

A brief write up on...

Prof.K.S.G.Doss

- Founder President of SAEST

Prof.Kadarundalige Sitarama Gururaja Doss was born on the 10th August 1906 in Nagamangala of the then Mysore state. His early education in Mysore and Bangalore was marked with proficiency and excellent attainments. During an active academic period spanning three decades (1927-1957) that followed, he taught in the Central College, Bangalore, and in the National Sugar Institute, Kanpur, where he officiated as its Director. In 1957, he moved to the Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI), Karaikudi, for organizing research in fundamental and industrial electrochemistry in a big way. As Director of the CECRI during 1957-1967, he imparted to the Institute great strength and high reputation. After his retirement in 1967, he served as a technical adviser and consultant for several industrial units.

Prof.Doss's research spans a wide area, all the way from adsorption films, wetting phenomena, techniques for measurement of fast reactions and trace concentrations, to many applied R&D projects. He participated fully in the excitement of the Langmuir-Adam-McBain era and spread it in India in the 1930's. His later contributions to electrochemical interfaces are too many to recount here, the most well-known being the discovery of the Faradaic rectification. The latter opened up a very interesting field of study connected with polarography and fast reaction kinetics. There is not a single aspect of modern electrochemistry on which he has not bestowed attention be it potential of zero charge or mechanism of oxide film formation and electrochemical oscillation or a very successful solution to the industrial problem of porous carbon electrodes for air dpolarized cells name any. The international electrochemical community honoured him on his reaching the 70th year, by publishing in 1975 a Festschrift of the Journal of Electroanalytical Chemistry (Elsevier).

Prof.Sir C.V.Raman had a great influence on Prof.Doss in several aspects-his fascination for discovery and his penchant for clarity in presentation. Prof.Doss has trained and inspired a large number of young scientists and fostered electrochemical research in the country. He was a founder member of the Indian Academy of Sciences and served in the Council during 1971-73. He was elected to the Indian National Science Academy in 1957. He was Vice President, International Committee of Electrochemical Thermodynamics & Kinetics and a Fellow of Royal Society London, Institute of Physics London, Indian Standards Institution and Hon. Fellow of Sugar Technologists Association etc. He has been a member of the Editorial Board of the Indian Journal of Chemistry, Member Advisory Editorial Board of the Journals of Electrochimica Acta and Corrosion Science (London).

Respected for his erudition and devotion to Science, Professor Doss contributed to the growth of electrochemistry in India not only through his own original research pursuits, but also as an organizer and technical director of research in electrochemical science and technology. He passed away on 18-10.1989. In the memory and honour of the Founder President, the Doss Momorial Lecture is being organised by the Society.
