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| Bose, Buddhadeva (1908-1974) |
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| Buddhadeva Bose was a major Bengali poet who was integral in introducing modernity to Bengali poetry. The author of over 150 titles, he was also a novelist, short-story writer, essayist, playwright, children’s writer, and translator.  Born in Comilla, he grew up in Noakhali and Dhaka. While enrolled in college, he published the journal *Pragati* (*Progress* [1927-1929]) with Ajit Datta. Having published a book of poems (*Bandīr Bandanā* [*Prisoner’s Song*]) and a novel (*Sādā* [*Response*]), he moved to Kolkata at the age of 23, where he took up writing as a profession. At 26 he married the singer Protiva Som, who later became a writer of fiction. By the time he married Som, Bose had begun teaching at Ripon College (now Surendranath College). Within a year, Bose, Premendra Mitra, and Samar Sen founded the poetry quarterly *Kavitā* (*Poetry* [1935-1961]), an important journal that proved influential for generations of poets to come. As an editor and translator, Bose published and later edited an anthology of Modern Bengali poetry (*Ādhunik Bānglā Kavitā* [1940]), and a series of sixteen-page poetry publications (*Ek Paysāy Ekti* [*Poems a Paysa Each*]). |
| Buddhadeva Bose was a major Bengali poet who was integral in introducing modernity to Bengali poetry. The author of over 150 titles, he was also a novelist, short-story writer, essayist, playwright, children’s writer, and translator.  Born in Comilla, he grew up in Noakhali and Dhaka. While enrolled in college, he published the journal *Pragati* (*Progress* [1927-1929]) with Ajit Datta. Having published a book of poems (*Bandīr Bandanā* [*Prisoner’s Song*]) and a novel (*Sādā* [*Response*]), he moved to Kolkata at the age of 23, where he took up writing as a profession. At 26 he married the singer Protiva Som, who later became a writer of fiction. By the time he married Som, Bose had begun teaching at Ripon College (now Surendranath College). Within a year, Bose, Premendra Mitra, and Samar Sen founded the poetry quarterly *Kavitā* (*Poetry* [1935-1961]), an important journal that proved influential for generations of poets to come. As an editor and translator, Bose published and later edited an anthology of Modern Bengali poetry (*Ādhunik Bānglā Kavitā* [1940]), and a series of sixteen-page poetry publications (*Ek Paysāy Ekti* [*Poems a Paysa Each*]).  While Bose eventually left his position Ripon College, he was later a professor at the newly established Jadavpur University, where he founded the Comparative Literature department. In the decade between his time at Ripon College and Jadavpur University, he tried his hand at journalism, had a brief assignment with UNESCO, and was a Fulbright professor in the United States.  Bose authored seventeen books of poems and one book of children’s poetry. His style was initially rooted in flow, but lacked compromising skill (see *Kankābatī*). Before long his style grew terse (see ‘ The Darkness that is More than Light from *Je Āndhār Ālor Adhik*), and ultimately combined terseness with flow combined (see ‘Welcome Farewell and Other Poems’ from *Svāgatabidāy o Anyānya Kavitā*). A champion of the prose poem, Buddhadeva’s literary output included prose. In his novel’s, he frequently utilised the stream of consciousness technique (his masterpiece *Tithidor*—‘Sacred Ties’—was full of it), along with poetic prose (his short stories also drew upon poetic prose). In terms of content and style, his essays covered a broad range: belles-lettres, travelogues, autobiography and, above all, criticism. He wrote extensively on his predecessor, Rabindranath Tagore, and on his contemporaries including Jibanananda Das and Sudhindranath Datta. His last years were largely spent working on the book *Mahābhārata* (*Mahābhārater Kathā*), followed by four plays drawing on themes from *Mahābhārata*. Prior to this, he had written a play on Rishyasringa, *Tapasvī o Taranginī* (*The Hermit and the Courtesan*), and on Electra (*Kolkātār* *Electra*).  Bose is well known for his translations of Kālidāsa’s *Meghadūta*, Baudelaire’s *Les Fleurs du Mal*, and selections from Hölderlin and Rilke. On occasion he wrote English, with his two publications *An Acre of Green Grass* and *Tagore: Portrait of a Poet* being two principal instances. Selected Works *Pragati* (1927-1929)  *Bandīr Bandanā* (1930)  Quarterly *Kavitā* (1935-1961)  *Tithidor* (1949)  *Je Āndhār Ālor Adhik* (1958)  *Charles Baudelaire: Tānr Kavitā* [translation of *Les Fleurs du Mal*] (1961)  *Tapasvī o Taranginī* (1966)  *Mahābhārater Kathā* (1974) |
| Further reading:  (Dasgupta)  (Sengupta)  (Datta)  (Dyson)  (Dev)  (Svāgata Samlāp: Buddhadeva Basuke Nibedita)  (Sinha)  (Dev, Dui Tirise: October-November/Sudhīndranāth Datta o Buddhadeva Basu ) |