

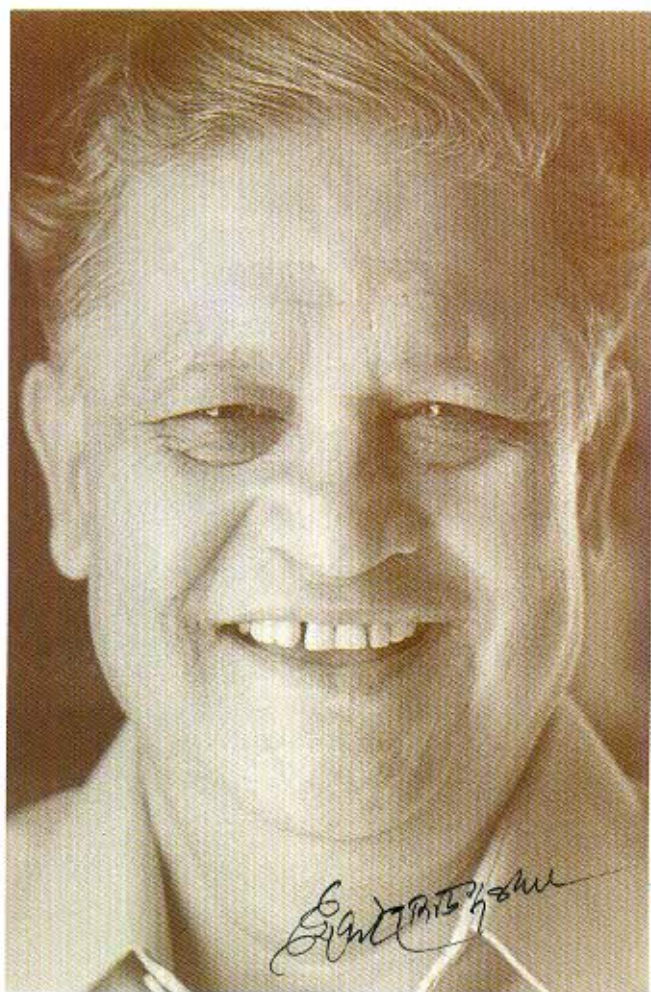
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Sahitya Akademi

meet the author

Vyankatesh Madgulkar





Vyankatesh Digambar Madgulkar made his debut as a writer around 1948 by writing brief sketches of typical rural characters. Some of them were developed as tidy narratives and appeared subsequently as *Mandeshi Manase* (Men from Mandesh) and *Gavakadachya Goshti* (Tales from my village). They stand as classic examples of realistic Marathi writing and are even now unequalled for their profound fidelity to the essentials of rural life and for their down-to-earth wisdom and restraint. Madgulkar writes uninhibited by outward compulsions, and as such his works acquire a high human dignity and aesthetic value rare in modern literature.

Madgulkar's basic concern as a writer is to show the working of the natural law in the world of human beings, vegetation, birds and animals. Impelled by this prime concern, he sculpts out his characters in their God-given milieu, keenly observes the ways of dumb creatures in their natural habitat, and describes faithfully the changing cycle and scenes of nature. His interest in folk life and literature, his love of old myths and fables, and his fascination for explorers and biological scientists and naturalist philosophers like Thoreau and Emerson spring from this urge. Yet he pauses

on this side of the mystical, though his loving tribute to his mother in 'Karunashtaka' has an element of the transcendental about it. He is with the scientist in his orderly observation of life and with the artist in his emotional and imaginative perception of its beauty and power. His language is simple but not matter-of-fact. It has the natural rhythm of the heart, the mythopoeic faculty of the early man, and a sense of humour tinged with suffering. His writings impress us as nature embodied in language.

Madgulkar has to his credit fourteen collections of short stories, six novels, six plays, four travel books and several film scripts. Born in a Brahmin family rooted in traditional Hindu culture, he spent his early life in his small village of Madgul in Aundha state. His father was minor state official with a small holding of land. The family was large and it was an ordeal for the parents to make both ends meet. The education of the children was patchy, and they grew moulded by the age-old mythology and religious poetry of the country. The young Vynkatesh left the High school, swept by the tides of the 1942 Freedom Movement and went underground for a time. Later, he made his mark through sheer talent and hardwork, pursuing his interests in painting, reading, farming and hunting. He worked as a Senior Producer at all India Radio also and virtually organized the rural programmes of A.I.R.

Madgulkar's novels are a distinct expression of his personality. His *Banagarwadi* is a candid account of the time spent by a young primary

teacher in a small village of shepherds. As he takes care of the school children, he quietly observes the life of the dumb animals and the moving cycle of nature. There are ups and downs in the fortunes of the village folk and time moves imperceptibly but relentlessly. The teacher has to leave the village at the end because the village is still too poor to afford a school. *Banagarwadi* is a minor classic of Indian village life. *Vavtal* depicts with the same restraint and penetration the days of the Freedom Movement of 1942. These two books have justly been selected for translation into other Indian languages apart from some foreign languages. *Sattantar* which won the author the Sahitya Akademi Award for the year 1983, has recently been translated into Russian. It attempts a different mode, that of symbolism, to recapitulate the inborn instincts of man descending from ape, his ancestor. The ape, like man, instinctively forms small power groups, rules over its territory, treats the female as its personal possession, and

indulges in group war and infighting much for the same reasons as the human race does.

Madgulkar's writing is implicitly autobiographical in the sense that it makes use of actual experiences and characters but there is no trace of self-indulgence in it. *Kovale Divas* is a first person narrative that draws upon many aspects of the author's own life. It is mainly an attempt to trace the development of his creative urges and pursuits from the days of his childhood spent amidst much unavoidable poverty and great scenic beauty of an Indian village. The undercurrent of sensibility trying to achieve self-identification is the distinguishing mark of this work. It does not propagate a set ideology, but tends to believe in a humanitarian order which should abide when the din and dust of ideologies settle down.

Madgulkar wrote scripts for nearly thirty Marathi films amongst which *Sangate Aika* created a record, running for several weeks in many cities. His scripts are distinguished by realism in construction and dialogue. He has written four full-fledged plays, and his scripts for folk performances, called 'Wagas': 'Tu Veda Kumbhar', 'Pati Gele ga Kathewadi' and 'Bin Biyache Zad' have achieved outstanding success.

Madgulkar's travelogues and descriptions of forest hunts like *Pandhari Mendhare Hiravi Kurne* and collections of miscellaneous creative writing like *Chitre ani Charitre* have won high applause.

Vyankatesh Madgulkar stands, indeed, as an ideal of classical realism in literary art.



with grand daughter



A Select Bibliography

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- HASTACHA PAUS.** Baroda. Abhiruchi Prakashan, 1953. 119p. 21.5 cm.
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- NAGZIRA.** Pune: Shrividya Prakashan, 1979. 96p. 21.5 cm.
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Novels

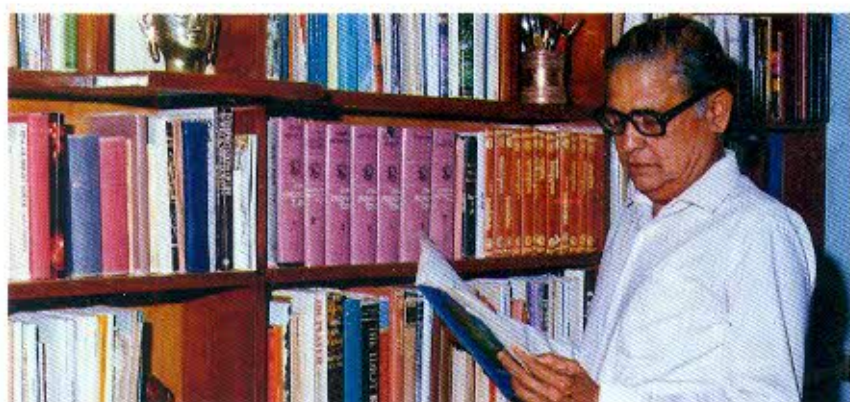
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- BANGARWADI.** Bombay: Mauj Prakashan, 1955. 100p. 21.5 cm.
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- KARUNASHTAK.** Pune: Utkarsha Prakashan, 1982. 240p. 21.5 cm.

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- BIN BIYACHE JHAD.** Pune: Chitrashala Prakashan, 1955. 48p. 21.5 cm.
- KUNACHA KUNALA MEL NAHI.** Bombay: Rashtra Seva Dal, 1960. 36p. 18.5 cm.
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Travelogues

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Madgulkar in his study

Features

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Teen Mule	1954
Mee Tulas Tujhya	
Aangani	1955
Bhalyachi Duniah	1955
Dhakti Jau	1958
Sangatye Aika	1959
Rangapanchami	1960
Sakhya Savara Mala	1960
Manini	1960
Vaijayanta	1960
Bhagya Lakshmi	1962
Sukha Ale Majhya Dari	1962
Chota Jawan	1963
Tu Sukhi Raha	1963
Kai Ho Chamatkar	1964
Deva Tujhi Sonyachi	
Jejuri	1967
Nandini	1969
Mukkam Post	
Dhebewadi	1969
Aai Ahe Shetat	1970
Dhartichi Lekare	1970
Aai Ude Ga Ambabai	1971
Nate Jadale Don	
Jivanche	1971
Paij	1980
Pori Jara Japun	1981



with ALDERMAN H.F. JENSEN, Lord Mayor of Sydney 1959

A Chronology

- 1927 Birth
- 1943 Joined 1942 Quit India Movement
- 1946 First short story 'Kalya Tondachi' was published in monthly 'Abhiruchi'.
- 1947 Awarded first prize in a short story competition conducted by 'Abhiruchi' for the story entitled 'Deva Satawa Mahar'.
- 1955 First novel 'Banagarwadi' was published. Joined All India Radio as producer, Rural Broadcasting, Govt. of Maharashtra Literary Award to the book entitled 'Gavakadchya Gosti'.
- 1958 Govt. of Maharashtra Literary Award to Banagarwadi. President, Zilla Sahitya Sammelan, Mangalvedha.
- 1959 Govt. of Maharashtra Literary Award to 'Jambhalache Diwas' Deputed to Australia by the department of Broadcasting to study rural broadcasting in Australia. Govt of Maharashtra Literary Award to 'Ghardar'.
- 1961 Govt. of Maharashtra Literary Award to 'Umbartha'.
- 1968 Govt. of Maharashtra Literary Award to 'Sati'.
- 1969 Visited France.
- 1974 President, Audumbar Sahitya Sammelan. Chairman, Literary works selection committee for State Award for Outstanding Published works.
- 1975 Member of Advisory Board for Marathi, Sahitya Akademi. President Gomantak Sahitya Sammelan.
- 1979 President, Grameen Sahitya Sammelan, Vita.
- 1981 Visited Seoul to attend the International Drama Festival, for which his play 'Sati' was selected. Nominated as Member Sahitya Sanskriti Mandal by Govt. of Maharashtra.
- 1982 Exhibition of his sketches was arranged in Balgandharva Kala Dalan, Pune.
- 1983 President, Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan 'Ambajogai'. Sahitya Akademi Award to Sattantar. N.C. Kelkar Award to Karunashtak. President, Maharashtra Sahitya Sabha, Indore.
- 1984 Invited to England and U.S.A. at the publication ceremony of 'Kumpanapalikadche Shet' an anthology.
- 1985 Appointed as Honorary professor of Sociology, University of Poona. Retired as Senior Producer from All India Radio, Poona.
- 1986 G.D. Madgulkar Award for significant contribution to Marathi Cinema.
- 1989 Nominated as member of Sahitya Sanskriti Mandal, Govt. of Maharashtra.