



Sands of Time

Volume II, Issue 2

July 2003

Tata Central Archives Newsletter

Dear Colleague,

Tata Central Archives (TCA) has launched its Web Site showcasing sections on the Heritage, Archival Collections, Picture Library, newsletters and publications brought out by TCA.

Driven by TBEM, TCA has focussed on customer expectations and satisfaction. At the same time keeping in tune with current and future technologies, TCA has decided to digitise its records and has acquired an Archival Management Software for this purpose.

TCA has provided assistance and guidance to Tata Chemicals in Mithapur to set up its own archives and heritage corner. Assistance has also been provided to Tata Consultancy Services to set up a heritage corner in its office at Chennai.

Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, Government of India visited the exhibition on J.R.D. Tata. and also to examine the infrastructural facilities prevalent at TCA to set up their own archives.

Cinerad Communications Limited, Mumbai, have made extensive use of the photographs available at TCA for a film that they are producing on the "Merchant Princes of Bombay" featuring the Founder, Jamssetji Tata. Similarly, representatives of Sistas Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai have consulted documents and photographs on Jamssetji Tata to bring out a commemorative "J. N. Tata Diary" in 2004. This has been sponsored by Tata Steel, Jamshedpur.

The exhibition on Sir Dorabji Tata Trust And Its Philanthropic Institutions which was organised at TCA last year was set up at Tata Steel, Jamshedpur, as part of the Founder's Day Celebrations.

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TATA SERVICES LIMITED LAUNCHES THE TATA CENTRAL ARCHIVES WEB SITE

<http://www.tatacentralarchives.com>



Mr. K. M. Gherda, Chairman, Tata Services Limited speaking at the inauguration. Also seen in the picture is Mr. T. R. Doongaji, Managing Director, Tata Services Limited.

Mr. K. M. Gherda, Chairman, Tata Services Limited, launched the Tata Central Archives (TCA) Web Site in Pune on February 12, 2003 in the presence of a distinguished gathering.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Gherda said that he was happy that the Tata Central Archives were keeping pace with the technological developments. Dissemination of information is of primary importance in an archive and going on-line is just another step in this direction.

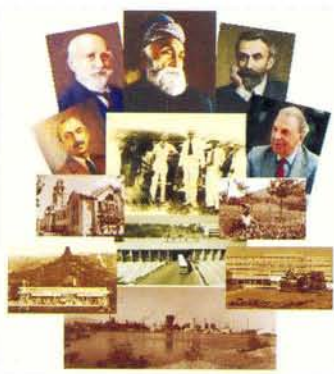
Mr. B. E. Shroff, Network Executive explained to the audience that the Network Department has developed three Web Sites since 2001. The Tata Central Archives Web Site is the fourth site being developed by the Department.

With limited resources available at its disposal the Tata Central Archives Web Site has been totally conceived, designed and developed in-house by the Teams of the Tata Central Archives and the Network Department under the able guidance of the Senior Management of Tata Services Limited.

The Web Site showcases the following sections - Heritage, Archival Collections, Picture Library



Archival Collections.



Picture Library.

and Newsletters and Publications brought out by TCA. The latest copy of the Newsletter "Sands of Time" is now available online.



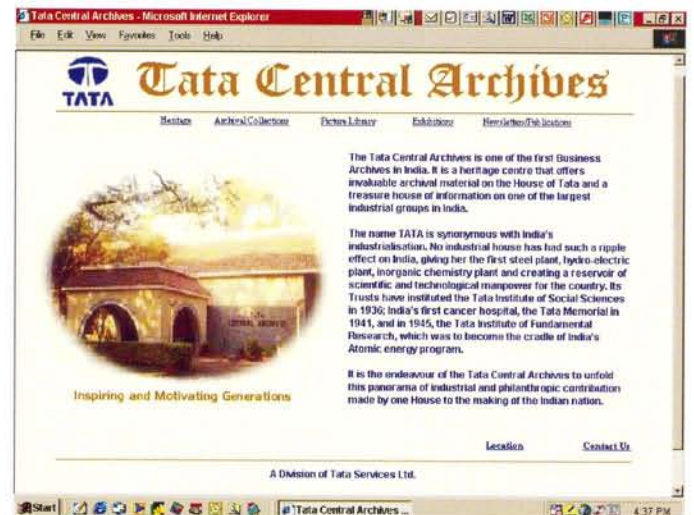
As you are aware that the Mumbai Office of J. R. D. Tata has been replicated in the Archives. You could also take a Virtual Tour of this Office.

Mr. T. R. Doongaji, Managing Director, proposed the vote of thanks. He emphasised that he would like the Tata Central Archives to be one of the best archives in the world.



Mr. T. R. Doongaji, Managing Director, Tata Services Limited proposing the vote of thanks.

You can explore the resources of TCA on your own. Make a note of the Web Site address. When you get an opportunity, turn on a computer with



A view of the Home Page.

Almost every other person visiting the Archives has requested the Staff for a copy of the Family Tree which could now be downloaded from the Web Site.

TCA has to date held the following three Exhibitions Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata - Founder of the House of Tata; Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and its Philanthropic Institutions; and J. R. D. Tata. Glimpses of these exhibitions could be seen on going through the section on Exhibitions.

You will also be able to take a Virtual Tour of each of these exhibitions thereby giving the viewer a feel of actually being in the exhibition hall.

IMPRESSIONS

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| 1.1.2003 | ANIL KAKODKAR Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission | Wonderful experience to be here. The archive is truly inspiring <i>A. Kakodkar</i> |
|----------|---|---|

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|-----------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------|------------------------------------|--|
| 19/6/2003 | Patrick McGoldrick Tata Technology | The Values & Vision of the Group are well communicated via the Archive. | 19/6/2003 | JEFFREY D. SAGE IBM Corporation | Outstanding Exhibit Well Worth the Educational Experience |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------|------------------------------------|--|

REMINISCENCES OF SIR ARDESHIR DALAL



"The House of Tatas is a big Institution. It is well known not because of the number of people it employs or the amount of capital it invests; not even because of its wonderful relations with its employees and its labour; but because of its principles and ideals which guide itself and its purpose. Whatever great undertakings it has taken up have been done through a sense of national duty. It is not merely concerned with profit making

undertakings, but for taking up high national undertakings."

Sir Ardeshir Dalal

Taj Mahal Hotel, Bombay July 26, 1944

Not many of us have had the privilege of working under Sir Ardeshir Rustomji Dalal. In fact, a majority of the Tata employees have only heard of him. Yet his name always evokes in one's mind a feeling of great respect.

Sir Ardeshir Dalal was born in Bombay on April 24, 1884. In 1907 he took a first class honours degree and passed the Indian Civil Service examination. He was initially posted to the Bombay Presidency, and then proceeded to New Delhi in 1927 as Deputy Secretary to the Central Government in the Department of Education, Health and Lands. At the end of 1928 he returned to Bombay and was the first Indian to be appointed Municipal Commissioner.

He retired from official life in 1931 to be a Director and Partner in Tata Sons Limited. He was made Director-in-Charge of the Tata Iron and Steel Company. Under his guidance the Company grew from strength to strength. He effected many notable improvements in labour conditions at Jamshedpur and was responsible for the introduction of the profit-sharing schemes for its labour, the first of its kind in India.

Ardeshir Dalal was knighted in 1939.

Sir Dalal was one of the signatories of the "Bombay Plan" published in 1944. Subsequently, Lord Wavell invited Sir Dalal to join the Executive Council as the first Member of the newly created Department of Planning and Development.

Besides being a Director of various other Tata Companies, he was also a Director of the Central Bank of India and the Associated Cement Companies.



Mrs. Silloo Billimoria who is the daughter of Sir Ardeshir Dalal has visited the Archives a few times. On one such visit the Archives team requested her to oblige them with an oral history session on reminiscences of her father from a daughter's point of view. Reproduced below are

excerpts from this oral history testimony which we feel will be of interest to the readers:

Sir Ardeshir Dalal stood first in his school. He also stood first in the Bombay University. It was his father's wish that his eldest son who showed academic excellence should continue his studies. In 1905, he had applied to the J. N. Tata Endowment for a scholarship loan as his heart was set on becoming a member of the Indian Civil Service. One evening he was called to Waudby House in Bombay and was told that he had been selected as one of the J. N. Tata scholars to proceed to England for higher studies. He then went to St. John's College, Cambridge where he obtained a First Class and topped the ICS examination.

He was offered a Directorship in Tatas by Sir Nowroji Saklatvala. Sir Dalal wanted very much to work for the organization that had helped him fulfill his childhood dream. He was very concerned about the Indianisation of the Steel Company. He took it as a challenge and in 1938, Sir Jehangir Ghandy became the first Indian General Manager of Tata Steel in Jamshedpur. He felt that the Indians were certainly equal to the task and given proper training and authority they could surpass their foreign counterparts. An English Officer came very casually dressed one morning to the Works. Sir Dalal asked him a question and he rather gruffly said "You refer to the Works Manager", who incidentally was Sir Jehangir Ghandy. Sir Dalal was not able to tolerate this person who thought he was talking to an inferior Indian officer. This put off Sir Dalal and that very same evening the English Officer was dismissed from service. This incident created an uproar in Jamshedpur. Nobody had ever dared to dismiss an Englishman but he had the guts to do it. He worked with all his might in Tata Steel and said that Tatas was in his blood.

EXHIBITION ON SIR DORABJI TATA TRUST AND ITS PHILANTHROPIC INSTITUTIONS' REPLICATED AT TATA STEEL, JAMSHEDPUR.



Mr. Ratan N. Tata viewing one of the exhibits at the Jubilee Park, Jamshedpur.

To celebrate Founder's Day on March 3, 2003, Tata Steel for the first time put up an exhibition on "Sir Dorabji Tata and its Philanthropic Institutions" in the Jubilee Park at Jamshedpur. The exhibition showcased the Tata Trusts as being 'universal' in their generosity without any distinction of place, nationality or creed. It was viewed by thousands of citizens who flocked to see Jubilee Park which was transformed into a "fairy-land" of lights.

Dr. Jamshed J. Irani and Mr. B. Muthuraman first saw the Exhibition at the Tata Central Archives in Pune and were eager to have it replicated in

Jamshedpur. The collection consisted of photographs from his childhood, the Tata family, Esplanade House- the residence of Sir Dorabji and Lady Tata, pictures of his priceless antique collection housed in the Prince of Wales Museum and the various philanthropic institutions .

The exhibition was inaugurated by Mr. Ratan N. Tata, Chairman, Tata Sons Limited who was accompanied by Dr. Jamshed J Irani, Mr. B. Muthuraman, Managing Director, Tata Steel, other members of the Board of Directors of Tata Steel and Tata Sons. Mr. Ratan N. Tata spent some time at the exhibition browsing through the exhibits and reminiscing an era gone by. He was particularly fascinated with old photographs of Esplanade House and thought Lady Meherbai Tata was both distinguished and beautiful. He also commented that the Tata Trust had truly created an infrastructure for the balanced development of the nation in Science, Technology, Social Science and Fine Arts.

The exhibition was displayed for the second time at the Centre for Excellence especially for school children who came in large numbers to see and appreciate it.

Continued from Page 3

He was an extraordinarily caring father. He was considered rather forbidding but he was warm hearted. He was a very disciplined person, but was prepared to make allowances for genuine problems. He could not tolerate any kind of slackness and excuses. He was also a source of inspiration to a lot of youngsters. Very often he used to ask us about our work at school. On one occasion he wanted to see my arithmetic book. He had a

particular suspicion that I had not solved a particular problem on my own and so he asked me a few questions, which I was unable to answer. He then asked me how I had solved the problem. I mentioned that I had copied it from someone else. He threw the book down and sent me away and said, "leave me".

He was happiest when he was working - work was his religion, his worship.

QUIZ

During World War II J. R. D. Tata got together a group of industrialists and technocrats to create a plan for the economic re-structuring of the country after the War. By what name was this plan known? One of the signatories of the plan was awarded the J. N. Tata Scholarship in 1905.

*The quiz is open to all, except employees of Tata Central Archives. Five correct answers by draw of lots will receive "T-shirts" from TCA. The answer should be forwarded by August 31, 2003 to the Tata Central Archives, Pune.

AN APPEAL

"We lay aside letters to read them again, and at last we destroy them out of discretion, and so disappears the most beautiful, the most immediate breath of life, irrecoverable for ourselves and for others."

-- Goethe

Do not let this happen to your company's archival records.

For further information contact Mr. H. Raghunath, Archivist, Tata Central Archives, Pune.