

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
Stuart Blackburn, Ph.D.

NARENDRANATH MITRA

Born 1917, Sadardih, Faridpur District, East Bengal, British India

Died 1975, Calcutta, West Bengal, India

Life

Narendranath Mitra born in the district of Faridpur, which is now in Bangladesh. He lost his mother when he was only four years old. (It is curious how many of the best Indian writers lost their mother at an early age). His father was a lawyer's clerk in a small-town. Mitra graduated from the local high school and then went on to take an intermediate degree at a college in Faridpur. Having received a First Class degree, he went to enrol for a BA at Bangabasi College in Calcutta. This was his first experience of living in the metropolis and it turned him into a writer, as we can see the influence of the 'big city' in many of his most famous stories. When he left college, he became a journalist but also tried writing poetry and stories. He found employment at the Dum Dum ordnance factory in Kolkata during the Second World War. After that, he joined Kolkata National Bank. His first publications were poems in small Bengali literary journals and periodicals, although he was soon also publishing short stories in both Bengali and English. Mitra joined the influential periodical *Ananda Bazar Patrika* in 1951, where he worked until his death in 1975. During his life, he managed to published 35 novels and a number of short story collections. His most famous novel, *Mahanagar (Big City)* was turned into a popular film by Satyajit Ray.

Achievements

Narendranath Mitra received the Ananda Pushkar Award for Bengali literature in 1961.

Select List of fiction works

Dwipunja (Body-Mind), 1946)

Rachanabali, 3 vols. (*Rambles*, 1956)

Mahanagar (The Big City), 1963)

The Shawl and Other Stories (1963)

Ras (Juice), 1967)

Tin Din Tin Ratri (Three Days, Three Nights), 1969)

Headmaster (1971)

