

C. V. RAMAN'S LOYALTY WITH THE IACS

RAJINDER SINGH*

It is well-known that C.V. Raman, India's only Nobel Prize winner in the field of natural sciences spent 25 years at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science. In 1917 he joined the University of Calcutta as the Palit Professor of Physics. The present short communication, which is based on the material from Holland and German archives, show that though he was employee of the University of Calcutta, he preferred to support the interests of the IACS.

Introduction

A number of articles and books deal with various aspects of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.^{1,2,3} The only book, which deals with C.V. Raman's work at the Association is written by S.N. Sen.⁴ One of Raman's students', Prof. Kedareswar Banerjee, later 'Mahendra Lal Sircar Professor', recalled: "As the Association was not affluent in those days, he (Raman) ungrudgingly met deficits of the Association from his personal Bank Account on several occasions."⁵

The present communication shows:

- In 1928, C.V. Raman (Figure 1) identified himself not with the University of Calcutta but with the Association at the time of Arnold Sommerfeld's visit to Calcutta in 1928.
- In 1931, Raman asked the Dutch Noble Laureate Pieter Zeeman to become the Honorary Fellow of the IACS.

Arnold Sommerfeld in Kolkata

The German physicist Arnold Sommerfeld is well known for his contribution to atomic physics. His contacts with Indian men of science are explored elsewhere. It is



Figure 1: Young C.V. Raman during his Calcutta times (Credit: "Calcutta Review").

known that due the efforts of M.N. Saha and C.V. Raman he came to India.⁶

H.E. Stapleton, a member of the University of Calcutta, in a meeting moved a proposal that Prof. Arnold Sommerfeld be appointed as an University Lecturer to deliver a course of lectures on 'Atomic Structure' on remuneration of Rs. 2,000. In the meeting the motion was

* Research Group – Physics Education and History of Science, Physics Institute, University of Oldenburg, Germany.
E-Mail: rajinder.singh@uni-oldenburg.de