

Setting up The IISc Archives

The Story so far

Dr. S. Venkadesan
Convener
Archives Cell
Indian Institute of Science

Genesis

- Convocation address by Lord Reay in 1889

“It is only by the combined efforts of the wisest men in England, of the wisest men in India, that we can hope to establish in this old home of learning, real universities which will give a fresh impulse to learning, to research, to criticism, which will inspire reverence and impart strength and self-reliance to future generation of ours and your countrymen”

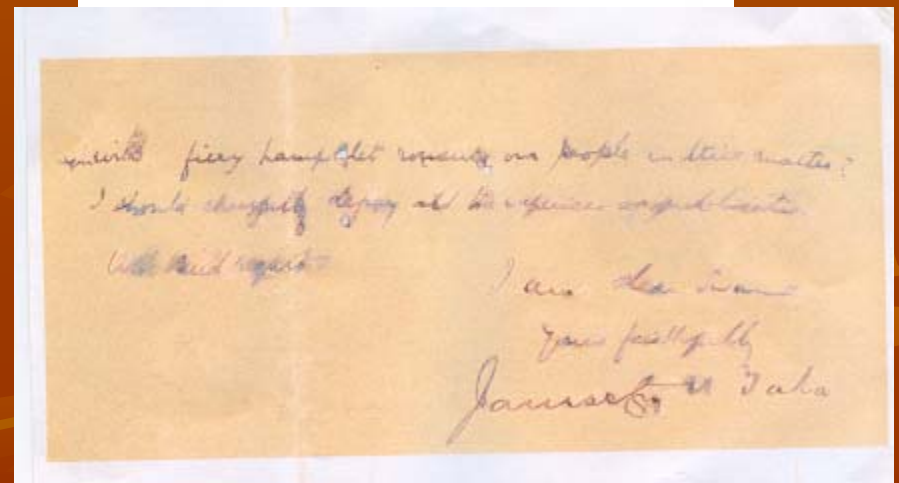
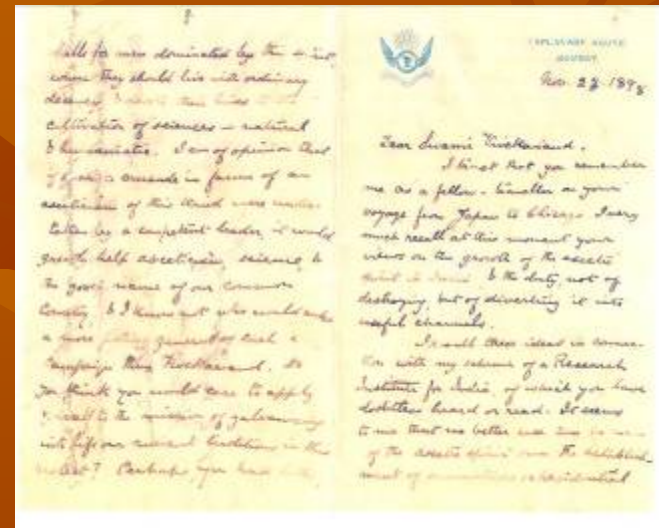
- Jamsetji N Tata was influenced by Lord Reay’s exhortation.

Genesis

- Swami Vivekananda and J N Tata travel together and exchange their views
- Foresight of Swami Vivekananda
- J N Tata's scheme and its funding
- Generosity of Maharani Regent of Mysore and efforts of Sir Seshadri Iyer
- Follow-up and sustained support by Padshah, Sister Nivedita, Tata sons and Maharaja of Mysore

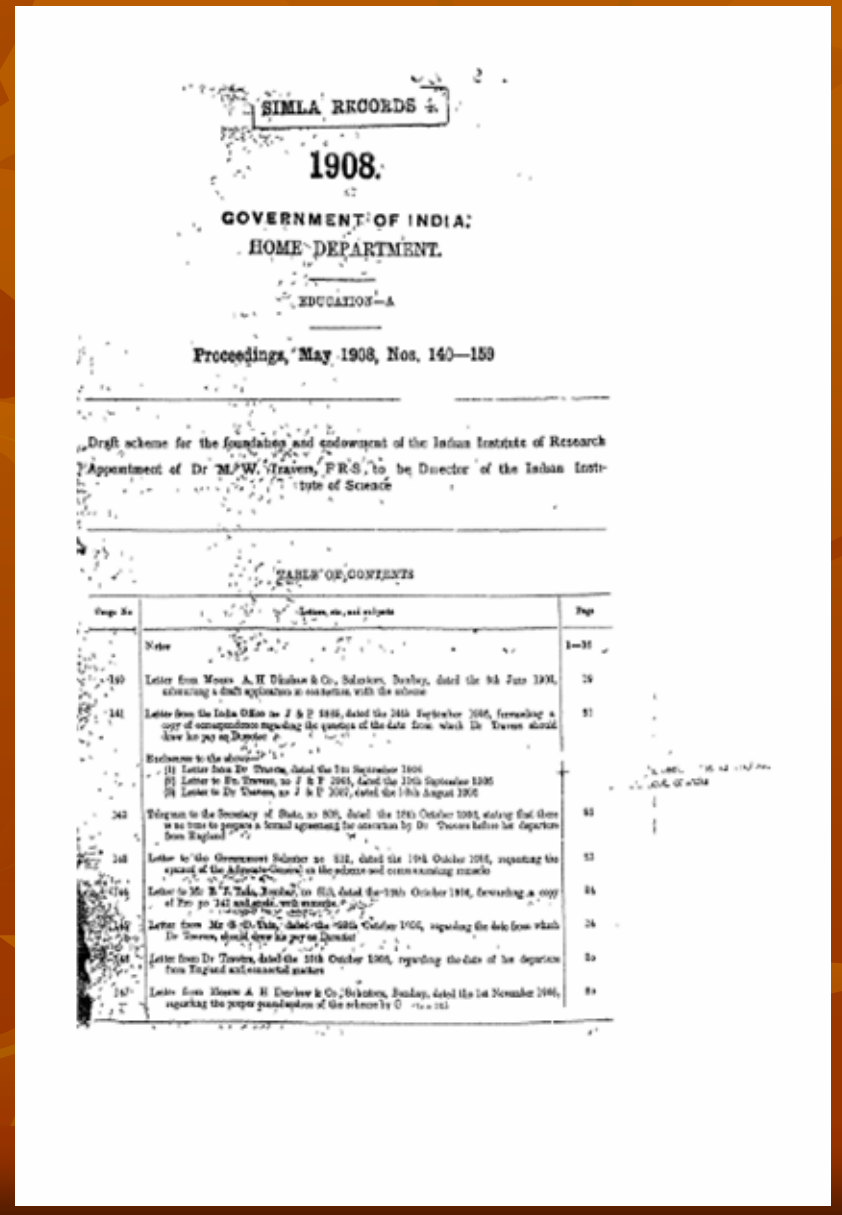
Collections

- Letter from JN Tata to Swami Vivekananda



National Archives

- Various documents
 - Government orders on the formation of the Institute
 - Approvals for buildings and finances
 - ~ 2000 pages



Institute Documents

- Provisional report for constituting the Institute
- Appointment orders of the early directors
- Reports of the Council, Court, and Financial Reports
- Senate papers
- Old Registers
- Equipments used by maintenance staff
- Insurance papers of the Institute

*First Meeting of the Provisional Committee, held Monday,
23rd March 1908, at 8 A. M., at the Residency,
Bangalore.*

PRESENT.

The Hon'ble Mr. S. M. Fraser, C. I. E., I. C. S., in the Chair.
Mr. V. P. Mallava Rao, C. I. E.
Dr. M. W. Travers.
Dr. A. Hay.
Mr. H. J. Bhabha was also present by special invitation.

Business.—

1. *Read.*—Sir H. Risley, K. O. I. E., C. S. I., Secretary to Government of India, Home Department, to Director, I. I. S., dated Calcutta, 24th February 1908, appointing Provisional Committee to manage the affairs of the Institute pending the publication of Scheme.

Resolved.—Record.

2. *Considered.*—Scheme for the management of the Institute and the properties in Bombay.

Read.—D. O. A. J. Billimoria Esq. to Director, I. I. S., dated Bombay, 17th March 1908. In accordance with your wishes we are sending along with this letter six copies of the Scheme. We beg, however, to point out to you that the copies do not bear the latest corrections and that the revised prints are under preparation.

Read.—D. O. Director, I. I. S. to A. J. Billimoria Esq., dated Bangalore, the 19th March 1908. I have received your letter and six copies of the Scheme which I believe are identical with the Scheme as forwarded by the Messrs Tata to Government in January. I may inform the Provisional Committee that except so far as verbal alterations are concerned the papers contain the Scheme in its final form.

Resolved.—Record.

3. *Considered.*—The status of the Provisional Committee, and their authority in making of contracts, &c.

Resolved.—That under Section 42 of the Scheme accompanying the Vesting Order the Director is authorised to perform all necessary acts and to make all necessary contracts under the direction and by the consent of the Provisional Committee.

First Meeting of
the Provisional
Meeting
(23 March 1908)

EXCERPTS FROM THE REPORT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE
BY SIR WILLIAM HAY

MICROSCOPE "..... India is rich in raw material, minerals, cereals, and vegetable products, and they are for the most part undeveloped, and if utilized, are merely wasted or squandered, and exported.

CLIMATE "The site of the Institute should have reference to the situation of such raw products; its climate should be such that it is possible to work ^{with} energy during the greater part of the year; it should, if possible, be near some source of power....."

CLIMATE "The climate of Bangalore is temperate for nearly all the year; it is not too hot for Europeans, nor too cold for Indians; it is within easy reach of Deccan, the most leading climate of India; and it is accessible from Bombay and Madras....."

CONCLUSION "Taking such ~~deliberate~~ into consideration, I unhesitatingly select Bangalore as an ideal site for such an institution....."

Excerpts from the
Report on the
establishment of
the Institute

*First Meeting of the Council of the Indian Institute of Science,
held at the Residency, Bangalore, on Monday,
September 6th, 1909 at 11-30 A. M.*

PRESENT.

The Hon'ble Mr. S. M. Fraser, C. I. E., I. C. S.
Mr. V. Ananda Rao.
Prof. Norman Rudolf, M. Sc., F. I. C., Offg. Director.
Mr. H. J. Bhabha, M. A.
Dr. Alfred Hay, M. I. E. E.
Mr. V. P. Mallava Rao, as a visitor by special request.

1. Mr. Fraser in an introductory speech explained the urgent necessity that existed for the holding of a meeting of the Council for the transaction of certain formal business. He pointed out that it appeared wise to defer all except the most urgent and financial matters to the next Council Meeting at which the permanent Director would be present. He stated the special circumstances under which it was not possible for Dr. Travers to be present, and he welcomed Mr. Mallava Rao, member of the late Provisional Committee, who had kindly come to Bangalore in order to take part in certain necessary transfers of bank accounts.

Prof. Rudolf explained briefly what building operations were in progress and the business that was proposed to transact at the present meeting.

2. It was felt desirable to place on record the Council's approval of Prof. Rudolf officiating as Director during the absence of Dr. Travers in Europe.

Proposed by Mr. Bhabha

That the appointment of Prof. Rudolf as officiating Director during Dr. Travers's absence is confirmed with effect from July 1st, 1909.

Seconded by Dr. A. Hay

Carried *unanimously*.

3. Proposed by the Offg. Director

That the Council do invite the Hon'ble Mr. S. M. Fraser, C. I. E., I. C. S., Resident in Mysore, to be Chairman of the Council.

Letter appointing Council C. I. E. Vesting Order C. I. E. also B. R. No. 2.

First Meeting of the
Council of the
Institute
(06 September 1909)

Important Speeches

- Corner Stone Ceremony Speeches
 - Maharaja of Mysore
 - Sir D J Tata
- Mahatma Gandhi's address to the Institute faculty
- Speech by Sir M Visvesvaraya at the inauguration of Metallurgy Department

Ceremony of laying the Corner Stone
of the Library Building
at the
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE,
BANGALORE, INDIA.

His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, G.C.S.I.,

Wednesday, February 1st 1911.

*Indian Institute of Science,
Bangalore.*

*The Council of the Institute request the honour of the presence of
on the occasion of the laying of the Corner Stone of the Library Building
by
His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, G.C.S.I.
on Wednesday, February 1st 1911,
at five o'clock.*

*R. V. V.
to the Director
Indian Institute of Science,
Bangalore.*

Ladies are invited.

*Speech by His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore,
G.C.S.I., at the Laying of the Foundation Stone
of the Central Building of the Indian Institute of
Science at Bangalore on February 1st, 1911.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Speaking as I do after Dr. Traver's interesting address and Sir Dorabji Tata's long and eloquent speech, I feel that there is really nothing that I can say regarding the origin and history of the Indian Institute of Science, and I shall therefore confine myself to a few general observations appropriate to this occasion. I can assure you that I realize very deeply the responsibility which has fallen on me to-day of laying the Corner Stone of these magnificent buildings, the future home of an Institute which will be unique of its kind in India. I need not remind you that the India of to-day is almost entirely an agricultural country and that, except in a few centres such as Calcutta and Bombay,

Speech by Sir D. J. Tata at the Laying of the Foundation Stone of the Central Building of the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore on February 1st, 1911.

Before asking Your Highness to lay the corner stone of the Central Building of the Indian Institute of Science, I think it will not be out of place to give a short history of the origin, development, and fruition of the scheme which has found visible embodiment in the well-planned buildings around us.



Speech of His Highness Maharaja Sri Jaya Chamaraja Wadiyar Bahadur, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., Governor of Mysore, on the Occasion of the Opening of the New Wind Tunnel of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

Tuesday, 3rd February 1959

DR. BHAGAVANTAM, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am sure you all realise as well as I do that I am no authority on Wind Tunnels. My presence here to-day is mainly due to the kindly insistence of the Director. I am, however, very glad of this opportunity to express my admiration for the work that is being done in this Institute and my real interest in the increase and expansion of its Departments. I am pleased to see that the expectation of Mr. J. N. Tata, the Founder, is being fulfilled in abundant measure and that the Institute is serving the cause of progress by extension of knowledge as well as its application in practice.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

ADDRESS AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT OF METALLURGY

IN the course of a tour in America in February 1927 I paid a visit to the Harvard University and had an interview with the head of that institution. Among other questions in regard to which I sought enlightenment from him, I asked what subjects or courses of study received special encouragement or prominence in the Curriculum of that famous University. The reply of President Lowell was characteristic; he said "We run all horses abreast".

This Institution—the Indian Institute of Science—has been working for about 37 years but for over 32 of these the courses of study have been few and there have not been any appreciable number of Departments or "horses to run". This was because the Government funds placed at the disposal of the Institute were very meagre and during the period, the Institute confined its attention only to three or four Departments of study, namely, Chemistry including Bio-chemistry, Electrical Technology and Physics. Since the year 1943-44, however, there has been a change in administrative policies, and consequently in the grants made to this institution, among others, by the Government of India. This has resulted in a substantial addition to the courses of study here among which Metallurgy, the establishment of which we are formally announcing today, is not the least important.

Speech of His Highness Maharaja Sri Jaya Chamaraja Wadiyar on the occasion of the Opening of New Wind Tunnel

(3rd February 1959)

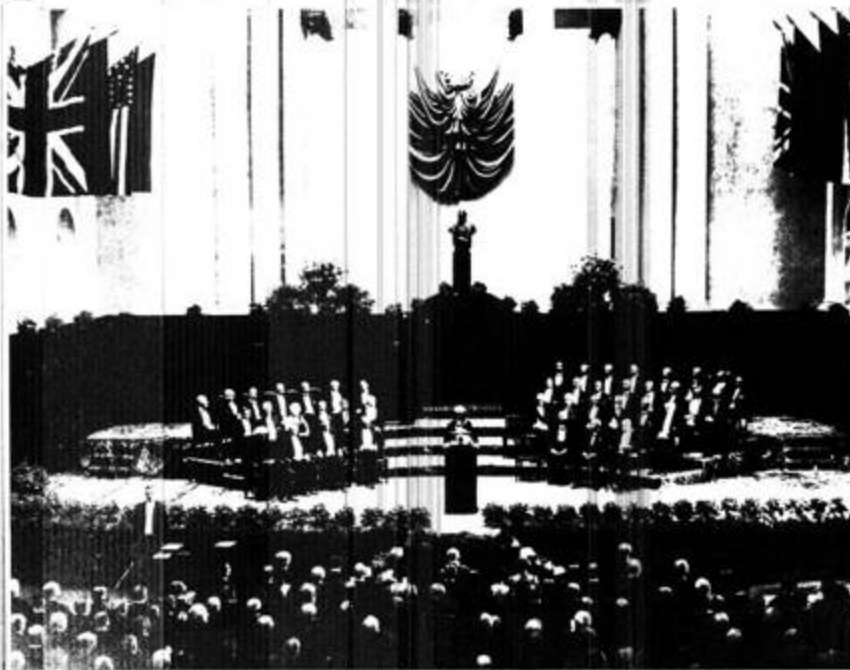
Address at the Inauguration of Department of Metallurgy by Sir M Visvesvaraya

(6th July 1948)

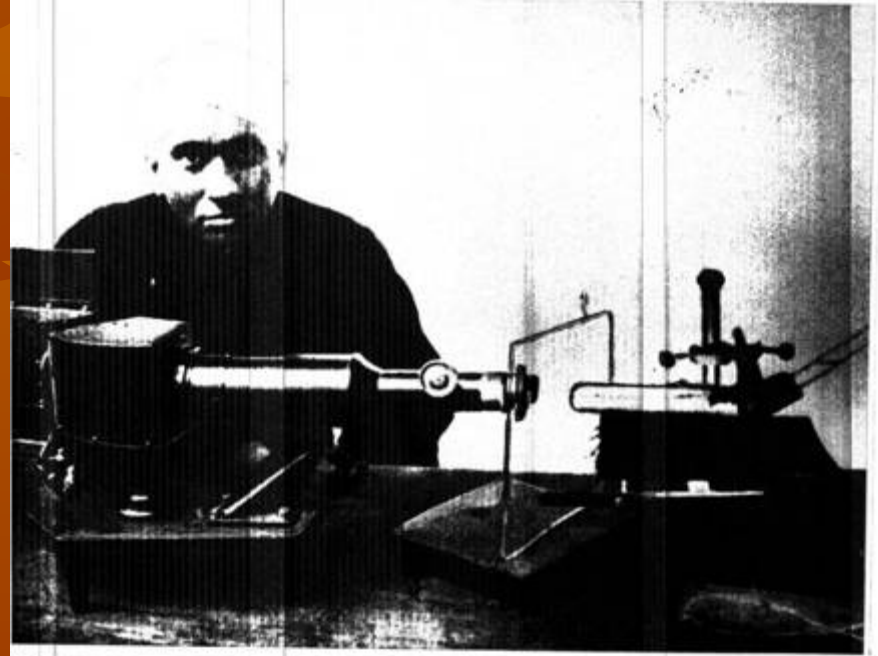
C V Raman's Collection

- Early research work which lead to the Nobel Prize
- Photographs of Raman receiving the Nobel Prize
- Raman's Spectrograph

FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE, WHO WAS RAMAN'S FAITHFUL ASSISTANT FOR 25 YEARS. HE HELPED RAMAN AND HIS STUDENTS IN THEIR EXPERIMENTS THAT WERE DONE AT THE ASSOCIATION INCLUDING THE SET-UP BY WHICH RAMAN EFFECT WAS FINALLY DISCOVERED.



THE NOBEL CEREMONY - RAMAN IS SITTING IN THE EXTREME LEFT, IN THE FRONT ROW WITH HIS TURBAN AND CLOSE COAT.



RAMAN WITH THE RAMAN EFFECT EQUIPMENT

Photographs

- Photographs of the first buildings built
 - Construction workers involved in the job
 - Library in the building stage (current main building)
 - Electrical Technology (current physics department)
 - General Chemistry (current IPC department)
 - Director's bungalow
 - Hostel blocks
 - Faculty Bungalows



Picture of Construction Workers



Inside the Library (Current Main Building)



First Departments Electrical Technology
(Current Physics)



First Departments Pure and Applied Chemistry
(Current Inorganic Physical Chemistry)



First Mens' Hostel

Both the Hostel blocks have given way to new blocks



First Womens' Hostel

Photographs

- Prominent Personality
 - Mahatma Gandhi in the Institute
 - Jawaharlal Nehru
 - Rajendra Prasad
 - S Radhakrishnan
- Golden Jubilee celebrations
- Diamond Jubilee celebrations
- Prof. S Dhawan's retirement function



C V Raman, Mahatma
Gandhi, Sardar Patel



Prime Minister Sri. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru & Young
Ms. Indira Nehru Visiting the Indian Institute of Science in
1948 .
Contribution
Raghu.S.Rao
S/O Late . Sri. K.Srinivasa Rao

Indira Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru



Mysore Maharaja arriving for
the Golden Jubilee Function

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
BANGALORE



Golden Jubilee
1909-1959

The Indian Institute of Science

requests the pleasure of the company of

at the inauguration of its

Golden Jubilee Celebration

by

Dr. Rajendra Prasad

President of India

at 10 a.m.

on Monday, 2nd February, 1959.

Mr. J. R. D. Tata

President of the Council

will preside.

R. J. V. S.
The Registrar,
Indian Institute of Science,
Bangalore 12



Photographs

- Early laboratories
- Laboratory equipments
- Decoration for Viceroy's visit



Video

- Several video clippings
 - Prominent among being Queen's visit to the Institute
 - Film Division footages on IISc

From other sources

- Tata Archives
- The Hindu
- The Times of India
- Deccan Herald
- Madras University
- Ramakrishna Mission
- Film Division Archives

Advertisement in the Newspaper “The Electrician”

The Electrician.

August 18, 1922

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BANGALORE.

CHAIR OF ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY.

A PPLICATIONS are invited for the PROFESSORSHIP OF ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY in the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Experience in teaching and research work an essential qualification. Salary from Rupees 1 500 per mensem, according to experience, with passage and equipment allowance. A house is provided. The agreement will be for five years, and probably three years thereafter. A retiring allowance is provided. Applications should be sent before August 31st to the SECRETARY OF THE APPOINTMENTS BOARD, University Offices, Cambridge.



Glimpses of IISc
Exhibition



Thank You

National Science Archives

- Universities, Research Institutions, Laboratories ~ more than 60 years old
- Time ripe to start collecting and preserving old documents, photographs, equipment and other artifacts
- Collect information on national laboratories which has become defunct

Association of Science Archives

- Setting up a Science Archives Forum
 - Co-operation
 - Co-ordination
 - Exchange of experiences
 - Assistance to smaller institutions to help setup archive cells