

DR. H. D. KANGA MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Although the affairs of the library are controlled and administered by an independent management, its parentage is due to the Bombay Cricket Association. Further, the Association wields an indirect control over the Library as its Trustees, who form the main part of the permanent management and are appointed by the Bombay Cricket Association, whenever a vacancy arises caused by resignation or a death of a trustee. Even then, this is a loose control as the Trustees are only morally responsible to the Bombay Cricket Association. One, however, should not find fault with this system as it has worked very satisfactorily for the last 30 years.

The establishment of the Library was the direct result of the recommendations of the Dr. H. D. Kanga Memorial Fund Committee which in its report, to the Bombay Cricket Association has strongly recommended "the establishment of a Sports Library to be named "Dr. H. D. Kanga Sports Library". Arising out of these recommendations, the Managing Committee of the Association at its meeting held at the Governor's Pavilion, C.C.I. Ltd. **on 24th May 1950** appointed another sub-committee consisting of Messrs H. N. Contractor, V. M. Merchant and V. J. Divecha to purchase books up to the value of Rs. 6,500/- to begin with and prepare a scheme for the management of the Library. At the same meeting it was resolved" to request the Cricket Club India to allow the Association the use of a part of the dormitory in the north-east corner of the Stadium for the Library".

The Cricket Club of India duly obliged and that is how Dr. H. D. Kanga Memorial Library was founded in 1950, with the initial capital of Rs. 6,500/- provided by the Bombay Cricket Association upon the recommendations of the sub-committee appointed to prepare a scheme for the management of the Library, the Managing Committee appointed 4 permanent Trustees viz.

A. A. JASDENWALA, H. N. CONTRACTOR, V. J. DIVECHA AND V. M. MERCHANT

The Memorandum of Association and Rules of the Library, as prepared by the sub-committee were adopted by the Managing Committee on 11th October 1950 by virtue of which the Library would enrol members who would form a General Body of the Library and elect a Body of Management consisting of 3 members to conduct the affairs of the Library independently. The right of appointment of Trustees, however, as stated earlier was vested with the Association. As the General Meeting of the Library could not be convened at least for a year, the Association nominated Messrs A. J. Dossa, D. P. Thanawalla and J. B. Lakadawalla as the first 3 members to serve on the Body of management.

Shri H. N. Contractor was the life and soul of this Library. There is no doubt that the fullest praise is due to him for the tireless and devoted service he rendered to the Library continuously for 25 years. The Library celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 1975-76 in a fitting manner and soon after, due to old age and failing health, Shri H. N. Contractor retired from the Hon. Secretaryship of the Library, the position he had occupied since its very inception. Dr. Kanga Library is recognised as one of the finest Sports Libraries in India today because of the wide range of books and periodicals it stores on all types of games and sports.

Owing to the retirement of Shri A. A. Jasdenwala and demise of Shri V. J. Divecha the Association nominated Shri R. M. Dadachanji and Prof. M. V. Chandgadkar as the Trustees of the Library. They alongwith Shri V. M. Merchant and Shri H. N. Contractor, continue to hold the posts. Shri S. V. Kadam has taken over the Hon. Secretaryship from Shri A. J. Dosa who had a short one-year stint after the retirement of Shri Contractor as the Hony. Secretary. Shri A. J. Dossa, who is associated with the Library from its very inception, is a pillar of strength and no words would adequately describe his valuable contribution to the growth of the Library.

Another significant change has to be recorded, when the Bombay Cricket Association shifted its office to its new home in the year 1974, its library was also shifted from the north stand of the Brabourne Stadium to the premises owned by the Bombay Cricket Association. This was natural as the Library is the 'Child of the Association'.