

## Prof. William Radice

William Radice has pursued a double career as a poet and as a scholar and translator of Bengali, and has written or edited more than thirty books. His latest books include three for Penguin India: a fully introduced and annotated translation of Michael Madhusudan Dutt's *Meghnadbadh kabya* (2010), *Rabindranath Tagore, The Jewel That Is Best: Collected Brief Poems* (2011), and a new translation of Tagore's *Gitanjali* (2011). His translations include *Selected Poems and Selected Short Stories of Tagore* for Penguin Books, both of which have been reprinted many times. He has given numerous lectures and poetry readings in Britain, India, Bangladesh, North America, Germany and many countries in Europe, and his prizes and honours include the Ananda Puraskar (1986), an honorary D.Litt from Assam University (2007), an Honorary Fellowship at the Bangla Academy in Dhaka (2007) and the title 'Rabindra Tattwacharya' from the Tagore Research Institute in Kolkata (2009).

William Radice gained a D.Phil in Bengali Literature at Oxford in 1987 for a thesis on Michael Madhusudan Dutt, and in 1988 became a lecturer in Bengali language and literature at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. From 1999 to 2002 he was Head of the Departments of South and South East Asia. In 2005 he went part-time at SOAS, to allow more time for writing. He retired from SOAS in August 2011.



## Dr. Reba Som

Reba Som was educated at Presidency College, Calcutta and received the university gold medals for standing first in first class both at graduation and post graduation. She took her Ph.D from Calcutta University. Currently Regional Director of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Kolkata's cultural flagship, Rabindranath Tagore Centre, she has been the recipient of the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship in 2000. Her publications include *Differences within Consensus: The Left-Right Divide in the Congress 1929-39*, (Orient Longman, New Delhi, 1995); *Subhas Chandra Bose and the Resolution of the Women's Question*, 2002, (Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi), *Gandhi, Nehru and Bose: The Making of the Modern Indian Mind*, (Penguin, New Delhi, 2004) and *Rabindranath Tagore: The Singer and his Song* (Penguin, New Delhi 2009). Reba Som is also a trained singer of Rabindrasangeet. Her compact disc, *Selected Songs of Rabindranath Tagore* (III Millenno, Rome, Italy 2003 and Saregama – India, May 2004) includes her English translations and transliteration of Tagore's lyrics.



## Prof. Asoke Bhattacharya

Asoke Bhattacharya was educated at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, and joined Jadavpur University in 1984 and became Director of Adult, Continuing Education and Extension Centre in 1987. He engineered one of the most vigorous continuing education programme of the country offering more than forty courses per annum and enrolling around 1000 students each year.

The Centre under his guidance received the Unesco-National Literacy Mission award in 1999 for outstanding contribution in the field of literacy. In 2008, he was selected for Erasmus Mundus Scholarship of the European Union. He visited many countries of the world including Denmark, Sweden, U.K., Germany, USA, Canada, France, Portugal, Italy, Malta, New Zealand etc.

He is now honorary fellow and Co-Ordinator of Lifelong Learning Project of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS) in Kolkata, an Institute of repute under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. He has written several books on education and a large number of articles. He specializes on Tagore's concept of Lifelong Learning.

