

Birth Centenary of Bellur Rama Rao

A pleasant function was arranged at the premises of the Society on 20th November 1990 marking the birth centenary of the veteran geologist from Mysore, Sri Bellur Rama Rao, past President of the Society. Apart from a large number of resident Fellows, members of Sri Rama Rao's family graced the occasion.

After the welcome by B. P. Radhakrishna, S. V. P. Iyengar, formerly of the Geological Survey of India recounted some of his personal reminiscences of his association with the eminent scientist. Veerabhadrachari, Director of Geology, on behalf of the Department of Mines and Geology, Karnataka State, paid his tribute to the memory of Bellur Rama Rao who had guided the destiny of the Department for thirteen long years. Deepak Bellur, grandson of Bellur Rama Rao, presently working as a Senior Geologist in the AMSE Wing of the Geological Survey of India, gave a humorous and intimate account of the personal traits and mannerisms of his late grandfather. This extempore talk, delivered in great style, full of wit and humour, was enthusiastically applauded by the audience.

B. P. Radhakrishna, introducing the special volume 'Archaean Greenstone Belts of South India' to be released on the occasion, prefaced his remarks saying that 'A science which forgets its founders, was lost.' He gave a brief outline of the contents of the book which was aimed at presenting a historical background of research on one of the most complex and fascinating Precambrian terrains of the world. He recalled the words of an eminent geologist from overseas who had stated that south India possessed lithological and tectonic diversity and a near-comprehensive Precambrian record and for the most part magnificent exposures making it 'the jewel in the crown of Precambrian Geology'. Radhakrishna pleaded for a more dedicated effort to make the geology of the Indian shield more widely known than now. He hoped that the present volume appropriately dedicated to the memory of Bellur Rama Rao would mark a step in that direction and would be welcomed by the geological community.

He also informed the audience that the members of the family of Bellur Rama Rao had together donated a sum of Rs. 18,000 for the institution of an award in his memory. While no decision had yet been taken by the Council, he indicated that the intention was to award once in three years, a sum not less than Rs. 10,000 for the best work in Indian geology. He appealed to all the well-wishers of Bellur Rama Rao to make liberal donations to make the size of the prize money respectable.

J. P. Sharma, Chairman and Managing Director of The Hutti Gold Mines Co. Ltd., and a Corporate Member of the Society, releasing the book 'Archaean Greenstone Belts of South India' said how happy he was at being associated with this function. He volunteered to contribute a sum of Rs. 5,000/- on behalf of his Company, every time an award was made. This spontaneous offer made on the spur of the moment was acclaimed with cheers by the assembled audience.

With a vote of thanks to the chair by R. H. Sawkar, the pleasant function came to a close.

Copies of the book 'Archaean Greenstone Belts of South India' are available for sale at the Geological Society. The price of the book is Rs. 500/- (domestic) or \$ 55 (Foreign). Fellows can get their copy at concessional price.