

## A JAGORE CHRONICLE: 1861—1931

The following brief chronicle has been compiled to give some idea of important phases of the Poet's career, and his activities mainly in the literary sphere. Dates of works have been selected with this purpose in view, without giving an exhaustive bibliography. Excepting important publications in English, no mention has been made of the large number of translations of the Poet's works into the other languages of the world.

The Poet took a leading part in all the dramatic performances mentioned here, but no attempt has been made to give a complete list of all performances in which he appeared himself. No mention has been made of the performances in the Santiniketan School in which he often takes an active part, nor of the numerous productions of his plays on the public stage in India and abroad. The dates of composition of Songs—about 2000 in number—have also been omitted.

It has not been found feasible to include references to Rabindranath's contact with personalities in India and abroad. Neither has it been possible to indicate his active participation in the educational and cultural, social and religious, and economic and political life of his country, and his untiring efforts to promote international good will and peace. In the case of Lectures and Sermons only a few of outstanding importance have been mentioned.

The date of Bengali publications in book form is given within brackets; the approximate date of writing outside brackets. In the case of English translations, the dates refer to publication either in journals or in book-form. Most of the publications in Bengali give the Bengali year which begins in April. Owing to this lack of correspondence with the European year, a discrepancy of one year may have occurred in a few cases in which the month of publication could not be traced.

### PRASANTA CHANDRA MAHALANOBIS

The following abbreviations have been used :

B.E.	= Bengali Era	L.	= Letters	V.	= Verse
B.M.	= Bengali Monthly	N.	= Novel	V.D.	= Verse Drama
E.	= Essays	P.D.	= Prose Drama	vois.	= volumes
Eng. tr.	= English translation	pub.	= published		
Eng.	= Volume(s) partly or wholly written and published in English.				

In the Bengali names in *Italics*, it may be noted that a *v* is pronounced as in Eng. *all*; *c* as Eng. *ch.*; *f*, *j*, *s* all like Eng. *sh*; and *v* as *b* (after a consonant, = *w*).

The Poet's family belongs to the *Sāṅghīya* clan (*gotra*) of the *Rāḍhīya* branch of *Brahmanas*, and his ancestors are believed to have settled in *Rāḍha* or West Bengal about the 8th century After Christ. In the 17th century the Poet's family acquired the distinctive appellation *Thākūr*, meaning 'Respected Lord' (*Seigneur*), which was Anglicised first as *Tagoure*, and then as *Tagore*.

The Poet's name in Bengali is *Ravindrānāth Thākūr*, the *v* in Bengali being pronounced as *b*. The literal meaning of the personal name, *Ravindrānāth* (*Ravindra-nātha* in the original Sanskrit form, and usually written as *Rabindranath* in English) is 'Sun-Lord'.

1861. Rabindranath Tagore born on Monday, May 6, 1861. (*Vaiśākha* 25, Saka Era 1783, Bengali Era 1268).

1867-74. Irregular attendance at various schools and studies at home with private tutors. First experiments in versification about 1868.

1873-74. *Upanayana* (Initiation) ceremony: first acquaintance with the *Gāyatrī* prayer. First visit to Santiniketan, and the Himalayas, with his father, Maharaj Debendranath.

Sarada Devi (mother) died March 8, 1874.

1875-76. First publication of writings: Poem composed on the occasion of the Hindu Mela pub. in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, Feb. 25, 1875. Also poems, literary essays, and a long poem, *Vana-phul* (V., 1879. Wild Flower) in 8 cantos in *Jñānāṅkur*, a Bengali Monthly (1282-83 B.E.).

1877-78. First appearance in dramatic performance as *Atik Bābu* in a Bengali Comedy by Jyotirindranath (elder brother). A new B.M., *Bhāratī*, started in *Srāvāṇa*, 1284 B.E. (July, 1877) under the editorship of Dwijendranath (eldest brother). In 9 months the Poet contributed about 22 poems, (including some of the poems of *Bhānusiṅha Ṭhākur*, 1884), 2 essays, 6 articles of literary criticism, a long story (*Bhikhārīnī*, the Beggar Maid), an unfinished serial novel (*Karuṇā*), and a long poem, *Kavi-Kāhinī* (V., 1878, A Poet's Story). Sojourn in Ahmedabad, Bombay Presidency, April—September, 1878, First musical compositions.

1878-80. First visit to Europe: left Bombay, September 20, 1878. Joined school in Brighton, then University College, London. Studied European music. Returned to India early in 1880.

Contributed to *Bhāratī* numerous poems and ballads, some of which were collected in *Saṣṭa Saṅgīṭ* (V. 1884, Songs of Childhood); literary essays (including articles on Anglo-Saxon Literature, Dante, Petrarch, Goethe, Anglo-Norman Literature, Chatterton, etc.), translations from Shakespeare, Burns, Moore, Shelley, Tennyson.

*Yuroḥ-pravāśir Patra* (1881, Letters of a Visitor to Europe). *Bhagna-hṛday* (V.D. 1881, The Broken Heart) begun in England. On return composed two musical dramas, *Vālmiki-pratibhā* (1881, The Inspiration of Valmiki) and *Kāl-mṛgayā* (1882, The Fateful Hunt) and took leading part in dramatic performances of both.

1881-83. Poems of *Sandhyā Saṅgīṭ* (1881, Evening Songs). Active participation in attempts to start a Bengali Literary Academy. *Vividha-prasaṅga* (1883, Miscellaneous Essays) and *Bau-śhākuraṅgir Hāj* (1884, The Bride-Queen's Market), first completed novel, started *Bhāratī* in 1881. First public lecture in Calcutta on 'Music'. Left for England to join the Bar, but returned from Madras, 1881. *Rudra-caṇḍa* (V.D. 1881) Poems of *Prabhāt Saṅgīṭ*, 1882-83 (V. 1883, Morning Songs). Sojourn in Karwar. *Prakṛtir Pratīśodh* (V.D. 1884, Eng. tr. 'Sanyasi,' 1917). Poems of *Chavi O Gān* (1884, Pictures and Songs).

Married Mrinalini Devi, December 9, 1883 (*Āgrahāyaṇa* 24, 1290 B.E.).

1884-90. Poems of *Kaḍi O Komal* (V. 1887. Sharps and Flats, includes translations from Shelley, Mrs. Browning, Ernest Myers, Aubrey De Vere, Augusta Webster, P. B.

Marston, Victor Hugo etc.). Prose sketches of *Ālocanā*, 1884-85 (Discussions). Literary studies collected in *Samālocanā* (1887, Criticism). First 2 short stories. *Nalinī* (P.D. 1884). Started new B.M., *Bālak*, from *Vaiśākha*, 1292 B.E. (April, 1885, amalgamated with the *Bhārati* after 1 year) to which he contributed about 12 poems, 20 articles on various topics, 9 letters on social questions (*Cīṭhi-patra*, 1887), 8 humorous sketches in dramatic form, one prose drama, *Mukut* (1908, The Crown), and a serial novel, *Rājārṣi* (1887, The Saint-King). Joint-editor, *Paḍa-ratnāvalī* (1885, anthology of Vaishnava lyrics). Lecture on *Saiya* (Truth) 1885. *Ravi-chāyā* (1885, 1st collection of Songs). Secretary, *Adi-Brahmo Samaj* (The Theistic Church of Raja Ram Mohun Roy and Maharshi Debendranath) 1887-1911. Poems of *Mānasī* 1887-90 (V. 1890, The Heart's Desire). Lecture on 'Hindu Marriage,' 1887. *Māyār Khelā* (Musical Drama, 1888. Play of Illusion). Appeared as King *Vikram* in performance of *Rājā O Rānī* (V.D. 1889, Eng. tr. 'The King and the Queen,' 1917). Appeared as *Raghupati* in *Visarjan* (V.D. 1890, Eng. tr. 'Sacrifice,' 1917). Took charge of the management of the Tagore Estates.

1890. Second visit to Europe, August-November, 1890: Italy, France, England.

1891-95. Started new B.M., *Sādhana*, from *Agrahāyana*, 1298 B.E. (November, 1891) to which he contributed for 4 years numerous poems, stories (collected in *Choṭa Galpa*; *Vicitra Galpa* 2 vols.; *Kathā-catustaya*, 1894; *Galpa-daśak*, 1895); literary essays, reviews, political articles and topical notes. Foundation Vice-President, *Vangiya Sahitya Parishad* (Bengal Academy of Letters), 1894.

*Yuroṇ-yātrīr Dāyāri* (1891-93, Diary of a Traveller to Europe). *Citrāṅgadā* 1891 (V.D. Eng. tr. 'Chitra,' 1914). Poems of *Sonār Tarī* (The Golden Barge) 1892-93. Lecture on *Sikṣār Her-pher* (The Tortuosities of Education) 1892. *Pañca-bhūter Dāyāri* from 1893 (E. 1897, Diary of the Five Elements). Poems of *Citrā* 1893-95 (V. 1896). *Vidāy-abhiśāp* 1893 (V.D. 1894, Eng. tr. 'The Curse at Farwell,' 1924). Lecture on 'Englishmen and Indians,' 1893. Essay on 'Folklore,' 1894. *Mālinī*, 1895 (V.D. Eng. tr. 1917), and poems of *Caitālī* (The Last Harvest) 1895-96, published together with the 1st collected Poetical Works (Quarto, 1 vol.) in 1896. *Nadī* (V. 1896, The River).

1897-1902. Appeared as *Kedār* in dramatic performance of *Vaikuṣṭher Khālā* (Prose Comedy, 1897, *Vaikuntha's Manuscript*). Essays on Ancient India and ideals of civilization. *Kaṇikā* (V. November, 1899, Sparks), *Kathā* (V. January, 1900, Stories), *Kāhinī* (V. March, 1900, Tales), *Kalpanā* (V. May, 1900, Dreams). Editor, *Bhārati* (1898-99), contributed in 1 year about 15 poems, 7 stories, 6 social and political essays, 4 religious and educational studies, 12 literary essays, and 1 verse drama, *Lakṣmīr Parīkṣā* (The Trial of Lakshmi). Poems of *Kṣaṇikā* (The Fleeting One), 1899-1900. *Cira-kumār Sabhā*, prose comedy, 1900-01 (The Bachelors' Club). Poems of *Naivedya* (V. 1901, Offerings). Essays on the Upanishads (*Brahma-mantra*, *Aupanīṣad Brahma*, etc.).

Founded the *Brahma-Vidyālaya* (Santiniketan School), December 22, 1901 (*Pausa* 7, 1308 B.E.).

Editor, *Vaṅga-darśan* (B.M., new series) for about 5 years from *Vaiśākha*, 1308 B.E. (April, 1901). *Cokher Bāli*, novel, 1901-02 (N. 1903, Eng. tr. 'Eyesore,' 1914). Poems

of *Utsarga*, 1901-03 (V. 1914, Dedications). Lecture on *Aiyukti* (Exaggerations, with reference to the Delhi Durbar), 1902.

Mrinalini Devi (wife) died November 23, 1902 (*Agrahāyana* 7, 1309 B.E.).

1902-05. Poems of *Smaran* (In Memoriam), 1902-03. *Naukā-jubi*, novel, 1903-04 (Eng. tr. 'The Wreck,' 1921). Poems of *Sifu* 1902-03 (The Child, partly in Eng. tr. 'Crescent Moon,' 1913). Collected Poetical Works in 13 parts, 1903-04. Swadeshi and anti-Partition (of Bengal) movement. Lecture on *Swadesi Samāj*, 1904. *Śtvājī Utsav*, 1904. Swadeshi (patriotic) Songs (collected in *Bāul*, 1905). Political essays (collected in *Atma-Sakti* and *Bhārata-varṣa*, 1905).

Maharshi Debendranath (father) died January 19, 1905 (*Māgha* 6, 1311 B.E.).

1905-10. Editor, *Bhāṅḍār* (B.M., political and economic) for 2 years from *Vaiśākhā*, 1312 B.E. (April, 1905). Active participation in the National Council of Education, 1905-06. *Rākhi-bandhan* ceremony, October 16, 1905. Lecture on *Vijayā-sammilan*, 1905. Poems of *Kheyā*, 1904-06 (V. 1906, Crossing). Prose Works (exclusive of novels and short stories) in 16 vols. (comprising literary studies, 5 vols.; social and political, 4 vols.; educational 1 vol.; linguistic 1 vol.; and religious 1 vol.), 1907-08. *Gorā*, novel, 1907-10 (N. 1910, Eng. tr. 1924). President, First Bengali Literary Conference, 1907. President, Provincial Conference, Pabna, 1908. Lecture on 'East and West,' 1908. *Sāradotsav* (P.D. 1908, Eng. tr. 'Autumn Festival,' 1919). *Prāyaścitta* (P.D. 1909, Atonement). Sermons and religious discourses (1908-14) collected in *Sānti-niketan* (17 parts, 1909-16). Most of the poems of *Gitāñjali* written 1909-10. *Rājā* (P.D. 1910, Eng. tr. 'The King of the Dark Chamber,' 1914).

1911. Fiftieth Birthday Celebrations; Poet as *Thākur-dādā* in performance of *Rājā* at Santiniketan, May, 1911; Celebration in Calcutta 1911-12: Address presented by the Vangiya Sahitya Parishad.

1911-12. *Acalāyatan* (P.D. 1911, The Immovable Monastery). Lecture on 'Hindu University,' 1911. First publication of translations into English by the Poet, 1911-12. Attempts at reconstruction of *Adi Brahma Samaj*. Editor, *Tattvabodhinī Patrikā*, 4 years, (1911-15). Lecture on *Dharmar Adhikār* (The Right to Religion, 1912). *Jvan-smṛti* 1910-12 (1912, Eng. tr. 'My Reminiscences,' 1917). *Chinna-patra* (1912, Letters written 1885-1895. Eng. tr. 'Glimpses of Bengal,' 1921). Lecture on '*Bhāralavarṣer Itihāser Dhārā* (Main Currents of Indian History), 1912. *Ḍāk-ghar* (P.D. 1912. Eng. tr. 'The Post Office,' 1914). Projected visit to Europe postponed owing to illness, March, 1913. Translations of *Gitāñjali* poems into English during convalescence.

1912. Third Foreign Tour (May, 1912—September, 1913). English '*Gitanjali*' published in England, 1912. Lecture tour in U.S.A., winter, 1912-13.

1913. Lecture on 'The Realization of Life', London (published in Eng. 'Sadhana'). Returned to India, September, 1913. Eng. 'Gardener' and 'Crescent Moon.'

Nobel Prize in Literature. Public reception at Santiniketan. D. Litt. (*Honoris Causa*), Calcutta University.

1914-16. Started village welfare work at Surul. Chief contributor to new B.M., *Sabuj-patra* (mainly literary) from *Vaisākhā*, 1321 B.E. (April, 1914) for about 3 years. *Gītī-mālyā* (V. 1914, Garland of Songs) poems written mainly 1912-14. *Gītāli* (V. 1914) poems written in 1914. Recipient of Knighthood. Poems of *Balākā*, 1914-16 (V. 1916. *French tr.* 'Cygne' 1924). Short stories (collected in *Galpa-Saṅgā*, 1915). *Caturāṅga*, novel, 1914-15 (N. 1916, *Eng. tr.* 'Broken Ties,' 1925). Mahatma Gandhi and the inmates of his Asram resided temporarily at Santiniketan, 1915. *Phālgunī*, prose drama, 1915 (*Eng. tr.* 'Cycle of Spring,' 1917). Started *Vicitrā*, a literary club, in Calcutta, 1915-20. *Ghara-bāire*, novel, 1915-16 (N. 1916, *Eng. tr.* 'The Home and the World,' 1919). Lecture on *Sikṣār Vāhan* (Vehicle of Instruction) 1915. Performance of *Phālgunī*, January, 1916. *Paricay* and *Sañcay* (2 vols. of collected essays, 1916). Collected Poetical Works in 10 vols. (1915-16). *Eng.* 'Fruit-gathering' and 'Hungry Stones,' 1916.

1916-17. Fourth Foreign Tour (May, 1916—March, 1917). Lectures in Japan (*Eng.* 'Nationalism' 1917). Lectures in U.S.A., 1916-17 (*Eng.* 'Personality,' 1917).

1917-20. *Jāpān-yātri* (L. 1919, Traveller to Japan). *Eng.* 'Stray-birds,' 1917. Performance of *Dāk-ghar* in the *Vicitrā*. Lecture on *Karīār Icchāy Karma* (As the Master Wills), 1917. Chairman, Reception Committee, Indian National Congress, Calcutta (for a few days only). *Guru* (P.D. 1918). Poems of *Palātākā* 1917-18 (V. 1918, Fugitive). *Gīta-ṣāncārikā* and other collections of songs, 1918-20. Lecture on 'The Centre of Indian Culture,' 1918. *Eng.* 'Lover's Gift and Crossing,' 'Mashi and Other Stories,' 1918. Renounced Knighthood in protest against the Jalionwalla Bagh incident at Amritsar, 1919. Lecture on 'The Message of the Forest,' 1919. Prose sketches of *Lipikā* (1922) written mostly in 1919. Chief contributor to new B.M., '*Sānti-niketan (Patrikā)*,' school magazine published from Santiniketan from April, 1919. *Arūp-ratan* (P.D. 1920).

1920-21. Fifth Foreign Tour (May, 1920—July, 1921). England, France, Holland, U. S. A., Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Czechoslovakia. Lectures on 'East and West,' 'An International University,' etc.

1921. Returned to India, July, 1921. Lecture on *Sikṣār Mīlan* (Meeting of Cultures) and *Satyar Aḥvān* (The Call of Truth). *Eng.* 'The Fugitive.' *Varṣā-māṅgal* (Music Festival of the Rainy Season).

Sixtieth Birthday Celebrations: Address presented by the Vangiya Sahitya Parishad.

Inaugural Ceremony of the Visva-bharati at Santiniketan, December 22, 1921 (*Pauṣā* 8, 1328 B. E.).

1922-24. Foundation of Sriniketan (Department of Rural Reconstruction, Visva-bharati) February, 1922. *Mukta-dhāvā* 1922 (P. D. 1922. *Eng. tr.* 'The Waterfall' 1922). *Sīsu Bholānāth* (V. 1922, Child Poems). *Eng.* 'Creative Unity' 1922. Visva-bharati Sammilani, literary club, started in Calcutta, 1922. Presided over Shelley Centenary, 1922. *Varṣā-māṅgal* (Rain-Festival), and *Sārodotsav* (Autumn Festival) 1922, *Vasanta-utsav* (Spring Festival), 1923. Started new English Journal, 'Visva-bharati Quarterly' (Editor, 1st quarter, April, 1923). Appeared as *Jay Sīmha* in performance of *Visarjan* 1923. *Rātha-yātrā*, 1923. (P. D., *Eng. tr.* 'The Car of Time,' 1924).

1924-25. Sixth Foreign Tour (March—July, 1924) : Burma, Malaya, China, Japan. Eng. 'Talks in China', 1925. *Raktā-Karavī*, 1924 (P. D. Eng. tr. 'Red Oleanders', 1924).

Seventh Foreign Tour (September, 1924—February, 1925) : invited to attend Peru Centenary, but returned from Buenos Aires (Argentine Republic) owing to illness ; visited Italy in January.

1925-26. Most of the poems of *Pūrābī* (V. 1925) written during the South American tour. Performance of *Śeṣ-varṣaṇ* (Last Rains, musical drama) 1925. *Pravāhīni* (V. 1925. Collection of Songs). *Gṛha-praveś* (P. D. 1925. The House-Entry). *Sodh-bodh* (P. D. 1925. The Reckoning). First President, Indian Philosophical Congress, December, 1925. *Najir Pūjā* (P. D. 1926. Eng. tr. 'The Worship of the Dancing Girl,' 1927). *Ṛtu-utsav* (P. D. Collection of 5 Season Festivals).

1926. Eighth Foreign Tour (May—December, 1926) : Italy, Switzerland, Austria, France, England, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Czecho-slovakia, Hungary, Jugoslavia, Bulgaria, Rumania, Turkey, Greece and Egypt.

1927. Ninth Foreign Tour (July—October, 1927) : Malaya, Java, Bali, and Siam.

1927-29. Performance of *Najir Pūjā* in January, and *Ṛtu-raṅga* (Cycle of Seasons) in December, 1927. *Naṣa-rāj*, verse drama, 1927. *Yogāyog* (Cross Currents), novel, 1927-28, (N. 1929). *Seṣer Kavīā* (The Last Poem) 1928. (N. 1929). Poems of *Mahā* (V. 1929) mostly written in 1928. Sermon on 'The Message of Ram Mohun Roy,' *Bhādra* 6, 1335 B.E. (August 22, 1928) in commemoration of the Centenary of the Brahmo Samaj (Theistic Church of India). Eng. 'Fireflies,' and 'Letters to a Friend,' 1928. *Lekhan* (Writing), composed at various times, published in 1928.

1929. Tenth Foreign Tour (February—July, 1929) : Malaya, China, Japan ; attended the Triennial Conference of the National Council of Education, Canada ; U. S. A. ; Indo-China.

1929-30. Message to the Parliament of Religions, Calcutta, 1929. *Yātrī* (Letters, 1929. Traveller). *Paritrāṇ* (P. D. 1929, Redemption). *Tapālī* (P. D. 1929). Performance of *Tapālī*, 1929. *Bhānusīmher Patrāvālī* (Letters, 1930). Various Educational Primers.

1930-31. Eleventh Foreign Tour (February, 1930—January, 1931) : France, England, Denmark, Germany, Russia, U. S. A. Hibbert Lectures in England in 1930 on 'The Religion of Man' (1931). Exhibition of Drawings in Europe and U. S. A.

1931. *Rāfiyār Cīṭhī* (Letters from Russia, 1931). Performance of *Navin* (musical drama) in March, *Gita-utsav* (Music Festival) in August, *Najir Pūjā* and *Sāp-mocan* (Dance ; Expiration) in December. *Vana-vāṇī* (V. 1931. Forest-message). *Gita-vitān* (Collection of Songs, 1931).

Seventieth Birthday Celebration at Santiniketan, May, 1931. Civic, National and International Celebrations in Calcutta, 25th—31st December, 1931.

Presentation of *THE GOLDEN BOOK OF TAGORE*, on the 27th December, 1931.