

## PREFACE

This work is dedicated to Muni Śrī Puṇyavijayajī in recognition of his notable contributions to Jain researches and in appreciation of his generous support and encouragement of my studies over a period of four decades. Never confined by sectarian bias, he was always available to share with scholar and layman, alike, the riches of his learning. Concomitant with his concentration on the preparation for publication of Jain canonical texts was his purpose to direct interest to the secular literature composed in Prākṛit, Apabhraṃśa and Old Western Rājasthānī for the special Jain cultural content of the genre. He arranged and reorganized the holdings of Jain bhaṇḍārs in Gujarāt and Rājasthān. In the process of cataloguing their collections, he rescued from virtual anonymity a number of rare texts, many of them of inestimable value for their illuminations. He facilitated their access to researchers and, in this way, made possible significant contributions to the appreciation and comprehension of Indian miniature painting. His vast collection of manuscripts, which he presented to the L. D. Institute of Indology of Ahmedabad, forms the foundation of its admirable library. His influence on Jain studies will long be felt and his memory preserved with reverence and affection.

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I close with my heartfelt thanks to the special few who were there for me when I almost was not.

Ernest Bender,  
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