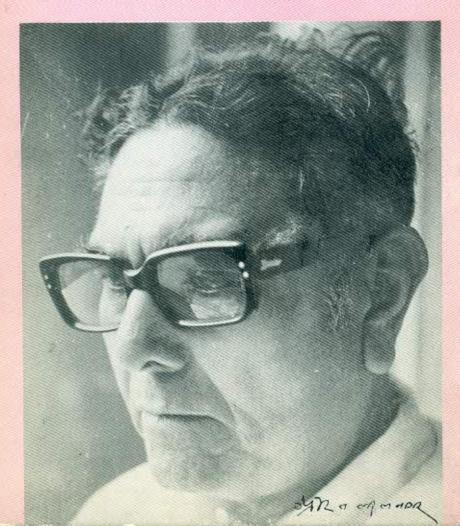




meet the author

Amritlal Nagar





Nagar receiving Sahitya Akademi Award from Zakir Husain, 1968

wenty years ago Amritlal received Nagar Sahitya Akademi Award for Amrit aur vish from the President Zakir Akademi Husain. For its wide sweep of imagination, its realistic portrayal, narrative power and vigour, the novel was hailed as an outstanding contribution to Hindi literature Sumitra Nandan Pant found Nagar's command of language complete. Hazari Prasad Dwivedi compared Nagar to Premchand.

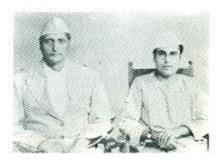
Barely thirteen, Amritlal Nagar burst into verse at the brutalities on the British non-violent demonstrators against the Simon Commission, but poetry did not hold him for long. He turned to fiction, wrote his first story, 'Prayaschit', at the age of fifteen and at nineteen published his first collection of short stories, Vatika. odd, the comic and the ugly stirred him to found Chakallas, and its weekly doses of humour and satire entertained and smarted the readers. Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi was all praise for this explosive but shortlived periodical.

Nagar read the western masters and translated some: Tolstoy, Chekhov, Doestoevsky, Balzac, Flaubert, Dumas, Maupasant and Dickens. The Bengal famine provoked the first sustained fictional venture of Nagar and Mahakal established his reputation as a novelist. He wrote twelve more novels, ranging from a hundred to seven hundred pages each. The fictional world of Nagar is remarkable for its historical range, imaginative reach and social grasp.

Suhag ke nupur is based llango Adigal's Silappadikaram, and is set two thousand years ago: Ekda naimisharanye is placed in the Gupta period of the 3rd century; Khanjan nayan recreates the 16th century presents the life of and Surdas; so does Manas ka hans, the story of Tulsidas; Sat ghunghatwala mukhda is set in the late 18th century, Shatrani ke mohre in the 19th century: and Karvat spans the 19th and the 20th century.

Nagar's imaginative sweep covers time and space, mingles fictional characters and historical personae, seizes the essence and emphasises the universal. The characters of bygone ages come alive and may be seen among the living, and sometimes the living in the fictitious.

He captures love in myriad manifestations: from adoles-



Nagar and Nirala, 1941

cent calf love through wholesome marriage, morbid, forbidden relationships to the repressed urges of the ageing. Whether man or woman, ruler or ruled, rich or poor, urban or rural, ancient or modern. Nagar's central concern is the individual and the society. Their conflict and confluence. the need to retain individual identity and to merge it in an everchanging society, are delineated by Nagar, as no other novelist has done before. It is perhaps for this reason that Boond aur samudra has been so widely acclaimed.

Nagar has experimented with form and style and



Nagar at his desk, 1976

achieved a remarkable success. Novel within novel, story within story, episode within episode, link him with the ancient Indian tradition and yet mark him apart. He is known for his vigorous style, which varies from place to place and character to character: Khanjan nayan is replete with an amazing variety of Braj, Bhojpuri and Avadhi: Seth bankemal uses the typical Agra boli. In faci the language of his fiction is so rich and varied that it is difficult for one who doesn't know him personally to tell what his own is.

Nagar's short stories have been collected in several volumes and present a realis-



Nagar and Bedi, 1963

tic and haunting picture of the middle class life of north India.

He has written over thirty plays and they have been successfully staged or broadcast. He has been honoured by the Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi for his contribution to the Hindi stage.

Gadarkephool, a unique survey of the 1857 revolution and Ye kothevalian, an inquiry into the lives of the prostitutes, are among Nagar's significant contribution to Hindi non-fiction.

Nagar worked with producers like Uday Shankar (Kalpana) and Kishore Sahu (Kuanra bap, Raja, Bahurani) and wrote dialogues and scenarios for many popular Hindi films: Uljhan, Paraya dhan, Kisi se na kahna, Gunjan, Sargam and Chor.

Born in a Gujarati family domiciled in Uttar Pradesh, Nagar has been gifted with a prolific pen and a keen sense of humour. He has published over sixty books so far and earned a secure place for himself in the history of Hindi literature.



Nagar and Rambilas Sharma, 1963

A Select Bibliography

NOVELS

- Agnigarвна. Delhi : Rajpal and sons, 1983. 150 p. 22 cm.
- AMRIT AUR VISH. Allahabad: Lokbharati Prakashan, 1966, 716 p. 18 cm. Translated into Malayalam.
- BIKHARE TINKE. Delhi: Rajpal and sons, 1982. 108 p. 21.5 cm.
- Boond Aur Samudra, Allahabad: Kitab mahal, 1956. Trafislated into several Indian languages and Russian.
- EKDA NAIMISHARANYE. Allahabad: Lok bharati, 1972, 576 p. 18 cm.
- KARVAT. Delhi: Rajpal and sons, 1985. 358p. 22 cm.
- KHANJAN NAYAN. Delhi: Rajpal and sons, 1981. 233 p. 22 cm.
- MAHAKAL. Allahabad : Bharati bhandar, 1947. 251 p. 18 cm.
- Manas Ka Hans. Delhi: Rajpal and sons, 1973. 441 p. Translated into Marathi, serialised in *Dharma Bhaskar*.
- Nachyo Bahur Gopal. Delhi : Rajpal and sons. 1978. 345 p. 22.5 cm. Translated into Oriya.
- SAT GHUNGHATVALA MUKHDA. Delhi: Rajpal and sons, 1968. 155 p. 18 cm.
- SHATRANI KE MOHRE. Varanasi: Bharatiya Jnanpith, 1968. 434 p. 18 cm. first published 1959.
- Suhag Ke Nupur. New Delhi : Ral kamal prakashan, 1976. 251 p. 18.5 cm. first published 1960. Translated into Marathi and Oriya.

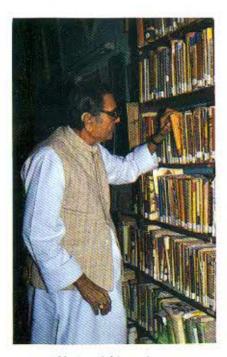
SHORT STORIES

- ADMI. NAHIN NAHIN. Agra: The author, 1947, iv. 41 p. 18 cm.
- Aтом Boмв. Ajmer: Dutt brothers, 1956.
- Avashesh. Lucknow: Sarasvati pustak bhandar, 1937. iv, 195 p. 18.5 cm.

- Ek Dil, Hazar Afsánen, Delhi : Rajpal and sons, 1986, 511 p. 22 cm. 75 stories, some of them previously unpublished.
- Ek Dit. Hazar Dastan. Lucknow: Pustak nikunj, 1955.
- PANCHVAN DASTA AUR SAAT ANYA KAHANIYAN, Allahabad : Lok bharati prakashan, 1970, 174 p. 18 cm.
- Pipal Ki Pari. Delhi: Sandhya prakashan, 1969. 110 p. 18.5 cm.
- Sikandar Har Gaya. Delhi: Rajpal and sons, 1973. 116 p. 18 cm.
- TULARAM SHASTRI. Allahabad: Bharati bhandar, 2nd ed. 1946. iv 127 p. 18.5 cm. first published in 1941.
- VATIKA. Lucknow: Ganga granthagar, 1935. viii, 84 p. 18 cm.

DRAMA

BAAT KI BAAT. Delhi: National publishing house, 1974. 108 p. Radio plays.



Nagar picking a book



Nagar, Viswanadha Satyanarayana and Madanlal Nagar

Chadhat Na Dulo Rang, Delhi : Rajpal and sons, 1982, 54 p. 18 cm. Play for Television.

CHAKKARDAR SIDHIYAN AUR ANDHERA. Delhi: National publishing house, 1978. Radio plays.

CHANDAN VAN. Delhi: National publishing house, 1976. 136 p. Radio plays.

Nukkab Par. Meerut : Kalpana prakashan, 1981, 95 p.

UTAR CHADHAY. New Delhi: National publishing house, 1978, 191 p. 18.5 cm. Radio plays.

YUGAVATAR. Delhi: National publishing house, 1973. 64 p.

HUMOUR AND SATIRE

Bharatputra Naurangilal. Delhi: Rajpal and sons, 1971. 162 p. 18.5 cm.

Снакашаs. Delhi: Rajpal and sons, 1986. 211 p. 22 cm.

HAM PHIDA & LUCKNOW. Delhi: Rajpal and sons, 2nd ed. 1975, 119 p.

KRIPAYA DAYEN CHALIYE. Delhi : Rajpal and sons, 1973. 107 p.

Meri Shreshtha Vyangya R achanaen. Delhi : Jnanbharati, 1985. 109 p.

Navabi Masnab Allahabad: Kitab mahal, 1954. 120 p. 18.5 cm. first published in 1939.

Seth Bankemal. Prayag: Kitab mahal, 1944.

TRANSLATIONS

Ankhon Dekha Gadar. Delhi : Rajpal and sons, 1986. 126 p. 22.5 cm. first published in 1957. Translation of Vishnubhatt godse's Maha Prayas.

візаті. Lucknow: Aravind prakashan, 1935. Stories of Maupassant.

Do Phakkab. Lucknow: N.K. Press, 1955. Translation of three Gujarati plays by K.M. Munshi.

KALA PUROHIT. Kashi : Pustak mandir, 1939. Chekhov's stories.

Prem Ki Pyas. Kashi: Pustak mandir, 1937. Translation of *Madame* Bouary; abridged.

OTHER WORKS

Charranya Mahaprabhu, Allahabad : Lok bharati prakashan, 1978. 142 p. Biography.

GADAR KE PHOOL. Delhi: Rajpal and sons, 1981. 242 p. 22 cm. Study of the 1857 revolt.

Jin Ke Sath Jiva Delhi: Rajpal and sons, 1973, 130 p. Memoirs of literary persons.

MERA PRAVAS. Bhagalpur : Sarada prakashan, 1947. 18 cm.

Sahitya Aur Sanskriti. Delhi : Rajpal and sons, 1986, 271p. 22 cm. Essays.

TUKADE TUKADE DASTAN, Delhi: Rajpal and Sons, 1986, 219 p 22 cm. Memoirs

YE KOTHEVALIAN. Allahhabad: Lok bharati prakashan, 1969. 213 p. 21.5 cm. On the problem of prostitution.



Nagar and the parrot, 1978

A Chronology

	Birth		972	
1929	Published a poem in the			conferred by the
	Lucknow daily Anand.			Hindi Sahitya Sammelan
1933	Matriculation; Meeting			Prayag; Madhya Pradesh
	with Sarat Chandra			Government Vir Singh
	Chattopadhyaya,			Dev Puraskar for
1935	- morror to or a chartest			Manas ka hans.
V.	first collection of	1		Chairman, Hindi Samiti,
4.	short stories.			Uttar Pradesh.
1938	Founded and edited a	1	974	U.P. State Award for
100	weekly of humour and			Manaskahans.
-1	satire, Chakallas.			Member, Advisory
1940	Left for a seven-year			Committee, All India
8	stay at Bombay,			Radio, Lucknow;
	Kolhapur and Madras as			Executive Vice Chairman,
	film-dialogue and		387	U.P. Sangeet Natak
.11	script writer.			Adademi.
1947	Mahakal, first novel	ı	976	Visit to Mauritius.
	published; Member,	- 1	977	AJR Golden Jubilee
	Presidium, IPTA.			Award.
1948	Return to Lucknow for	1	978	Dalmia Award for
	full-time writing.			Manas ka hans.
1953	Drama Producer,	1	980	U.P. Hindi Sansthan
(36)	All India Radio, Lucknow			Special Award
b .	for three years.	1	981	Padma Bhushan
1956	Boondaur samudra			conferred by the
CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE	published.			President of India.
1962	Visit to USSR.	1	984	Bharatiya Bhasha
1963	Premchand Puraskar for			Parishad Award for
	Suhag ke nupur.			Khanjan nayan.
1967		1	985	Publication of Karvat;
	for Amritaur vish.			Executive Member, Uttar
1970	Soviet Land Nehru Award			Pradesh Hindi Sansthan;
	for Amrit aur vish.			Vatuk Prasad Award and
1971	U.P. Sangeet Natak			Sudhakar Medal for
	Akademi Award			Boond aur samudra.
	, moderni tredici			



Printed at : Vimal Offset