

H(aobam) ATOMBA SINGH

b.1873 - d. ~~1946~~ dli 2.1975

Award 1958

Dance: Manipuri

Sir,

I have the honour to present to you Guru Haobam Atomba Singh, a foremost exponent of the Manipuri style of dancing.

Born in a family of dancers and dance teachers Shri Atomba Singh took to dancing at an early age. He had his training under all the great and eminent Gurus of Manipuri dancing and music, is a repository of the time-honoured tradition of Ras dancing.

He was selected by his Guru Jhoolan Singh to assist him in training dancers of a troupe which the late Maharaja Shri Chura Chand Singh sent to Calcutta on the occasion of the visit of the Prince of Wales. As a teacher and leading member of the troupe Guru Atomba Singh toured various parts of Bengal and Assam. Gurudev Tagore invited him to Shanti Niketan where he taught dancing for about three years.

Later he taught dancing at various institutions in Calcutta, Shillong and other places. Guru Atomba Singh is at present on the staff of the Central College of Dance, Manipur.

For his pre-eminence in Manipuri dancing and life long service to its cause, I pray, Sir, that you may be pleased to grant him recognition as dancer of the year in the field of Manipuri style, and to award to him a brocade *Angavastram*, a gold *Mala*, and a *Sanad* in token of that recognition.