

3-1-2020

Harkishan Singh: Views and Reviews

Shrinivas K. Kulkarni
skkulkarni46@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: <https://impressions.manipal.edu/mjps>

Recommended Citation

Kulkarni, Shrinivas K. (2020) "Harkishan Singh: Views and Reviews," *Manipal Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*: Vol. 6 : Iss. 1 , Article 11.

Available at: <https://impressions.manipal.edu/mjps/vol6/iss1/11>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the MAHE Journals at Impressions@MAHE. It has been accepted for inclusion in Manipal Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences by an authorized editor of Impressions@MAHE. For more information, please contact impressions@manipal.edu.

Harkishan Singh: Views and Reviews – 4

Shrinivas K Kulkarni

Email: skkulkarni46@gmail.com

Professor Harkishan Singh, Panjab University, Chandigarh is a well-known medicinal chemist by profession, who is now known as a historian of eminence. In the last three decades, i.e., after superannuation, he has dedicated his life in researching and documenting the history of pharmacy in India and other contemporary developments of the profession, its practices, men, institutions and industries. His works have been extensively published in professional journals in India. But the Association of Pharmaceutical Teachers of India (APTI) has taken the yeoman's task of compiling his works in the form of "volumes" for posterity.

The present "Volume-4" is the latest (2019) in the series. It is divided into 17 chapters covering nearly 170 pages. For one who has closely followed Professor Singh's works, most of the pages of the Volume 4 are earlier published elsewhere but the chapter 1 "Making of an archival collection and its utilization" gives his personalized account of how he began his journey of researching and documenting the history of science in general and pharmacy in particular—a painstaking journey for a retired University Professor. He documents year wise or step by step (1998-1994; 1995-97; 1998-2000; 2001-08; 2009-11; and the rest) journey, though some of it has been covered in as many of his earlier articles. The historical aspects of drugs and pharmacy statutes, status of Indian pharmaceutical industries, the unsung heroes of pharmacy including some Britishers who contributed to drug industry have been aptly covered, something Universities do not

teach in their curriculum. It is evident from the description that the author has derived inspirations from stalwarts like Professor G P Srivastava, Professor M L Schroff, Professor Ramanath Chopra and the likes. In the digital world, the old titles or even the existing Indian Journals have lost their relevance as they have not kept up with times, much to be blamed on the Indian academia. But one thing I have observed is that in his selection of individuals, his prerogative, at places misses, "set him/her in the context of time" (page13). Interesting enough, he writes about three contemporary Indian professionals (late D K Jain, B D Miglani and P R Pabrai) and about one living legend (nonagenarian P C Dandiya). The volume has been dedicated to late Mrs Gian Kaur, the lady behind the committed scientist and historian.

The publishers, APTI, Bengaluru deserve rich compliments for their efforts to bring out such invaluable works to the attention of the profession. The book is recommended for the University libraries, more so to libraries of Pharmaceutical institutions, a valuable collection.

Shrinivas K Kulkarni

*Emeritus Professor of Pharmacology and Former
Pro-Vice Chancellor (DUI) (PU)
404, Queens Court Apts. Vaccine Depot Road
Tilakawadi, Belgaum 590006, Karnataka State, India*

How to cite this article: Kulkarni S K. Harkishan Singh: Views and Reviews – 4. *MJPS* 2020; 6(1): 66.