

# D.M. BOSE - HIS LIFE, SCIENCE AND CONNECTION WITH GLOBAL ELITES



SUPRAKASH C. ROY & RAJINDER SINGH

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## Preface

This is the third book on D.M. Bose and interestingly, written by the same author(s). Naturally, we owe an explanation to the readers. The first book on D.M. Bose, an Indian scientist reputed internationally by his own right, has been authored by Rajinder Singh under the title “D.M. Bose – His scientific work in international context” and has been published by Shaker Publisher Aachen, Germany. This was aimed at apprising the scientific community of the importance of D.M. Bose’s scientific works in the international context. Writing of this book was also significant in the context that in India, unlike in Europe, biographies are written only on the scientists who made some discovery but not on the scientists whose work may have influenced the development of science and technology in many ways. While books on scientists like C.V. Raman, S.N. Bose, M.N. Saha, H.J. Bhabha are plenty, books on scientists like D.M. Bose, S. K. Mitra, B.B. Ray, S.C. Sirkar etc., who were famous in their own right, were conspicuously absent. It was Rajinder Singh whose books on some of these Indian scientists brought into light their achievements to the scientific community worldwide. Record of books on the works of Indian women scientists is simply abysmal. It is only recently that Indian Science Academies have taken an initiative to write on women Indian scientists. A book on a famous Indian woman physicist titled “A Jewel Unearthed- Bibha Chowdhuri” authored by us has also been recently published.

The first book on D.M. Bose by Rajinder Singh was not a ‘biography’ in its true sense because it left out many of the events of his life. The idea of writing a second book, with his life events included, came up when we found many memorabilia, although cluttered, in D.M. Bose’s house. An opportunity of publishing such a book under the aegis of Bose Institute of Kolkata, India, where D.M. Bose was the longest serving Director after the demise of the great scientist Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose, came up during the centenary of Bose



Institute (2017). We accepted the offer but it came with a limitation in the number of pages. This second book titled “D.M. Bose - A Scientist Incognito” was published in 2017 which included some aspects of his private life. In the absence of a proper channel for publicizing the book, the book could not reach the interested readers as expected.

We are grateful to the authorities of Bose Institute for allowing us to access the repository of D.M. Bose and we have been able to find many (not complete) significant memorabilia which portray new aspects of his life. We are thankful to Bose Institute for also allowing us to use portions of the book as and when needed. History, in a sense, is a never ending pursuit of realization of the truth as more and more information become available. Writing a biography is akin to writing history as availability of new information about a person change the landscape of the person. The new information that we obtained motivated us to write this book. To avoid repetition, we have kept scientific activities to the minimum here and have focussed more on his personal life and his interactions with various illustrious personalities of the world.

D.M. Bose at a later stage of his life wrote reminiscences of Rabindranath Tagore in a diary which was given by D.M. Bose’s son Prof. Sunando Bose to Mr. Dibakar Sen who looked after the Bose Institute Museum and Publications at that time. The diary was written partially in English and partially in Bengali and the Bengali part had been translated into English by Mr. Sen. Sen received the diary in a brittle condition and was able to recover only some portions of it which he published in the D.M. Bose Birth Centenary Celebration Commemorative volume, published by Bose Institute in 1985. We have included this diary in this book and have abbreviated it as “D.M. Bose - diary No. 6”.

We have tried our best to remain objective in the biography in spite of the fact that one of the authors (S.C. Roy) had some personal interactions with D.M. Bose when he was the Director of Bose Institute. The book has been written to satisfy both Indian and

foreign readers and we will consider our mission successful if it satisfies the readers.

“Credit” for photographs/figures reproduced in the book goes to “Bose Institute,” if it is not explicitly mentioned.



## Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the authorities of Bose Institute for giving permission to use the documents available at J.C. Bose Museum, and reproduce some parts of our previous book. Authors thank Professor Barun Kumar Chatterjee, former Professor of Physics, Bose Institute, Kolkata, India, for valuable discussions.

Thanks are due to the following archives and their workers for the documents, referred to in this book: Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm; Niels Bohr Archive, Copenhagen; Archive Humboldt University Berlin; Archive Cambridge University, and Centro di Cultura Scintifica- Alessandro Volta, Villa Olmo, Como. Mr. Tarun Majhi and Mr. Syam Sundar Mallik of Bose Institute, Mr. Udaya Kumar Ghosh, J.C. Bose Museum—D.M. Bose Wing, Mrs. Ishani Chatterjee of J.C. Bose Museum, for providing documents available in J.C. Bose Museum and Ms. Rinku Debnath of ISNA for providing all sorts of help whenever needed.

One of the authors (S.C. Roy) thanks his wife Sujata Roy for taking the arduous task of going through the manuscript, correcting and advising on improvement upon the text and contents.

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1. Nobel Laureate C.V. Raman's work on light scattering, Logos Publisher, Berlin 2004.
2. Nobel Laureate C.V. Raman's science, philosophy and religion, Dharmaram Publications, Bangalore 2005.
3. Characteristics of solar radiation photovoltaic pyranometers Licor 200SZ and Matrix 1G, Shaker Publisher, Aachen 2012.
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Dr. Suprakash C Roy is a physicist who retired as professor and chairman of the department of physics at Bose Institute, Kolkata, India. He has more than 100 research publications in reputed international journals and travelled widely to different countries in his profession. In addition to his research papers, his writings on general issues have been published in many journals and periodicals including reputed English dailies. He is currently a member of the National Commission of History of Science, INSA and has been the Editor-in-Chief of the journal “Science and Culture” since 2004. He has published a book titled ‘Emerging Science and Culture: Connecting People’ published by the Indian Science News Association and co-authored the following two books with Rajinder Singh: 1. ‘D.M. Bose—A Scientist Incognito’ published by Bose Institute, Kolkata 2. ‘A Jewel Unearthed: Bibha Chowdhuri’ published by Shaker Verlag, Germany.