

HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND BOSE INSTITUTE CONNECTIONS

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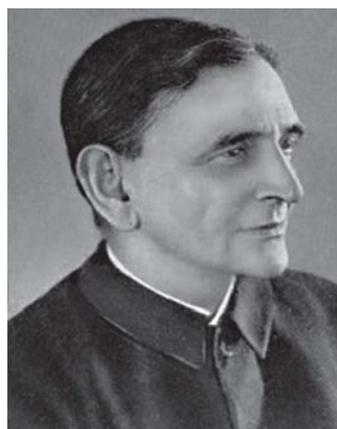
History of Science is a neglected field in spite of the fact that Indian chemist PC Ray's "*History of Hindu Chemistry*" was published in 1902 (reprinted by the Indian Chemical Society, Calcutta, 1956) in "*History of chemistry in ancient and medieval India.*" The less known fact is that Ray was the first Indian to be elected as the member of the famous journal *Isis* (USA), which deals with the history of science. For instance, on March 13, 1913, he wrote a letter to the Swede Savante Arrhenius: "I am glad to find that your honoured name heads the list of the "comité de Patronage" of "*Isis*", in which I have the privilege to represent India. As you are evidently interested in the History of science, I take the liberty to send you my "*History of Hindu Chemistry*" - 2 vols. It will perhaps interest you to know that in ancient India chemistry was pursued with zeal and enthusiasm."

The first thought on the need of the history of science in India were made during a symposium on the History of Sciences in South-East Asia in 1950, at the University of Delhi. It was organised by the UNESCO and the National Institute of Sciences (INSA) of India. It took a decade till the INSA set up a "History of Science Board."

According to "History of Science in India 1993-1996 – A Status Report" INSA, 1997: the Board of "Indian National Commission for History of Science" was enlarged as designated "National Commission for the Compilation of History of Sciences in India." In 1989, the was changed to "National Commission of History of Sciences", the Commission comprises of several members, headed by the President of INSA. The members are subdivided in three advisory committees, who have specialisation in ancient, medieval and modern period.

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About the aims and objectives, we find the following in the above Report: (i) Financial support for individual projects. (ii) Organisation of symposia and workshops. (iii)



Professor D. M. Bose
(Credit : Bose Institute)

Publish special monographs. However, the most important activity of the Commission is the publication of the quarterly journal "Indian Journal of History of Science", which began in 1966 and last year celebrated its 50th anniversary.

The less known fact is, Bose Institute, via its Director D.M. Bose played an important role in initiating the history of science.¹ At the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Bose Institute, the Institute can be proud that Prof. Suprakash



Professor S. C. Roy (Credit : Private)

Chandra Roy, Editor-in-Chief, "Science and Culture", like D.M. Bose is also a Member of the National Commission of History of Science, INSA. Personally, I greet the decision of the INSA to take a person in the commission, who has experience as editor and writer, with broad

knowledge in different fields. □

Reference

1. Singh R., D.M. Bose – His Scientific Work in International Context, Shaker Publish Aachen 2016, pp. 5-8.