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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 also published and later edited an anthology of Modern Bengali poetry (*Ādhunik Bānglā Kavitā* [1940]), and a series of sixteen-page poetry punlications (*Ek Paysāy Ekti* [*Poems a Paysa Each*]).  While Bose eventually left his position Ripon College, he later was a professor at the newly established Jadavpur University, where he founded the Comparative Literature department. In the devade 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.  Buddhadeva Bose was author of seventeen books of poems and a book of poems for children. He began flowingly, but without compromising skill (witness *Kankābatī*), grew terse before long (*Je Āndhār Ālor Adhik*—‘The Darkness that Is More than Light’—showed it most), and closed with terseness and flow combined (as in his last book *Svāgatabidāy o Anyānya Kavitā*—‘Welcome Farewell and Other Poems’). Part of this output was in prose, he being a champion of the prose poem. In novel which he wrote in a great number, his prime contribution was the stream of consciousness (his masterpiece *Tithidor*—‘Sacred Ties’—was full of it) and a touch of the poetic. This latter was also true of his later short stories. His essays were numerous and of various kinds: belles-lettres, travelogues, autobiography and, above all, criticism. He wrote extensively on his great predecessor, Rabindranath Tagore, and also on his contemporaries, especially Jibanananda Das and Sudhindranath Datta. His last years were largely spent on a book on the *Mahābhārata* (*Mahābhārater Kathā*) preceding which he wrote four verse-plays on themes taken from it (*Kālsandhyā*—‘Darkness at Noon’—being one). He had already written a play on Rishyasringa, *Tapasvī o Taranginī* (‘The Hermit and the Courtesan’), and one on Electra (*Kolkātār* [Kolkata’s] *Electra*).  His main translations were of Kālidāsa’s *Meghadūta*, Baudelaire’s *Les Fleurs du Mal*, selections from Hölderlin and Rilke. A champion of his mother tongue, he wrote English only occasionally, *An Acre of Green Grass* (on current Bengali writing) and *Tagore: Portrait of a Poet* being two principal instances. Timeline 1927-1929: Monthly *Pragati* devoted to modernism  1930: *Bandīr Bandanā*, book of poems  1935-1961: Quarterly *Kavitā* solely devoted to poetry  1949: *Tithidor*, novel  1958: *Je Āndhār Ālor Adhik*, book of poems  1961: *Charles Baudelaire: Tānr Kavitā*, translation of *Les Fleurs du Mal*  1966: *Tapasvī o Taranginī*, play  1974 (posthumous): *Mahābhārater Kathā*, criticism |
| Further reading:  Dasgupta, Alokeranjan. *Buddhadeva Bose*, MIL Series (New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 1977)  Sengupta, Samir. *Buddhadeva* *Basur Jīban* (Kolkata: Vikalp, 1998, rev. 2008).  Datta, Jyotirmoy, ed. *Kolkātā: Buddhadeva Basu Samkhyā* (Kolkata: Pratibhas, 2002).  Dyson, Ketaki Kushari, trans., *Selected Poems of Buddhdeva Bose* (Oxford University Press India, 2003).  Dev, Amiya. *Buddhadeva Basu* (Kolkata: Bangiya-Sahitya-Parishat, 2006).  *Svāgata Samlāp: Buddhadeva Basuke Nibedita*, ed. under Buddhadeva Basu Satabarsha Samiti’s supervision (Kolkata: Dey’s Publishing, 2008).  Sinha, Arunava, trans., *When the Time Is Right* (*Tithidore* in English) (Penguin India, 2012).  Dev, Amiya. *Dui Tirise: October-November/ Sudhīndranāth Datta o Buddhadeva Basu* (Kolkata: Ebang Mushayera, 2012), pp. 83ff. |