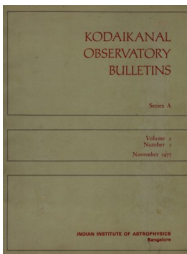


Bappu at IIA, Bangalore

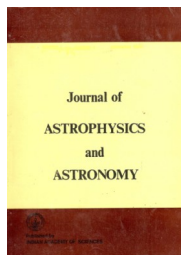
Bappu chose the present location at Koramangala, Bangalore for setting up the Institute and the laboratories way back in 1972.

He laid special emphasis in developing a strong theoretical group in various topics in astronomy in addition to creating an observatory which could match any leading astronomical centre of the world in its capability to achieve results in observational astronomy.



Bappu revived the Kodaikanal Observatory Bulletin Series A, to publish the findings of scientific and technical works done at IIA.

He was the founding editor of the Journal of Astrophysics and Astronomy started in 1980 by the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore.



Bappu at the 1980 Total Solar eclipse camp at Jawalgera.

Bappu had a great love for nature and the beautifully laid gardens in Bangalore and Kavalur stand testimony to his interest.

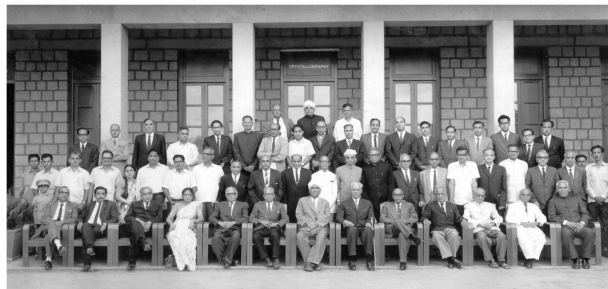


Uranus with its rings painted by Dr. M K V Bappu



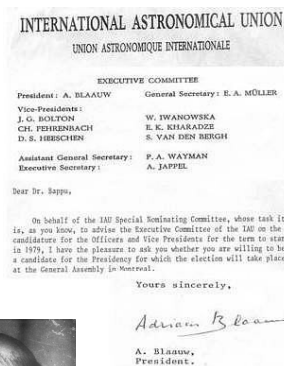
Awards and Honors

Bappu received several awards and honors during his career.



Fellows, Indian Academy of Sciences 1970, Bangalore
(Courtesy: IAS Archives, Bangalore)

He was elected as President of IAU in 1979. It was an international recognition of his pioneering role in reviving optical astronomy in India.



Bappu receiving Padma Bhushan award from President Sanjeeva Reddy in 1981



Prime minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi names the 2.3m telescope after M K Vainu Bappu.

From IIA Archives



It is truly said that the greatness of an institution is the achievement of the individuals associated with it.
M K Vainu Bappu

A glimpse of the exhibits on display at the Library, IIA, Bangalore on Founder's day.

10 August, 2010



Library
Indian Institute of Astrophysics
Bangalore

Remembering Bappu

Remembering Bappu

Early days



Vainu Bappu was born on Aug 10, 1927 in Madras. He spent his early years in Hyderabad.

Bappu joined Nizam's College at Hyderabad in 1942. While he was there, he was instrumental in running the college magazine and organizing other scientific activities.



1943 - Taken with the class of B.Sc. degree when Prof. C. V. Raman visited Nizam College Hyderabad. Vainu Bappu was the Secretary of the Science Union B.Sc. degree.

Hyderabad to Harvard



In 1949, Bappu received a Government of Hyderabad scholarship to pursue his doctoral studies at Harvard University, USA. Within two months of arrival at Har-

vard, he discovered a comet during a routine sky observation, which was named Bappu-Bok-Newkirk comet. He received his doctorate in astronomy in a record time.



Harvard Tyro Finds Comet

By the Associated Press
Harvard, Mass.
Imagine taking up astronomy and then, on your first night as an observer, discovering a new comet! That's what happened to M. K. Vainu Bappu, a Harvard University graduate student from Hyderabad, India, when he came

In 1951, Bappu was awarded the prestigious Carnegie Fellowship to work at Mt Wilson and Palomar observatories in California. There in collaboration with Olin Wilson he studied the emission reversals in the ionized calcium H & K lines in late type star. His observation revealed a linear relationship between width of the Ca II K emission and the absolute magnitude in the stars. The seminal paper on the subject was published in 1957 and the relationship came to be known as the Wilson-Bappu effect.



1957 with Dr S.D. Sinhal and other staff

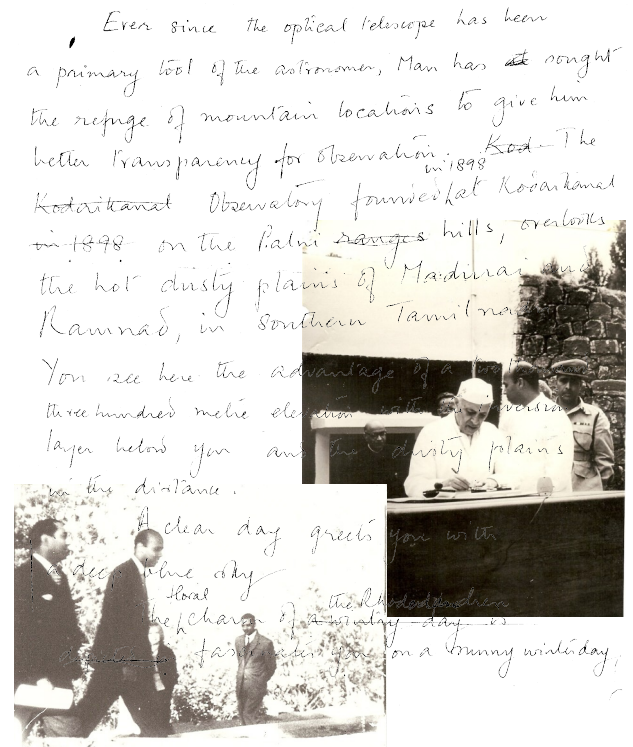
In 1953 Bappu returned to India and a year later joined UPSO, Varanasi as chief astronomer. Bappu was responsible for choosing Manora Peak near Nainital as the suitable location for the observatory in 1955. He also led an expedition to observe the total solar eclipse of 1955 in Sri Lanka. Under his guidance UPSO became a well-established observatory.

Bappu in Kodaikanal

Bappu left Nainital on April 1, 1960 when he was offered the directorship of Kodaikanal Observatory.

He worked towards modernization of the existing solar telescope and other observational facilities in Kodaikanal. Due to his efforts, the observatory attained autonomy in 1971 and came to be known as the Indian Institute of Astrophysics. He was also instrumental in establishing the Gauribidanur Radio telescope in collaboration with Raman Research Institute.

During his Directorship at Kodaikanal many ministers and important dignitaries like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prof. Homi Bhabha, and Prof. S. Chandrashekar visited the observatory.



From Palani hills to Javadi hills

KAVAZUR in the Javadi Hills of Tamilnadu, where the lone eagle soars high in the clear sky, the peacock struts glamorously in her surroundings, and where astronomers of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics probe the mysteries of the universe.

