



(TRANSLATION)

Anandabazar Patrika
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"Hoppé's Rabindranath"

Baker Street. This famous street associated with Sherlock Holmes was also the witness of another historical event. Almost a century ago this is where Rabindranath and the world famous photographer Emil Octo Hoppé met for the first time. Having abandoned his affluent home [in Austria] Hoppé became absorbed in the art of photography. He spent several years photographing in Paris. Then he went to London and set up his studio in Baker Street. There he first met the poet in 1912. However, it is remarkable that Rabindranath wrote nothing about his meeting with this foreign photographer. In 1929 while on a tour of India, Hoppé visited Santiniketan and took quite a few pictures of the poet. But even the many biographers of Tagore are silent about this visit of Hoppé, even though he was already famous in the world of portrait photography.

Nine years before Santiniketan in 1920 when Rabindranath again visited the UK, they had met a second time, when Hoppé photographed Tagore. We now have an opportunity to see a selection of Hoppé's pictures of Rabindranath and Santiniketan now archived in Pasadena, California. On Saturday the exhibition entitled "Hoppé's Santiniketan" was inaugurated in the Victoria Memorial Hall by Sabyasachi Bhattacharya.

At the same time Supriyo Tagore released the Tagore – 150th anniversary volume edited by Pratapaditya Pal and published by Marg magazine. Titled "Something Old, Something New" the profusely illustrated book contains some old writings about Rabindranath and some unpublished essays. The exhibition organized by the Victoria Memorial and The Marg Foundation can be seen in the Victoria Memorial Hall's Portrait Gallery through 30 May.