

BOOK REVIEW

S.R. RANGANATHAN (1892-1972). edited by Edward Dudley. London, Library Association, 1973. (The first Indian reprint with introduction by M.P. Satija, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, 1992)

The publication embodies a bouquet of papers presented by a selected band of the noted professionalists who had the distinction of belonging to the close circle of Dr. Ranganathan's colleagues, friends and associates. The papers are by way of a tribute to Dr. Ranganathan and were first read at a memorial meeting organized by the Library Association in London in January 1973 to pay homage to Dr. Ranganathan who had died in the preceding September. The authors, all from UK, comprise such distinguished authorities as B.C. Vickery, Director, School of Library, Archives and Information, University College London; A.J. Wells, Managing Editor, British National Bibliography; B.I. Palmer, Education Officer, Library Association, London; D.J. Foskett, Librarian, Institute of Education, University of London; H. Coblans, Managing Editor, Journal of Documentation; and D.W. Langridge, School of Librarianship, the Polytechnics of North London.

The papers present a fascinating first hand account of the various facets of Dr. Ranganathan's life and personalty including the profound impress he has left in the individual speciality areas like classification, indexing and bibliographical services. The text is characterized by its informative richness, literary elegance and lucidity of perception. Naturally in these pages, Dr. Ranganathan comes alive not only as a thinker, a planner, or a go getter but also as a man endowed with the best of human qualities by way of simplicity, humility, frugality and selflessness.

Dr. M.P. Satija of the Department of Library and Information Science, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar who deserves to be complemented for his effort to bring out this first Indian reprint of the publication in synchronization with Dr. Ranganathan's birth century celebrations, has provided a highly emudate introduction to this work. A chronology of the major events in the life of Dr. Ranganathan starting with his date of birth (9 August 1892) compiled by Kate Wood of the Library Association and a subject index for speedy location of any intended piece of information are two other useful features.

The publication thus contributes a valuable source document for authentic information on Dr. S.R. Ranganathan and his contributions as perceived by the contemporary leading highs of the profession. It should be of immense interest and value to the libraries throughout the country apart from the ever groing fraternity of the admires of Dr. Ranganathan. For copies requests can be addressed to Dr. M.P. Satija, RIF 4, G N D University, Amritsar-143005, Punjab.

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