

IN MEMORIAM

PROFESSOR P. K. SIRCAR

(2-9-23 --- 18-12-96)

"This then above all - to thine own self be true"

This is what Prof. P. K. Sircar, my esteemed teacher, wrote in my autograph book on September 8, 1961. Prof. Sircar was then teaching at the Department of Geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh. Soon after that, he left for Nigeria to teach at the University College at the University of Nigeria.

Parbati Da to hundreds of his students, admirers, colleagues and friends, Prof. Sircar graduated from Calcutta University. After passing his M. Sc. (Hons.) from Calcutta University with first position, he taught for sometime in Calcutta and then left for higher studies in England. P.K. sircar did his doctorate with Prof. P.R. Crow specialising in climatology. Prof. Sircar would be remembered for his pioneering work in monsoon climatology and flood hydrology. He worked intensively on flood related economic changes and landscape destruction, hydrological changes in the Damodar valley, especially focussing on problems of siltation in the shifting channels. His research findings were carried in a number of articles in Indian Geographical Journal (Madras) in the early fifties.

Prof. Sircar also served at the Department of African Studies, (then with Delhi University)

as a Reader in Political Geography of Africa before leaving for State university of New York at New Paltz where he stayed till his return to Calcutta in the early nineties. His book entitled 'Development through Integration' embodies his perception of development potentials and constraints of African countries. Prof. G.Kurien, S.M. Ali, M.Shafi and Tahir Rizvi were great admirers of Prof. Sircar's scholarship and intellectual pursuits.

The news of his sudden death in December 1996 came as a rude shock to us especially when only a few days earlier I had the privilege of meeting him and Mrs. Sircar at their residence in Calcutta.

One of the early life members of the Institute of Indian Geographers, Prof. Sircar would be missed by the geography fraternity across the country- by his students and colleagues alike.

Prof. Sircar is survived by his wife Prof. Manjusri Sircar, an accomplished dancer, choreographer and dance director settled at Calcutta, and a very talented daughter who is on the visiting faculty of Vishavbharari University, Shantiniketan.

— Swarnjit Mehta
Chandigarh