A TAGORE 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—a bout 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.

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The following abbreviations have been used:

- B.B. = Bengali Book
- N. = Novel
- R. = Essays
- P.D. = Prose Drama
- I. = Letters
- V.D. = Verse Drama
- V. = Verse
- Eng. tr. = English translation
- vols. = volumes
- 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 is pronounced as in Eng. all; c as Eng. ch.; t, s, s all like Eng. sh; and u as b (after a consonant, = w).

The Poet's family belongs to the Sāndhya clan (gotra) of the Rādhya branch of Brāhmaṇas, and his ancestors are believed to have settled in Rādha or West Bengal about the 8th century After Christ. In the 17th century the Poet's family acquired the distinctive appellation Thākur, meaning 'Respected Lord' (Sanskrit), which was Anglicised first as Tagore, and then as Tagore.

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

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, Mahārṣi 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-pālī (V., 1879. Wild Flower) in 8 cantos in jñānāṅkura, a Bengali Monthly (1282-83 B.E.).

1877-78. First appearance in dramatic performance as Alik Bābu in a Bengali Comedy by Jyotirindranath (elder brother). A new B.M., Bhārati, started in Śrāvana, 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 Bhānasindhir Ṭhākur, 1884), 2 essays, 6 articles of literary criticism, a long story (Bhikkhūriṇi, the Beggar Maid), an unfinished serial novel (Karunā), and a long poem, Kavi-Kāhini (V., 1878, A Poet’s Story). Sojourn in Ahmedabad, Bombay Presidency, April—September, 1878, First musical compositions.


Contributed to Bhārati numerous poems and ballads, some of which were collected in Saiyā Saṅgīt (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.


Married Mridalini Devi, December 9, 1883 (Agrahāyana 24, 1290 B.E.).

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

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

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


1897-1902. Appeared as Kead in dramatic performance of Vaikunṭhe Rākṣa (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), Kaḷpanā (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, Laksīṁ brahmacā (The Trial of Lakshmi). Poems of Kṣanikā (The Fleeting One), 1899-1900. Cira-kumār Saṁhā, prose comedy, 1900-01 (The Bachelors’ Club). Poems of Naivedya (V. 1901, Offerings). Essays on the Upānishads (Brahma-mantra, Aṣṭaṇiṣṭa Brahma, etc.).

Founded the Brahma-Vidyāśaya (Santiniketan School), December 22, 1901 (Pauṣa 7, 1308 B.E.).

Editor, Vaṅga-dārī (B.M., new series) for 5 years from Vaisākha, 1308 B.E. (April, 1901). Cokhaṛ Bāḷī, novel, 1901-02 (N. 1903, Eng. tr. ‘Eyesore,’ 1914). Poems

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

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


Maharshi Debendramath (father) died January 19, 1905 (*Magha 6, 1311 B.E.*).


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


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


1921. Returned to India, July, 1921. Lecture on Sikṣār Milan (Meeting of Cultures) and Sālyer Ṭhvaṅ (The Call of Truth). Eng. 'The Fugitive.' Varṣā-maṅgal (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 (Paṭa 8, 1328 B. E.).

Seventh Foreign Tour (September, 1924—February, 1925): invited to attend Peru
Centenary, but returned from Buenos Aires (Argentina Republic) owing to illness; visited
Italy in January.
1925-26. Most of the poems of Purābī (V. 1925) written during the South American
1925. The Reckoning). First President, Indian Philosophical Congress, December, 1925.
D. Collection of 5 Season Festivals).
1926. Eighth Foreign Tour (May—December, 1926): Italy, Switzerland, Austria,
France, England, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Jugo-
slavia, Bulgaria, Rumania, Turkey, Greece and Egypt.
1927-29. Performance of Naśīr Pāja in January, and Ritu-raūga (Cycle of Seasons) in
December, 1927. Nala-rāj, verse drama, 1927. Yogāyog (Cross Currents), novel, 1927-28,
mostly written in 1929. Sermon on 'The Message of Ram Mohun Roy,' Bhādva 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,
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. Rāhīyār Chīhī (Letters from Russia, 1931). Performance of Navīn (musical
drama) in March, Gīḷa-ulūs (Music Festival) in August, Naśīr Pāja and Sāp-mocān
(Dance; Expiration) in December. Vasa-vāṇī (V. 1931. Forest-message). Gīḷa-nilān
(Collection of Songs, 1931).

Seventieth Birthday Celebration at Santiniketan, May, 1931. Civic, National and

Presentation of THE GOLDEN BOOK OF TAGORE, on the 27th December, 1931.
Rabindranath Tagore, who died in 1941 at the age of eighty, is a towering figure in the millennium-old literature of Bengal. Anyone who becomes familiar with this large and flourishing tradition will be impressed by the power of Tagore’s presence in Bangladesh and in India. His poetry as well as his novels, short stories, and essays are very widely read, and the songs he composed reverberate around the eastern part of India and throughout Bangladesh. Tagore is in fact best known for being the first person from Asia to have ever won the Nobel Prize. He was also knighted by the then British monarchy, which he returned after the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Early Years. Born on the 7th of May 1861, Rabindranath was the youngest among fourteen children. His father, Debendranath Tagore was a well known proponent of the Brahmo Samaj. He is also considered to have revived and spread the fundamental principles of the Brahmo Dharma all over India. Rabindranath, therefore, did not see his father much in his early years. Very few, like The Child (1931) and King and Rebel (1977), were written in English itself. Rabindranathâ€™s Music and Art. Just mentioning the literary works of Rabindranath Tagore cannot justify his lifeâ€™s work. Establishments and disestablishments categories. Establishments. Disestablishments. Works category. Works. Introductions. v. t. e. 1931 (MCMXXXI) was a common year starting on Thursday of the Gregorian calendar, the 1931st year of the Common Era (CE) and Anno Domini (AD) designations, the 931st year of the 2nd millennium, the 31st year of the 20th century, and the 2nd year of the 1930s decade. Tagore was born on the day in the year 1268, according to the Bengali calendar and 1861 AD, as per the Gregorian calendar. Tagore was also referred to as â€œGurudevâ€™, â€œKabiguruâ€™, and â€œBiswakabiâ€™. Nicknamed Rabi, he was the youngest of 13 children and lost his mother in March 1875 when he was not yet 14. * Rabindranath Tagore and Albert Einstein met four times between 1930 and 1931 and mutually revered each other for each otherâ€™s contributions. * William Rothenstein, the painter, was a friend of the Tagore family. Tagore gave Rothenstein the translations of his own songs, including the Gitanjali, when the latter travelled to London in 1912. Page Link: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Rarest-Photographs-of-Rabindra-Nath-Tagore-1861-to-1941/244729869063033. See More. Rarest Photographs of Rabindra Nath Tagore 1861 to 1941*. Community. 232 Likes. 2 talking about this.