ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Primary research and photographs. Various permissions were availed by the researcher from the Archaeological Survey of India for on-site research and photo documentation from time to time. The researcher would like to thank the Director General's office in New Delhi and the Office of the Superintending Archaeologist, Aurangabad Circle; in particular Dr V. N. Prabhakar, Dr Shivanand V., Dr D. Dayalan, Mr M. Mahadevaiah, and Shri Vilas Jadhav. All the photos, tables, illustrations, and figures are by the researcher, unless otherwise indicated in the captions of the figures, illustrations, tables, and photographs.

Secondary research. Hon. Prof. Dr Dieter Schlingloff of University of Leipzig, and Prof. Dr Monika Zin of Free University, Berlin permitted me to consult their researches and identifications of the themes of the Ajantā paintings. They also guided me from time to time on iconography-related researches. Prof. Emeritus Walter M. Spink of University of Michigan has shared with me his research in the last 20 years, and also permitted me to reproduce his revised time chart (September 2012), defining features, and door modes from Ajantā: History and Development, 6 volumes (Leiden: Brill, 2005-2012).

Map and ground plans. The maps and ground plans are reproduced or adapted from James Fergusson and James Burgess, The Cave Temples of India (London: W. H. Allen, 1880; repr. Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 2000).

Individuals. Shri Devendra Ingle, Asstt. Prof. M. J.

College, Jalgaon has helped in a number of ways. Sayyed Abid,

Sayyed Asak, Sayyed Rajek, and Sayyed Azhar of Hotel New K.

P. Park, Phardapur, sponsored boarding and lodging during the author's three-month field tour in the summer of 2012. Bipin Patel troubleshot many problems. This Ph.D. could not have been possible at all without the encouragement and prodding of Dr. Shailendra Kushwaha who has helped me in ways more than I can count. To each one of the above the researcher is highly indebted.