

RAJINDER SINGH

C.V. RAMAN AND THE PRESS: SCIENCE REPORTING AND IMAGE BUILDING

PART III: The Raman Research Institute Period



Foreword by Prof. Ajoy Ghatak

Wissenschaftsgeschichte / History of Science

Rajinder Singh

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SCIENCE REPORTING AND IMAGE BUILDING**

Part III: The Raman Research Institute Period

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Preface

In the past, I have written the following books on Sir C.V. Raman, the founder of Raman Spectroscopy: (i) "C.V. Raman and the Press: Science Reporting and Image Building - Part 1: Kolkata Period" (2019). (ii) "C.V. Raman and the Press: Science Reporting and Image Building - Part II: The Indian Institute of Science Period" (2020). (iii) "C.V. Raman's Laboratory and Discovery of the Raman effect" (2018). (iv) "Nobel Laureate C.V. Raman's Science, Philosophy and Religion" (2005), and (v) "Nobel Laureate C.V. Raman's Work on Light Scattering - Historical Contributions to a Scientific Biography" (2004). During my research I was intrigued by some reports which appeared in literature, such as, while receiving the Nobel Prize Raman wept, because he had to get the award under the British flag. In order to find out more on "Raman's weeping under the British flag", I decided to study the contemporary newspapers. I found, Raman indeed wept, not due to the British flag, but for other reasons.

The above story evoked my interest to find out more on Raman's interaction with the media. After publishing "C.V. Raman and the Press: Science Reporting and Image Building Part 1: Kolkata Period", (from 1907 to 1932-1933), I started working on Raman's life in Bangalore.

At the Indian Institute of Science (IIS), Bangalore CVR was a "slave" of the British-Indian governmental rules and regulations. He was confronted with bureaucrats, colleagues, students, and a group of scientists from Kolkata. In spite of various troubles, he managed to establish the "Bangalore School of Physics". These details are explored in "C.V. Raman and the Press: Science Reporting and Image Building - Part II: The Indian Institute of Science Period" (1933 to 1948).

Even before his retirement from the IIS he established a new institute, today known as the Raman Research Institute (RRI). From 1948-1949 onwards, until his death in 1970, he was director of the institute. He was an independent man of an independent nation.

The present book discusses C.V. Raman's interaction with media at the RRI.

Remarks:

As I stated in "C.V. Raman and the Press: Science Reporting and Image Building – Part I & Part II:

(i) Raman Research Institute, Bangalore (RRI), possesses a huge collection of newspaper clippings on C.V. Raman. Unfortunately, in some cases, either name of the newspaper or the date of publication, or the both are missing. However, all clips are numbered in the following way: RP-4.40, RP-4.41, RP-4.42, ..., and so on. I used the same numbering style, so that historians interested in documents can find them easily.

(ii) If not specifically mentioned under figures, the credit goes to the RRI.

(iii) Out of huge collection of newspaper-clips on C.V. Raman, I selected only those which report about the RRI, Raman's scientific discoveries, and his life.

As far as the collection of newspaper-clips is concerned, in 1998, during my visit to the Raman Research Institute, I was told by Prof. S. Ramaseshan that they had a project to collect newspaper cuttings.

Acknowledgements

First and foremost I thank Prof. Suprakash C. Roy – Editor-in-Chief *Science and Culture*, for reading, correcting and commenting on this book.

It is my great pleasure to acknowledge that Prof. Ajoy Ghatak, Chairman of National Academy of Sciences of India, Delhi Chapter, has agreed to write the 'Foreword.'

Thanks are due to the following archives for materials referred to in this book: Raman Research Institute, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Hungary Academy of Sciences, Czech Academy of Sciences, Russian State Archive, Moscow, Harvard University Archive, and

Niels Bohr Archive Copenhagen.

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Last but not the least, I thank Ms. Kristina Ladwig and Shaker Publisher Dueren for publishing the present book.

Foreword

Dr. Rajinder Singh has been making very important contributions by writing a large number of books on the contributions of scientists in pre-independent India. I personally feel that all students (and teachers) must have knowledge of our past contributors and the impact of such contributions to the society.

This particular book is on the reporting by the Press of Professor C V Raman's contributions during the period he was associated with the RRI (Raman Research Institute at Bangalore). We should mention here that the RRI was founded in 1948 by Professor Raman, to continue his studies and basic research after he retired from the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore. Professor Raman served as its director carrying on his personal research until his death in 1970.

Right in Chapter 1, I was struck by the fact that Professor Raman started collecting money through generous donations for the Building Fund of the Raman Research Institute. I was reminded of the article that the great visionary Mahendra Lal Sircar wrote in 1869. In an article entitled "On the desirability of a national institution for the cultivation of sciences by the natives of India" (published in the *Calcutta Journal of Medicine*), Sircar argued: *that the prevailing backwardness of the country was due to backwardness of science and that the solution was in the vigorous pursuit of the sciences by original research.* (This is true even today!). He further wrote:

We should endeavour to carry on the work with our own efforts, without seeking aid from the Government. However, we will accept aid from the Government (or from anyone else) if it comes to us without any conditions and restrictions... I want freedom for the Institution. I want it to be entirely under our own management and control. I want it to be solely native and purely national.

Indeed in 1943, Professor K S Krishnan donated Rs 1000 towards the Building Fund of the Raman Research Institute. Dr. Rajinder Singh could

locate the original receipt for this donation and the receipt was signed by Professor Raman himself. In 1943, Rs 1000 was a huge amount of money and just going through this chapter (and looking at the original receipt), many will get inspired to contribute towards the development of education in our country. I personally feel that a country can get significantly uplifted through philanthropy and philanthropy induces the right kind of vibrations in the society.

Then in Chapter 4 Dr. Singh describes the response from the press about the celebration of the silver jubilee of the discovery of Raman effect. I was particularly impressed by what Einstein wrote about Raman's work which appeared in "The Hindu".

In Chapter 5, Dr. Singh discusses Raman's response to some of the honours that he received. I was particularly distressed to know that apparently Raman "smashed with a hammer the Bharat Ratna given to him by Nehru government". Although many will be sad to read this; nevertheless, it is an important information that tells us about Raman's personality and we all should be aware of this. Dr Singh also mentions that Raman did go to Moscow to receive the Lenin Peace Prize.

What Dr. Rajinder Singh has put forward are many important information about Professor Raman and his work. I feel the younger generation should be aware of all this. I congratulate Dr. Rajinder Singh for this great effort.

Ajoy Ghatak

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Dr. Rajinder Singh is: Member of Editorial Team: *Sci. & Cult.*, Kolkata (Indian Science News Association), and *Scientific Voyage*, Kolkata.

Dr. Rajinder Singh has written more than 130 articles and the following books:

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.
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