

1.2.1.1971

SHRI T. L. VENKATARAMA AIYAR

I present to you, Sir, Shri T.L. Venkatarama Aiyar.

Born in 1893 at Tirunelveli, Madras State, Shri Venkatarama Aiyar is the son of Mahamahopadhyaya M. Lakshamana Sastri, the well-known Sanskrit poet, who gave him a pandit's training in Sanskrit.

Sri Venkatarama Aiyar had his musical training from his cousin Gayakasikhamani Dr. L. Muthiah Bhagavathar, the well-known musician and composer and Shri Ambi Dikshitar, a scion of the family of the great composer, Muthuswami Dikshitar who taught him a large number of rare and magnificent kritis of Muthuswami Dikshitar.

He is one of the founders of the Music Academy and has taken an active part in the Annual Conference of Experts organised by the Academy. At present he is one of the Vice-Presidents of that body. In 1944 he presided over the Music Academi's Conference and had the title of *Sangita Kalanidhi* conferred on him.

He is the Vice-President of the Kalakshetra, Madras and the President of the Rasika Ranjani Sabha, Madras. He is the Chairman of the Board of Studies, Oriental Music, University of Madras and is a member of the Faculty of Music in the Banaras and Delhi Universities. Besides being a practical musician, Shri Venkatarama Aiyar has to his credit many papers on classical Carnatic music and its composers.

By profession, he was a distinguished member of the Judiciary.

For his learned and devoted services to Music, Shri Aiyar has been elected a Fellow of the Sangeet Natak Akademi.