

## **Prof. K S G Doss**

Attaining the age of eighty is a great event, and provides an occasion to salute and honour wise men. Professor K S G Doss reached eighty this August, and as a tribute to his services to Indian Science, especially electrochemistry and sugar technology, and to the Indian Academy of Sciences of which he is a Founder member, this special issue of the Proceedings is dedicated to him.

Kadarundalige Sitarama Gururaja Doss was born on the 10th August 1906 in Nagamangala of the then Mysore state. His early education in Mysore and Bangalore was marked with proficiency and excellent attainments. During an active academic period spanning three decades (1927–1957) that followed, he taught in the Central College, Bangalore, and in the National Sugar Institute, Kanpur, where he officiated as its Director. In 1957, he moved to the Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI), Karaikudi, for organising research in fundamental and industrial electrochemistry in a big way. As Director of the CECRI during 1957–1967, he imparted to the Institute great strength and high reputation. Since his retirement in 1967, he has been busy as a technical adviser and consultant for several industrial units.

Prof. Doss's research spans a wide area, all the way from adsorption films, wetting phenomena, techniques for measurement of fast reactions and trace concentrations, to many applied R & D projects. He participated fully in the excitement of the Langmuir–Adam–McBain era and spread it in India in the 1930's. His later contributions to electrochemical interfaces are too many to recount here, the most well-known being the discovery of the Faradaic rectification. The latter opened up a very interesting field of study connected with polarography and fast reaction kinetics. There is not a single aspect of modern electrochemistry, on which he has not bestowed attention – be it potential of zero charge or mechanism of oxide film formation and electrochemical oscillations or a very successful solution to the industrial problem of porous carbon electrodes for air depolarized cells – name any! The international electrochemical community honoured him on his reaching the 70th year, by publishing in 1975 a Festschrift of the Journal of Electroanalytical Chemistry (Elsevier).

Prof. Sir C. V. Raman had a great influence on Prof. Doss in several aspects – his fascination for discovery and his penchant for clarity in presentation. Prof. Doss has trained and inspired a large number of young scientists and fostered electrochemical research in the country. He is a founder member of the Academy and served in the Council during 1971–73. He was elected to the Indian National Science Academy in 1957 and is a member of several professional bodies.

It is with great pleasure we convey the felicitations of the members of the Academy and the Indian Scientific Community on this occasion, wishing him longevity and happiness.

S K Rangarajan  
S R Rajagopalan  
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C N R Rao  
Editor of Publications