintings of Tun-Huang in the National Museum, New Delhi reproduces and describes for the first time the paintings from Tun-huang in this museum, one of the three major repositories of the Tun-huang paintings—the others being the British Museum London and the Musée Guimet, Paris. This book fulfills a long-felt need and will cover a major lacuna of research in presenting the third large repository. The scrolls from Tun-huang are the charm of these caverns that once drew humans to their depths.

About the Authors:

Lokesh Chandra is an internationally renowned scholar of Tibetan, Mongolian and Sino-Japanese Buddhism. A prolific writer, he has to his credit 600 works.

Nirmala Sharma is an Art Historian and Professor of Buddhist studies at the International Academy of Indian Culture, New Delhi. She is working on the project of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts on "Iconography of the Mandalas of the Dukhang of Alchi".

