

THE SILVERFISH

MARGIN*ALIA, ISSUE 2, MAY 2025

A publication by the Archives at NCBS, Bangalore.



Wildlife photographer, TNA Perumal, and his wife, Sellammal pose with shooting equipment, Undated, Unprocessed, TNA Perumal Papers, Archives at NCBS.

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Find this issue online in the Archives 'About' page:



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THE SILVERFISH SPEAKS!

An archive is an aspirational, aseptic space. The temperature is controlled, and the conservator hovers anxiously to ward off any hints of organic excess. Yet the silverfishes of time do not eat in an orderly fashion. So many tiny tooth marks corrugate these neatly demarcated boxes of science and society. They are left free to feed democratically, while we archivists steward histories and try to keep our hedges trimmed. However, entropy dictates that all is levelled unevenly, and maybe, subsequent to the silverfish's merry meal-making, we might be left with new surfaces. Acting in free-association, we may thread frayed ends to cloak our endeavour; maybe install new idols in old habitats. All is equal on the ink gall and paper plane.

This issue - margin*alia - deals with questions of process and the archivist's shifting, seeking focus. Anjali JR takes us through the rationale behind the inclusion of recipes in the collection of Krishnaja A P and how they round out the picture of the scientist's life. Kirti N reflects on her archival practice and physical space parallel to the archival photographs from T N A Perumal's body of work and relational spaces. Anjana T eloquently juxtaposes ephemera in P K Sukumaran's collection with contemporary context, showing a thread of history that runs along the seams of the collection, parallel to its bulk. Sravya D throws in a whimsical challenge to the act of description, as the modern archivist seeks to balance competing norms and standards applicable to their work.

The reader is also invited to visit the interactive exhibition space at the Archives at NCBS, Undated, Untitled, curated by Dhatri A, Kinjal S and Sindhu N, which highlights how the sterile-seeming norm is continually subverted and unworked by the featureless past. It shows that there is an act of play and parody with every reductio-ad-description that archivists engage in. We can attempt an earnest reconstitution of the past with ruthless precision, and arrive at another creation entirely. The fact remains that the archivist has to reconcile the binaries of deep sincerity and fundamental unseriousness at the act of archiving - it is vitally important work, and yet we are left with incongruous, mere fragments with which to piece together an entire life and its ambit. Words like posterity and preservation define a horizon, never to be perfectly reached, even by expertise and heart.

So what is the value of the archive? The silverfish has the answer - the silverfish finds immediate sustenance - an 'immediate permanency'. While the future remains the event horizon for the realization of the archives, the archivist and the researcher work in the liminal space between now and never, important and trivial to make the archive live anew, from day to day. We hold up torches for stories, until tomorrow turns up and crowns histories sine qua non. Here is to seeing things with the sugary optimism and objectivity of a silverfish!



WHAT ARE CLIPPINGS OF FOOD RECIPES DOING AT A SCIENCE ARCHIVE?

Extract from a presentation by archivists, Anjali JR and Deepika S, at a conference of the International Council of Archives in San Francisco.

We don't see it as a coincidence that our first standalone collection from a woman scientist entered the archive after the team had expanded significantly to include more women archivists, some of us with a background in and keen understanding of the culture of science, feminist theory, women's movements and activism. With this we were able to leverage the archives' access to networks of researchers working on women in science.

Even though we had developed a weighted points matrix to help us prioritise which sources to accession material from, the first standalone collection - the Krishnaja AP Papers - came in nearly 6 months later. It arrived at the Archives through a collaboration with Nandita Jayaraj, a journalist, science communicator and author who had been one of the founders of The Life of Science, an online platform that describes itself as "a multiform diary of experiences of womxn and minorities in science, collected on lab-hopping journeys across India." Nandita did a series of oral history interviews with six scientists who were women (and prior contacts of hers), nearly all of whom have subsequently donated or expressed an interest in donating their papers to the Archives at NCBS.

My fellow archivist, Deepika S was also present in preliminary meetings with all of the interviewees and stayed in contact with them long after the collaboration with Nandita ended. This project convinced us of

the need to have diverse staff and collaborators with varied personal networks, the need to build and maintain relationships with potential donors, and of the efficacy as a strategy of using oral history interviews to build these relationships (which in several cases led to the acquiring of physical collections).

Archivists actively shape the kinds of physical material we receive through our interactions with donors and the decisions we make about what to collect. When packing material of possible archival value at the home of Dr Krishnaja AP, a retired cytogeneticist in her 70s, we decided to include a folder of unusual material along with papers about Krishnaja's life and career: clippings of food recipes from a range of women's magazines.

At first glance, it seemed to say little about Krishnaja's work as a scientist; but in conversation with Krishnaja at her home in Mumbai, we understood that they seemed to matter to Krishnaja and had been preserved in the same way and in the same location as all of Krishnaja's other material about her career in science.

Subsequently, once Krishnaja's material was transported to the archives and an appraisal of the material was carried out, we decided to retain the recipes with the collection.

APPLES ALL THE WAY

Premila Lal

Apples are everywhere in the market these days and now is the time to make the best use of them in your daily cooking. This versatile fruit is delicious and nutritious when eaten raw, but at the same time sumptuous when baked or fried or cooked in sweet, savoury or meat dishes.

Photograph : Farokh Reporter

ZARINA KHAN
Housewife and student



Photograph : P. Mansaram

Collection of Recipes, 1979 - 1989,
MS-028-3-1-4-15, Krishnaja A P Papers,
Archives at NCBS.

Some of us were initially concerned that retaining them might reinforce stereotypes about women scientists, considering this was the Archives' first standalone collection from a woman, and considering the accomplishments of women scientists are sometimes eclipsed by their domestic roles - like in the New York Times obituary for American rocket scientist, Yvonne Brill that originally opened by listing her domestic achievements, including making a "mean beef stroganoff".

But Krishnaja's recipes now form a small part of her collection, listed as a single folder in Sub-series 1 of Series 3: Personal & Hobbies; the first two series in the collection being Correspondence and Research. The recipes have no equivalent in any of the collections at the Archives that include papers from male scientists, and reveal the gendered nature of domestic duties and how when archiving the lives of women scientists, there may not be a neat line between the personal and professional.

Archival structures do not remain isolated from subjectivity, they are constructed and shaped by the biases, intent and emotions of the people who pass through it, though archives tend to obfuscate or choose to not record these subjective interventions that frame the types of material it collects, the kinds of access it enables and the forms of knowledge it preserves.

If subjectivity is ingrained into archival structures, why do mainstream archives shy away from recording it? There is much mainstream archives can learn from feminist and queer collectives who, as researcher and art archives expert, Mela Dávila-Freire points out, "have been remarkably active in their endeavours for archival emancipation, not only building their own archives and pointing out historical absences or gaps in hegemonic documentary collections,

but also identifying information categories that mainstream archives have not explicitly recorded - such as affects, feeling or emotions."

References and further reading:

1. Nandita Jayraj's platform is accessible at <https://thelifeofscience.com>
2. Mason, Kären & Zanish-Belcher, Tanya. (2007). Raising the Archival Consciousness: How Women's Archives Challenge Traditional Approaches to Collecting and Use, Or, What's in a Name? Library trends. 56. 10.1353/lib.2008.0003. for a discussion on how participation in oral histories helps persuade women about the significance of their role in history and the value of their life stories, as well as raise the community's consciousness about the value of its history, collaboration between the archivist and the narrator in creating an archival record; and how this bond may lead to the donation of any extant papers.
3. For the above-mentioned obituary, see: Martin, Douglas. "Yvonne Brill, a Pioneering Rocket Scientist, Dies at 88." <https://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/31/science/space/yvonne-brill-rocket-scientist-dies-at-88.html>. For the ensuing discussion, see: Sullivan, Margaret. "Gender Questions Arise in Obituary of Rocket Scientist and Her Beef Stroganoff." <https://archive.nytimes.com/publiceditor.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/04/01/gender-questions-arise-in-obituary-of-rocket-scientist-and-her-beef-stroganoff/>.
4. See Dávila-Freire, Mela. Art Libraries Journal; Cambridge Vol. 45, Iss. 3, (Jul 2020): 94-99. DOI:10.1017/alj.2020.14. Mela Dávila-Freire writes of instances where these subjective nuances in the form of archivist's choices in arrangement and classification of records can affect the way records are accessed and read.



സമാനാർഹമായ പാചകക്കുറിപ്പുകൾ കോഴിയിറച്ചിക്കറി

'വനിത'യുടെ ആഭിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ ക്രിസ് മസ്റ്റീനോടനുബന്ധിച്ചു നടത്തിയ പാചക മത്സരത്തിൽ ഒന്നും രണ്ടും മൂന്നും സമാനത്തിന്റേതായ പാചകക്കുറിപ്പുകളാണ് ഈ ലക്കത്തിൽ ചേർത്തിരിക്കുന്നത്.

കേരളത്തിൽ നിന്നുമാത്രമല്ല, ഇന്ത്യയുടെ വിവിധ ഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും വിദേശങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നുമായി രണ്ടായിരത്തോളം വനിതകൾ ഈ മത്സരത്തിൽ പങ്കുകൊണ്ടു. നിശ്ചിത സമയം കഴിഞ്ഞു ഒട്ടുവളരെ പാചകക്കുറിപ്പുകൾ കിട്ടിയതെല്ലാം പാടെ ഉപേക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടിവന്നു.

മിസ്സിസ് പി.വി. ഐസക്, വിമലാദേവിന്ദ്രൻ, സഹിദാ ഇബ്രാഹിം, എലിസബത്ത് ഏബ്രഹാം, ലീലാ കുര്യൻ, ലളിതാ ജോസഫ്, രഹന ബഷീർ, സാറാകോശി, ജോർജ്ജോൺ, ഏബ്രഹാം ഈപ്പൻ, വിമല ഏബ്രഹാം, റബിയാ ഇഷ്ബാൽ, എൽസി നൈനാൻ എന്നിവരായിരുന്നു ജഡ്ജിമാർ.

ജഡ്ജിമാരുടെ അഭിപ്രായവും ഇതോടൊപ്പം ചേർത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്.

-പത്രാധിപ

ചിക്കൻ	-ഒരു കിലോ
ഡാൽഡാ	-250 ഗ്രാം
പച്ചമുളക്	-നാലു
ചുവന്നുള്ളി	-25 ഗ്രാം
തക്കാളി അരച്ചത്	-750 ഗ്രാം
വറൽ നന്നായി വററിച്ചെടുത്തത്	-അര കപ്പ്
കശുവണ്ടി	-50 ഗ്രാം
വററൽ മുളകുപൊടി	-ഒരു റീസ് പൂൺ
മസാലപ്പൊടി	-രണ്ടു റീസ് പൂൺ
ക്രീം	-100 ഗ്രാം
പാൽ	-ഒരു കപ്പ്
റുമാറോസോസ്	-രണ്ടു ഡിസേർട്ട് സ്പൂൺ
പഞ്ചസാര	-ഒരു റീസ് പൂൺ
ഉപ്പ്	-രൂചിക്കു

പാകം ചെയ്യുന്ന വിധം

കോഴി പുഴുങ്ങി വാങ്ങി വയ്ക്കുക. മുക്കാൽ ഭാഗം കശുവണ്ടിയും ചുവന്നുള്ളിയും നന്നായി അരച്ചെടുക്കുക.

ചീനച്ചട്ടി ചുടാകുമ്പോൾ ഡാൽഡാ ഒഴിച്ചു പച്ചമുളകു ചെറുതായി അരിഞ്ഞതും ഉള്ളി അരച്ചതും അതിലിട്ടു മുപ്പിക്കുക. അതിലേക്കു തക്കാളി നന്നായി അരച്ചുവെച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത് ഒഴിക്കുക. തിളച്ചുകഴിയുമ്പോൾ പാൽ നന്നായി വററിച്ചെടുത്തത്, കശുവണ്ടിയരച്ചത്, വററൽ മുളകുപൊടി, മസാലപ്പൊടി, പാൽ, ക്രീം (ക്രീം സുലഭമല്ലെങ്കിൽ പാൽ ഇരട്ടിചേർത്തു കൂടുതൽ സമയം വററാൻ അനുവദിക്കുക.), റുമാറോസോസ്, പഞ്ചസാര, ഉപ്പ് എന്നിവ ചേർത്തു തിളപ്പിക്കുക. (പുളിരസം അധികം തോന്നുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ പഞ്ചസാരയുടെ അളവു കൂട്ടുക) പുഴുങ്ങിവെച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന കോഴിയിലെ എല്ലുകൾ നീക്കി ദശമാത്രം എടുത്തു തിളയ്ക്കുന്ന മിക്സ്ചറിലേക്ക് ഇടുക. കാൽഭാഗം കശുവണ്ടി ചെറുതായി നൂറുകിയിടുക. എണ്ണ വിടുന്നപ്പോൾ വാങ്ങിവയ്ക്കുക. അധികമുള്ള എണ്ണ ഊറിക്കളഞ്ഞു ചുടോടെ ഉപയോഗിക്കുക.

മിസ്സിസ് തോമസ്, ന്യൂഡൽഹി





The good things of nature

The goodness of pure, wholesome milk. Finest cane sugar. High quality cocoa beans. Blended together as only Cadbury know how. Cadbury's Milk Chocolate. With that unmistakable taste. Smooth. Creamy. In a number of delicious varieties.

WITH THE GOODNESS OF MILK IN EVERY BLOCK



PERSONAL CHOICE

A CASSEROLE FEAST!



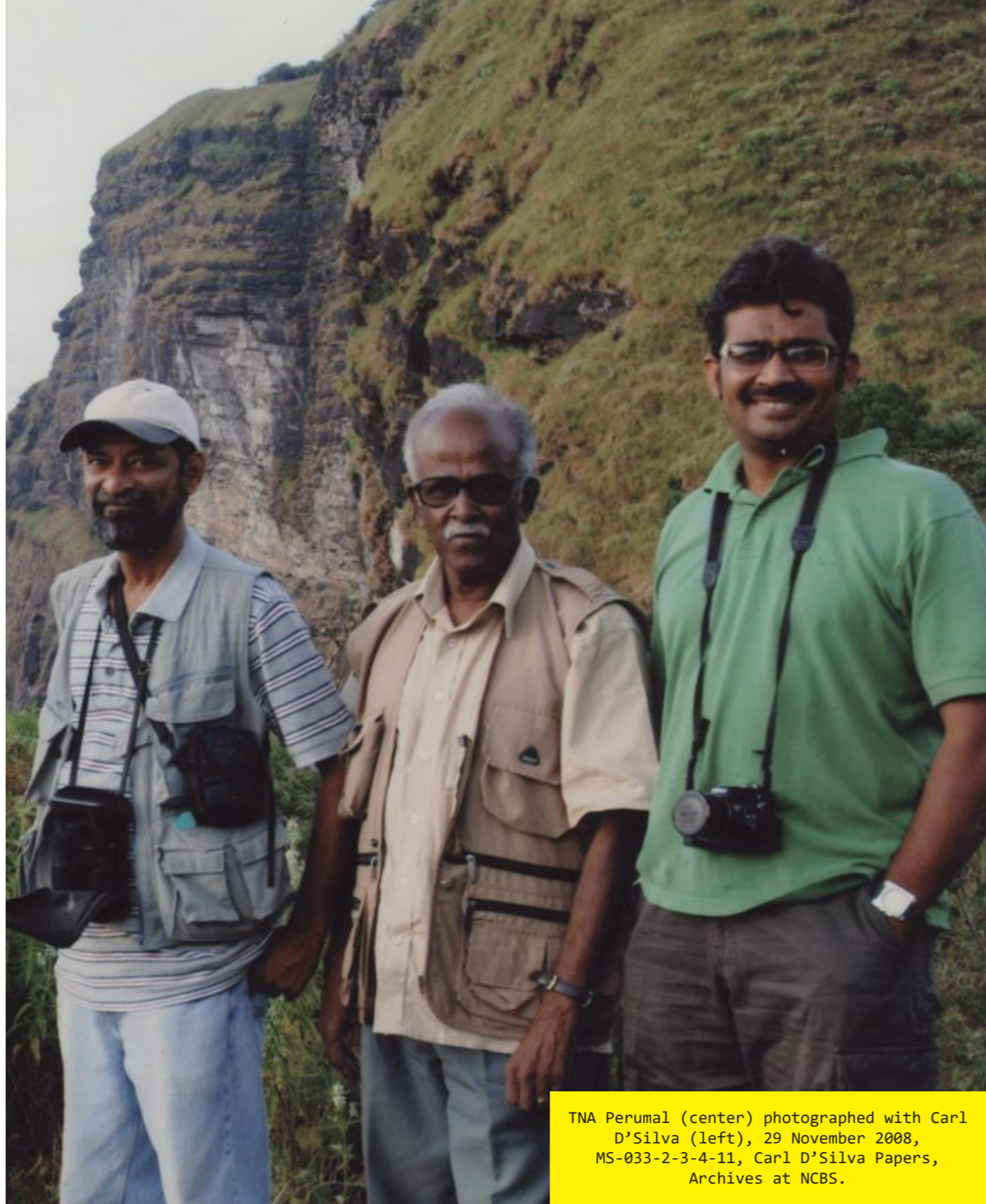
Our charming hostess, MRS. NEENA PURI, takes you to a sumptuous feast of hearty hot casseroles to please every member of your family this New Year's eve festive dinner. A home science graduate, Mrs. Puri has the ability to transform simple family meals into courses good enough for an elegant dinner party. One of the pleasures of casserole cooking, she says, is that "it is very convenient and simple — all preparations can be done in advance." In addition to her winning a lot of prestigious cookery contests, she has also given a number of demonstrations of her mouthwatering recipes.

FISH THREE TIER

- 500 grams fish
- 100 grams cheese
- 1 coconut
- 4 sprigs mint
- 4 sprigs coriander
- 50 grams groundnuts
- 1 lemon
- 1 onion
- 6 green chillis
- 30 grams cashewnuts
- 1 cup tomato puree

LETTERS, LENSES, AND LEMON TEA

Kirti N - Archiving Intern



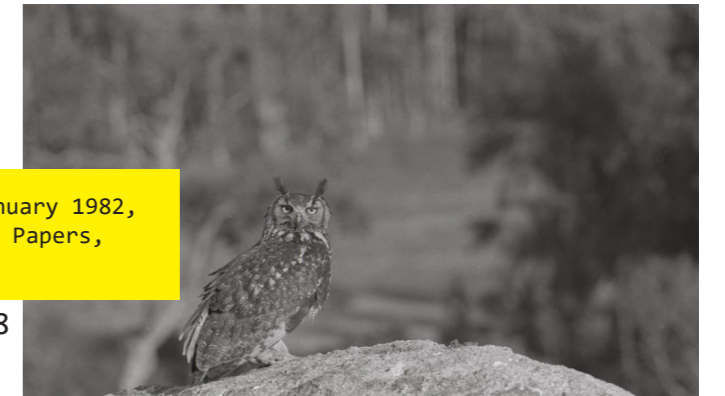
TNA Perumal (center) photographed with Carl D'Silva (left), 29 November 2008, MS-033-2-3-4-11, Carl D'Silva Papers, Archives at NCBS.

When I first joined the Archives at NCBS, my set-up was a simple table propped up against the wall, a revolving chair and three overhead shelves full of archival material. The first day I was assigned the desk, I remember how cold and empty it felt. I looked at the other desks, which looked warm and homey with tiny doodles, pictures and other knick-knacks. And I wondered what mine would look like in a month. Almost immediately, I began working on the collection of T N A Perumal. Many people know him as a master wildlife photographer, an award-winning conservationist, and a man whose name graces book covers, exhibitions, and national accolades. When I began archiving his papers, I expected to find the story of a remarkable career laid out in awards, projects, and published work. What I didn't expect was how quickly the collection began to feel like something else entirely.

While my colleague, Abishai, worked with prints of wild animals and scenic landscapes, tiny and large, captured by Perumal, I worked with the photographer's letters. If my memory serves me correctly, the oldest was from 1961, a letter from the Chairman of Federation of Indian Photography to Perumal describing the process of capturing a photo of an Indian Great Horned Owl.

"...two days later when the birds were somewhat reassured, a small cardboard box was tied to the tripod of sticks to resemble a camera. A little while later an object which resembled a reflector (Flash) was added to the assembly. The birds' behaviour was closely observed with binoculars from some distance from the nest site for 3-4 days. When the birds begin to alight at the nest, without showing signs of fear, then is the time to start actual photography."

Indian Great Horned Owl, 18 January 1982, MS-038-1-9-3-25, TNA Perumal Papers, Archives at NCBS.



Posted on
16-5-67

The camera and flash was fixed to the tripod
and focussed at a point where the bird was
observed to arrive with food for the young.

SPOONBILL & YOUNG ONES

Was photographed at the Ranganthittoo Bird sanctuary from a boat with Praktica 35 mm with 135 telelens- handheld. I had to wait for quite some time for the bird to give me a proper pose and for the young ones to raise their head. Most of the time the young ones used to huddle together and would be partially visible.

Picture enlarged full frame from Kodak Super XX Cine Material, Developed in ID 11. Printed on Kodak Bromide Paper. *Develop Prime developed in DA163. developer.*

INDIAN GREAT HORNED OWL AT NEST

Photographed at its nest in a crevice in rock on top of hill ~~at~~ jungle. The nest was located with three young ones and a tripod made of three sticks tied together was placed near the nest so that the bird would get accustomed to the presence of outside object. In the alternative a pylon or a ladder would have to be placed in position for the camera to be fixed. Two days later when the birds were somewhat reassured a small cardboard box was tied to the tripod of sticks to resemble a camera. A little while later an object which resembled a reflector (Flash) was added to the assembly. The birds behaviour was closely observed with binoculars from some distance from the nest site for 3-4 days. When the birds ~~xxx~~ began to alight at the nest without showing signs of fear, then is the time to start actual photography.

A hide was ~~created~~ ^{created} on a rock 20 yards away from the nest site. The site for the hide was chosen carefully so that while the photographer was inside he could observe the movement of the birds without much movement

Correspondence, Govind, GR, May 10, 1961, MS-038-3-0-8-60, TNA Perumal Papers, Archives at NCBS.

The "actual photography" seemed to involve a lot of physical, real-world adventure. There are many letters from friends and colleagues who wrote to him discussing equipment, set-up, and the pain that precludes the perfect shot. For instance, take this letter from Ajai regarding the purchase of a Kilfitt reflex Harsing for M Krishnan. Ajai writes:

"Please use all your skill and experience in bargaining and see if you can try and buy that Reflex Harsing for not more than Rs 180. If you fail, then harangue with the shopkeeper and try and buy it for not a rupee more than Rs 200."

M. KRISHNAN
PERUNKULAM HOUSE
EDWARD ELLIOT ROAD
MYLAPORE, MADRAS

My dear Perumal,
I am writing to you in connection with the Kilfitt Reflex Harsing Krishnan wanted. Please use all your skill and experience in bargaining and see if you can try and buy that Reflex Harsing for not more than Rs 180. If you fail then harangue with the shopkeeper and try and buy it for not a rupee more than Rs 200. Take the money for the Harsing from my mother. please try and get it as soon as possible because the Harsing is needed very

urgently by Krishnan, who he is going leaving for Mangalore again on the 2th and needs it for the trip. Please send it to Krishnan by registered post. But don't buy the reflex Harsing for anything more than Rs 200. So, how are your pictures taken at Ranganthittoo and Shalapur come out. I have got been quite successful.

Yours sincerely
Ajai

Correspondence, Ajai, Undated, MS-038-3-0-8-5, TNA Perumal Papers, Archives at NCBS.

Rollei-Werke

Franke & Heidecke
D-33 Braunschweig
P.O. Box 419 > 3365 <
Telephone (Brschw. 0531)
Direct call 707
and extension



381

Mr. T.N.A. Perumal
Shivpur
Sandur. P.O.
Bellary District
Mysore State / INDIA

Your reference 6-3-1972
Your letter V674 Mo/Fu
Our reference
(Please quote in
all correspondence)
Subject Rollei E27C

Date March 15, 1972

Dear Sir,

thank you for your kind letter of 6th inst., informing us that you are owning two Rollei E27C flash units.

When using a short flash distance around 50 cm distance of the flash unit from the subject and when choosing a light background, a flash duration of about 1/30.000 sec. will be achieved. It is true that the E27C flash unit is supplied with an automatic barrier to protect the electric sensor cell against external light influences, such as a second flash unit operated at the same time. On observance of the practical hints on pages 19, 21 and 23 of the instruction booklet, mainly on page 21, it will be possible to achieve the minimum flash duration of 1/30.000 sec.

In pursuance with your desire we are sending you by separate air mail / printed matter one service manual and one instruction booklet to apply to the Rollei E27C.

Wishing you furtheron pleasure and success in using your Rollei equipment, we remain

Yours faithfully,

ROLLEI - WERKE
Franke & Heidecke

Eggers

Moser

Sep.:2

Correspondence, Werke, R, March 15 1972,
MS-038-3-0-9-104, TNA Perumal Papers,
Archives at NCBS.

Or the response to the left from Rollei, a German optical instruments manufacturer, to a possible query from Perumal regarding how to use the flash units purchased by him to achieve minimum flash duration. But the ones that caught my attention the most were letters that showed a different kind

of adventure. These were fragmented pieces of conversations between Perumal and his network of people, not always cleanly aligning with his work. But they excited me as the material provided scope for the imagination, a staple for an English major like me.

Zafar Futehally

2205 Oakwood, 8th Main,
3rd Block, Koramangala,
BANGALORE - 560 034

Tele.No: 5533684

6th September 2000

Mr. T.N. Ayyam Perumal,
4/3 East Street,
Shanti Nagar,
BANGALORE - 560 027

Dear Mr. Perumal,

It was very kind of you to have invited us to the wedding of your son. I wish we could have come but Laeeq is now a bit frail and finds it difficult to move around.

However, please accept our best wishes for a very successful occasion. I still feel guilty about the bird photograph which you kindly lent me. It is gracing my library but I will return it one of these days. Occasionally I turn over the pages of my horse album and I see the beautiful photographs which you took of Tara and her daughter Sitara in Dodda Gubbi.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Zafar

Zafar Futehally

Correspondence, Futehally, Z, 6 September
2000, MS-038-3-0-8-55, TNA Perumal Papers,
Archives at NCBS.

14.05.1999

Dear Sir,

Greetings.

Sorry for this belated reply.

I am enclosing the xerox copy of the letter received from my teacher Dr. T. Kumaraswami (retired in 1987). He has praised the photography team like any thing. He has also pointed out a few mistakes, to be corrected by the printing of next edition.

In the mean time, I need a help from you. My son G. ARAVINDAN who is now studying in Pillai comes home on 18.05.1999. His next semester commences on 04.07.1999 and his workplace is Bangalore. He will be undergoing training in the

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Products Group
Electronics City
Hosur Road, Bangalore 561229

from July 4 to December 16, 1999. He needs accommodation in a nearby place as his working hours are between 8.00 AM and 8 PM. He along with 6 of his classmates can share the house. I seek your help in locating a good, decent and at the same time reasonably priced accommodation for him near the company. I have only one article on 'Malabar Horn Bill' and I shall send the same soon.

I solicit an early reply.

With respects
Yours sincerely



Shri. T.N.A.P.,

Encl: Copy of the letter.

The more I read these stray letters, the more I realised this wasn't just a record of professional milestones but also a testament to how deeply he was woven into the lives around him. While most people he was writing to were ornithologists, photo studios, collaborators, or others he worked with, I could sense that their relationship went beyond discussion of wild animals and photography techniques. And most often the correspondence also captured other aspects of their reality.

Here is M Y Ghorpade, politician and son of the last Raja of Sandur State, congratulating Perumal on receiving the Lifetime Photography Award in 2004, and an email in 2006 congratulating him on being selected for the E Hanumantha Rao Award.

Correspondence, Ghorpade, MY, 1972 - 2006,
MS-038-3-0-8-58, TNA Perumal Papers,
Archives at NCBS.

M. Y. GHORPADE
SHIVAPUR, SANDUR - 583 119, BELLARY DISTRICT
KARNATAKA

11.8.2004

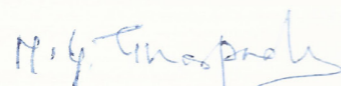
Dear Perumal,

Thanks for your letter of 5th August 2004. I am glad you find my book readable, though you have not mentioned Amarnath, in which adventure you participated.

I am happy to know that the Indian International Photographic Council, New Delhi have conferred Life Time Achievement award for photography on you, which you richly deserve.

With best wishes.

Yours Sincerely,



M.Y. GHORPADE

MessageId : 971-4464-1

To :
SRI T N PERUMAL
4/3 EAST STREET SHANTINAGAR BANGALORE
560027

Date : 03/10/2006

Subject : E-POST

From,
M Y GHORPADE
SANDUR POST
583101

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR BEING SELECTED FOR THE E HANUMANTHA RAO AWARD FC
THE YEAR 2006

M Y GHORPADE

End Of The Message

However, the first glimpse we get of a young Ghorpade is from 1972, where he is frantically writing about missing film rolls.

And in a letter to Perumal from September 2006, just a month before the awardspeak email is Ghorpade speculating about what the future of photography might look like, afraid of technology-enabled manipulation.

M. Y. GHORPADE

Tel: 24.

SANDUR
Bellary District.

9th February 1972

Dear Mr. Perumal,

On returning to Sandur, I find that there is a lot of confusion regarding both exposed and unexposed films. You will remember that we bought quite a few colour films at Delhi. Now I find that there is only one unopened colour film with me (apart from one other colour film which was loaded into the camera and then unloaded without exposing in order to put a black and white film). I do not know whether these colour films are with you. In any case I do not know about it. I am afraid, we will have to be correct with regard to films in the future to avoid such unnecessary confusion and uncertainty. As regards the Black & White exposed films I find that one of my exposed films is missing. I have developed all of them and find that the evening picture against the Sun of Spotbills at the Delhi zoo is nowhere to be seen. It looks as though one other Black & White film is also missing. You will remember that of the earlier white films exposed at the zoo, one film was kept in the Ektachrome cardboard and cover. If you have all the colour films it may be that this might have mixed up with them. As regard the bulk film also I do not know what the position is. Please look into your bag and let me know so that I may be able to keep track of what films we had and what we still have and the No. of films exposed both colour and black & white.

Dr. Amulya Reddy will be going abroad in a few days. He wanted to know what lens I would like him to get for me. Please bring the correct particulars of the Novoflex with 200 x 400 Optex. In case he is not able to get this equipment then he could get Super Tokoma zoom lens for Pentax which zooms upto 200 mm. I remember to have read somewhere that this lens has come into the market. Of course it will be good if he can get both these lenses viz., i) Novoflex 400 and 200 Optex ii) Super Tokoma Zoom lens of 200 mm. If he is bringing only one of these two

Answers this he could also bring one Pentax body for Aai.

Yours sincerely,

M. Y. Ghorpade
(M. Y. Ghorpade)

Shri T. N. A. Perumal
C/o Modern Radio Engg. Co.,
11-A Mahatma Gandhi Road
Bangalore-1.

M. Y. GHORPADE

SHIVAPUR, SANDUR - 583 119, BELLARY DISTRICT
KARNATAKA

4 September 2006

Dear Perumal,

Receipt of your digital picture of the curlew coincided with my feeling better. I like it best of all the four pictures you sent me. It is tack sharp and registers the natural day-light environment.

You have taken the trouble to point out that digital photography is the future, and real work starts only after clicking in order to recreate the picture. A time may come when one does not have to step out in order to take a picture. I appreciate the almost unlimited possibilities of digital photography but, personally, I am satisfied with experiences of the past and what one can still do with the conventional methods. As you know, I have never believed in manipulation in photography or in any other field of life.

Yours sincerely

M. Y. Ghorpade
(M. Y. Ghorpade)

In the many letters exchanged between Gunathilakaraj and Perumal between 1970s to 1990s preparing articles on butterflies, Gunathilakaraj briefly mentions the 1997 Coimbatore Riots.

Correspondence, Gunathilakaraj,
4 December 1997, MS-038-3-0-8-62,
TNA Perumal Papers, Archives at NCBS.

K. GUNATHILAGARAJ
Professor of Agricultural Entomology
Department of Environmental Sciences

Telephone : 41222 Grams : FARMVAR
Telex : 855-360 INAU IN
Fax : 91-422-41872

04.12.1997



TAMIL NADU
AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
COIMBATORE - 641 003

Dear Sir:

Greetings.

After a week of mindless violence, Coimbatore is limping back to normalcy slowly. Ganesh Kumar told me of your telephonic conversation about the nomenclature of butterflies, especially about the trinominal nomenclature. I have no objection to include the names proposed by Harish Ganekar, provided it is a published one. I have no access to his article. In the event of adopting the names of Harish Ganekar, Introduction, should be changed accordingly.

Things are moving as usual here. Currently we are engaged in the correction of Ph.D. thesis, preparation of evaluation reports, etc. My regards to all at home.

With respects

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

PS: If available, kindly spare me a copy of Ganekar's article.

Request from Assistant Conservator of Forests MP Belliappa to Perumal to be cautious while taking photographs at Kokkare Bellur to avoid disturbing the birds.

M.P. Belliappa. B.A.,
Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Wild Life Preservation Sub-Division,

MYSORE.1.
Date: 14th March 1978.

Dear Sri. Perumal,

I am in receipt of your letter. Thanks for the same.

My Forester brought me the letter and I have informed him to permit you to see the birds at Kokkare Bellur. My only request is not to go too near and disturb the birds. Many people from Bangalore go there and cause lot of disturbances. You must appreciate the point of view of the local Villagers and their anxiety also. They are the ones who have been on the job for the past several years and we have only moved in recently to give whatever assistance possible to protect the breeding of the birds.

Further, you are a well-known Wild Life lover and I do not feel like advising you, since you know better what to do under the circumstances. I would only request you to go alone whenever you go and not to approach too close for photography, lest other people see and follow suit.

I hope you will be able to appreciate our desire to protect the birds as best as we could without causing the least disturbance. I am writing this letter after discussing the matter with your friend Mr. S.G. Neginhal, Curator, at present, of the Mysore Zoo. I, therefore, request you to extend your whole hearted co-operation in the matter.

With regards,

✓

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
(M.P. Belliappa). 14/3/78.

Shri. T.N.A. Perumal, ARPS-EFLAP,
4/3, East Street,
Shanthi Nagar,
BANGALORE. 560 027.

Correspondence, Belliappa, MP, 14 March
1978, MS-038-3-0-8-23, TNA Perumal Papers,
Archives at NCBS.

As I continued sorting Perumal's letters through the weeks, brushing aside the cobwebs of his life, my desk started to become cluttered. There were tiny stacks of documents arranged according to their senders, some on the keyboard of my laptop, some lounging against the wall, while others annoyed me by continuously blocking my view of the developing archival catalogue on the laptop screen. One day, as my colleague, Anjali, and I were sorting through the mess of articles and duplicate photo prints, she fished out a picture of a pelican in flight and offered it to me. At first, it felt out of place but it soon became "Dodo: the Pelican", my silent desk guardian. After weeks and weeks of arranging and describing stuff, the loose sheets finally started to disappear into slim archival folders. Soon I had on my desk hundreds of them enclosing a story - or part of one - titled, dated, and described, herded into four archival boxes. Peeking from behind the neat array of boxes was a stray Post-It note stuck to the wall. It read "do not touch". It somehow became my favorite thing. My friends often say that I'm like a touch-me-not plant, setting clear boundaries and bristling when people mess with my space. So that small, assertive Post-It, left behind, felt just right.



Collection of photographs by TNA Perumal,
Unprocessed, Archives at NCBS

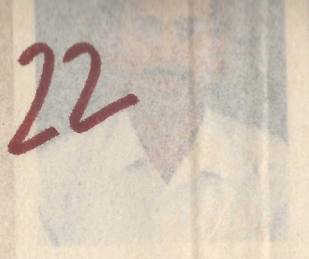


This whole thing has made me think about how we talk about people, and how we remember them. There are the clear-cut things that fit into labels, related to our professions, and then there are the in-betweens, the stuff that is messy, forgettable, heartwarming, and strange. Sometimes I wonder what T N A Perumal's workplace might've looked like. Would it have been a fascinating deskscape? Or is it more likely that it was the great outdoors? Sometimes I imagine bumping into him somewhere in Bangalore, probably in Cubbon Park, laughing and chatting with his friends while trying to get some good shots of the birds. Or him launching into an unsolicited but fascinating lecture, like most old people do, about his pet topic of butterflies.

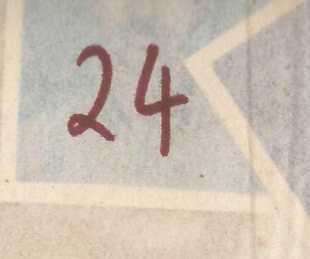




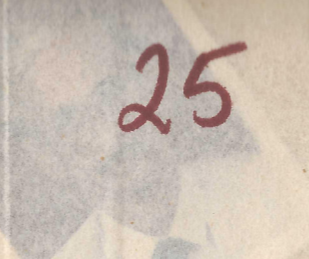
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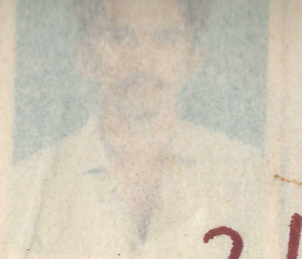
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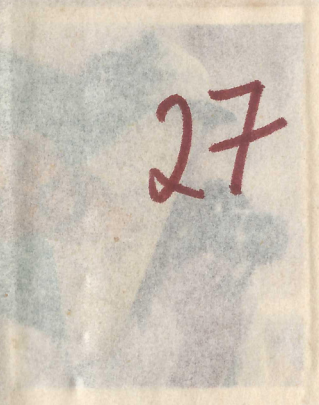
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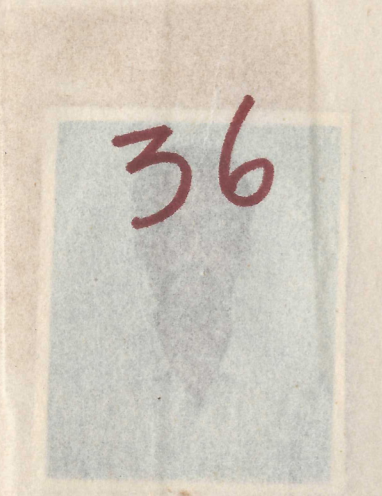
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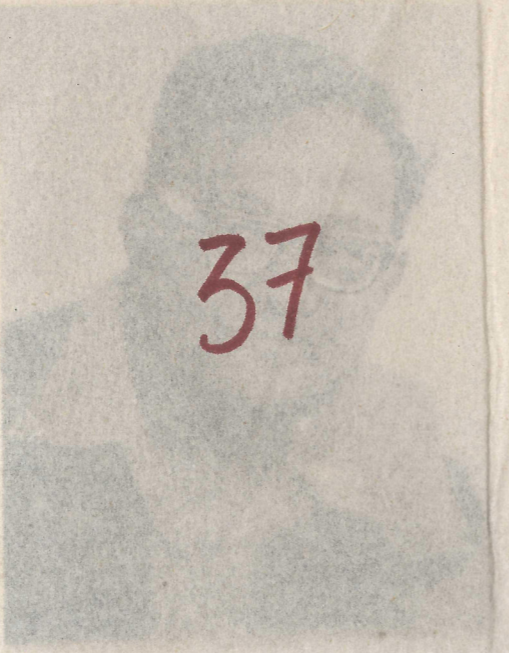
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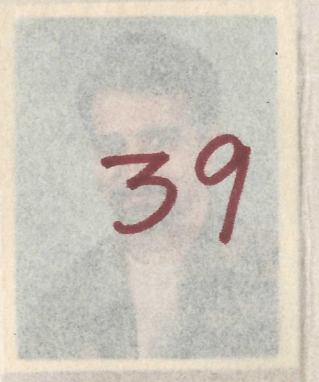
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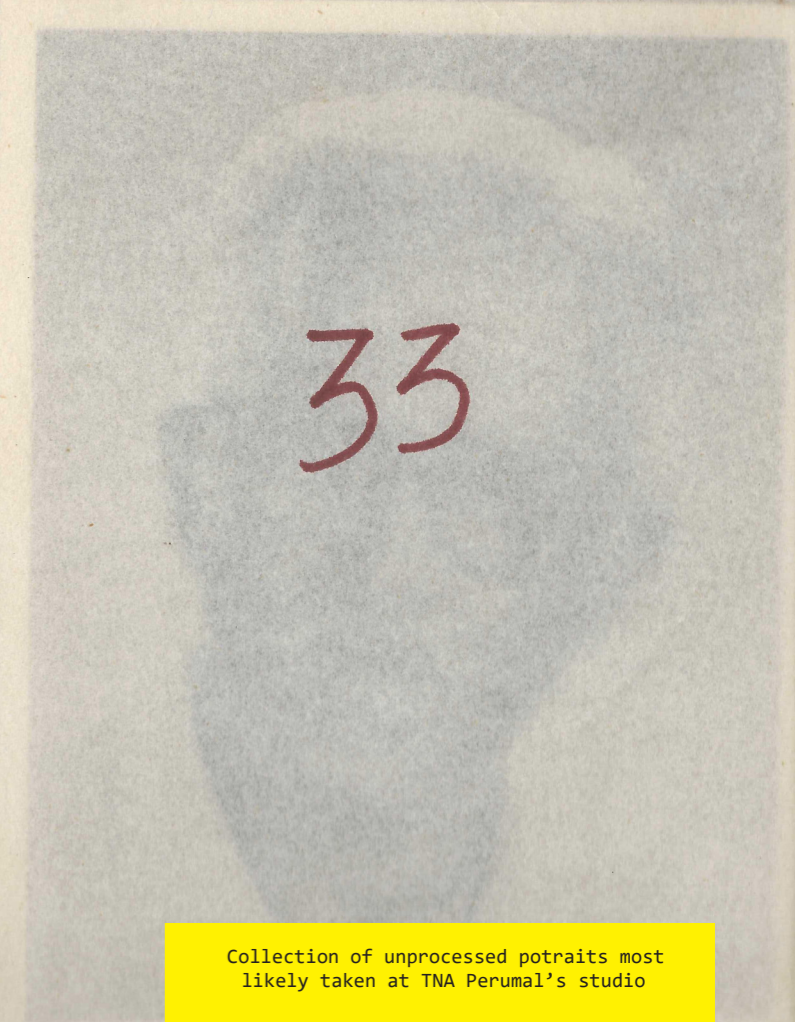
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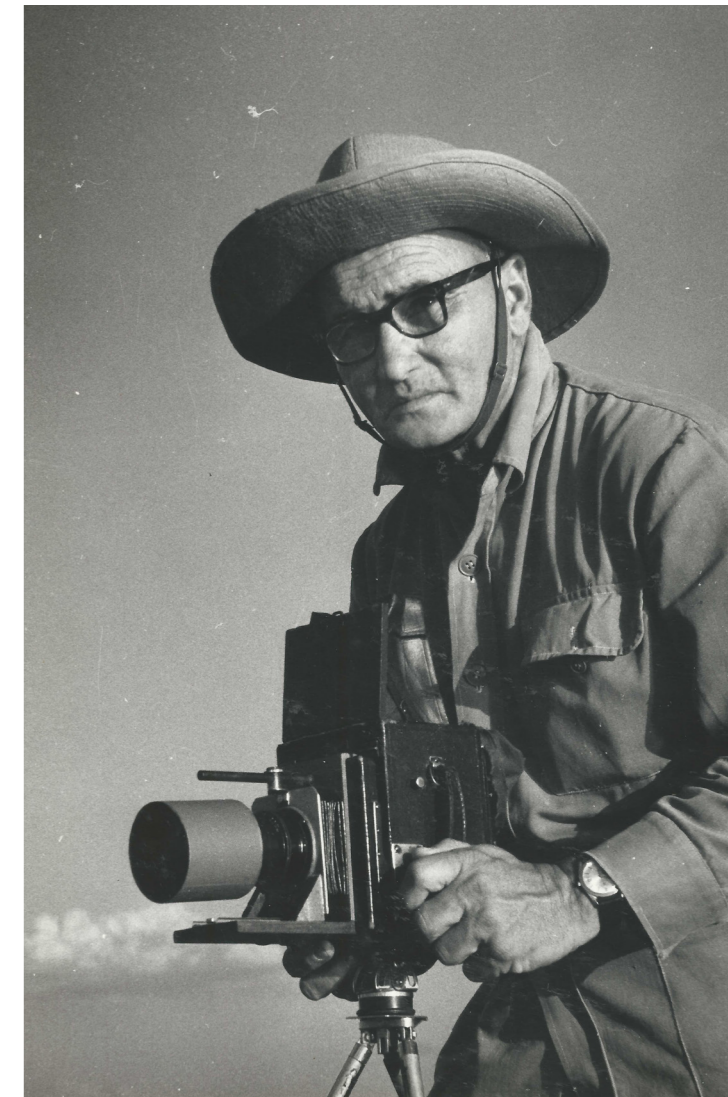
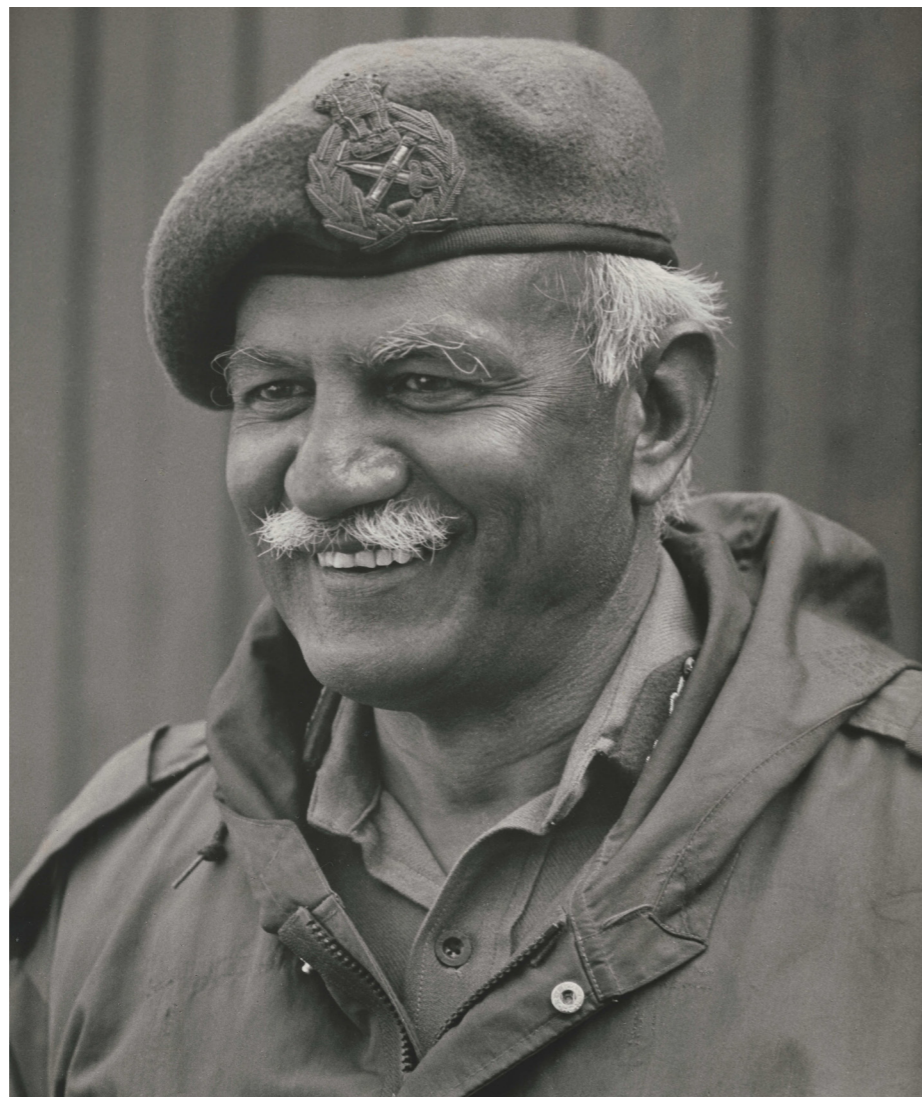


39



33

Collection of unprocessed potraits most likely taken at TNA Perumal's studio



Towards the end of my internship, Abishai and I made a trip to Cooke Town. We were scheduled to meet Vivek Muthuramalingam, who had worked closely with the material and with Perumal. As evening approached, we settled down to have a chat with Vivek over some lemon tea. He said that he worked with Perumal for only a brief period. But this experience was a turning point in his life, as it helped him realize that his passion was photography and not wildlife. He spoke with reverence about Perumal and his depth of knowledge. That Perumal was the kind of a person who would stop everyone in the middle of a hunt, point to a flower and launch into a lecture about how important that plant is for the ecosystem and how humans would perish if it were to disappear from the face of earth. "Touché", I said to myself. Kanike Studio where Vivek works is unlike anything else.

Tiny rooms lead into even tinier rooms, like Matryoshka dolls made out of brick and metal, each one packed with experiments, smells, distillers and old cameras. The first thing that hits you is the smell. And it's not the friendly smell of coffee or incense... it's chemicals. Sharp, sour, stubborn chemicals from the darkroom that seem to latch onto your clothes and say, "You're one of us now." All the founders at the studio come from science backgrounds. So it makes perfect sense as to why the whole place smells more like a rogue lab than an art studio. Turn a corner and you're nose-first into Indu's bottled cities, experiments of smells captured like trapped ghosts, each bottle whispering Bangalore's streets, smoke, grass, bakeries. Everywhere you turn, there's something tugging at your senses.

Vivek's corner is a riot of traditional printing experiments: cyanotypes, salted paper, albumen prints. Krushanu has got this whole other thing going with microbes and photography, so some of the jars have actual living organisms growing inside them. It's the kind of place where you half-expect a tiny civilization to wave hello from a petri dish. It's all improvisation. It's weird and it's magical and it makes you feel like you're seven years old again, wandering into some mysterious uncle's attic where anything could come alive at any moment.

The place makes you believe that art isn't made by sitting at a clean desk with a clean mind. It's born in cluttered, messy, slightly ridiculous spaces like this. Spaces that don't care if you get a little lost, a little dirty, a little crazy.

Amidst all these overwhelming sights and smells, what weirdly ended up being my favourite part was the familiar smell of the lemon tea, the sweetness of bakery biscuits and the crunchy nippat. Was this stupid? I don't really know. In a studio housing microbes and chemical ghosts, somehow it was snack time that felt the most real. Maybe I'm just food-motivated like a labrador, but honestly, nothing makes you feel safer in a mad scientist's lab or an artist's lair than a good biscuit. It's like wandering through mazes, but with a good desk guardian.

Unprocessed photographs by TNA Perumal
and Kirti's desk.



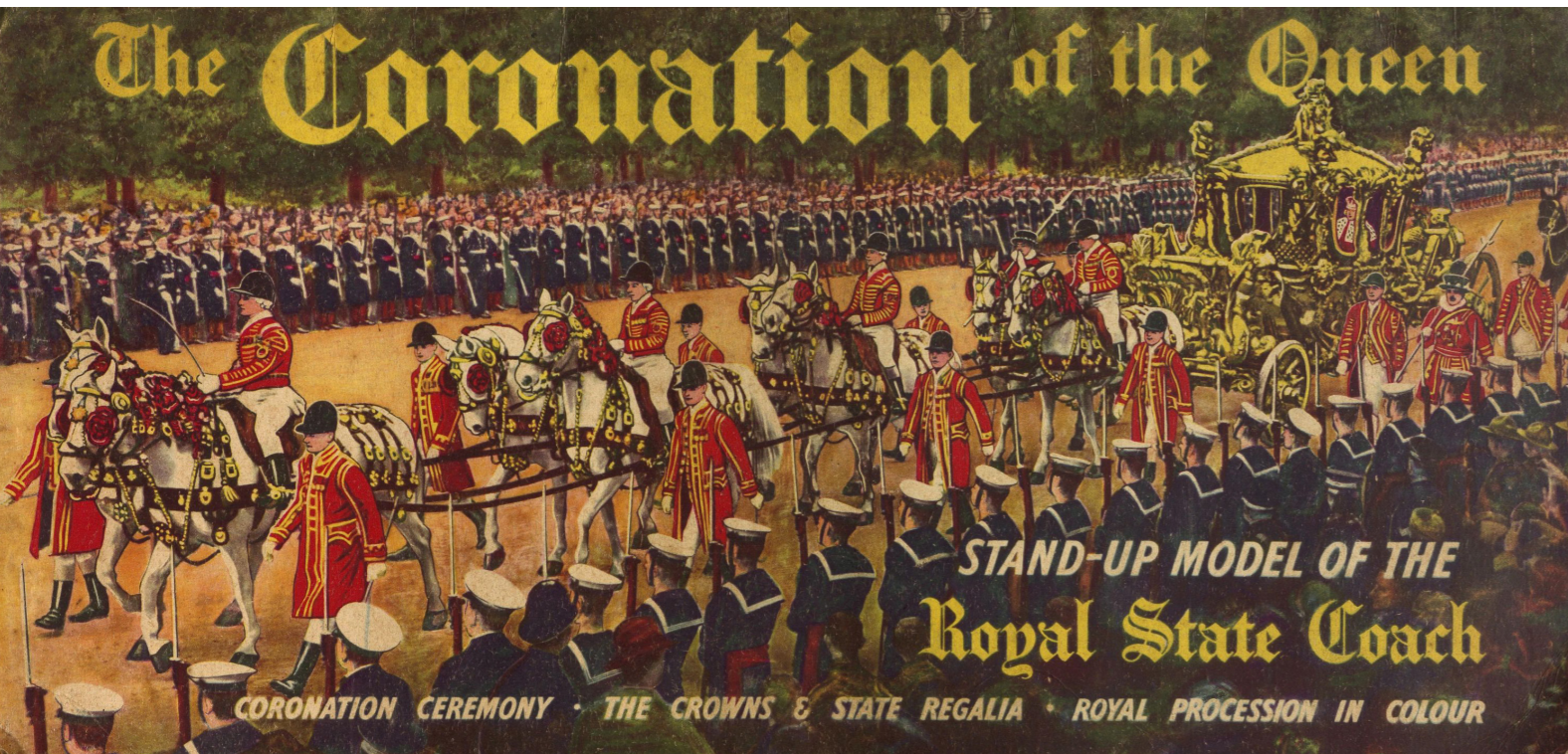
QUIZ

While archivists work towards making sense of the documents that pile on their desk, there are often loose sheets, photographs, posters, and objects that can sometimes feel random. Here are a few from the many that pile up in our “miscellaneous” and “ephemera” folders. Can you guess the context for these?
(Answers in the last page)



SCARF -- events, workshops and conferences
-- Part 3/5, Undated, MS-054-1-2-1-13,
Sarada Menon Papers, Archives at NCBS.

IMAGE 1:



1. Object from a collection of horse images used as reference by Goan sculpture and wildlife artist, Carl D'Silva.
2. From the personal collection of ornithologist and writer, Jamal Ara.
3. From a collection of toys maintained by science educator, Arvind Gupta.

IMAGE 2:



1. From a folder of S Harris cartoons collected by a tick researcher at University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore.
2. A cartoon featured in the psychologist Auguste Forel's book "The social world of the ants: compared with that of man".
3. A pamphlet collected by a scientist from attending a conference by the International Union for Study of Social Insects.

OUT OF FOCUS

Anjana T - Former intern

As a biology major interested in the history of science and medicine, the P K Sukumaran collection piqued my interest. For one, he hailed from my hometown. And his research on understanding sickle cell anemia was something that we often came across in newspaper reports and biology textbooks. During the initial processing of the material, I had the opportunity to go through the various slides that he had prepared, with educational material on blood-borne familial diseases. I was working on a different archival collection. But the Sukumaran collection exposed me to several intriguing items, as the other archivists processed them.

As someone who had recently been introduced to the process of archiving, I had come to identify the various decisions that went into the process: appraising the material, archiving them, creating descriptive summaries, all towards the final output of a collection. Throughout the process, there are inevitably items on the margins that would end up in the archival collection. This judgement is usually made keeping in mind the history the archive is interested in. What's interesting, however, is the way the ambit of the archive can also expand depending on the archivists who shape the archive.

The archivist who had processed the P K Sukumaran material came across a 1974 prospective plan from the Indian government to include abortion in the maternal and child health programme. There were no strong ties between Sukumaran's research and sexual and reproductive health. So why was it in his collection? Upon closer inspection, it was a medical newsletter published by Sandoz.

On the second page was a photograph of Sukumaran along with other eminent researchers. And below that, a long article on Wa panel discussion about genetics and medicine held at The First Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Human Genetics, in which he was a participant. The archivist had attached a note to this page - 'to be scanned'.

This made sense since the article was related to Sukumaran's work and research and the archivist would prioritise it over other articles. The published catalogue reflects this decision. The entry 'Medical Times, Vol.4, No. 3, March 1974 -- Newsletter clipping, 1974' in the P K Sukumaran Collection only shows you page 6 of the newsletter. That may leave some wondering, what's on the other pages?

DIGITISE ONLY:
 PAGE 6, MEDICAL TIMES,
 MARCH 1974
 (MS029)

Medical Times, Vol.4, No.3, March 1974 -- Newsletter clipping, MS-029-2-0-0S11-67, P K Sukumaran Papers, Archives at NCBS.



Panelists (l to r.) Dr. (Mrs.) S. K. Nair, Dr. S. M. Merchant, Mr. P. K. Sukumaran, Dr. G. S. Mutalik, Dr. L. D. Sanghvi, Dr. K. G. Nair, Dr. R. A. Pai and Dr. S. M. Bhandarkar.

Knowledge of Genetics Vital For the Physician

BOMBAY An understanding of genetics can help the physician to better recognise, treat and prevent genetic diseases which today number more than 1,800, said the panelists who took part in a discussion on "Genetics and Medicine" here recently.

The panel discussion was held as part of the First Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Human Genetics and was chaired by Dr. G. S. Mutalik, Joint Director of Medical Education and Research, Maharashtra, and Founder-Secretary of the Indian Society of Human Genetics.

The panelists were Dr. S. M. Merchant (Professor of Pediatrics, Jeebhai Wadia Hospital for Children, Bombay), Dr. K. G. Nair (Director-Professor of Medicine, K.E.M. Hospital, Bombay), Dr. (Mrs.) S. K. Nair (Tata Blood Bank, J. J. Group of Hospitals, Bombay), Dr. S. M. Bhandarkar (Endocrinologist, K.E.M. Hospital, Bombay), Dr. R. A. Pai (Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, Delhi) and Mr. P. K. Sukumaran (Indian Cancer Research Institute, Bombay). Dr. L. D. Sanghvi, President of the Indian Society of Human Genetics, was the expert.

In his introductory remarks Dr. Mutalik remarked that genetic disease can be represented by a spectrum with a broad part consisting of common diseases and a narrow sector consisting of rare Mendelian entities. Increasing number of genetic diseases have been recognised and documented. From 412 known genetic diseases in 1958 the number had increased to 1487 in 1966 and 1876 in 1971. In addition to the rare genetic syndromes which are inherited according to Mendelian Laws, genetic factor plays a significant role in common diseases, like obstructive emphysema, asthma and hypertension.

Significant advances have been made in the management and prevention of genetic disorders. Physicians therefore need to know more about genetics so that they can diagnose the disease, understand the prognosis and carry out treatment on scientific lines, Dr. K. G. Nair said. Detailed history taking often provided the first clues to diagnosis, clues such as consanguinity which are an important factor in transmission of genetic disorders in our country.

Dr. Sanghvi described the 3 broad categories of genetic conditions:

- 1) Diseases and defects inherited by simple genetic mechanisms. This includes dominant conditions such as malignant retinoblastomas, recessive conditions such as phenylketonuria and sex-linked diseases such as muscular dystrophy.
- 2) Chromosomal aberrations such as Down's syndrome,

first to suspect a genetic abnormality. Some of the commonly encountered disorders in pediatric practice were mentioned by Dr. Merchant. These included achondroplasia, osteogenesis imperfecta, vitamin D resistant rickets (autosomal dominant) albinism, cystic fibrosis, galactosemia (autosomal recessive) and congenital deafness, hemophilia, G6PD deficiency (sex linked). The commonest chromosomal aberration was Down's syndrome.

With knowledge of genetics it is possible to predict, to some extent, the recurrence rate of certain diseases in certain families, Dr. Merchant added.



Dr. D. J. Jussawalla inaugurating the course on continuing education on oncology. Seated (l to r.) Dr. A. R. Mehta and Dr. A. Srinivasan (both of Tata Memorial Hospital) and Mr. H. N. Sethna (Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission).

Course on Continuing Education In Oncology Held

BOMBAY EVERY MEDICAL COLLEGE hospital should set up a department of oncology and universities should establish chairs in oncology, Dr. D. J. Jussawalla, Director of the Tata Memorial Centre and Hon. Founder Secretary and Managing Trustee of the Indian Cancer Society, said here recently. He was addressing the opening session of the course on Continuing Education in Oncology.

"As a disease entity, cancer cuts across all the regional specialities currently practised in various branches of medicine and surgery. An oncologist is thus a true hybrid who is expected to have sound knowledge not only of general medicine and surgery, but also of radiotherapy, chemotherapy and nuclear medicine", said Dr. Jussawalla.

Mr. H. N. Sethna, Chairman of the Board of the Tata Memorial Centre and Atomic Energy Commission, in his inaugural address said that the course on Continuing Education in Oncology was significant in that research workers and clinicians were joining hands to impart specialised knowledge to the practising doctors and teachers in medical colleges throughout India.

Held under the joint auspices of the Tata Memorial Centre and the Indian Cancer Society, the course comprised of 16 scientific sessions and was attended by about 120 delegates. As many as 55 specialists in the field participated in the course.

What are the effects of genetics on the endocrine system? These could be categorised into 3 groups, said Dr. Bhandarkar. The first group comprised of clearly identifiable biochemical disturbances, e.g. discreet deficiency of the thyroid enzyme or the pituitary growth hormone.

The second group is that of cytogenetic disorders or chromosomal aberrations where the brunt falls on the gonads, e.g. as in Turner's syndrome, and the third group, perhaps the largest, consisted of endocrinological disorders with genetic overtones e.g. diabetes.

Referring specifically to hemoglobinopathies, Mr. Sukumaran said that the incidence of sickle cell anemia and thalassemia was fairly high in certain communities, e.g. the adibasis, and it was necessary to find out the magnitude of the problem before preventive measures could be undertaken.

It is generally agreed that preventive measures constitute the most effective approach to the control of genetic disorders. Some diseases can be detected as early as the 12th week of pregnancy by transabdominal amniocentesis. In the advanced countries, amniocentesis is performed during the second trimester as part of management of genetically high risk pregnancies followed by selective abortion if the fetus is found to carry the suspected disorder.

Another measure of importance in prevention of genetic disorders is genetic counselling, i.e. assessing for parents the chances of having another affected child.

Dr. (Mrs.) Nair felt that clinicians looking after the affected children are best suited to investigate the family history and to calculate the risk. She outlined the role of the trained social worker in genetic counselling and stressed the need to arrive at a very definite diagnosis. Having a family planning clinic close to the counselling centre is a help, she added.

Summarising the discussions, Dr. Mutalik said that the large number of genetic diseases which can be recognised today by amniocentesis in the prenatal period, has made way for precise genetic counselling and prevention of the birth of defective individuals. Though treatment is not a strong suit in medical genetics disease, certain principles have already emerged as guidelines to treatment. Elimination diets as in phenylketonuria or in galactosemia, supplementation diets as in orotic aciduria, supply of the missing gene products as AHG in hemophilia, substrate competition

India Offers Wide Scope For Genetic Studies

BOMBAY

INDIA, with its divergent population groups and ancient social customs, offers a rich field of study to the population geneticist, Dr. L. D. Sanghvi said in his presidential address at the First Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Human Genetics.

The 3-day conference, which was inaugurated by Maharashtra's Health Minister, Dr. Rafiq Zakaria, was attended by delegates from all over the country.

Dr. G. S. Mutalik, Secretary of the Indian Society of Human Genetics, in his report traced the efforts made to bring together groups of scientists interested in the field of human genetics, which culminated in the first national congress on human genetics held in Poona in 1970. This congress was the first step towards the foundation of the present society. In view of the tremendous impact of the science of human genetics on all sciences in general and on medicine in particular it is time that a full-fledged institute of human genetics be founded in the country, he said.

Presidential Address

Geneticists agree, said Dr. Sanghvi, that the genetic burden carried by every society is maintained either by recurrent mutation or selective advantage of certain genes or genotype in specific environment. Most of the chromosomal aberrations are new occurrences, and both the parents in such cases are normal. On the other hand, hemoglobinopathies, particularly sickle cell anemia and thalassemia, are maintained by selective advantage of heterozygotes in malarial environment.

It is not yet known what proportion of genetic load is maintained by mutation and what proportion is maintained by selective advantage.

This problem can be investigated in India which has a unique population structure, Dr. Sanghvi said.

He also referred to the age old occupations still in practice and to the custom of marriage between blood relations which is specially common in South India.

In such a context, it would be well worthwhile to undertake population genetics studies to help differentiate between the genetic loads maintained by mutation and selection, Dr. Sanghvi observed.

One of the highlights of the conference was the seminar on recent trends in population genetics in India.

as in oxaluria, avoidance of certain drugs acting on defective genetic metabolic pathways as in porphyria and preventive measures such as colectomy in certain forms of intestinal polyposis are some of the examples of application of this knowledge.

Preservation, though a noble mission, is urgent and time-consuming. And when there are thousands of papers that need to be scanned, the archivist needs to prioritise. In the process of digitising a newsletter for preservation, an archivist may decide to scan certain pages of archival relevance and not scan others. But an archivist might also hesitate to physically preserve only certain pages of a newsletter and discard the rest, because it is likely that when something is removed from its original state, the context is lost.

These doubts are what led me to go back to this newsletter after it was archived. I found the physical folder of the newsletter at the deep end of the storage room, where all the pages were visible. There were weekly/monthly quizzes for doctors, more medical news, and of course, many advertisements for pharmaceuticals. I have always been interested in understanding medical practice around reproductive health in the Indian context. And so, the article on page 1 caught my eye - a detailed multi-part report on a conference on endocrinology, which included the then-current advancements in hormonal birth control methods.

This serendipitous discovery provided an exciting insight into how researchers looked at and talked about reproductive health and the topics of contraception at that time. Such items, which lay 'out of focus' of the primary objective of the initial appraisal, provide a range of information that could attain relevance to the person who wishes to look at it. Just as this report seemed to be on the margins of the collection, something else that caught my attention was an infographic that circulated on X, formerly known as Twitter. When I first found it during the summer after I concluded my internship, it provoked a discussion within my friend circle about how hormonal birth control is still at the margins of medical research.

PAGE SIX MEDICAL TIMES



Panelists (l. to r.) Dr. (Mrs.) S. K. Nair, Dr. S. M. Merchant, Mr. P. K. Sukumaran, Dr. G. S. Mutalik, Nair, Dr. R. A. Pai and Dr. S. M. Bhandarkar.

Knowledge of Genetics For the Physician

BOMBAY

AN understanding of genetics can help the physician to better recognise, treat and prevent genetic diseases which today number more than 1,800, said the panelists who took part in a discussion on "Genetics and Medicine" here recently.

The panel discussion was held as part of the First Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Human Genetics and was chaired by Dr. G. S. Mutalik, Joint Director of Medical Education and Research, Maharashtra, and Founder-Secretary of the Indian Society of Human Genetics.

The panelists were Dr. S. M. Merchant (Professor of Pediatrics, Jeebhai Wadia Hospital for Children, Bombay), Dr. K. G. Nair (Director-Professor of Medicine, K.E.M. Hospital, Bombay), Dr. (Mrs.) S. K. Nair (Tata Blood Bank, J. J. Group of Hospitals, Bombay), Dr. S. M. Bhandarkar (Endocrinologist, K.E.M. Hospital, Bombay), Dr. R. A. Pai (Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, Delhi) and Mr. P. K. Sukumaran (Indian Cancer Research Institute, Bombay). Dr. L. D. Sangheri, President of the Indian Society of Human Genetics, was the expert.

In his introductory remarks Dr. Mutalik remarked that genetic disease can be represented by a spectrum with a broad part consisting of common diseases and a narrow sector consisting of rare Mendelian entities. Increasing number of genetic diseases have been recognised and documented.

From 412 known genetic diseases in 1958 the number had increased to 1487 in 1966 and 1876 in 1971. In addition to the rare genetic syndromes which are inherited according to Mendelian Laws, genetic factor plays a significant role in common diseases, like obstructive emphysema, asthma and hypertension.

Significant advances have been made in the management and prevention of genetic disorders. Physicians therefore need to know more about genetics so that they can diagnose the disease, understand the prognosis and carry out treatment on scientific lines, Dr. K. G. Nair said. Detailed history taking often provided the first clues to diagnosis, clues such as consanguinity which are an important factor in transmission of genetic disorders in our country.

Dr. Sangheri described the 3 broad categories of genetic conditions:

- 1) Diseases and defects inherited by simple genetic mechanisms. This includes dominant conditions such as malignant retinoblastomas, recessive conditions such as phenylketonuria and sex-linked diseases such as muscular dystrophy.
- 2) Chromosomal aberrations such as Down's syndrome,
- 3) Congenital malformations, e.g. Fallot's tetralogy.

The normal human being has 46 chromosomes (23 pairs) grouped into 7 categories. The aberrations in this pattern, found in some cytogenic disorders, were described by Mr. Pai. Today techniques are available that can accurately pinpoint these abnormalities, he said.

Usually, the pediatrician is the first to suspect a genetic abnormality. Some of the common encountered disorders in pediatric practice were mentioned by Dr. Merchant. These included achondroplasia, osteogenesis imperfecta, vitamin D resistant rickets (autosomal dominant) albinism, cystic fibrosis, galactosemia (autosomal recessive) and congenital deafness (linked). The commonest chromosomal aberration was Down syndrome.

With knowledge of genetics possible to predict, to some extent, the recurrence rate of diseases in certain families, Merchant added.

For completing a diagnosis of renal failure, he stressed, it is necessary to obtain complete pathological and histological data.

He went on to describe the several investigations, including history taking and physical examination, examination of the blood and urine, radiography and renal biopsy, that could be of help in identifying the cause of renal failure.

History

Drug-induced renal failure can be suspected when a history of continuous heavy drug consumption, particularly of analgesics, is elicited. The physician should look for drugs that give rise to hypercalcemia (e.g. dyspeptic preparations containing calcium).

Course on Continuing Education in Oncology Held

EVERY MEDICAL COLLEGE hospital should have a department of oncology, Dr. D. J. Jussawalla, Director Memorial Centre and Hon. Founder Secretary and Trustee of the Indian Cancer Society, said here while addressing the opening session of the course on Continuing Education in Oncology.

"As a disease entity, cancer cuts across all the regional specialities currently practised in various branches of medicine and surgery. An oncologist is thus a true hybrid who is expected to have sound knowledge not only of general medicine and surgery, but also of radiotherapy, chemotherapy and nuclear medicine", said Dr. Jussawalla.

Mr. H. N. Sethna, Chairman of the Board of the Tata Memorial Centre and Atomic Energy Commission, in his inaugural address said that the course on Continuing Education in Oncology was significant in that it would impart specific knowledge to the practising doctors in medical colleges across India.

Held under the auspices of the Tata Memorial Centre, the course was attended by more than 250 delegates. Specialists in the field of oncology were invited to give lectures.

Dr. D. J. Jussawalla inaugurating the course on continuing education in oncology. Seated (l. to r.) Dr. A. R. Mehta and Dr. A. N. Sengupta (both of Tata Memorial Hospital) and Mr. H. N. Sethna of the Atomic Energy Commission.

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Govt. Urged to Include Abortion in Maternal & Child Health Programme

AGRA

SINCE the introduction of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act two years ago, and against a forecast of 1.5 million legal abortions in the first year, only 41,358 cases were recorded by the Government of India up to September 1973.

Why has the number of legal abortions performed fallen so short of the predicted figure?

This was one of the questions vigorously debated at a round table conference on "Impact of the implementation of liberalisation of abortion law" held during the XVII All India Obstetrical and Gynaecological Congress at Agra recently.

The discussions were moderated by Dr. M. K. Krishna Menon (Madras). The participants were Dr. B. N. Purandare (Bombay), Dr. (Miss) A. D. Engineer (Lucknow), Dr. (Miss) M. Konar (Calcutta), Dr. S. F. Jainawala (Deputy Director of Family Planning), Dr. T. Banerjee (Calcutta), and Dr. B. N. Jungalwala (Indore), Rapporteur.

Incomplete Data

According to the panelists, the Government data on abortions probably give an incomplete picture as a large number of cases, especially those treated in private nursing homes, go unreported. The reason for under-reporting may be the heavy paper work involved. The law requires the doctor to personally fill in 3 forms for every case — a consent form, an opinion form and a detailed medical history form.

It was pointed out that a reduction in the paper work involved could be achieved only by a Parliament amendment to the original bill.

(Contd. on p. 3, col. 1)

Diagnosis of "Uremia" Must Cover Cause of Renal Failure

BOMBAY

"RENAL failure" or "uremia" is no longer an adequate diagnosis. For proper management of the patient, the diagnosis must also pinpoint the underlying cause of the renal failure, Dr. Oliver Wrong, Director Professor of Medicine, University College Hospital Medical School, London, said here recently.

Dr. Wrong was delivering the first Dr. M. D. Motashaw Memorial Oration on "Differential Diagnosis of the Uremic Emergency" at the G. S. Medical College and K.E.M. Hospital.

For completing a diagnosis of renal failure, he stressed, it is necessary to obtain complete pathological and histological data.

He went on to describe the several investigations, including history taking and physical examination, examination of the blood and urine, radiography and renal biopsy, that could be of help in identifying the cause of renal failure.

History

Drug-induced renal failure can be suspected when a history of continuous heavy drug consumption, particularly of analgesics, is elicited. The physician should look for drugs that give rise to hypercalcemia (e.g. dyspeptic preparations containing calcium).

(Contd. to p. 2, col. 3)

Contraceptive "Implants" Give Prolonged Protection

CHANDIGARH

CONTRACEPTIVE DRUG-RELEASING implants placed under the skin can provide effective fertility control for periods of up to 10 months, Dr. K. R. Laumas (New Delhi) reported at the workshop which preceded the V Asia and Oceania Congress of Endocrinology here recently.

The pre-congress workshop on "Recent advances in fertility control" was inaugurated by Dr. Ranjit Roy Chaudhury, WHO Consultant (Bangkok).

Subcutaneous implantation of silastic capsules containing contraceptive substances represents one of the newer methods of drug delivery. Dr. Laumas found that implants, containing estrogens and progestogens alone or in suitable combinations, provided effective protection against pregnancy for up to 6-10 months. Efforts are being made to prolong the period of protection to about a year, he said.

The advantages of polymeric drug delivery over systemic administration of steroidal contraceptives were considered in detail by Dr. G. W. Duncan (Seattle, USA). Sustained release of contraceptive substances from insoluble and inert polymeric matrices placed in the muscle, under the skin, in the uterus, cervix or vagina has been achieved. Such techniques offer a large number of advantages over the conventional ones, such as absence of significant side effects.

(Contd. to p. 2, col. 3)

INSIDE

Combination chemotherapy with anti-leukemic drugs — p. 4

Peritoneal dialysis — p. 5

Genetics and medicine — p. 6

Public discussion on the risk of blood clots following the COVID-19 vaccine led to the emergence of a chart comparing their prevalence post-vaccination with other medical interventions or other conditions - aiming to prevent fear-mongering against the vaccine and its efficacy. Something that struck a chord with me was how the probability of blood clots from birth control pills were presented. In particular, it was being compared and placed alongside similar data pertaining to smoking. Such a comparison showed not only indifference to the high numbers of affected people, but also the way a public health crisis was treated as a mere footnote.

As someone interested in understanding how gender stereotypes and inequalities creep into biology and bio-medical research and practice, this was ample evidence as to how the healthcare sector marginalises the needs of women and/or female bodies. For instance, how drug doses are traditionally adjusted for an average male body, how pain levels reported by women are mostly underestimated, and, in this case, how the pills were still approved despite a seemingly alarming side effect. It seemed like another attempt in normalising the pharmaceutical side effects borne by women and gender minorities, something that went into the margins once again.

Just as in this present scenario, a close reading of the reports in the Sukumaran Papers pointed me to the pattern of how research on birth control exclusively targeted female bodies, with a focus on the methods that aim to alter the event of ovulation. The side effects of the emerging techniques were discussed in the workshop, but one can easily identify the gaps or the lack of research that would have gone into those, particularly compared to what was innovated after the events of the newsletter where Sukumaran was featured. At the archives, I spent most of my internship

cataloguing the collection of the cytogeneticist, Krishnaja A P. She was part of several landmark research projects at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), such as a cytogenetic monitoring programme on human newborns carried out from 1983-1987 to find out the incidence of constitutional chromosome anomalies, as well as the international collaboration, the Human MicroNucleus Project (HUMN). She was also a trained telegraphist. And Sukumaran's niece (she was the one who donated Sukumaran's papers as well, along with her archival material). As I threaded these connections, across collections, relations, disciplines, decisions, ideas, events, and processes; archiving became a deeply personal venture for me. And my interest in finding histories of science, especially the ones that remain at the margins, increased. While Sukumaran's collection showed me a glimpse of the intersections of medical research and social justice, Krishnaja's material gave me insights to what shapes research interests, collaborations as well as the administrative workings of scientific research that goes on in a premier institute like BARC. At present, it serves as my motivation to understand the histories of women in science, pertaining to their relationships with these institutions. Understanding archival processing and examining collections as also a process of serendipitous observations had made my engagement with the archives all the more intriguing.

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Tweet by Prof Margie Danchin on X :<https://x.com/DanchinMargie/status/1381368584690012165>

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YOUR QUESTIONS

(We publish below some questions of general interest answered by consultants on our all-India panel of experts. Please address your questions to the Editor, Medical Times, Sandoz House, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Bombay 400 018.)

USE OF TETANUS TOXOID

Q. It is now accepted that the reliable prophylaxis against tetanus is active immunisation with tetanus toxoid. The recommended dose is 0.5 cc of adsorbed toxoid at an interval of 4 to 6 weeks followed by a booster 6 months to one year later. It is said that after the injection of antigen antibodies appear in the blood after about a week. On the basis of this hypothesis please inform me whether it will be justifiable to reduce the interval between first and second dose of tetanus toxoid to 10 days in order to produce rapid immunity.

M. D. P. (Sholapur)

A. Tetanus antitoxin in a concentration of 0.01 Units per ml. of serum is widely held as sufficient to protect an individual against the disease. This concentration following a first dose of 0.5 ml (5 Lf) of adsorbed toxoid is achieved after 20 to 30 days. The individual is then protected until the titre falls below this level, which it will do within a few months unless a second injection of toxoid is given. The second injection is delayed for six to nine weeks in order to boost the antitoxin level maximally. Giving the second injection only ten days after the first may allow protective levels to be achieved sooner but the duration of protection will suffer accordingly.

TREATMENT OF CHRONIC OTORRHOEA

Q. A male patient aged 25 gives a history of ear discharge since 12 years. He has been treated on and off with antibiotics and topical ear applications. A culture done some 3 years ago revealed pseudomonas insensitive to the commonly used antibiotics. Sulfonamides, tetracyclines, penicillin and topical applications like chloromycetin, soframycin and now genticyn have proved unsuccessful. The discharge at present is profuse, mucoid but not foul smelling. There is considerable loss of hearing. The patient has repeated attacks of nasal catarrh.

E. R. W. (Trichur district)

A. The significant points in the history are that the patient has chronic otorrhea with discharge revealing pseudomonas infection and he has repeated attacks of nasal catarrh. In treating such a case the attending physician must try to eradicate the infection in the naso-pharyngeal region which constitutes the source leading to tubotympanitis. The patient may need wash out of his sinuses or correction of his nasal obstruction or even tonsillectomy. If the nasal catarrh is of the allergic type, it should be suitably treated. Pseudomonas are indeed found to be resistant to commonly used antibiotics topically. It is dangerous to use streptomycin or kenamycin locally because of their ototoxic effects. One does get good results with the use of 2% acetic acid locally. There are preparations containing this in the market or one can use table vinegar (5% acetic acid) with equal dilution with distilled water. The continued discharge in the ear in spite of the above treatment will necessitate attention being directed to the middle ear. One may have to introduce a ventilating tube in the ear (Grommett) or do extirpation of mastoid cells if they are found to be diseased. The extent of the surgery will depend upon the type of involvement.

REMOVAL OF TONSILS

Q. Is it advisable to remove the enlarged tonsils, which get frequently infected, of a girl aged 14 years with manifestations of rheumatic chorea?

M. Y. A. (Bangalore)

A. Rheumatic chorea, it has been suggested is caused by acute or sub-acute streptococcal infection. A patient who suffers from repeated attacks of septic tonsillitis needs tonsillectomy. This will hasten recovery of chorea, ward off further attacks and will also prevent further manifestations of rheumatism which such patients are prone to develop. After deciding on tonsillectomy, the attending physician must take care to see that the disease is at a less active stage, that the cardiovascular manifestations are taken care of, that salicylates are omitted for a week or two and that cortisone crisis in patients taking cortisone are averted. The surgery should be done under adequate antibiotic umbrella.

Injectable Contraceptives Suitable for Mass Family Planning Programmes

(Contd. from p. 1, col. 4)

ficant side effects, higher degree of user acceptance and effectiveness.

Low-Dose "Pill"

The effectiveness of conventional pills (combination and sequential use of estrogen and progesterone) was discussed by Dr. P. K. Devi (Chandigarh) and that of continuous low dosage progesterone by Dr. A. L. Larranaga (Lima, Peru). Dr. Larranaga pointed out that low dosage of progesterone offered a high degree of protection and the commonly observed disturbances in menstrual cycle tended to be spontaneously regulated during treatment. He also indicated that the ovulatory functions remained normal during therapy. The medication appeared to exert a constant influence at the cervical level in interfering with sperm migration.

Dr. J. G. Goldzieher (San Antonio, USA) reported the usefulness of estrogen in post-coital contraception.

Newer IUDs

Dr. Chaudhury discussed the use of newer intra-uterine devices for fertility control.

It is now known that the effectiveness of the devices in preventing pregnancy is at least in part related to size and stiffness. Reduction in size and stiffness of a device may reduce the frequency of troublesome side effects, but is often associated with an unacceptable increase in the number of pregnancies.

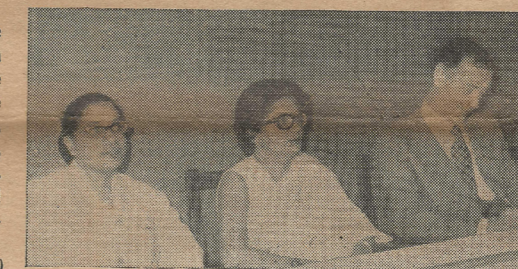
For this reason, the search for improved IUD has led to the development of new models which, although smaller and softer than earlier models, retain a high level of effectiveness through the addition of an active substance such as copper or a hormone progesterone. Most of these devices are still under trial.

Injectable Contraceptives

Dr. S. Koetswang (Bangkok, Thailand) indicated the suitability of injectable contraceptives in mass family planning programme as these offer more choices and

make the whole programme more acceptable. The results on 886 women using intramuscular depo-medroxy progesterone acetate (DMPA) 150 mg every 3 months have shown good continuation rate for upto 4 months. The main side effects of this regimen were amenorrhoea and prolonged and/or irregular bleeding. However, with continuation of injections the incidence of prolonged and irregular bleeding decreased. The monthly injectable contraceptive (DMPA 25 mg + estradiol cypionerte 5 mg) has also been well accepted with good cycle control and few side effects.

Dr. A. Gallegos (Mexico City, Mexico) reported recent investigations into the nature and mechanism of action of the aqueous extract of zoapatle leaves which has been known to natives of Mexico for over 700 years as a 'menses inducer'. The extract appears to have a potent oxytocic effect on the pregnant uterus. The side effects were minimum and the menstrual cycles following the drug administration were similar to the control ones, he said.



(L. to r.) Dr. V. N. Acharya, Dr. Nargis Motashaw (both of K.E.M. Hospital, Bombay) and Dr. Oliver Wrong.

Assessment of Saline State Vital In Diagnosis of Renal Failure

(Contd. from p. 1, col. 1)

cium carbonate) and sensitivity reactions, both of which can affect the kidney.

"One of the most important things to spend time on when you get a patient of undiagnosed renal failure is to assess his saline state", Dr. Wrong said.

Saline retention, as evidenced by, say, intra-orbital oedema, could be caused by either the nephrotic syndrome or the failure of the kidney to excrete salt and water.

The danger of saline retention is that it can lead to severe hypertension which in turn can further damage the kidneys. The answer is to get rid of the saline or prevent its retention.

At the other extreme is saline depletion, caused by the kidney's failure to reabsorb sodium from the tubuli. Dramatic improvement in renal function can be achieved in such cases by administration of intravenous saline.

Dr. Wong also referred to the examination of the eye for corneal calcification (a sign of hypercalcaemia) and of the skin "as

anything interfering with the small blood vessels of the body is liable to cause glomerular damage".

Blood and Urine Examination

Anemia in renal failure is caused by the inability to produce red cells and is suggestive of chronic renal failure, Dr. Wrong observed.

Changes in the red cells could indicate small vessel disease which in the absence of septicemia and in renal failure, is suggestive of malignant hypertension, lupus erythematosus, polyarteritis nodosa, etc.

Plasma electrophoresis is extremely useful in diagnosing myeloma causing renal failure, he said.

Estimation of urinary protein and urea is helpful, the latter especially in deciding whether the patient needs dialysis or not.

Radiography and Biopsy

"If a patient comes to you with undiagnosed renal failure and he is not in extremis, it is worthwhile taking radiographs to determine renal size", Dr. Wrong observed.

A small kidney indicates chronic pyelonephritis and there is not much to be learned from renal histology. However, if the kidney is normal or large in size and the diagnosis remains elusive, renal biopsy and histology can be very helpful.

Much of the morbidity and mortality associated with renal biopsy can be eliminated by taking precautions, such as controlling hypertension or dialysing the patient if severely uremic. The information derived from the procedure can be invaluable in managing the patient, Dr. Wrong said.

As example, he showed biopsy specimen from patients with renal failure which indicated, among other conditions, myeloma kidney, lymphosarcoma infiltrating the kidney, the nephrotic syndrome and accelerated hypertension.

Dr. Wrong concluded his talk by again emphasising that only complete pathological and histological diagnosis of renal failure can tell the physician how to proceed with the management of the uremic emergency.

Earlier, Dr. Wrong was introduced by Dr. K. G. Nair, Director-Professor of Medicine, K.E.M. Hospital, and Secretary of the M. D. Motashaw Memorial Committee. Dr. V. N. Acharya, Professor of Medicine and Chief, Division of Nephrology, K.E.M. Hospital, proposed the vote of thanks.

Dr. M. D. Motashaw, who was a member of the Department of Medicine, K.E.M. Hospital, died in 1971 in London while on dialysis. In addition to the annual oration in his name, the hospital plans to create a ward, named after him, for the care of patients undergoing kidney transplantation. A M. D. Motashaw Fund has been set up to raise money for these projects.

Facilities for Abortion Needed in Rural Health Centres

(Contd. from p. 1, col. 5)

Another problem faced by the obstetrician and gynaecologist is the necessity of applying for "recognition" to perform abortion. According to the law, the application has to be sent to a group of experts who decide whether the doctor's qualifications and his place of surgery meet with the stipulated requirements.

The panelists believed that qualified consultants felt "humiliated" to apply for recognition and discouraged when it took a long time in being granted.

Compulsory Sterilisation?

Should abortion be followed up with compulsory sterilisation?

There was no such provision in the law, the panelists observed, though advice on sterilisation or contraception is usually given when a woman comes for abortion. This is done to prevent repeated abortion in the same patient.

The larger administrative difficulties in implementing the Medi-

cal Termination of Pregnancy Act were also discussed. Inadequate facilities at hospitals, including the number of beds, and paucity of trained personnel were mentioned as factors that hampered implementation. Hence, in spite of India having one of the most liberal abortion laws in the world, the incidence of illegal abortions is rising and is now estimated to be 4.2 million.

What then is the solution? Strong opinions were expressed in favour of incorporating legalised abortion in the Maternal and Child Health Programme. This would be a logical move, as the objective of the law is to improve the health of the mother, and thus of the family.

It was also noted that the demand for medical termination of pregnancy is rising at the primary health centres. Obstetricians and gynaecologists should help to train the staff and equip the centres so that more work can be undertaken in rural areas, the panelists suggested.

Vaccine Against "Congress Grass" Eczema Developed

POONA
A newly synthesised vaccine against "Congress Grass" eczema has yielded "gratifying results", according to Dr. Shrinivas Ranade, Hon. Professor and Head, Department of Skin, Leprosy and V. D., B. J. Medical College and Sassoon Hospitals, Poona.

"Osadi" or "Chatak Chandini") The association between the eczema and the grass in the Poona region was first reported by Dr. Ranade and his group in 1967.

The disease progresses through the standard eczema process and the diagnosis can be confirmed by a patch test, he said.

Before development of the vaccine, steroids were used in treatment as anti-histaminics had no effect.

Dr. Ranade now treats the condition with the vaccine in-

jected every day in increasing doses for about 20 days. He claims that the acute early oozing stage responds well to the treatment; in chronic lichenified cases itching subsides with 8-10 injections but lichenification does not disappear; and the diffuse infiltrative type clears up in about 15-20 days.

The hyposensitisation lasts for varying periods: up to 6 months in farmers and labourers who come into repeated contact with the grass, and up to a year or two in city dwellers. Booster doses are usually given once a year, Dr. Ranade said.

The vaccine has been granted a patent by the Government of India.

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Combination Chemotherapy Dramatically Improves Survival in Acute Leukemia

PATNA
THE dramatic improvement in the survival and quality of life of patients with acute leukemia, achieved as a result of aggressive combination chemotherapy and better supportive care, was highlighted at a group discussion held during the XXIX Joint Annual Conference of the API here.

The group discussion on "Advances in therapy of acute leukemia" was chaired by Dr. B. Cowan, Professor of Medicine and Hematology, Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, and convened by Dr. Sunil Parekh, Assistant Hematologist, Jaslok Hospital and Research Centre, Bombay.

The participants were: Dr. K. V. Krishnadas, Professor of Medicine and Hematology, Medical College, Trivandrum, Dr. A. K. Basu, Reader in Hematology, School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, Dr. Sunil Parekh, Dr. R. D. Lele, Consulting Physician, Jaslok Hospital and Research Centre, Bombay, and Dr. Alex Zachariah, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Christian Medical College, Ludhiana.

"Pre-Combination Chemotherapy"

On the basis of his extensive experience at the Trivandrum Medical College, Dr. Krishnadas presented results obtained in the "precombination chemotherapy era" with locally available drugs, (viz., Prednisolone, 6-Mercaptopurine and Methotrexate), used individually.

Whereas this form of therapy did produce remissions in a fair number of patients with acute lymphocytic leukemia of childhood (A.L.L.), the remission rate in acute myeloid leukemia (A.M.L.), which usually affects adults was indeed distressingly low, Dr. Krishnadas stated.

The addition of cyclophosphamide to the therapeutic regimen

did bring about significant improvement in the remission rate as well as duration of survival. However, there were very few long term remissions and the majority of patients succumbed to rather rapid recurrence of disease. Dr. Krishnadas therefore stressed the need to try help the victims of this disease by using more modern methods of combination chemotherapy with the newer anti-leukemic drugs.

Newer Anti-Leukemic Drugs

Single drug therapy in acute leukemia is now being replaced by the more potent, newer anti-leukemic drugs, (Daunorubicin, Vincristine, Cytosine Arabinoside and L-Asparaginase) used in various combinations.

Dr. Basu outlined the practical difficulties of carrying out intensive therapy in public hospitals where isolation facilities are poor and where funds are limited. Due to the non-availability of potent antibiotics, and other supportive measures like administration of platelet concentrates or bleeding during periods of granulocytopenia and thrombocytopenia. Remission induction, particularly in acute myeloid leukemia, thus becomes very hazardous unless there is better supportive therapy available, he said.

Results of "Intensive Therapy"

Dr. Parekh analysed his results with "intensive therapy" in Bombay for the 3 year period 1971-1973. 45 patients were included in the study, of whom 29 had A.L.L. (mostly children) and 16 had A.M.L. (mostly adults). For A. L. L. either the Memphis regimen (USA) or the Hammersmith regimen (London) was offered. For A. M. L., the Memorial regimen (USA) was used initially, but since 1972 all new patients were being treated with the Hammersmith regimen.

(The details of the protocols are soon to be published by the Indian Council of Medical Research, as part of the proceedings of the "Leukemia - Lymphoma" Conference held in Lucknow last year.)

A.L.L.: Of the 29 patients with A.L.L. 28 achieved complete remission (96%). 20 of these have continued treatment according to protocol. All these patients were then given prophylactic CNS therapy, consisting of cranial irradiation (2400 rads.) with a cobalt 60 unit and concurrent intrathecal methotrexate injections.

Only 1 patient developed CNS leukemia and only 4 patients on the Memphis regimen have relapsed so far, Dr. Parekh said. There have been no relapses in the 7 patients on the Hammersmith regimen.

Thus 15 of the 20 patients with A.L.L. are still alive and well, the longest survival being 2½ years and this patient is still in his first remission.

A.M.L.: Complete remission was achieved successfully in 11 of the 16 patients (68%). All 5 patients on the Memorial regimen died, the median survival in this group being about 12 months and the longest survival 19 months. Of the 11 patients on the Hammersmith regimen, only 1 has died so far. Of the 7 patients who achieved complete remission with this protocol (Hammersmith) none have relapsed so far. The longest survival is 18 months. (Contd. on p. 8, col. 3)

Continuing our report of the
**XXIX Joint Annual Conference,
Association of Physicians of India**

Tropical Sprue Etiologically Unrelated To Malnutrition

PATNA
THE presenting symptoms, investigations, pathogenesis and histochemical aspects of the "malabsorption syndrome" were examined at a group discussion held during the XXIX Joint Annual Conference of the Association of Physicians of India.

Dr. B. B. Tripathy, Professor of Medicine, S. C. B. Medical College, Cuttack, presided over the discussions and those who participated were Dr. B. D. Pimparkar, Hon. Professor of Medicine (Gastroenterology), G. S. Medical College and K.E.M. Hospital, Bombay, Dr. S. L. Bose, Associate Professor of Medicine and Gastroenterologist, S.C.B. College, Cuttack, and Dr. S.W. Arya, Registrar in Medicine, P. W. Medical College, Patna.

In his introductory remarks, Dr. Tripathy described the presenting features of the malabsorption syndrome as diarrhoea — persistent or recurrent, flatulence, abdominal discomfort, dyspepsia, lassitude, asthenia and loss of weight which simulate both intestinal amoebiasis and irritable bowel syndrome. Gradually features of multiple deficiency, viz., glossitis, anaemia, hypoproteinaemia, skeletal and skin changes become apparent. Though a host of medical and (post) surgical disorders may give rise to malabsorption syndrome, it was considered desirable to limit the discussion to common problems encountered within this country.

Dr. Pimparkar first outlined the investigative procedures for the diagnosis of disorders of absorption, which, he said, should be termed "malassimilation". D-xylose excretion test, faecal fat estimation, Schilling's test, and jejunal biopsy are the important tests for assessment of small bowel function, the rest of the tests, being adjunctive, need to be used only when warranted.

Next, Dr. Pimparkar, presented results of his extensive work on the study of pancreatic functions and intestinal assimilation in cases of kwashiorkor. Multiple tests revealed derangement of pancreatic secretory capacity as well as jejunal mucosal function most of which improved considerably following protein repletion.

Dr. Tripathy presented his work on adults with overt malnutrition (Contd. to p. 5, col. 3)

"Why We Cannot Control"

PATNA

DIFFICULTY in discovering the victims of venereal disease and their contacts, and difficulty in preventing, diagnosing and treating the condition are among the 9 reasons why V. D. cannot be controlled in our country, according to Dr. P. N. Rangiah, Professor Emeritus in Venereology, Madras Medical College, Madras.

Dr. Rangiah was delivering the Hoechst Oration under the auspices of the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists at the XXIX Joint Annual Conference of the Association of Physicians of India here recently. His oration was entitled "Why we cannot control V. D. in our country."

W.H.O. has estimated, said Dr. Rangiah, that the global incidence of V. D. has been going up by 8-10% every year and that anywhere between

In view of the immensity of the problem, he considered it his duty to alert the medical profession and those in authority to the difficulties involved in controlling V. D. in our country.

The first difficulty is the wide definition of V. D. which embraces "syphilis, all forms, urethritis, uncomplicated and complicated, of any etiology, chancroids, L.G.V., G.I. and any other condition, local or general, arising out of sexual contact". "Surely such a definition puts a heavy premium on those legitimately charged with the control of V.D.", Dr. Rangiah remarked.

Difficulty of Tracing Cases

The second reason why V.D. cannot be controlled is that only a fraction of the patients seek medical help; the others prefer to stay silent or to resort to self-treatment.

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Patient under acupuncture anaesthesia for SMR operation.

Unprocessed pages from the newsletter, P K Sukumaran Papers, Archives at NCBS. The archives can be contacted to view all pages.

FEDERICO – OR, A MANIFESTO ON THE ETHICS OF DESCRIPTION

Sravya D – Editor

What if
I told
you they
were all
Federico
?

If I speak –

If in this minute, I prise open the spines
of old texts and extract the root

Mirror it ten-fold to consequence and stymy
it in time – have I caught history?
Like one might catch a cold?

Is it upon me, the malign epic,
the stentorian saga?

By my naming do the cross-hatching scars
fall free and the wound burst red

Or can I forget all this – the measuring of
the skull, the survey of the plantation,
the
reading of the will - the neat precision
and
incision of prejudice

And leave it be – let us all remain

The eternal Federico?

Federico



Federico



Federico



Federico



Federico



Federico



Federico

Federico



Federico



Federico



Federico



Federico



Federico

Explanation:

Though the day-to-day of the archivist is to do with details - i.e. deciding between the various bird families that a sketch at the archives might belong to - this poem casts that work against the shadowy broader significance of what role archives play as repositories of information in society.

The tasks that guide the storage of collective memory of culture involve some interesting and delicate negotiations. Material may often contain histories of discriminated communities, such as indigenous people whose title to land has not been acknowledged or Dalit and Adivasi assistants who contributed significant labour to scientific and creative enterprise without recognition. Practices of cultural secrecy and naming, may complicate the work of the archivist, who at once aspires to contribute to public access to information, but not in such a way as to infringe on prior rights.

Material may contain references to sensitive episodes of violence or personal discrimination, including outdated or offensive language, stereotypes, and prejudices. Third parties apart from the donor may find themselves mentioned in a way that may cause them pain or infringe on their privacy or public image. Such considerations may guide access restrictions and sensitivity parameters, but also require the describing archivist to use language judiciously and in a fair and inclusive manner - to resist the urge to editorialise or sensationalise, while acknowledging the material's propensity to cause harm.

Archivists interface with different regimes of governing principles. These include principles of organisation, such as respecting the documents' origin (or 'provenance' in more technical terms) and original order. But as the scope of archival work increases, one might find oneself interacting with

ethical guidelines: 'do no harm', conflict sensitivity, CARE principles for Indigenous Data Governance, rights to privacy and erasure. These rights may often warrant secrecy or limited access. Other rights such as Right to Information and 'Dealing with the Past' redressal mechanisms are assisted by comprehensive documentation and preservation. A mislabeled or incomplete record may result in information loss. Nevertheless, while the archivist grapples with the hard-to-describe untitled, undated record, they may not substitute their own formulations and guesswork. In such a case, one may well let the record 'be Federico', a relative unknown but marked as important.

On such questions, the archivist chews a thoughtful pencil and is grateful that the eraser exists, so that their actions, though made in line with the best practices and principles available to them, can be altered in light of future wisdom.

References and further reading:

1. Federico meme, @thesurrealbank, available at: <https://www.instagram.com/p/Cz2q7YCNohs/?hl=en>
2. See Kolowratnik, N. V., The Language of Secret Proof: Indigenous Truth and Representation (MIT Press, 2020) for discussions of cultural secrecy and proof in Indigenous contexts.
3. Guiding Principles for Safe Havens for Archives at Risk, International Council on Archives, available at: https://www.ica.org/app/uploads/2023/12/guiding_principles_for_safe_havens_for_archives_at_risk_copyright_creative_commons_cc_by_nc_4.0_ica.pdf
4. CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance, available at: <https://www.gida-global.org/care>
Archives, Ethics and the Law in India: A Guidebook for Archivists in India, available at: <https://ethics-law.archives.ncbs.res.in/>
5. Society of American Archivists, SAA Core Values Statement and Code of Ethics, available at: <https://www2.archivists.org/statements/saa-core-values-statement-and-code-of-ethics>

UNTITLED, UNDATED

Archives Exhibition

Curated by Dhatri S, Kinjal Shah, and Sindhu N

February 2025 - January 2026

Archives at NCBS

On 22nd February earlier this year, the archives launched a new set of collections processed in 2024, adding around 100,000 new archival objects to its online repository. As is tradition, the collections launch was followed by the inauguration of the new exhibition - curated by members of the archive. The exhibition explores some of these new collections while raising doubts around processes in archiving, scientific research and art.

The exhibition is open to campus and public between 10 AM to 5.30 PM on weekdays until January 2026. Those interested in visiting or requesting a walkthrough can write to archives@ncbs.res.in

Curatorial Note:

Record rooms are often imagined as a sterile site occupied by tall racks, endless folders, and heavy boxes. Each file that enters the room is made to appear like a piece of a puzzle. The abundance of objects, the careful arrangement, and the specificity with which they are kept, all reiterate a feeling of History edging towards a grand completion.

However, somewhere outside this guarded storage unit is a busier place. In this world that these records come from, there are often only fragments, pieces of stories left behind not yet with a seat in History.



And dealing with them are people of all shades - the elderly and students, scholars and artists, activists and archivists, and us - guided by the drive to find meaning in these fragments and piece them together.

There are many names to this place: a lab, a studio, a kitchen, a desk, an almirah... They reveal likes, decisions, doubts, curiosities, biases, and all the things that make understanding our world so human and complicated. In this place beyond the glass doors are notes from an archivist, an artist, and a scientist as they pick apart and place together the pieces of their world.

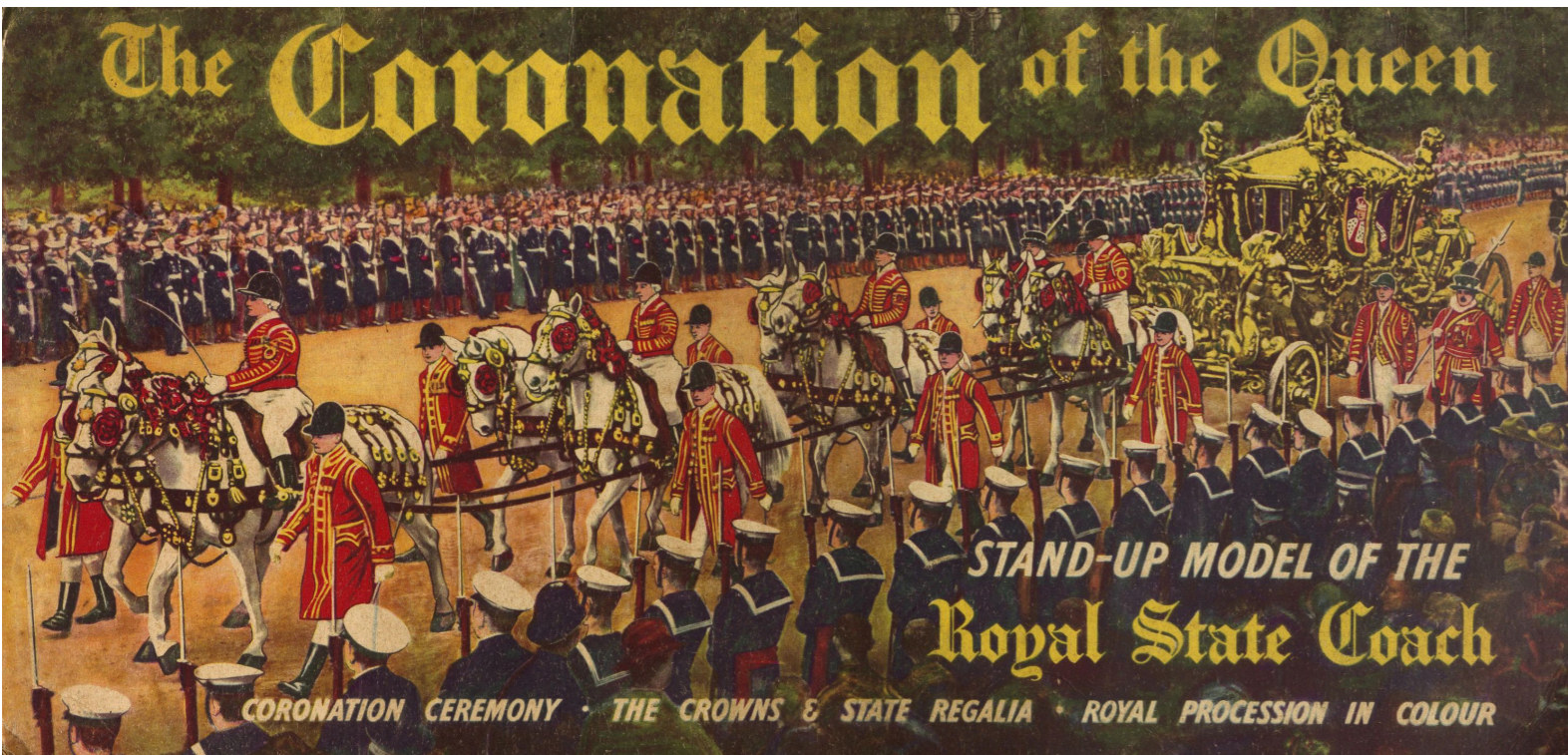


QUIZ

Answers

IMAGE 1:

Coronation of the Queen -- Stand-up model of the Royal State Coach, Undated MS-046-5-0-3-11, Jamal Ara Papers, Archives at NCBS.



1. Object from a collection of horse images used as reference by Goan sculpture and wildlife artist, Carl D'Silva

ANSWER: From the personal collection of ornithologist and writer, Jamal Ara.

3. From a collection of toys maintained by science educator, Arvind Gupta.

Jamal Ara, sometimes noted as India's first "birdwoman" was an ornithologist known for her extensive field research on birds in Chota Nagpur plateau in Jharkhand, India. While her collection at the archives largely consists of manuscripts and published documents, there are also notebooks filled with line drawings and sketches of birds. While these occupy the first four series in the Jamal Ara Papers, the last series, "Ephemera" contains an annotated bird handbook and some not-so-bird stuff. Such as an undated notebook filled with Indian classical music, music theory, and food recipes (MS-046-5-0-3-12). And the above book with details about the coronation ceremony of Queen Elizabeth II.

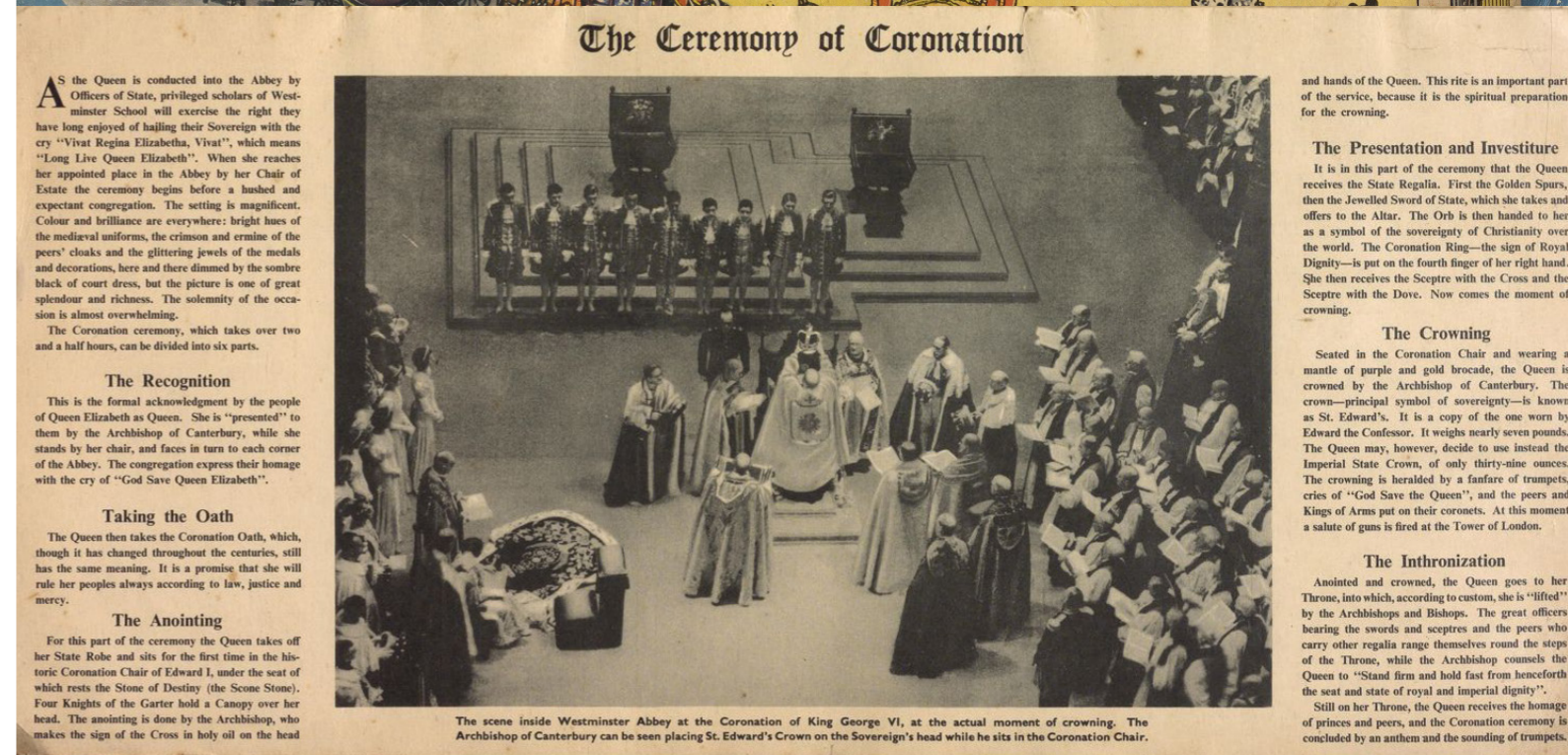
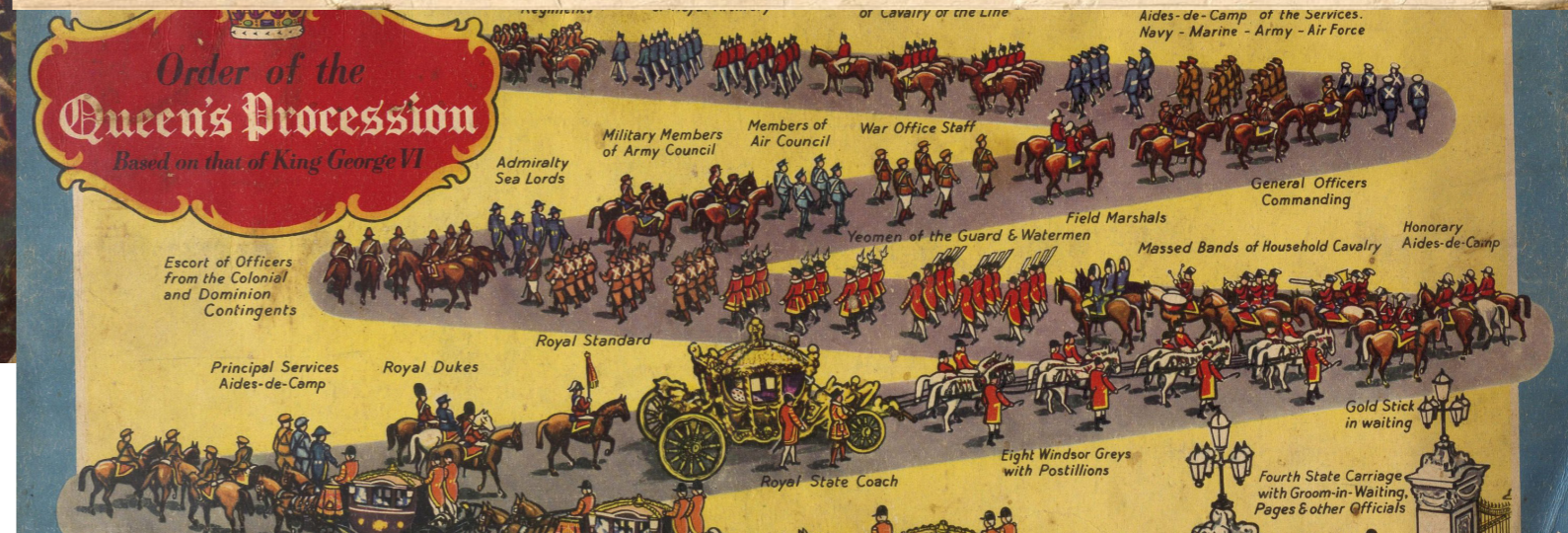


IMAGE 2:

Travels -- Munich, August 1986
MS-017-3-2-10-19, N V Joshi Papers,
Archives at NCBS.



1. From a folder of S Harris cartoons collected by a tick researcher at University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore.
2. A cartoon featured in the psychologist Auguste Forel's book "The social world of the ants: compared with that of man"

ANSWER: A pamphlet collected by a scientist from attending a conference by the International Union for Study of Social Insects.

Between 17th August 1986 to 22nd August 1986, N V Joshi was in Munich, attending the 10th International Congress organised by the International Union for Study of Social Insects. While it is difficult to gauge if N V Joshi simply liked ants (most likely he did), it is equally difficult to gauge what he didn't enjoy, since his work and expertise was spread across multiple disciplines. After completing a Masters degree in Physics, he joined Indian Institute of Science as a mathematical programmer and a scientific officer at the Centre for Theoretical Studies in 1983. He later joined the Centre for Ecological Sciences as a Lecturer and was promoted to Assistant Professor. In 2003, he took charge as Chair of CES. N V Joshi's expertise in theoretical statistics and computer simulations enabled much interdisciplinary research in the fields of ecology, cell biology, genetics, anthropology and meteorology which were evolving knowledge fields in the scientific landscape of IISc. While his collection is broadly spread across two series - Correspondence, and Research and Administrative Work; the third series - Personal and Ephemera consists of booklets, brochures, invites, newsletters, media clippings and pamphlets from across the world.



10th International Congress **IUSSI** München 18 August 1986

THIS IS THE FIRST ISSUE OF A HOPEFULLY DAYLY IUSSI NEWSPAPER WHICH WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED ABOUT THE LATEST CATASTROPHES HAPPENING AT IUSSI

Each one who wants to give a message to his fellow members at the Congress (meetings of National Sections, lost umbrellas, specs, vouchers or informing about his experiences within or outside the social program) is kindly invited to inform the Conference Desk.

The latest news

Each of you finds a timetable in his Conference bag which informs him about the last bus leaving from the Institute. This will be most important for the visitors of our Folklore Evening. Last bus leaves at 11! For those who want to enjoy the world famous Bavarian beer, there are TAXIS available at moderate rates.

Our printed material has been calculated at a low profit basis (for the printer and for the organiser). But even then each copy deserves its price. Till now we have a negative balance in our non-profit enterprise. You can purchase all items at the Congress Office:

ABSTRACT VOLUME	DM 38.--
PROGRAM	DM 20.--
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	DM 5.--

DAYTIME PROGRAM

There are always good reasons for visiting München during the lectures (the most convincing one, e.g., too difficult judgements for one of the six parallel sessions), however, don't forget to book your ticket for the daytime program at the earliest. The first highlight will be the walk through old München on Tuesday. More on p.79 of the program.

CAUTION: COLLECT YOUR TICKET ALSO FOR FREE-OF-CHARGE EVENTS!

The last comment

one of the artists at Schleissheim festive concert is 11 years!

STILL TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR ALL THE SOCIAL EVENTS

THERE ARE ALSO DEADLINES:

You can buy your tickets at your earliest convenience at the Congress Office. We have done our best to keep prices generally low on the understanding that we shall be able to sell out anyway - now we must also sell all the calculated

absolute deadlines:

Evening 14:00 hrs

Folklore Concert, better buy here

banquet 19:00 hrs

ENT

trip including visit

air museum Glettleiten

evening

Folklore Evening at the Restaurant of the Congress Center, with a hearty dinner in Bavarian style! Local folklore groups will perform, presenting Bavarian singing and dancing.

Festive Concert at Schleissheim Palace Schleissheim Palace, 18th century residence of Bavarian monarchy, will provide a splendid frame for this concert. The "Ensemble für alte Musik" (conductor Gottfried Urban) will perform in historic costumes. The program includes compositions by Bach, Beethoven, van Eyck, Couperin, Vivaldi, Sammartini, Quantz and Mozart. Departure of buses: between 19:15 and 19:30 at the Congress Center.

Tour to open-air museum "Glettleiten", boat trip on Starnberger See

The tour will start at the Congress Center and proceed to southern Bavaria with its beautiful lakes and mountains. The highlight of the afternoon will be a visit to the open air museum "Glettleiten". Glettleiten is situated at a most scenic place within the foothills of the Bavarian Alps. In a unique form of presentation, a reassembled traditional village gives a realistic impression of rural life, handicraft and art in an ancient Bavarian community. A snack may be taken in a nearby open air restaurant. For the evening, a steamship cruise on romantic Starnberger See will be organized. On the ship, a bag-lunch will be provided which is included in the fare. Drinks are available (cash payment). Departure of buses: 14:00 at the Congress Center.

Farewell Banquet at the Restaurant of the Congress Center.

DM 30.-

DM 20.-

DM 40.-

IT'S YOUR CHANCE!



The Archives at NCBS (<https://archives.ncbs.res.in/>) is a public collecting centre for the history of science in contemporary India. Over 250,000 processed objects across over 30 collections are housed at our 2000-square-foot state-of-the-art physical centre in Bangalore. We opened to the public on Feb 4, 2019.

Our objectives are four-fold:

1. To strengthen research collections and public access in our domain.
2. To push the frontiers of research in archival sciences in India.
3. To build capacity through education.
4. To reimagine the archives as part of the commons through vibrant public engagement.

All collections at the Archives can be viewed on the website:

catalogue.archives.ncbs.res.in

All events at the archives can be viewed on the Archives' events page:

<https://www.ncbs.res.in/events/apls>

The Archives at NCBS is open to visitors between 10am-5:30pm on weekdays, and weekends by appointment. To plan your visit, email us at archives@ncbs.res.in