

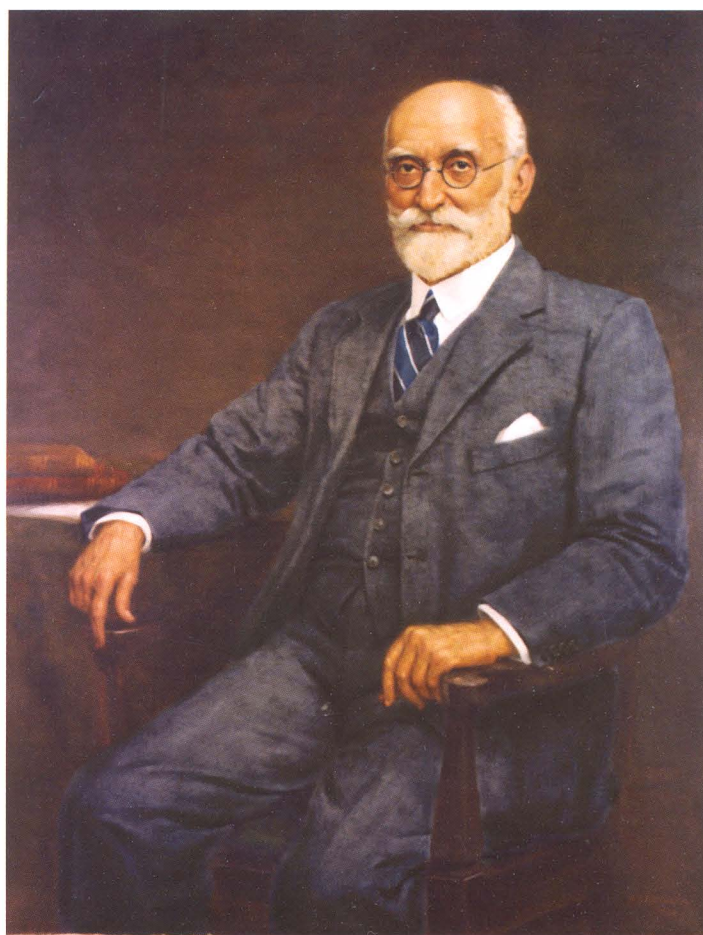


# SANDS OF TIME

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TATA CENTRAL ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER

## M. F. PITHAWALLA'S PAINTING IN TATA CENTRAL ARCHIVES



Sir Dorab Tata c.1926  
Oil on canvas  
40 in. x 52 in.  
Tata Central Archives

M.F. Pithawalla  
(1872-1937)

A portrait painting in oil of Sir Dorabji Tata by M. F. Pithawalla is at the Tata Central Archives. The painting was received from the Empress Mills, Nagpur.

Manchershaw Fakirjee Pithawalla painted several large sized portraits of his wealthy clients in the early

20th century, captivating them with his professional realistic style. He worked with oil, a medium that was relatively new and was introduced to India from Europe.

Pithawalla portraits are marked by a refined elegance and almost always seem to capture and project the personality of the sitter. Art historian Carrie Rebora Barratt opines, "A likeness—whether painted or drawn, sculpted or photographed—embodies notions of vanity, personality, character,

occupation, hobbies, politics, social standing, economic status, religious affiliation, stylishness, health, age, and more."<sup>i</sup>

In this superb portrait, completed when Sir Dorabji Tata was 67 years old, the artist portrays a man of many proud achievements. Dorabji's father had left him three ambitious schemes - steel, power and a research institute - and he had fulfilled them all. The Indian Institute of Science had become a reality, well on its way to becoming one of the finest research institutes of the century. Jamsetji's dream of clean energy had materialised into three hydro-electric power plants, and through sheer grit and determination, Dorabji had steered Tata Steel through its initial stormy years to become the largest integrated steel plant in the British Empire. He had also expanded the business and was knighted in 1910.

Pithawalla successfully captures Sir Dorabji Tata's direct, intense gaze and his confident and assertive demeanour. He is well-dressed but not ostentatious, the image flattering and yet realistic, but somehow the overall impression is monumental, like Dorabji himself.

<sup>i</sup> Carrie Rebora Barratt. *Faces of a New Nation: American Portraits of the 18th and Early 19th Centuries*, *The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin*, New Series, Vol. 61, No. 1. (Summer, 2003), pp. 5.

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M. F. Pithawalla





## EDITORIAL

It is a true measure of the greatness of a man when he sows seeds that only future generations will reap. As it celebrates its centenary year, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) also commemorates the realisation of Jamsetji Tata's dream, one for which he wanted 'no title' for himself and willingly donated half

his property. He never lived to see the Institute become a reality but his sons, Dorab and Ratan, and other brilliant men within the Tata organization, made the Institute a reality. B. J. Padshah a close associate of Jamsetji insisted, 'We cannot give up the idea!'

The achievements of the

Indian Institute of Science, since its inception, would have made Jamsetji Tata proud. The inheritors of the House of Tata's continue to constantly encourage this premier research Institute.

Jamsetji's son Dorab Tata left his legacy in Trusts that continue to foster scientific research, and J.R.D. Tata

stressed on the social relevance of science. The IISc. has recently announced an Honorary Fellowship for Ratan Tata, President of the IISc. Court, for his yeoman service rendered in the field of scientific research.

Deepthi Sasidharan

## CODE OF ETHICS FOR ARCHIVISTS



I THINK I WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE BEHIND A GROUP THAT HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED FROM A PATRIARCHAL KIND OF A STRUCTURE TO AN INSTITUTIONALISED STRUCTURE, LESS SUSCEPTIBLE TO PERSONALITIES. A GROUP THAT PLACES GREATER DEMANDS ON PERFORMANCE THAN IT HAS DONE BEFORE. BUT A GROUP THAT HASN'T CHANGED IN TERMS OF ITS VALUE SYSTEM OR ITS OPERATING ETHICS. I WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE BEHIND A GROUP THAT IS FULL OF YOUNGER PEOPLE, MUCH MORE NIMBLE FOOTED THAN IT HAS BEEN, REACHING FASTER AND BEING PROACTIVE.

RATAN N. TATA

The story goes, that some 2400 years ago the ancient Greek physician Hippocrates provided his graduate students in Kos, a Greek Island, with a guideline for professional conduct. Before they entered the medical profession, he made them swear - what we now call the Hippocratic oath: "I will follow that system of regimen which, according to my ability and judgement, I consider for the benefit of my patients, and abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous..." The Hippocratic oath can be considered the first code of conduct a profession ever agreed upon.

Physicians and archivists have in common that they are considered to be professionals. The specific archival intervention field is the control, care, custody, preservation and administration of records in archives. Archivists can dominate this field because their work is based on the theory and methodology of archival science, a discipline of their own. Society highly values their services, considering them conditional for ensuring corporate and social accountability and preserving the documentary heritage as part of national memory. Accepting such responsibility is the hallmark of a professional.

By doing so, archivists maintain their personal and professional integrity. Archives can be morally endangered, often by actions of the archivist unintentionally, but also sometimes under pressure from an outside source. In such cases, the archivist has to rely on his or her professional ethics. These are not a set of mere theoretical rules, but a tool to be used in archival practice.

The Code of Ethics for Archivists provides guidance for coping with problems which may arise during the daily performance of professional duties. A code is only a general guide to standards of behavior. It can outline major areas of conflict and concern for the profession, recommend ways to avoid encountering problems, and suggest appropriate responses and remedies. It is an essential and useful instrument for professions which deal with the public and which must protect the interests of the public and the members of the profession in their interactions.

An understanding of professional ethics and of how to apply them in a professional capacity is not in-born in would-be archivists: it requires study. The reward for this effort comes from the elevation in the level of interaction between archivists

and the public. When exposed to public scrutiny, there will be less chance that the profession can be accused of arbitrary or inequitable behavior if it has incorporated ethics in all levels of policy and performance.

The best way to look at the Code of Ethics is to relate it directly to the archival functions and responsibilities. With regard to appraisal and acquisition, an ethical archivist:

- does not compete for records when such competition would endanger the records;
- does not denigrate a competing repository;
- only acquires records if they can be processed within a reasonable period of time;
- does not give monetary appraisal of collections for donors;
- tries to avoid unreasonable restrictions on records;
- faithfully observes all agreements made at the time of transfer or acquisition;
- does not personally collect the same materials collected by the repository.

With regard to arrangement and description, an ethical archivist:

- processes records in accordance with standard archival principles and practices;

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## THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE TURNS 100



Governor Lord Reay's address at the convocation of the Bombay University in 1889, inspired Jamsetji Tata to set up an Institute of Research. He went about his task with an attention to detail that was characteristic of his approach. He deputed Burjorji Padshah, a brilliant and trusted aide, to study the working of European centres of learning to prepare a draft scheme. His scheme was made public along with his plan of a proposed endowment. The proposed University was modelled on the pattern of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. From his property of Rs. 60 lakhs, managed by trustees, the income from Rs. 30 lakhs worth property was allocated to the proposed institution. The balance was reserved for him and his successors in

perpetuity. The Institution thus, expected to get an annual income of Rs. 1.25 lakhs.

This grand scheme was presented to the Viceroy, Lord Curzon who had his own misgivings and the proposals were stalled on the grounds that Jamsetji expected a Baronetcy and that it was closely linked to his Family Trust.

Jamsetji defended these charges by asserting that he was merely ensuring consistency of Funds to the Institute by linking the scheme with the Family Trust. He said, "For nearly a generation we have been hearing of depression in University Finance. The distress of the Agricultural Interest has involved in privation of the landlord Universities of

Oxford and Cambridge; some diminution in the yield of the Railway Stock has brought about a similar distress to the Johns Hopkins University."<sup>i</sup>

Furthermore, he refused to name the Institute as Tata University. He had foreseen that if it bore his name, few people would come forward to subscribe to its development unless their own names appeared as joint benefactors. He said, "I want no title for myself, nor do I wish my name attached to anything. The national movement ought to bear a national name and every separate benefactor might be at ease as far as I am concerned that his endowment won't bear a name subsidiary to any."



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## GLIMPSES OF THE IISc. CENTURY



Main Building under construction



Burjorji Padshah



Students of first Batch, April 1912



Sir William Ramsay



Sir Dorab Tata



Hostel Blocks



Dr Morris Travers



Inside an Electrical Technology Lab

Gulmohar Marg to ECE Department  
(under construction)Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhai Patel  
and C.V. Raman, 12 July 1927

A Chemistry Lab in operation



Physics Department



J. R. D. Tata at IISc, 13 March 1992



Members of the IISc Council



## THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE TURNS 100... *Continued from Page 3*



Jamsetji Tata's Statue at IISc. which was unveiled on March 10, 1922.

"I WANT NO TITLE FOR MYSELF, NOR DO I WISH MY NAME ATTACHED TO ANYTHING. THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT OUGHT TO BEAR A NATIONAL NAME AND EVERY SEPARATE BENEFACTOR MIGHT BE AT EASE AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED THAT HIS ENDOWMENT WON'T BEAR A NAME SUBSIDIARY TO ANY."

JAMSETJI TATA

Curzon was taken aback. He was 'hardly prepared' for the reply, and with serious reservations on the scheme, he criticised Padshah's motives openly. Padshah describes this air of British distrust, "We are discouraged by the rebuffs which come one after another in the mask of kindness of allies; we perceive that, perhaps, the scheme was and is premature, where the volume of opinion in its favour which alone can generate the driving force has still to be created. But if we are beaten for the present, we are not dismayed. We cannot give up the idea. We still hold that no sum can be more advantageously used for the benefit of India than in attempting to bring into existence a scientific milieu in the country. Men already scorn slavery... We see no bounds to the usefulness of an Indian Institute of Research, located in India."<sup>ii</sup>

Ramsay in turn wrote to Curzon, trying to allay his mistrust "in Padshah's case, I venture to think that you have misjudged him. He is quite sincere, and absolutely unselfish; he takes no salary from Tata, and gives all his services free. He is a man of high ideals; but – and here one sees the Native – he does not thoroughly know our ways and standards, and is often most injudicious.... all the same, he is a really good fellow."<sup>iii</sup>

The British however, deliberately prolonged the discussions, expecting the Tatas to withdraw the offer. They hoped that the Tatas would run short of money while funding the planned Tata Iron and Steel Company and thereby withdraw the amount set aside for the

Institute. The delays were undoubtedly frustrating, and Padshah uses his acerbic wit to comment, "... As you must see, we are in an Oriental country, and everybody, from the Government of India downwards, wishes to be coaxed into the declarations they really wish to make. Time is nothing to us; we think in eternities, and Kaliyugs: if we exchange two or three letters each in a year, we are said to make progress."<sup>iv</sup>

Jamsetji meanwhile, invited several educationists like Sir William Ramsay of the University of London and Prof. Orme Masson of Melbourne University to elicit their views on the soundness of his scheme and thereby convince Lord Curzon.

Indeed, Jamsetji's dream was so ambitious that there were many sceptics. Even Ramsay, a Nobel Laureate and the person who recommended Bangalore as the site for the Institute, wrote, "... I had before me, the fact that manufacture is almost unrepresented in India; and frankly I do not believe that an Institution for pure scientific research will have a chance of success, unless a considerable manufacturing public is first created. This can be done... I am quite open to admit that, so far as the happiness of the population is concerned, it may be better for them to stay as they are, even though a few million die of famine every now and then; but I am taking the view that a population with mixed industries is the one which should be created..." In all fairness, Ramsay was British, and his stance expectedly colonial, "... I confess I am not sanguine. My experience of Indian students has shown me that they cannot be

trusted to go alone; they talk, and do nothing. It was with the hope of finding in the 300 million of India about 15 righteous men, and putting them under competent leaders, that I proposed my scheme. Had it been in England or Germany, I should never have suggested such a scheme; but in India, events must be forced to take place from above; they will never take place of their own accord."<sup>v</sup>

At the time of Jamsetji's death, he was still in doubt as to whether his grand schemes were secure. He felt, however, that his work would not be wasted; and though his sons were not in any way bound by their father's Will, they willingly carried out their father's wishes and set aside the requisite share of their heritage to the Institute.

Finally the new Viceroy Lord Minto approved the constitution of the Institute and passed an order on May 27, 1909, by which it vested the properties set apart by Jamsetji in the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments. The Institute started functioning with three departments namely, General Chemistry, Applied Chemistry and Electrical Technology. The first batch of students was admitted on July 24, 1911.

i Memorandum of J N Tata, 29.11.1899. National Archives of India.

ii Padshah B.J. (Letter to William Ramsay on 08.08.1902), NAI.

iii Ramsay, W. (Letter to Lord Curzon on 11.06.1903), NAI.

iv Padshah B.J. (Letter to Sir George Hamilton on 5.10.1902), NAI.

v Ramsay, W. (Letter to Lord Curzon on 11.06.1903), NAI.



## J.R.D. TATA AT THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

No institute of science and technology can guarantee discoveries or inventions, and we cannot plan or command a work of genius at will. But do we give sufficient thought to the nurture of the young investigator, to providing the right atmosphere and conditions of work and full opportunity for development? It is these things that foster invention and discovery.

*First General Assembly, 1957*



Inspiration is not a manufactured article and does not automatically spring from the resources of a teaching and research centre. It springs from the inter-action of men, young and old, sharing ideas and ideals and working together for a noble purpose. It comes also from contact with the brilliant experimenter and the devoted teacher. We have had our share of both.

*First General Assembly, 1957*

Any sound organisation, as it matures, should develop an innate strength and momentum, enabling it to survive and even to continue growing without strong leadership... but it is comforting to know that ours is now a mature institution, deriving its strength from its long experience, its traditions, the calibre of its staff and the quality of fellowship that knits men together for a purpose larger than their own ends and to which they willingly subordinate their own interests.

*At the Golden Jubilee, 1959*

Merely to impart information is not to educate. Education should aim at encouraging and stimulating the curiosity of young minds. An American educator has said "The young have the supreme advantage of not having been here before; they are not yet settled, they have almost no history and they can consider the world freshly (that is, they can and do when they talk to each other), and they test and re-test the ideas that are old and known and reputable. They reject some, they revive and re-create others." Thus it is for the teacher to set a premium on curiosity and to help young men and women to attain the disciplined inquisitiveness of trained minds.

*Third General Assembly, 1962*

## INTERNATIONAL ARCHIVES DAY

Archives constitute the memory of nations and of societies, shape their identity, and are a cornerstone of the information society. The mission of International Council on Archives (ICA) is to promote the preservation and use of archives around the world. From an association of directors of national institutions, the ICA has evolved towards a more complex organisation bringing together professional associations and individual archivists interested in researching, developing, and sharing their full range of archival expertise. Today, the ICA has become the professional organisation for the world archival community, dedicated to promoting the preservation, development, and use of the world's archival heritage. The Tata Central Archives (TCA) is an institutional member of this organisation.

At its last Annual General

Meeting in Québec, Canada on November 2007, the voting members of ICA decided that International Archives Day should be celebrated on 9 June. It was on this day in 1948 that ICA was founded in Paris at UNESCO. The first ever International Archives Day is, therefore, also the 60th anniversary of ICA.

The International Archives Day offers archivists throughout the world a tremendous opportunity to promote the cause of records and archives in their country. It can be used to persuade key decision-makers that effective record-keeping is an essential precondition for good governance, transparency and accountability; to emphasize the importance of preserving archives for the collective memory of nations and societies; and to encourage those members of the public who have never previously

done so to consult archives for the first time. More generally, it can be used as a means of raising the public profile of archives and archivists in the media. In countries where there is currently no national celebration of archives, it provides a powerful impetus to organise one for the first time. And in those countries which already have well-established celebrations at other times of year, International Archives Day offers another chance to reinforce key messages about the significance of archives.

ICA believes that, as programmes for raising public awareness of archives are organised simultaneously in an increasing number of countries. In 2009, TCA will be celebrating "International Archives Day" for the first time thereby creating a sense of international solidarity.

### INTERESTING FACT

14th Century BC - "Ramses II", Pharaoh of Egypt, reigned for 67 years... His glories surpassed



all other Pharaohs, and Egypt reached an overwhelming state of prosperity during his reign. Not only is he known as one of Egypt's greatest warriors, but also as a peace-maker and for the monuments he left behind all over Egypt.

Ramses II, had an archives of 20,000 papyrus rolls.



## PRINCESS NILOUFER



H.H. Princess Hadice  
Niloufar Khanum Sultana  
1951, Paris  
Antony Beauchamp, London

Archives are the past present and future records produced by organisations in their day-to-day activities. They also preserve the recorded history of people's lives and their families.

Autographed records bring moments in time to life, often with incredible power. The window they open onto the past helps us better understand a person and convey the essence of the individual's personality. Some present autographed images as memorable gifts, delighting in their recipients' pleasure at owning a memento of an admired individual.

The J. R. D. Tata Collection in the the Tata Central Archives comprises a large collection of memorabilia. A framed autographed photograph of H.H. Princess Hadice Niloufar

Khanum Sultana also forms part of this collection.

Princess Niloufer was born at Göztepe Palace, Constantinople in 1916 and was married in Nice, France in 1931 to H.H. Mu'azzam Jah, Bahadur, the second son of the Nizam of Hyderabad. She was one of the last princesses of the Ottoman Empire but her marriage to Muazzam Jah was an unhappy one ultimately culminating in divorce in 1952.

Though not much recorded history is available on the friendship between Niloufer and Thelma Tata, Princess Niloufer probably met Thelma in Bombay and the two became good friends. Both were educated and unusually beautiful women, Thelma, Anglo-Indian, and Niloufer, Turkish.

After her divorce, Niloufer moved to Paris and later met and married Edward J. Pope. Both women had prolific, successful husbands; Pope was an international business advisor and handled operations in over 25 countries. He also served on the National Security Council in various capacities and J.R.D. Tata was heading the expanding business empire of Tatas. Both had no children and were familiar faces in the Paris high society.

Incidentally, both women are still remembered for their exquisite taste in jewellery and for wearing saris, then an unusual garment in Europe.

Niloufer was still Princess of Hyderabad when this photograph was presented to "Thelly" as a keepsake of their friendship in 1951.

## CODE OF ETHICS FOR ARCHIVISTS... contd. from pg. 2

### WAYS TO GIVE

The Tata Central Archives is built on contributions from the Group companies. We are the proud guardians of thousands of documents, carefully preserved paintings and several such collections.

To discover how your Company can get involved with the Tata Central Archives, please contact:

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1 Mangaldas Road,  
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Ph: 91-20-6609 2019  
E-mail: [tca@tata.com](mailto:tca@tata.com)

*Continued from Page 2*

- processes records as rapidly as resources permit.

With regard to preservation and security, an ethical archivist:

- protects the integrity of records or papers in his or her custody;
- guards the collections against defacement, alteration, theft and physical damage;
- ensures that the evidentiary value of the records is not impaired in the archival work of preservation, arrangement and use.

With regard to reference and access, an ethical archivist:

- neither reveals nor profits from information gained

through work with restricted holdings;

- respects the privacy of the individual who created the records or who are the subject of the records;
- courteously answers all reasonable enquiries;
- encourages the greatest use of the records consistent with the institutional policies, preservation of holdings,
- legal considerations, individual rights, and donor agreements;
- applies restrictions equitably and uniformly;
- tries to inform researchers of parallel research by others, while still respecting the privacy of researchers;
- conducts research on the collections in his/her custody only with the prior approval

of the employing institution.

Yes, archival work is challenging. We invite you to share in our commitments and to discover for yourself the larger meanings in what we do.

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