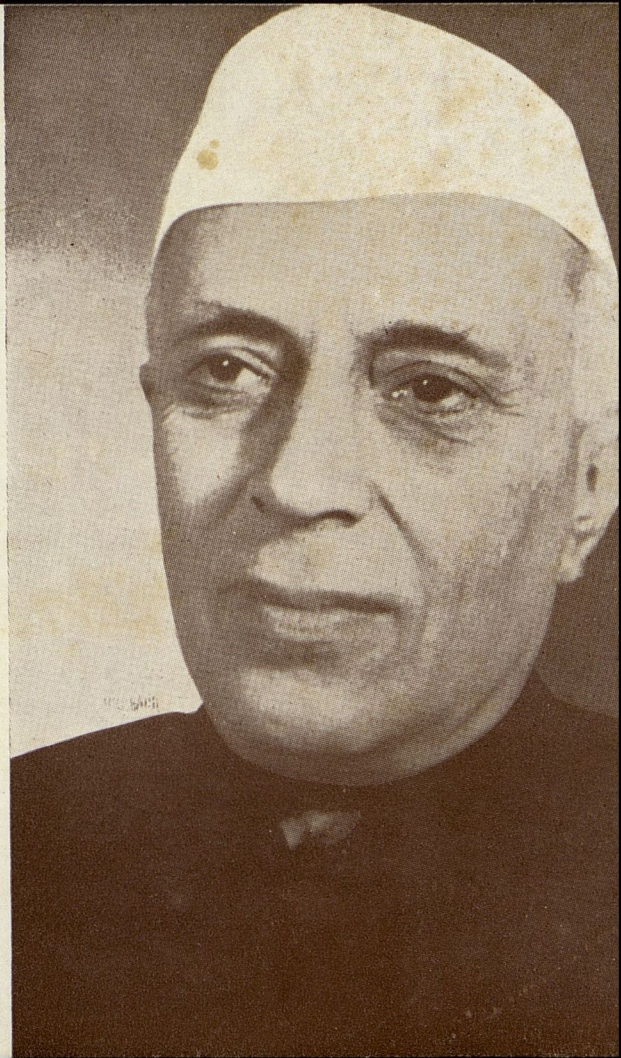



In Memoriam

JAWAHARLAL
NEHRU

CALCUTTA ART SOCIETY






“This was a man who with all his mind and heart, loved India and the Indian people. And they, in turn, were indulgent to him and of their love most abundantly and extravagantly”.

By courtesy of

BATA SHOE CO. PRIVATE LIMITED



21

Jawaharlal Nehru's association with Calcutta Art Society

Pranabesh Chandra Sinha, Founder Secretary

Calcutta Art Society's first contact with Sri Jawaharlal Nehru was on the 18th of July 1942, when the fight for Freedom took a turn with Gandhiji's "Quit India" movement. I saw Sri Nehru at his residence "Ananda Bhavan" at Allahabad with a letter from Prof. Tan Yun Shan of Santiniketan. I was to request him to unveil the portrait of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, which was to be presented to the National Government of China at Chungking. He expressed his doubts whether it would be possible for him to come to Calcutta during September in view of the fact that the Congress would be in conflict with the British Government when the "Quit India" resolution would be moved by Gandhiji in Bombay in August. He, however, said that his sister Sm. Vijayalakshmi Pandit could be requested to do the job. Panditji went inside the house and within a few minutes came out with Sm. Pandit and introduced her to me. She said that all depended on the turn of events and development of situation at that time. At the end Sri Nehru said—"As you have decided I think you should not hold back the idea of the presentation of the portrait on political reasons."

Eventually the portrait was presented at a ceremony held in the Darbhanga Library Hall, Calcutta University on 24th September 1942, over which Dr. Shyamaprasad Mukherjee presided. Silpacharya Abanindranath Tagore unveiled the portrait, which was accepted by Dr. C. J. Pao, the then Consul General for China in Calcutta.

A book "Tagore and China" was subsequently published and a copy was sent over to Sri Nehru.

I met Sri Nehru in June 1953 and sought his permission to raise funds for the Kamala Nehru Hospital Fund, Allahabad. The Society donated Rs. 3,001/- to the Fund. The amount was collected by staging "Meghadootam" at the New Empire and also at the St. Xaviers College during July 1954.

A list of the Society's functions in which Sri Nehru took part is given below.

- * Presentation of the portrait of Gandhiji to the Calcutta Corporation on 14th January 1949. Sri Nehru unveiled the portrait and placed a wreath on it. Maharajadhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan, the then President of the Society, presided over the function and formally handed over the portrait to Sri S. N. Roy, I.C.S., the then Administrator of the Calcutta Corporation.
- * Presentation of a portrait of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to Raj Bhavan, Calcutta on 24th March 1952. Sri Nehru unveiled the portrait, which was then formally presented to Dr. H. C. Mookerjee, the then Governor of West Bengal, by Maharajadhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan, the then President of the Society. Dr. Harekrushna Mahatab, the then Minister of Industries and Commerce, Government of India (now the President of the Society) presided over the function.
- * An exhibition of the folk Arts of Bengal held at the New Delhi Town Hall on 27th December 1953. A lampstand made of indigenous products of Bengal was presented to Sri Nehru by the Secretary of the Society on behalf of its donors M/s. Bata Shoe Co. Pvt. Ltd.
- * At the exhibition of paintings donated by top-ranking artists of India, held in New Delhi in aid of the National Defence Fund, on the 30th December 1962. (A large sum was collected through auction of these exhibits.)
- * Presentation of the life-size portrait of Rabindranath Tagore to the Government of Japan. Sri Nehru presented the portrait donated by the Society.

Extract from the speeches of Jawaharlal Nehru delivered on the occasion of different functions of the Society

On the occasion of unveiling of Gandhiji's portrait—14th January 1949.

"The only right path today, the only thing to do, for a nation as for an individual, is to adhere to the rightness of conduct being convinced that even from the narrowest viewpoint of self-interest this is the best path".

I am averse to statues being set up but if acting with the times they did it, they must remember, while looking at them the most important thing, stated above.

Portraits and statues of Gandhiji were useful in a way, in that they reminded them what Gandhiji had spoken. They had the privilege to meet Mahatma Gandhi, hear his voice, talk to him about their troubles and find relief.

I wonder that the future generation would think of this period of ours. They would think us greatly privileged to have lived at a time with this great soul amongst us, to have touched him, and seen his dancing eyes and to have heard his beautiful voice. I and most of us spent a good part of our lives with him through storm and trouble, facing great problems which were often enough to overwhelm us. I wonder also what might have been the fate of this country if he had not been here to guide us and give us his wise counsel.

We failed him. He did not fail us. In spite of our failures he pulled us and pushed us in the right direction. Some think of him and are inspired by that thought and pay our homage to his memory.

I must thank the Calcutta Art Society for the opportunity given to me to pay my respectful homage to Mahatma Gandhi in presence of the portrait which I unveil. May his spirit guide us all."

On the occasion of unveiling the portrait of Netaji at Raj Bhavan on 24th March 1952.

"Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose who was my near and dear colleague has not only served the cause of India but by his services brought also freedom to us.

As I stand here my mind goes back and travel in various directions. On the one side, there was the portrait and on the other there was the ancient Citadel that was the Government House of Calcutta, which has played, perhaps, more than any other structure, an important role during 150 years of British Rule in this country.

It struck me as something old but at the same time fitting too, that the ceremony had taken place in that ancient abode of British power in India. Times had changed greatly and in the changes, in shaping the changes Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose played a very great part.

When I think of him, standing here as I do, I feel lonely because he was younger but although younger he was a near and dear colleague with whom we worked for many years. I am unveiling the portrait of one, of him, who by his services not only served the cause of India but brought freedom for us.

Somehow I lose the perspective of history standing here in this picturesque house and thinking of one, our near and dear colleague, who had become part of the history of India.

What part he has played in the history of India and what part any of us here today has played is a matter for future historians to judge. But so far love and gratitude of the people counts, the part he has played is a great part of the love and gratitude flowing from the core of heart of the people. So, today we are unveiling the portrait of a comrade, a friend, and a leader of India."

On the occasion of presentation of the Portrait of Rabindranath Tagore at Japan—5th October 1957.

"Mr. Prime Minister, I have been asked by the Calcutta Art Society to present you with this portrait of Rabindranath Tagore, one of the greatest sons of India. The members of this Society wished it to be regarded as a national gift from the people of India to the Japanese people. I hope, you will please accept it."

(The life-size portrait of Rabindranath, a gift from the Calcutta Art Society was presented to the Government of Japan by Sri Jawaharlal Nehru on 5th October 1957 at 11-30 A.M., at the official residence of Mr. Nobusuke Kishi, Prime Minister of Japan, before a distinguished gathering of Cabinet Ministers and high-rank officials of Japan and the Embassy of India. This portrait was later placed in the big hall of the National University of Tokyo, where India's Prime Minister addressed the gathering of University Professors, important citizens, and high officials of Japan. The portrait is subsequently kept in the big Library Hall of the Tokyo University.)

Messages received from Jawaharlal Nehru
by the Society

On the occasion of the Society's non-official cultural delegation sent to visit Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt, during October-December 1950.

“I am glad to learn that the Calcutta Art Society is sponsoring a non-official goodwill delegation to Iran, Iraq, and Egypt, consisting of Prince Yousuf Mirza, Dr. Kalidas Nag and Mr. P. C. Sinha. With these countries the relations of India have been and are friendly and we welcome all efforts to add to these friendly relations. Therefore, I welcome this non-official delegation and I hope it will convey the good wishes of our people to the people of the countries they visit.

New Delhi,
October 10, 1950.

5
On the occasion of Baisakhi Utsava of the Society held in 1954.

“It is not my practice to send messages on such occasion, but the functions I had attended previously of your Society were found to be very impressive. Please accept my greetings.”

New Delhi,
April 5, 1954.

On the occasion of the presentation of a life-size portrait of Gurudeva Rabindranath Tagore to the Government of Japan.

“I am glad to learn that the Calcutta Art Society is presenting a portrait of Rabindranath Tagore to the people of Japan. No more fitting gift could be made. Tagore was not only a symbol of India but also represented the new spirit in Asia and in the world. I trust that portrait of a great son of India will remind the people of Japan of the friendship of the Indian people with them.

New Delhi,
25th September, 1955.

On the occasion of the presentation of a life-size portrait of Gurudeva Rabindranath Tagore to the Government of West Germany.

“I am glad to know that the Calcutta Art Society is presenting to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany a portrait of Rabindranath Tagore as a gift from the people of India. There can be no worthier gift from India to Germany, spacially in this year of Tagore’s Centenary. The portrait will carry our good wishes and the message of the great man whose Centenary we celebrate.”

New Delhi,
April 28, 1961.

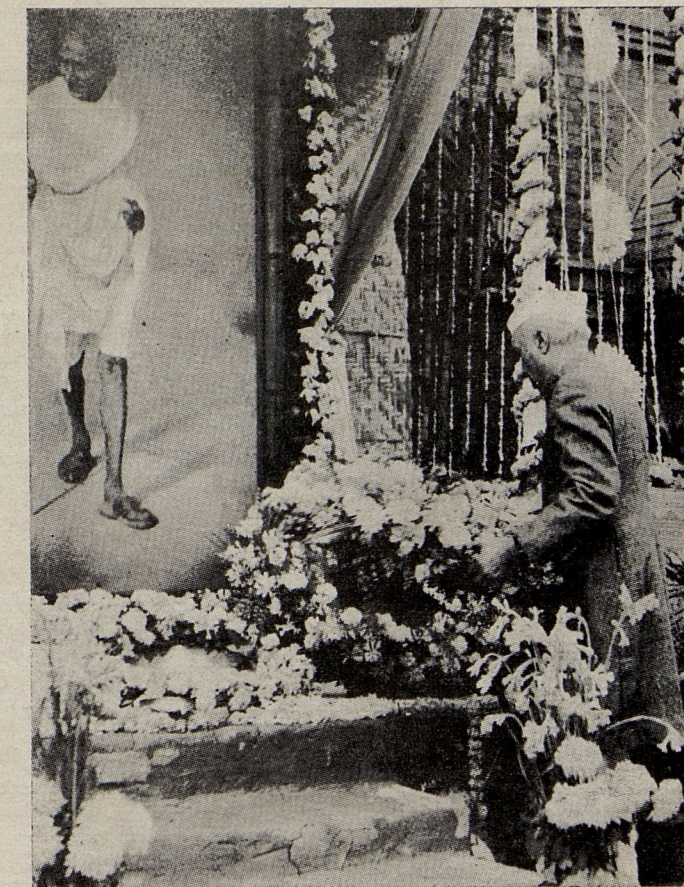
On the occasion of the Exhibition of Paintings in aid of the National Defence Fund.

“I am glad to know that the Calcutta Art Society has arranged an Exhibition of Paintings of prominent artists of India in New Delhi. I offer my best thanks to these artists and the donors who have ungrudgingly donated their works for their being auctioned in aid of National Defence Fund.”

New Delhi,
December 10, 1962.

Jawaharlal Nehru

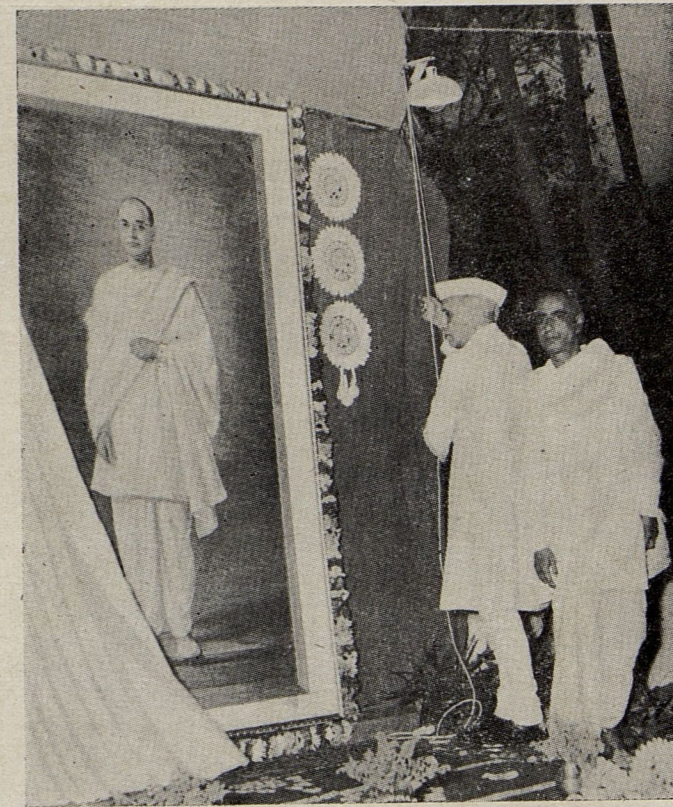
*Jawaharlal Nehru is placing a wreath
at the foot of the portrait
of Gandhiji after unveiling it
at the Calcutta Corporation
on 14th January 1949.*

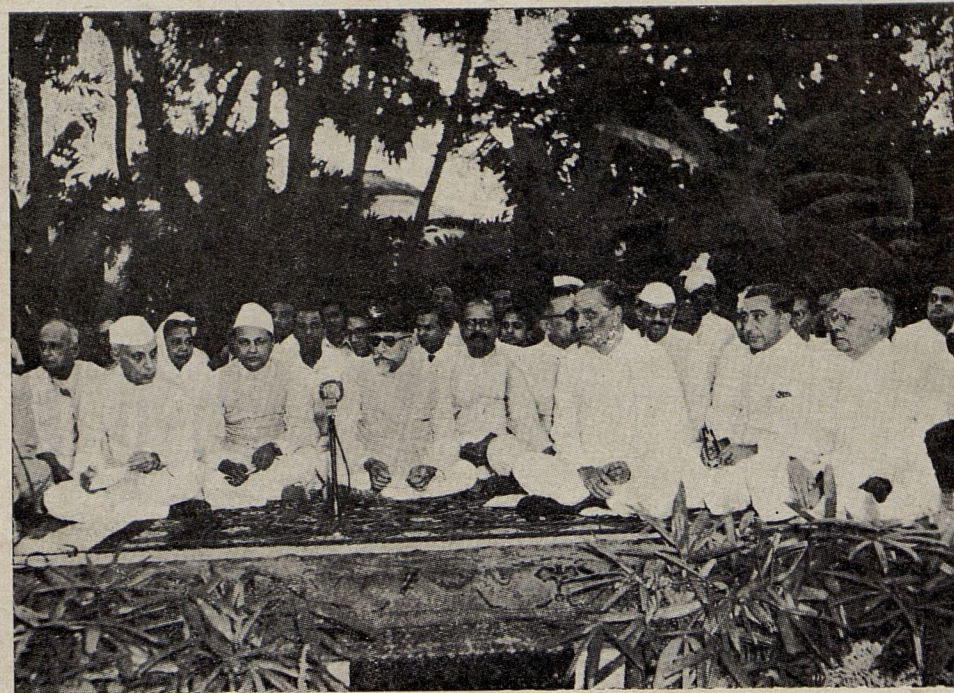




Jawaharlal Nehru is looking at the portrait of Gandhiji, which he unveiled at the Calcutta Corporation Building on 14th January 1949.

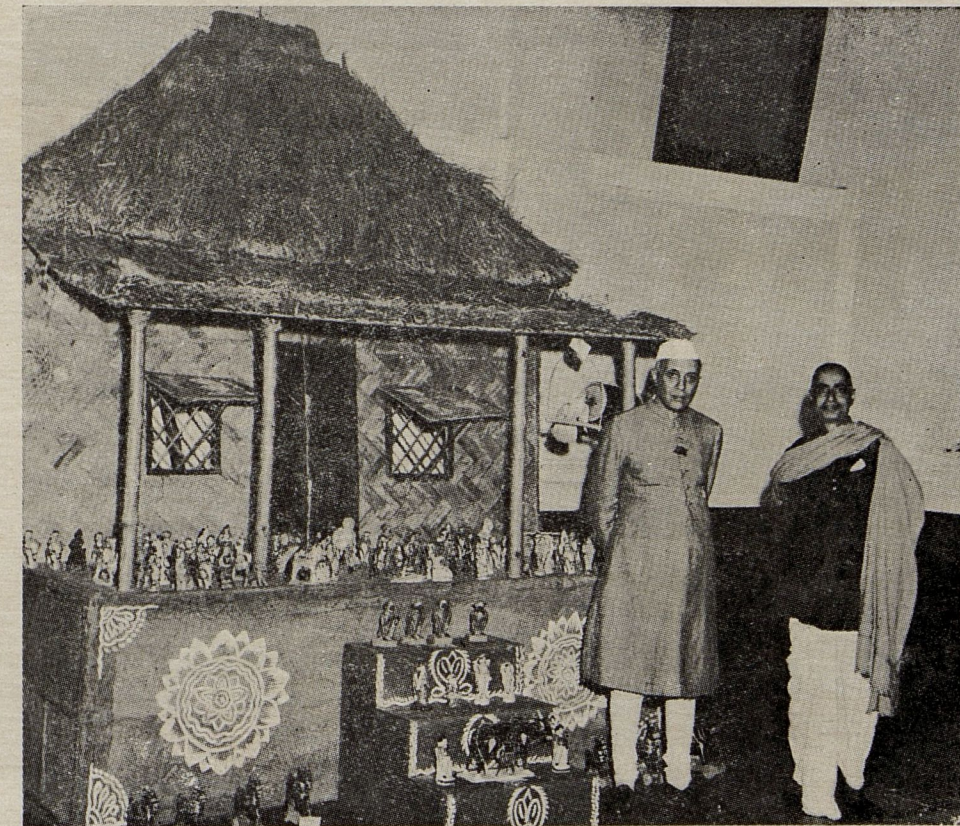
*Nehruji unveiling the portrait of
Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at
Raj Bhavan, Calcutta
on 24th March 1952.*

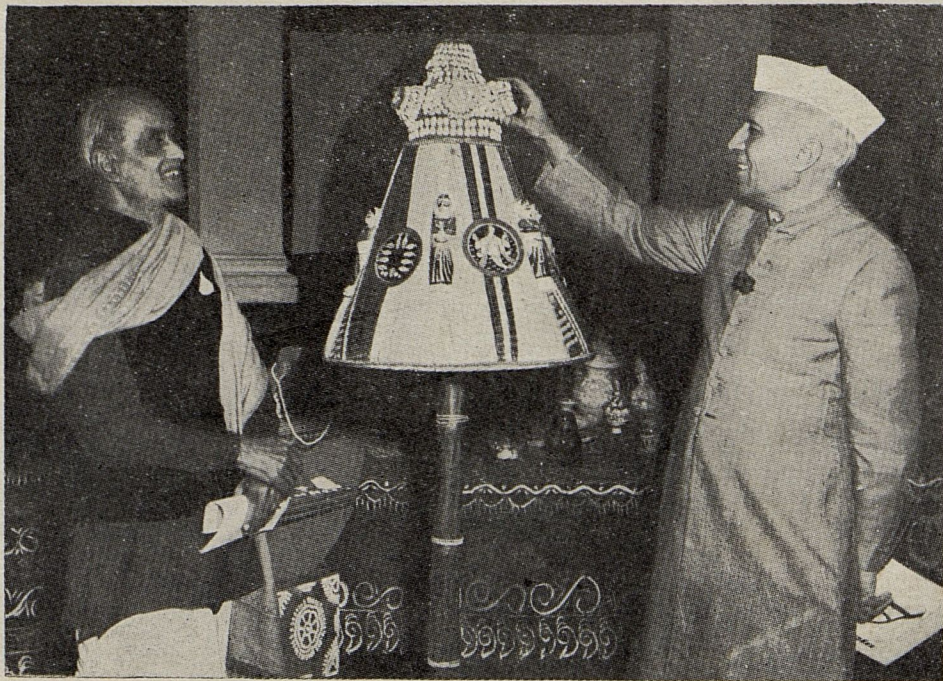




Jawaharlal Nehru is seated on the dais (left) along with Dr. Kalidas Nag, Sri S. C. Doogar, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Sri Guljarilal Nanda, Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab, Dr. B. C. Roy, Dr. H. C. Mookerjee, Sm. Aparna Devi and others on the occasion of the presentation of a portrait of Netaji to the Raj Bhavan, Calcutta on 24th March, 1952.

Nehruji is seen along with the Society's Secretary Sri P. C. Sinha by the side of a model of a hut at the Exhibition of Folk Arts of Bengal in New Delhi on 27th December 1953.

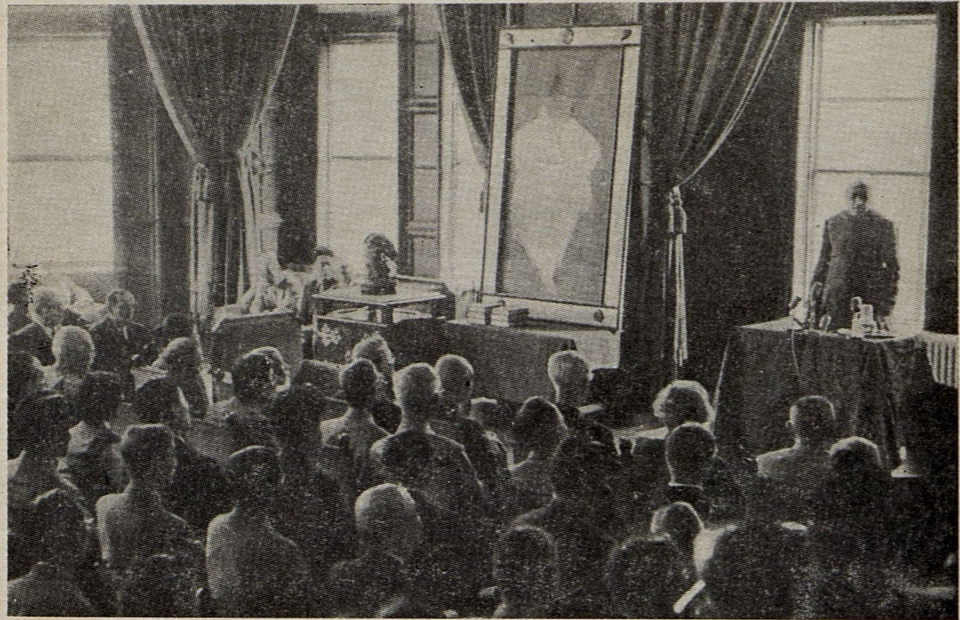




*Jawaharlal Nehru is seen receiving a lamp stand from Sri P. C. Sinha—
27th December 1953.*



*Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, with Mr. N. Kishi, Prime Minister of
Japan is seen by the side of the portrait of Rabindranath Tagore, which was presented
by Sri Nehru as a "National Gift from the people of India" at a ceremony in Tokyo,
Japan on 5th October 1957.*



Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, is seen delivering his address on the occasion of the presentation of the life-size portrait of Rabindranath Tagore to Japan, at Tokyo, Japan—5th October 1957.

CALCUTTA ART SOCIETY

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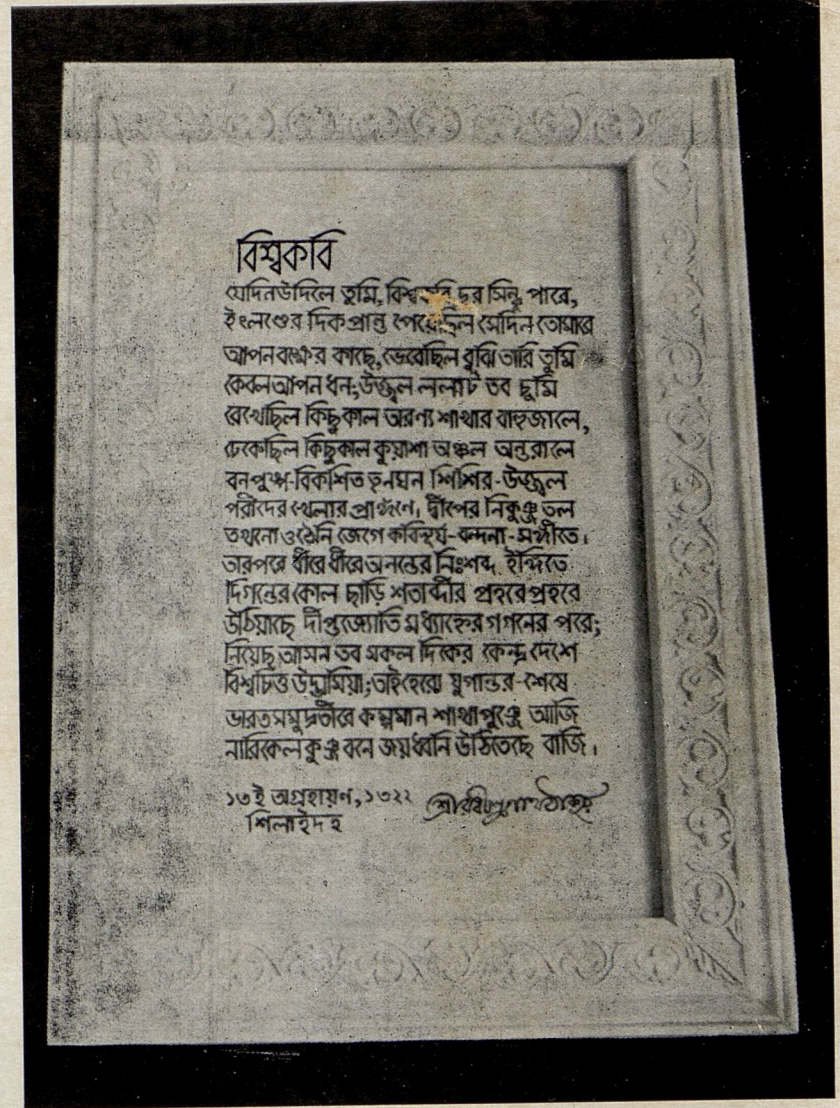
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SRI S. G. GOENKA, a life-member
SRI S. C. DOOGAR, Asst. General Secretary
of the CALCUTTA ART SOCIETY.

Calcutta Art Society

INTERNATIONAL

FRIENDSHIP

The ivory plaque on which was inscribed the Sonnet in Bengali by Tagore in praise of Shakespeare, presented to the Shakespeare Memorial Trust.



বিশ্বকবি

যেদিন উদ্ভিলে তুমি, বিশ্বকবি হইছি, পারে,
ইহলগের দিক প্রান্ত পেয়েছিল যেদিন তোমারে
আপন বক্ষের কাছে, ডেবোছিল বুঝি তারি তুমি
কেবল আপন ধন; উজ্জ্বল ললাট তব ছুঁই
রেখেছিল কিছুকাল অরণ্য শাখার বাহুজালে,
ঢেকেছিল কিছুকাল কুয়াশা অঙ্কল অনুরালে
বনপুষ্প বিকশিত কনকন শিঙ্গির-উজ্জ্বল
পরিদেয় স্থলার প্রাঙ্গণে, ধীরে নিরুপ্ত তল
তখনো ওঠেনি জেগে কবিত্ব-কন্দনা-মুগ্ধিতে।
তারপরে ধীরে ধীরে অনন্তের নিঃশব্দ, ইন্দিতে
দিগন্তের কোন ছাড়ি শতাব্দীর প্রবরে প্রবরে
উঠিয়াছে দীপ্তজ্যোতি মধ্যাহ্নের গগনের পরে;
নিয়িচ্ছ আমন তব একল দিকের কেন্দ্রদেশে
বিশ্বদিক উদ্ভাসিয়া; অধিকরে যুগান্তর শেষে
অরতমধু দ্রুতীরে কল্পমান শাখা পুঞ্জ আজি
নারিকেল কুঞ্জ বনে জয়ধ্বনি উঠিতেছে বাজি।

১৩ই অগ্রহায়ণ, ১৩২২ শ্রীশ্রীশ্রীশ্রীশ্রীশ্রী
শিলাইদহ

CALCUTTA ART SOCIETY

The Calcutta Art Society owes its inception to the blessings of Rabindranath Tagore, who inaugurated it at a small function held in September 1936. On that solemn occasion he advised—“Embrace all whom you meet with largeness of your heart. Do not imitate what is not good for you. Try to take as much as you can from others and give them the best that you have.”

The same sentiment was found in the expression of Jawaharlal Nehru in 1946, just after ten years of the Society's existence, when he met a few members of the Society who saw him to seek his advice and blessings on the eve of holding the Asiatic Conference by the Society during December 1946. Shri Nehru exhorted, “Go to other countries with your eyes open. Take from them which are good of them in their character, in the values of their culture, and in their literature. Give them in return what your country possesses and is proud of.”

This is exactly the spirit on which the Society was founded, and it has been maintaining the same spirit till today, after 30 years of its useful existence. The following pages will give an account what the Society has done all these years in its efforts towards promoting cultural friendship with the peoples of foreign countries.



Rabindranath Tagore (1936)

CONFERENCE OF ASIATIC ART AND CULTURE

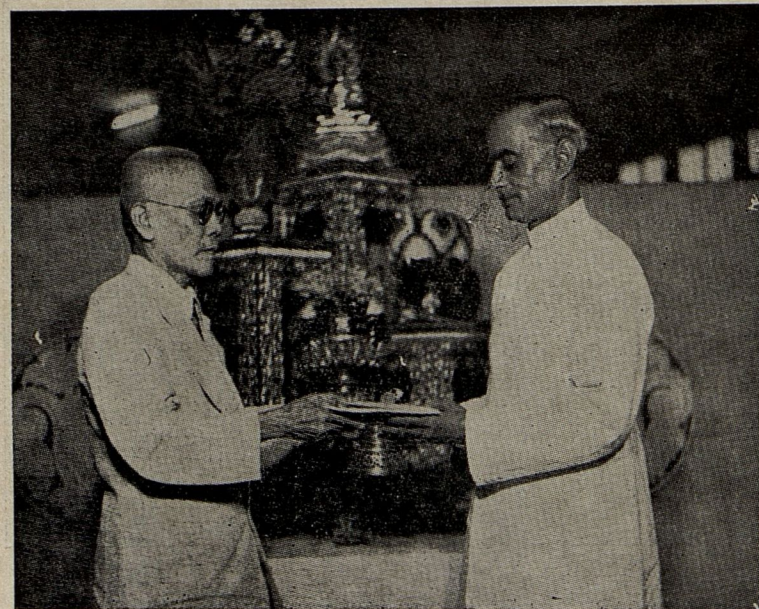
On the eve of India's independence, and on the occasion of Society's 10th anniversary of foundation a Conference of Asiatic Art and Culture was organised by the Calcutta Art Society in the Senate Hall of the Calcutta University during December 1946. The object of the Conference was to exchange mutual understanding in the fields of Art, Literature and Culture with the Governments and the peoples of the Asian countries. On the Society's invitation, official representatives from Afghanistan, Burma, China, Ceylon, Iran, Iraq and Thailand attended the Conference.

Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Minister of Education of India, inaugurated the Conference over which Dr. C. W. W. Kannangara, Education Minister of Ceylon, presided. Dr. U. Saw, Education Minister of Burma, and Dr. S. M. Rezavi, Dy. Education Minister of Iran, presided over different sectional sittings. A few paintings from China, and photographs of archaeological interest of Iraq and Ceylon were exhibited along with those of India in the Conference.

Many important resolutions were adopted in the Conference with far-reaching effect on the preservation of things of archaeological interest, and ancient paintings and manuscripts.



Shri C. Rajagopalachari inaugurating the Conference of Asiatic Art & Culture. Dr. U. Saw, Dr. C. W. W. Kannangara, Maharaja of Burdwan and Dr. Kalidas Nag are also seen in the picture.



Shri P. C. Sinha receiving the "Sanad" of the presentation of the image of the Buddha from the President of Buddha Simagama. The image on the top of the decorated wooden pedestal is seen in the picture.

It may be mentioned here that after the return of Shri Sinha from Bangkok, a life-size portrait of Gandhiji was presented to the Thai Government at a ceremony held in Calcutta, by the Society on behalf of the Indian business community in Bangkok.

BANGKOK (Thailand)

The first venture towards the fulfilment of the ideals of the Society and of the decisions taken at the Conference of Asiatic Art and Culture was made when an invitation was received by Shri P. C. Sinha from Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge to visit Bangkok for lectures. Accordingly Shri Sinha visited Bangkok in July 1949.

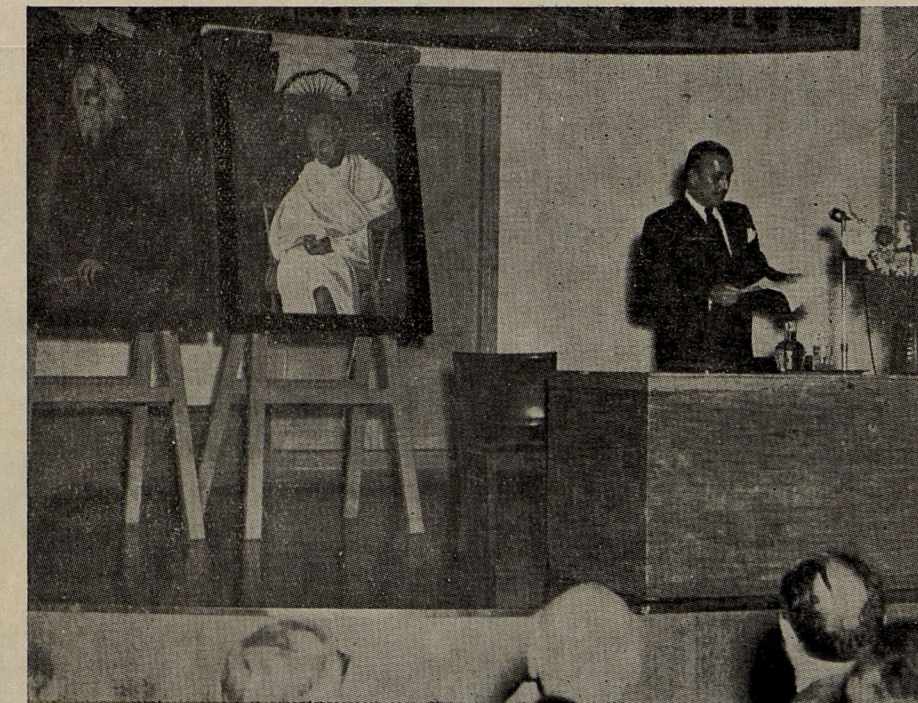
Official functions comprised of (1) Placing of a floral wreath on the golden coffin of the late King of Thailand in the Royal Palace accompanied by the Indian Ambassador in Bangkok ; (2) Lectures at the Silpakorn (University of Fine Arts) on (a) Folk Arts of Bengal, presided over by Phya Anuman Rajadhane, and (b) Architectural Forms & Figures on Ancient Hindu Temples in India, presided over by H. R. H. Prince Dhani Nivat through epidioscope. (3) Presentation of a bronze image of the Buddha by the Buddha Simagama (All-Thai Buddhist Association under Royal Patronage), was made at a ceremony held at the Ratanakosin Hotel before a distinguished gathering including India's Ambassador, Shri B. Dayal, and his wife. The image was donated by Luang Upathom Nararom, formerly the Thai Trade Commissioner in Calcutta.

MIDDLE-EAST COUNTRIES

The countries in Western Asia, popularly known as the Middle-East countries, were seldom visited by any of the cultural missions from India, nor did their representatives visit India even before independence of India. On a proposal being made by the Calcutta Art Society to send a non-official cultural delegation to a few countries in this region, the Government of India readily accepted the proposal and agreed to assist the delegation. India's Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, took special interest in the matter and blessed the delegation with his Message. The State authorities of the countries, like Iran, Iraq, and Egypt, extended their invitations to the delegation. The Ambassadors of India accredited to these countries were advised to render all possible assistance to the delegation, and to attend all official functions with the delegation.

Unofficial visits were made during this tour by the delegation to other countries like, Syria, Lebanon and Turkey.

The delegation was composed of Prince Yousuf Mirza, Dr. Kalidas Nag and Shri P. C. Sinha.



Presentation of the portrait of Poet Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi to the University of Teheran. Prince Yousuf Mirza reading his address.

The programme of activities of the delegation was-(a) Presentation of artistic gifts to the Heads of the States ; (b) Holding of Exhibitions of Paintings, etc. (c) Lectures on Indian subjects.

Water-colour paintings and graphic arts lent by the Visva-Bharati, Indian Society of Oriental Arts, and some individuals, were in the Exhibitions together with a few scroll paintings from Orissa and Bengal, and some big size photographs of ancient archaeological interests of India lent by the Education Ministry of India.

IRAN—Dr. Kalidas Nag gave lectures on (a) Indian Art through Ages, at the University premises in Teheran, and (b) Iran's Link with India during Akbar's Time, at the Museum Hall in Espahan.

Sight-seeing was arranged through visits to Espahan, Shiraz and Parsipolis. Floral wreaths were placed on the tombs of Reza Shah Pahlavi in Teheran and of Hafiz in Shiraz.

Two portraits of Tagore and Gandhi were formally presented to the Teheran University at a ceremony which was attended by over a thousand guests. The Exhibition was formally inaugurated at the Library



Gathering at the opening of the Exhibition by H. R. H. the Princess of Iran (sister of the Shah) at the State Library, Teheran.

Building by H. R. H. the Princess (sister of the Shah) of Iran, which was also well-attended.

IRAQ—Dr. Kalidas Nag gave a lecture at the Music Academy Hall on "Excavations of Mahenjodaro and Harappa".

The Exhibition was inaugurated by the Minister of Education of Iraq at the Art Academy, which was subsequently visited by H. R. H. the Regent of Iraq.

The delegation formally presented to the Regent of Iraq, one walking stick of ivory, one key-box of ivory, and a scroll painting from Orissa.

Among the places for sight-seeing the delegation was taken to Babylon and Karbala, and other excavation sites near Baghdad.

BEIRUT (Lebanon)—The Exhibition was opened in the premises of the American University by the President of the University, Mr. Pemrose.

EGYPT—The delegation formally presented an Indian musical instrument "Veena" to the King of Egypt at the Abedin Palace in the presence of his Counsellors, which was followed by tea to the members of the delegation.

The Exhibition was opened at the National Library premises by the Rector of the Cairo University. On the



Gathering at the Exhibition in Baghdad with the Minister of Education, Iraq Govt. and the Charge-de-Affairs of India.

same day after the inauguration, Dr. Kalidas Nag gave a lecture in the Common Room of the Cairo University on "India and Egypt", which was presided over by Shafiq Ghorbal Bey, Director of Education.

The members of the delegation were taken for sight-seeing to the great Pyramid of Giza, Museum of the Royal Mummies, Al Azhar University, etc. in Cairo, and then to Luxor and Alexandria.

His late Holiness the Aga Khan and Begum Aga Khan entertained the members of the delegation with Tea. The members of the delegation very much enjoyed his company because of his versatile erudition, strong wits and humour, and up-to-date information of all kinds of events of the World.

Prime Minister Nehru's Message.

I am glad to learn that the Calcutta Art Society is sponsoring a non-official goodwill delegation to Iran, Iraq and Egypt, consisting of Prince Yousuf Mirza, Dr. Kalidas Nag and Mr. P. C. Sinha. With those countries the relations of India have been and are friendly and we welcome all efforts to add to these friendly relations. Therefore, I welcome this non-official delegation and I hope it will convey the good wishes of our people to the people of the countries they visit.



Opening of the Exhibition in the American University at Beirut. Shri Sinha & Prince Yousuf are seen in the photo with Mr. & Mrs. Pemose & other Indian residents in Beirut.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

On the occasion of the 4th Independence Day of India, on the 15th August 1951, the Society presented four saplings of trees which blossom in four different seasons in India, like Gulancha (*Cocculus Cordifolius*) in Summer, Kadamba (*Anthocephalus Cadamba*) in Monsoon, Sefalika (*Nyctanthes Arbotriatis*) in Autumn, and Palasa (*Butea Frondosa*) in Spring, to the Government of the U. S. A. at a ceremony held in the Central Municipal Corporation Building in Calcutta. The Consul of the U. S. A. in Calcutta received the saplings planted in brass tubs. According to Rules, the saplings had to be certified by the Horticultural Society as healthy and were duly quarantined by them.

The Consul for the U. S. A. said while receiving the saplings that the authorities in his country desired that the saplings would be planted in the Miami Botanical Gardens, because the climate there would correspond to the tropical climate of India.

The Authorities of the Pan American Airways carried the plants and other materials supplied by the Society, like earth, water, incense, etc. auspicious for the plantation and contained in ornamental brass pots, free of cost, from Calcutta to America.



Saplings of tropical trees, sent to the United States as a symbol of Indian friendship by the Calcutta Art Society, being received by R. Raymond Plumer, Miami Parks Superintendent, from two airlines stewardesses. The trees are planted in Miami's Bay front Park.

JAPAN

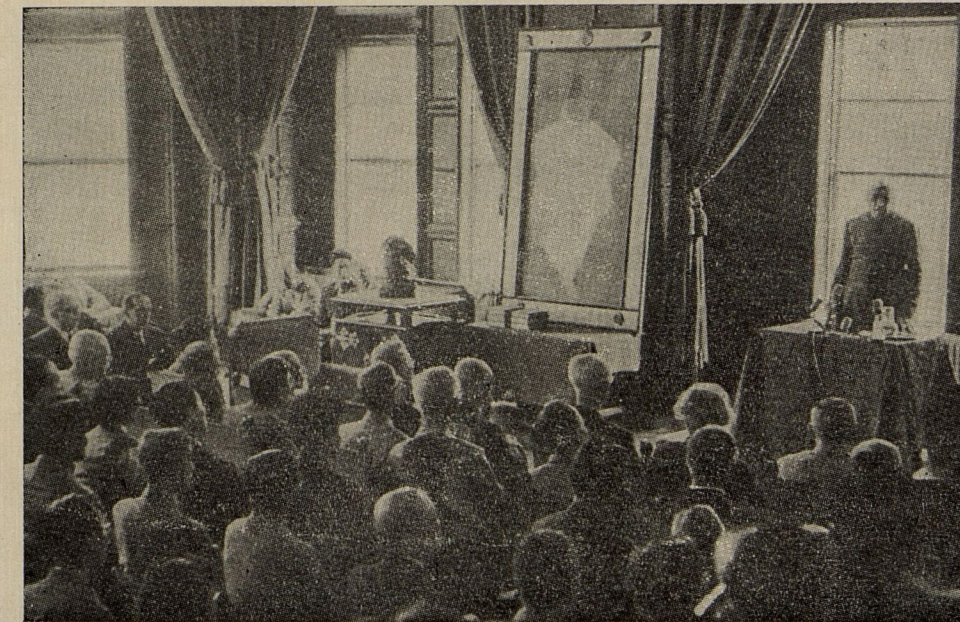
A life-size portrait of Rabindranath Tagore, a gift from the Calcutta Art Society, was presented to the Government of Japan by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru on the 5th October 1957 at 11-30 a.m. at the official residence of Shri Nobosuke Kishi, Prime Minister of Japan, before a distinguished gathering of Cabinet Ministers and high-rank officials of Japan and the Embassy of India. This portrait was later placed in the big hall of the National University of Tokyo, when India's Prime Minister addressed the gathering of University Professors, important citizens and high officials of Japan. The portrait is subsequently kept in the big library hall of the Tokyo University.

With the following words India's Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, formally presented the portrait to his Japanese counter-part, Shri Nobosuke Kishi.

"Mr. Prime Minister, I have been asked by the Calcutta Art Society, to present you with this portrait of Rabindranath Tagore, one of the greatest sons of India. The members of this Society wished it to be regarded as a national gift from the people of India to the Japanese people. I hope, you will please accept it".



Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, with Shri N. Kishi, Prime Minister of Japan, is seen by the side of the portrait of Rabindranath Tagore after its formal presentation.



Jawaharlal Nehru is seen delivering his address on the occasion of the presentation of the portrait of Rabindranath Tagore in the National University of Tokyo.

Prime Minister Nehru's Message

I am glad to learn that the Calcutta Art Society is presenting a portrait of Rabindranath Tagore to the people of Japan. No more fitting gift could be made. Tagore was not only a symbol of India but also represented the new spirit in Asia and in the world. I trust that the portrait of a great son of India will remind the people of Japan of the friendship of the Indian people with them.

During October—December, 1960 Shri P. C. Sinha had to visit Japan and some countries in the Far-East like, Burma, Thailand, Hongkong, Indonesia and Singapore with the avowed object of forming committees in the said countries for the celebrations proposed to be held on the occasion of Tagore's Birth Centenary, on Govt. of India's patronage.

WEST GERMANY

On the occasion of Poet Tagore's birth centenary celebrations in May, 1961, the Society presented a life-size portrait of Rabindranath Tagore to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, for the first time to a country in Europe. Germany gave Tagore the best of ovations during his visits to Germany on three occasions for Lectures and Exhibitions of his paintings.

The presentation ceremony of the portrait was arranged in the historic building of the Cologne University, the oldest in Europe. On request by the Society, the External Affairs Ministry telegraphically advised India's Ambassador in Bonn, Shri Achutha P. Menon, to formally present the portrait on behalf of the people of India. The big hall was overcrowded with guests which included those, besides Germany and India, many others from countries in Europe, Asia and America. The 100 persons strong Symphonia was in attendance and lent added attraction to the ceremony.

Shri Achutha P. Menon, Indian Ambassador in Bonn (W. Germany) exchanges greetings with Dr. Seifriz, President of Indo-German Association in Germany after the formal presentation of the portrait of Rabindranath Tagore at the Cologne University.



In 1964, Shri P. C. Sinha again visited Germany on an invitation from the Inter Nations and Indo-German Association, for Lectures and visits to the Museums, Art-Institutions and Studios of famous German Artists in Cologne, Stuttgart and Berlin. Shri Sinha gave a talk in Bengali from Berlin Radio on "Cultural Activities of Indo-German Association in Germany."

A huge gathering of distinguished persons at the presentation ceremony of the portrait of Tagore at the Cologne University.

Message from Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India.

I am glad to know that the Calcutta Art Society is presenting to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany a portrait of Rabindranath Tagore as a gift from the people of India. There can be no worthier gift from India to Germany, specially in this year of Tagore's Centenary. The portrait will carry our good wishes and the message of the great man whose centenary we celebrate.

Message from Dr. Konrad Adenauer, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

On the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, I am happy to be able to tell the Indian people how closely linked the German people feel with India, her culture and the science.

Tagore has stimulated these close ties in a remarkable manner. For a long time the great achievements of the Indian past had already aroused our interest—and then we met him, the living representative of the spirit of India, a poet and philosopher, who knew how to build a bridge between the wisdom of the East and the western way of thinking.

But it is also as an active educationist that we encounter him—at the school at Santiniketan which he brought into being, and from India he taught the whole world a lesson of warmhearted love of mankind.

Together with the Indian people we remember him with gratitude and with the hope that the spiritual links between our peoples may become ever closer and the political, economical and human relations ever stronger.

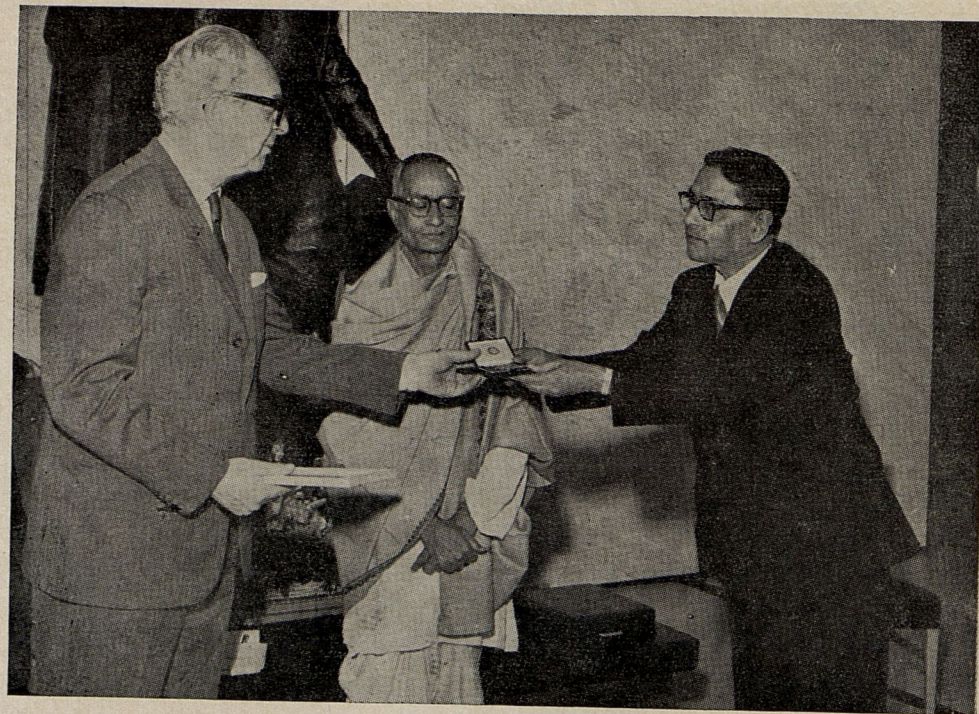
Message from Dr. Heinrich Lubke, President of the Federal Republic of Germany.

On the 8th May the whole German nation will look towards India and remember the great poet Rabindranath Tagore whose birthday centenary will commemorate on that day. With delight we shall take the opportunity to celebrate this event, and our thoughts and felicitations will be with our friends in India.

Since olden times we Germans have looked with affectionate reverence upon the spiritual and poetic achievements of Indian culture. With great happiness Germany received the news in 1913 that the Nobel Prize had been awarded to the poet Rabindranath Tagore. With him came again into prominence a poetic genius of India who revived the glory of Indian poetry which had already become familiar to us through the verses of our poet Goethe praising Kalidasa. Tagore's repeated visits to Germany in the years 1921 to 1931 and wide circulation of his works translated into German made him a living treasure of our people. It was his warmhearted humanity, the abundance of his rapturous practical sentiments, his positive attitude towards life and his joyful perception of the existence of mankind which in time of distress and confusion have shown to many a way to new life and have made Tagore all over the world a "Divine Preceptor", "Gurudeva" as he is called in India.

The glorious personality of Tagore has already made us realize that also from India a voice is heard calling out to us that we should see the meaning of life in the fulfilment of our daily duties. The following immortal verses will continue to live also in Germany as an educational motive—

“Sleeping I dreamed :
Life is joy.
Awakenig I saw :
Life is duty.
Acting I found :
Duty is joy.”



Sir Fordham Flowers receiving the ivory plaque and a Shakespeare Medallion from Shri S. C. Roy.

UNITED KINGDOM

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON.

On the occasion of the 400th birth anniversary of William Shakespeare in 1964, the Society decided to identify itself with the numerous celebrations scheduled to be held throughout the world. The Society proposed to extend its active support to the cause, by deciding to present an ivory plaque on which was inscribed the Sonnet in Bengali by Rabindranath Tagore in praise of Shakespeare, to the Shakespeare Memorial Trust. On an invitation by the British Council, the Society's representatives, Shri S. C. Roy and Shri P. C. Sinha, went to the United Kingdom to formally present the plaque. The ceremony was held at the new Shakespeare Memorial Centre at Stratford-upon-Avon before a small but distinguished gathering of the residents of the Burrough, and Sir Fordham Flowers, President of the Trust, accepted the gifts from Shri S. C. Roy, Vice-President of the Society. Besides the plaque, five Shakespeare Medallions in bronze struck by the Society, were presented. The whole ceremony was

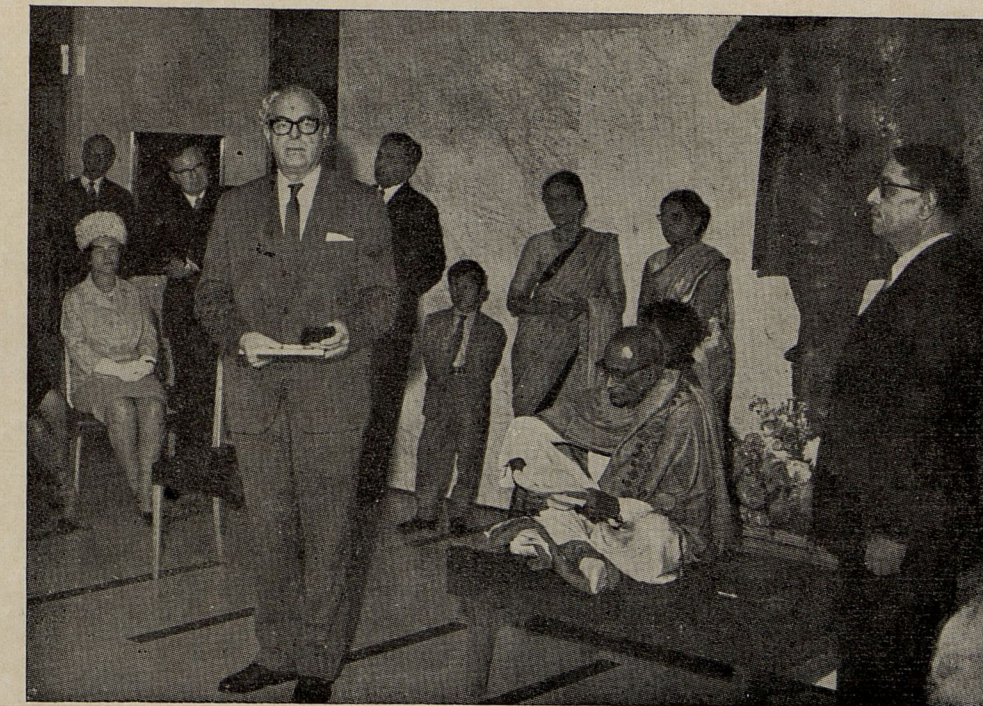
held in an Oriental atmosphere, with the readings from the Upanishada by Shri Sinha and songs of Tagore sung by the wife and daughter of Shri Roy, and burning of incense and blowing of conch-shell. The Indian High Commission was represented by Shri R. Kidwai, Cultural Attache.

Upon return from Stratford-upon-Avon to London, Shri P. C. Sinha proceeded by train to Totnes in Devonshire, to honour Dr. Leonard K. Elmhirst, the benefactor for the creation of Sriniketan in Visva-Bharati, and who was for some time the Secretary to Poet Tagore in the twenties.

TOTNES.

The presentation of the Medal-of-Honour (gold) and the Anga-Bastram was held in the old 14th century building now called Dartington Hall, where Dr. Elmhirst has founded his institution over a land of about 4000 acres upon a valley near the sea. Here also the ceremony was held in an Indian atmosphere before a gathering of the local people.

This Medal-of-Honour was for "Art And Humanism" and the "Anga-Bastram" constituted silk



Shri P. C. Sinha reading from the Sanskrit scriptures after the formal presentation of the gifts to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

dhoti and chaddar from Banaras. This Medal and the Anga-Bastram were presented subsequently to other recipients, Prof. Tucci of Italy, Artist Shri Kuliciewicz of Poland, and Academician (Artist) Shri Plastov of the Soviet Union. All the subsequent functions for these presentations were made in accordance with Indian style as stated before.



Shri P. C. Sinha is seen handing over the Messages from India to Dr. L. K. Elmhirst.



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Shri S. C. Roy gave a talk on "Shakespeare" and Shri P. C. Sinha on "Shakespeare's Celebrations in Calcutta" from the B.B.C.

Dr. Leonard K. Elmhirst is seen with Shri P. C. Sinha after the formal presentation of the Medal and Anga-Bastram to him by the later.

WARSAW (Poland)

After staying for 10 days in West Germany visiting Bonn, Cologne, Berlin, Stuttgart, and Frankfurt, Shri Sinha reached Warsaw via Zurich and Prague. He was entertained here officially at lunch by the Director of Cultural Affairs at Bristol Hotel at which there were many officials and artists present. In the same evening the Medal-of-Honour and Anga-Bastram were formally presented to Shri Tadeuz Kulisiewicz, a famous artist in Poland, who had visited India earlier on an invitation by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. Shri N. V. Rajkumar, Ambassador for India in Poland, handed over the gifts including the Messages from India, to Shri Kulisiewicz in an atmosphere of Oriental tradition, at a ceremony held in the Polish-India Friendship Association Building.

Shri N. V. Rajkumar formally presenting the Medal-of-Honour to the artist, Shri T. Kulisiewicz.



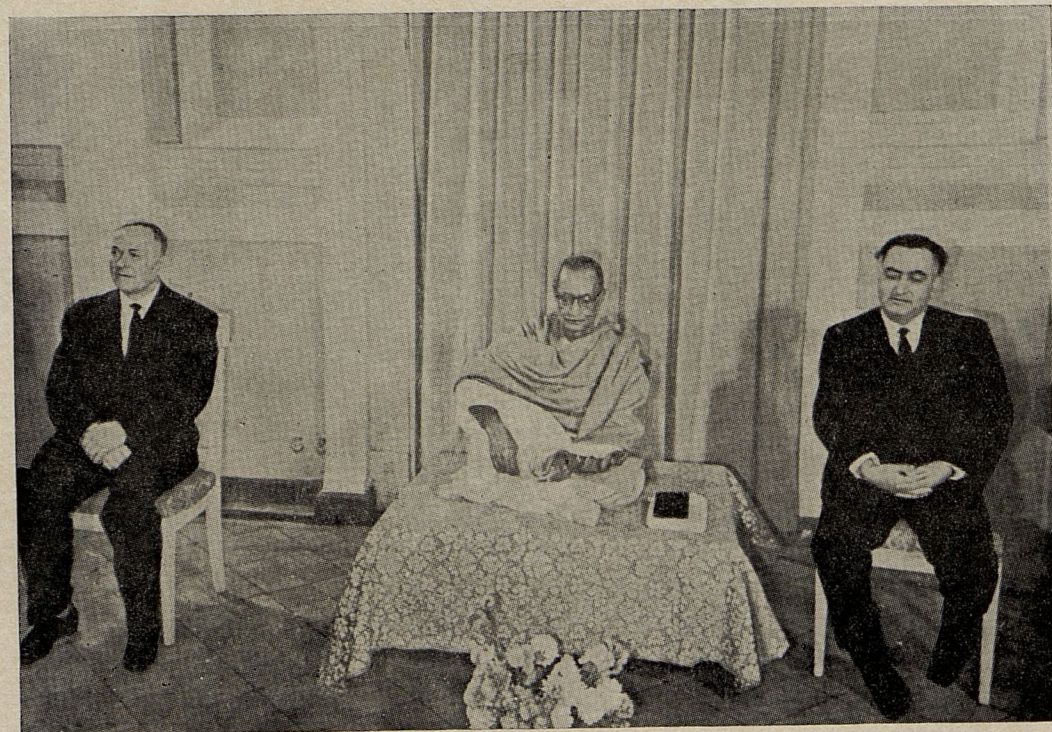
Shri P. C. Sinha is seen with the Indian Ambassador in Poland, Shri Nagoji Vasudeva Rojkumar, reading from the Scriptures before the presentation of the Medal and other gifts to the Polish artist, Shri T. Kulisiewicz.

The ceremony was followed by a Tea Party arranged by the Association at which more than 200 guests were present. One night Shri Sinha was entertained at Dinner by Prof. Hiranmoy Ghosal at his residence along with the Indian Ambassador. After sight-seeing at the Museum, Art Galleries, Chopin Institute, etc. Shri Sinha left for Moscow after staying in Warsaw for three days. Shri Sinha received some Art Publications of Shri Kulisiewicz and other artists of Poland, and also 14 sets of Polish dolls, which were subsequently sent over to India through the Indian Embassy in Warsaw.

MOSCOW (U.S.S.R.)

Shri P. C. Sinha reached Moscow and met Shri S. C. Roy, who came earlier at the Vnukovo Air Port. Shri S. C. Roy could not however, stay long and had to leave on the next day for India. Shri Sinha stayed at the Moscow Hotel.

As on previous similar occasions, Medal-of-Honour and Anga-Bastram along with the Messages from India were formally presented to Shri Arcadie A. Plastov, an Academician of the Union of Soviet Artists, and a well-known popular artist of the Soviet Union, round a beautiful "Alpana" given by the local Indian ladies, and with Tagore songs and Vedic Hymns sung by a group of Bengalis under the leadership of Shri Biswajit Roy of the Moscow Radio. Shri T. N. Kaul, India's Ambassador in Moscow handed over the gifts with a short but impressive speech, after the welcome speech made by Shri Zuckov, Principal of the Moscow Art Academy, in whose premises the ceremony was held.



Shri P. C. Sinha with the Indian Ambassador in the U.S.S.R., Shri T. N. Kaul (R) and the Soviet artist Shri A. A. Plastov (L).



Shri P. C. Sinha and Shri T. N. Kaul listening to the speech by Shri Arcadie Plastov after the presentation of the Medal-of-Honour and Anga-Bastram to him.

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There was quite a large gathering of Academicians, art students, and dignitaries connected with Art. Shri Plastov who was visibly moved for the ovation given him by the whole audience said in his speech that the honour was a sustaining one linking the artists of India and Soviet Union. Shri Zuckov said that this honour was first of its kind ever received by an artist of the Soviet Union from a foreign land, and particularly it was gratifying because it came from a country like India, a great friend of the people of the Soviet Union. The ceremony was followed by a big Dinner. The whole ceremony was subsequently shown through Television and at Cinema Houses in the Soviet Union.

Shri Sinha, during his stay in Moscow was taken to all the places of interest like, The Tretyakov Art Gallery, The Russian (Pushkin) Art Gallery, Lenin's Mausoleum, Lenin Library and Lenin Museum, Bolshoi Theatre, Oblastov

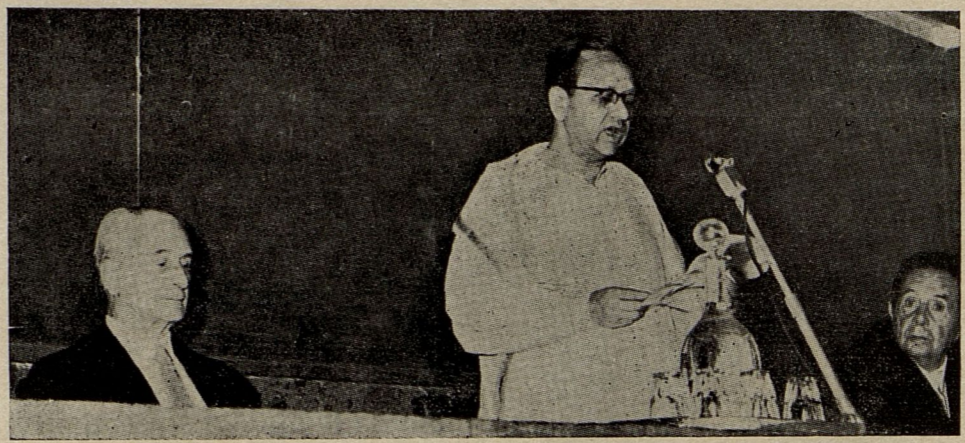


Shri P. C. Sinha addressing the gathering with the help of an interpreter. Officials of the Moscow Union of Soviet Artists and the Director of Soviet Art Academy are seen in the Photo.

Theatre (Puppet Dance-Play), Moscow University, Lumumba Friendship University, etc. Calls were made at the residences of eminent artists like, Shri Kaniankov, Shri Korin, and Shrimati Baleshova.

From Moscow Shri Sinha was taken to Leningrad where he stayed for three days, and during which period he visited the famous "Hermitage" Art Gallery and the Russian Art Gallery, the Sports Stadium, and some other places of interest.

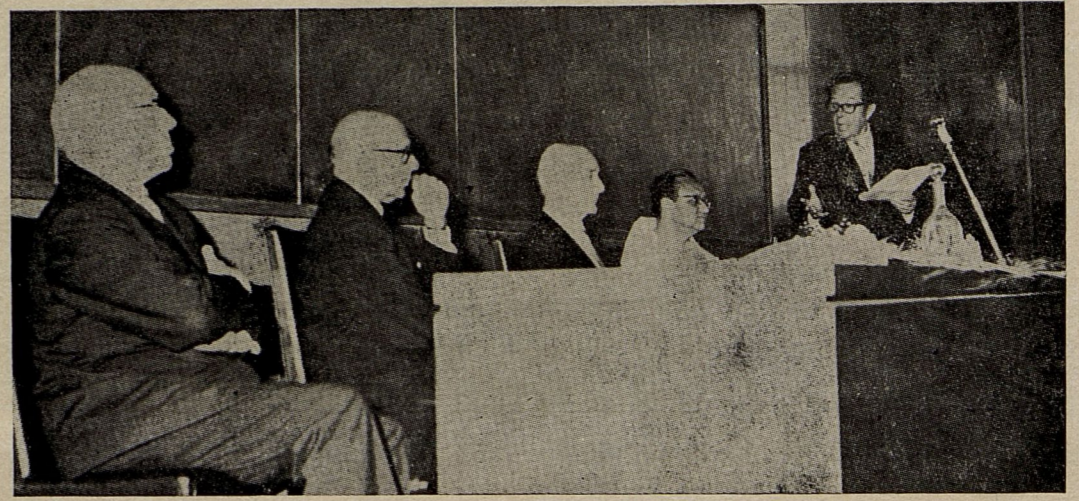
On the day of departure from Moscow after staying in the U. S. S. R. for ten days, Shri Sinha gave a Talk in Bengali from the Moscow Radio on "My Impressions in the Soviet Union."



Shri Brindabanchandra Sinha reading the Messages from India while honouring Prof. Tucci (R). Prof. Papi, Rector of Rome University (L) listens.

ROME (Italy)

Shri Brindaban Chandra Sinha, on request by the Society, went to Rome to present the Medal-of-Honour and the Anga-Bastram, along with the Messages from India, to Prof. Giuseppe Tucci, a world-famous Oriental Scholar and Indologist. Shri L. R. S. Singh, Indian Ambassador in Rome, formally presented the gifts at a ceremony held in the historic building of the Rome University at which about 500 guests were present. In reply to the Honour received by him. Prof. Tucci spoke in Sanskrit.



Prof. Tucci replies to the Messages received from India. Others in the picture are from L. to R. Shri L. R. S. Singh, Indian Ambassador In Rome, Prof. Papi, and Shri B. C. Sinha.

After the gifts were made over to Prof. Tucci, the Indian Ambassador handed over a plaque in bronze with the profile of Galileo Galilie, beautifully mounted on a green marble from India, to Prof. Papi, Rector of the Rome University. This gift was on the occasion of Galileo's 400th Birth anniversary, presented by the Society in the name of the people of India. This gesture of friendship and cultural tie made a great impression in the minds of the Italian people.

On recommendation by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Govt. of India, the plaque was carried free of charges from Calcutta to Rome by the Air-India.

Prof. Papi and Shri L. R. S. Singh exchange greetings after the formal presentation of Galileo's Plaque to the Rome University.



MESSAGES

From Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, President of India.

I very gladly associate myself with the presentation being made by the Calcutta Art Society to Professor Giuseppe Tucci. We in India appreciate the outstanding qualities which has gained for Professor Tucci the international reputation he so rightly enjoys as an Indologist and connoisseur of Oriental Art and culture. I send my best wishes for his continued good health and service in the cause to which he has devoted his life and talents.

From Shri M. C. Chagla, Minister for Education, Government of India.

I am glad to learn that the Calcutta Art Society is going to honour a few artists and scholars in Europe, one amongst whom is Professor Tucci of Rome University. He is the most respected scholar on Indology and he is a good friend of India. The Calcutta Art Society deserves the gratitude of the people of India for taking the initiative.

From Shri Mehdi Nawaz Jung, Governor of Gujarat and Chairman, Lalit Kala Akademi.

The Calcutta Art Society is to be complimented on honouring eminent artists and art critics in India. I am, however, particularly happy to know that the Society proposes to honour some eminent artists and scholars from other countries, and amongst them Prof. Giuseppe Tucci, a scholar of renown.

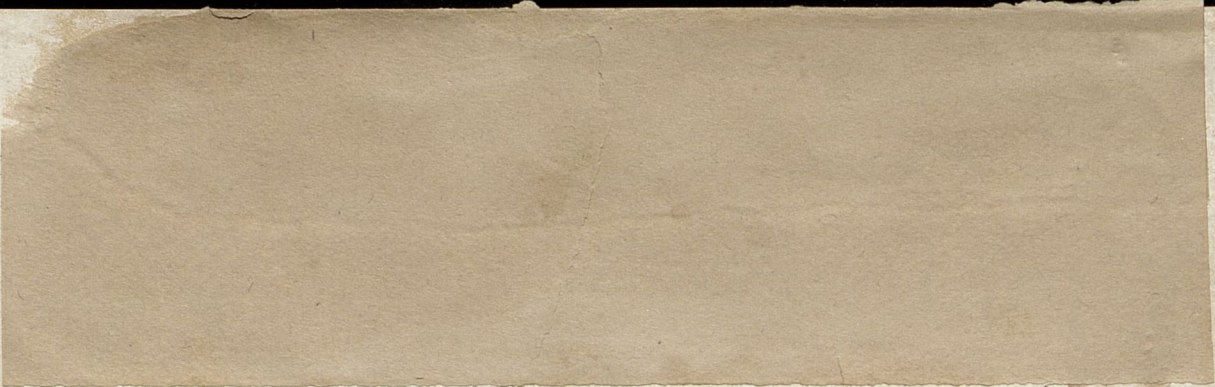
From Shrimati Padmaja Naidu, Governor of West Bengal.

It is a great thing to honour a great man. Emotion has its value and spiritual attainment is sublime. I am happy that the approach to honour scholars and artists in India and abroad is made by the Calcutta Art Society. I am happy to congratulate Prof. Giuseppe Tucci for the honour given him by the Society.

From Dr. Harekrishna Mahtab, M. P., President, Calcutta Art Society.

We take pride in the scholarly achievements of Prof. Giuseppe Tucci in the field of Indology, and we feel equally honoured by paying honour to such a great savant and friend of India. We pray that he may be spared a long life to continue his studies and researches for the good of humanity.

N. B. Similar messages were given individually to Dr. Elmhirst, Shri Kulisiewicz and Shri Plastov.



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