



Visva-Bharati
Publishing Department
6 A. J. C. Bose Road, Kolkata 700 017

Monthly Performance Report : March 2013

Programme

A seminar was held at the Anita Banerjee Memorial Hall, Jadavpur University entitled : 'Unis-Bis Sataker Bangla Mudran O Prakasana', organized jointly by the Department of Bengali, Jadavpur University and Visva-Bharati Granthana Vibhaga on 19 and 20 March 2013.

The focal theme of the first session of the second day was the Past and Present of Visva-Bharati Granthana Vibhaga with Prof Samik Bandyopadhyay in chair and Sri Anathnath Das and Prof Jaydeep Ghosh as speakers.

Dr Jaideep Ghosh, Associate Professor, Department of Bengali, Jadavpur University dwelt on the history of Tagore Publications. He mentioned of publishers of Tagore books which were established before the Visva-Bharati Granthana Vibhaga, for example, the Indian Press in 1884, Indian Publishing House in 1907, etc. In 1908, Majumdar Library published certain books by Rabindranath Tagore, the tenth volume of stories was one of them. Dr Ghosh mentioned the deteriorating relation between Tagore and the owner of the Indian Press. In 1917, the machine which was first used for publication from Santiniketan, was donated by the community of Lincoln, Nebraska, USA, to the students of the Ashrama. He mentioned that the first book that was published by the Granthana Vibhaga in 1923, was 'Basanta'. In 1925, 'Purabi' was the first book of poems which was published by the Granthana Vibhaga, though the quality of printing was not endorsed by Tagore. Meanwhile, in 1924, Tagore had charted the Bengali spelling rule which came out of Granthana Vibhaga, and is considered revolutionary even to this day. In 1926, Tagore had selected a printing machine in Berlin, called Rotaprint Machine and with the help of this machine 'Lekhan' was published in 1927. The researches needed for a better publication house were provided by Pulinbehari Sen, Kanai Samanta, Nirmalchandra Chattopadhyay and Charuchandra Bhattacharya.

Sri Anathnath Das spoke about the early days of Visva-Bharati Granthana Vibhaga and the contribution of such eminent personalities as Prasantachandra Mohalanabis, Charuchandra Bhattacharya, Sovanlal Gangopadhyay towards the making of Granthana Vibhaga. He also mentioned the name of such Tagore scholars as Prabhatkumar Mukhopadhyay, Sri Prasanta Pal, Sri Sankho Ghosh who have played a vital role in the study of Tagore and publication of Tagore books. He at the same time expressed dissatisfaction about some publications of Granthana Vibhaga for poor editing and production in the recent years.

Prof Samik Bandyopadhyay in his address from the chair discussed the historical importance of Visva-Bharati Granthana Vibhaga in the realms of Visva-Vidya Sangraha, Visva-Bharati Patrika, Visva-Bharati Quarterly, the Loka-Sahitya Granthamala - which can be regarded as unique ideas. He mentioned the importance of Oxford and Cambridge University Presses in the history of academic publications and also regarded that the same importance should be meted out to Visva-Bharati Granthana Vibhaga. Prof Bandyopadhyay also mentioned the path that had been charted by Rabindranath Tagore for Visva-Bharati Granthana Vibhaga, from the time of its inception, in 1923. He said that Visva-Bharati Granthana Vibhaga was established by Tagore to publish books which could give birth to a good taste for reading books. He also spoke of the general picture in the realm of Bengali publication and the lack of properly trained professionals in the trade.

Publication

Books published in the month :

1. *Svarabitan* 5

Pages 148 ; Price Rs.100/- ; ISBN-978-81-7522-426-1 (V.5)

ISBN-978-81-7522-021-8 (Set)

2. *Svarabitan* 58

Pages 72 ; Price Rs.72/- ; ISBN-978-81-7522-430-8 (V.58)

ISBN-978-81-7522-021-8 (Set)

Sale

- a) Books sold : 18,663 copies.
- b) Sale : Rs.12,76,368.50/- (Rupees twelve lacs, seventy six thousand, three hundred sixty eight and paise fifty only).