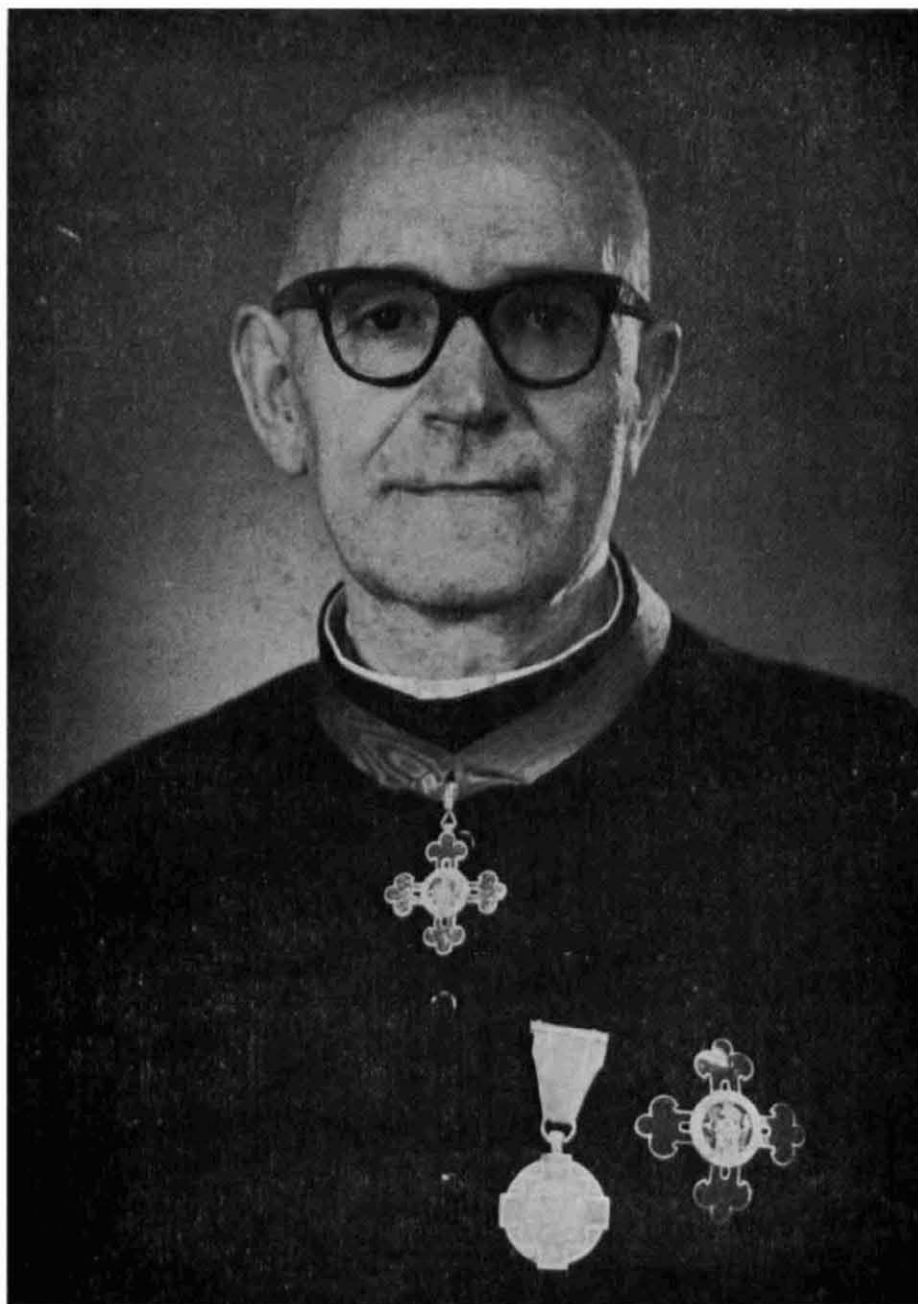


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DIRECTOR BOTANIST HONOURED



Rev. Fr. H. Santapau, SJ.
Director, Botanical Survey of India

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WITH the wake of the year 1967, on the 26th January, 1967 the President of India conferred on Rev. Fr. Dr. H. Santapau, S.J., Ph.D. (Rome), Ph.D. (Lond.), A.R.C.S., D.I.C., F.N.I., the coveted honour of the PADMA SHRI with all ceremonies attended to such a National award. In a matter of few months from this, on the 26th September, 1967, yet another honour crowned the Rev. Father in the International award of the ORDER OF ALPHONSO X. "THE WISE" by the Spanish Government at an august ceremony at the Spanish Embassy at New Delhi to the cheers of Government of India representatives, Diplomats and elites from various countries. Enthused by these unique distinctions that came in succession to the Spanish born Indian domiciled Botanist, I have been asked by numerous admirers and my colleagues and friends to communicate appropriately these happy events to provide opportunities for appreciation in wider circles. I have regarded this request as really a call of duty, especially in the context that with the reorganisation of the Botanical Survey of India, and the revival of the erstwhile vacant post of the Director of the Survey, I was the first officer to be privileged to be associated with Rev. Fr. Santapau who was appointed the first Director in the reorganised set up; and thus my humble tribute to this noble cause may not be inappropriate.

Indian Botany has seen a galaxy of scientific workers, and we recall with gratitude the great names of Sir William Roxburgh, Nathaniel Wallich, Sir William Griffith, Sir J. D. Hooker, Sir George King, Sir George Watt, J. S. Gamble, Birbal Sahni, M.O.P. Iyengar and Panchanan Maheshwari who had appeared on the Botanic horizon in India. To this radiant effulgence of Indian Botany is now infused yet a brilliant beam to give a harmonious and splendid spectrum.

As a Botanist and as a man, Rev. Fr. Santapau has his own qualities, supreme and unparalleled. Leaving his motherland at the prime of his youth, the Rev. Father came to India to serve our country with all the zeal he could command, and in the process of which he had his own prudence to opt for Indian citizenship, not that he liked his country less, but that he loved India more. The Rev. Father was not apprehensive of this change; for change in his case meant progress and progress is the law of life. His real life has throughout been intellectual and ecclesiastical, and what better and fuller documents can we have of that life than the succession of botanical treatises he is contributing to the world of Science. Faith in himself and faith in God—these form the dominant note in his character; and having them, he wants nothing else.

The Systematic Botany and Taxonomy of the more recent quarter of the century exhibit almost phenomenal energy and creative force through the works of Rev. Fr. Santapau, impelling thousands of botanists all over India, who hitherto have cared little for the

philosophy of Taxonomy, towards the proper end of true Taxonomy. Let us be ready to own, with becoming gratitude, the value of the services rendered by the Rev. Father on our behalf.

The path of a good man is indeed strewn with flowers. To Fr. Santapau work has borne a perennial nobleness and even sacredness; and mindful of his high calling, he has been working earnestly and strenuously in the great cause of service to science and service to country.

With a heart of gold, he is delighted in helping pupils and students and a large number of young depend on him for books, education and college career; yet his charity is unostentatious.

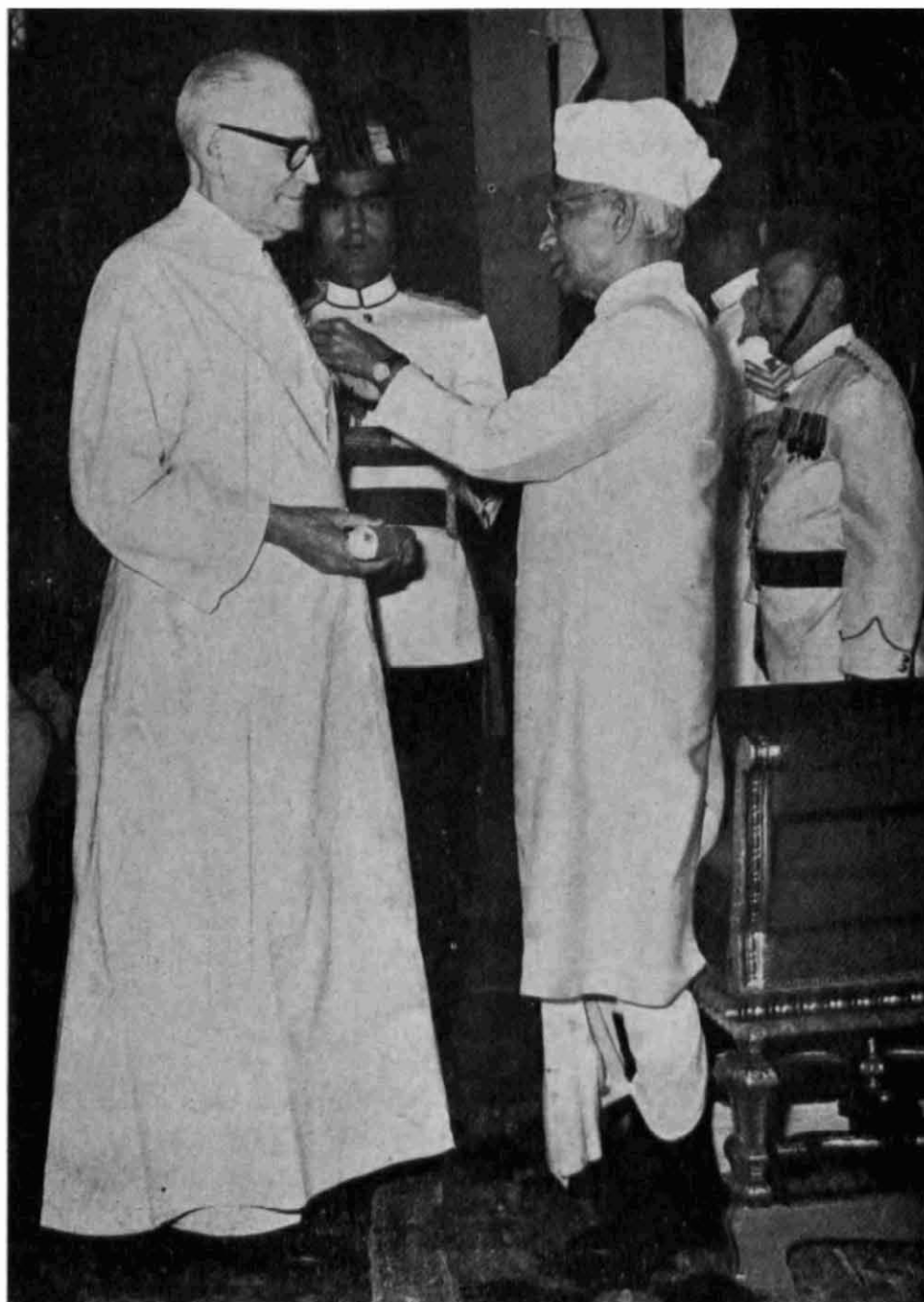
It is with pride and pleasure that I recognise that hereafter, successive generations of the Botanical Survey will be helped by this likeness to carry into the future the ideals of this great and distinguished Botanist whose knowledge and skill never fell short of the highest standard and who brought to the Botanical Survey and the world of Botany, light and colour, life and culture, warmth and sunshine.

“Fama Semper Vivat” in the Botanical Survey and in the country.

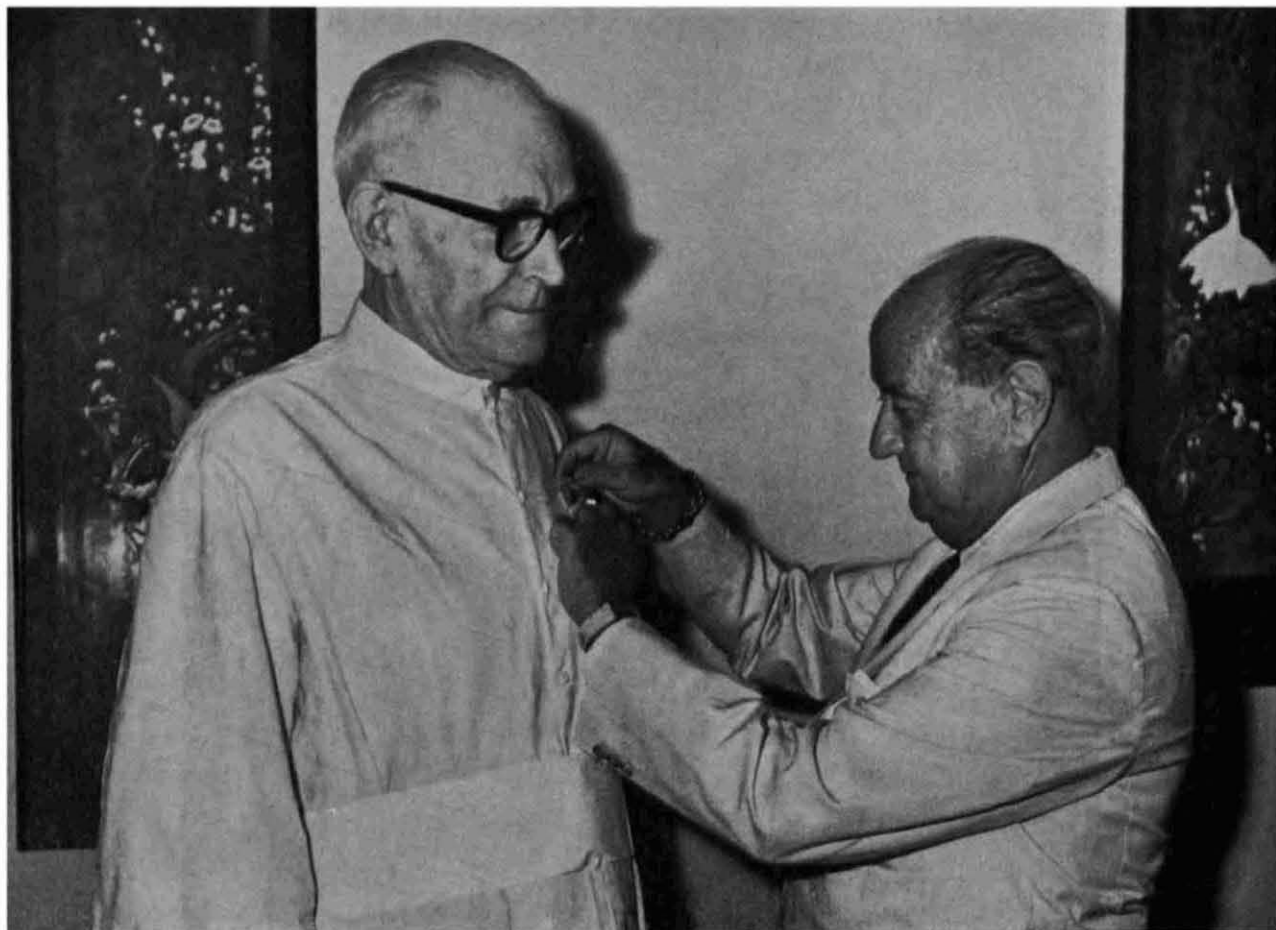
Calcutta
5th Oct. 1967

K. S. SRINIVASAN
*Dy. Director,
Botanical Survey of India*

At the request of numerous friends we have pleasure in reproducing herein the texts of the speeches on the occasion of the award of the Order of Alphonso X. “the Wise” to the Rev. Fr. Dr. H. Santapau.



His Excellency Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan,
President of India, conferring the PADMA SHRI on Rev. Fr. H. Santapau



His Excellency Ion Miguel Teus, Ambassador for Spain in India,
conferring the ORDER OF ALPHONSO X. "THE WISE" on Rev. Fr. H. Santapau

SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY ION MIGUEL TEUS
AMBASSADOR FOR SPAIN IN INDIA

Ladies and Gentlemen :

I am very glad indeed to have been able to gather this small group of representatives of the Government of India, the Catholic Church, the South American Countries and the Ministries of Education and External Affairs, here in the Embassy of Spain.

Father Santapau, the man whom we honour today, is the link between all of us. He was born in Spain and when he was a young boy, he entered a Catholic religious order, the Society of Jesus. Later on, as many other Spaniards have done and still do, he left his mother land, crossed the seas and went to another country to which he has given the best years of his life and his best efforts. This country was India and he came here nearly 40 years ago. Father Santapau's life has been devoted to education and scientific research in India and he has the most suitable background for this function. A Doctor in Philosophy from the Gregorian University of Rome, he became later on a Doctor in Botany from London University and also obtained the Diploma from the Imperial College of Science and Technology in London. His activities as a teacher in India started at St. Xavier's High School in Bombay but, after a few years there and a stay in London, he was shifted to St. Xavier's College in the University of Bombay. In 1954 he held for a year the office of Director of the Botanical Survey of India which he helped to re-establish after a long period of inactivity. In 1961 he was asked to take the same office again, the responsibilities of which he is still carrying. Father Santapau has published 10 books and more than 350 articles, and some of them have been translated into foreign and Indian languages.

When India became an independent country, Father Santapau had already been here for 20 years and, consequently, the links with this country had grown so strong that he became an Indian citizen in order to shoulder fully his part of the responsibility, no matter how small, in the scientific development of India. The sincerity of this decision and the success of his work in the field of education and scientific research, have been acknowledged by the Government of India which, in January 1967, distinguished him with the award of PADMA SHRI.

Spain was proud of Father Santapau's performance in his new country and that is why in April of this year the Spanish Government awarded him the Insignia of the ORDER OF ALPHONSO X. "THE WISE". This award has nothing to do with politics, it is given to those who have distinguished themselves in the fields of science, education, arts and literature. Alphonso X. "the Wise" was a king of Spain, in the Middle Ages, who organised his court in Toledo, where Christians, Muslims and Jews worked together in close co-operation and perfect harmony and tolerance, doing scientific and artistic work.

As an Ambassador of Spain and as a Spaniard, I want to tell you, Father Santapau, that your mother land is proud of you and will not forget you. May I present you, on

behalf of the Spanish Government, with this Award which is a small token of the respect that we all have for you on account of all that you have done for Spain and for India.

SPEECH BY REV. FR. DR. H. SANTAPAU

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen :

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I stand before you today. Gratitude of God that has given me so many opportunities of service and enough health to use them; to Spain, my mother country, to whom after God I owe everything; to the Society of Jesus who has given me my education, humanistic, scientific, moral and has instilled in me the ideals of loyalty and obedience and service that our founder Ignotius Loyala laid down as fundamental basis of his Society; to India, my country of adoption, and its government and people for their great goodness and kindness to me.

I joined the Society of Jesus in my youth in Spain, and after years of training in Spain and Britain, was posted to India. I reached Bombay in 1928 full of ideals and enthusiasm, ready to devote my life to the service of India; such ideals have kept alive in my heart with the passing of years. I have been engaged in education and research in the University of Bombay and other Universities of India. The last few years I have been engaged in administration as Director of the Botanical Survey of India and in guiding the research work of this department.

My contacts with students and officers of Botanical Survey of India have been very happy; I have found them eager to learn, loyal and friendly. I have tried to teach them not only science but also how to be better men and women, how to serve India with deeper and more sincere love and devotion.

To-day I feel happy with the distinction conferred upon me by the Government of Spain because I consider it a token of approval and blessing of Spain my mother country for my long and sincere efforts in education and scientific research in the service of India my country of adoption.