ORIGINAL LETTER FROM V. RAMASWAMI AIYER SOLICITING SUPPORT FROM FELLOW MATHEMATICS LOVING PERSONS FOR ESTABLISHING "THE ANALYTIC CLUB" AND THE LIST OF 20 FOUNDING MEMBERS

V. RAMASWAMI AIYAR

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PROGRESS REPORT.

1. *The Founder of Our Society.*—The honor of being the Founder of our Society belongs to Mr. V. Ramaswami Aiyar (whose photo accompanys the present number of the Journal), now Special Deputy Collector of Ramnad. His first letter proposing the formation of the Society, dated 25th December 1906, is contained in his letter, dated 3rd April 1907, announcing the formation of the Society under the name ' *The Analytic Club.*' The latter was published in the leading Madras dailies of the 4th April 1907 ; and it is but fitting that we place it on record in the pages of our Journal. It will be observed from the dates, that our Society has just completed the twelfth year of its existence. The discovery of Mr. S. Ramanujan, B. A., F. R. S., one of the greatest living Mathematicians of the world, marks this period of its life. The founder of the Society devoutly hopes that the objects with which the Society was formed will be fulfilled to a greater degree in the future periods of its existence, and expects that all members will unite their best endeavours in the realization of this hope. The letter announcing the formation of the Society is printed below.

2. *Mr. S. Ramanujan, F. R. S.* This distinguished Mathematician has returned to Madras in somewhat indifferent health, after a prolonged stay at Cambridge. By his unique mathematical talents and by the amount of useful and original work, he has raised India in the estimation of the outside world. We extend our most cordial welcome to him and most fervently pray that he may be soon restored to his full vigour to prosecute his glorious work in the scientific world. The committee hope to show their mark of appreciation further by a suitable announcement in the next issue of the Journal.

3. *Mr. T. J· Mirchandani B. A., B. Sc.*—Demonstrator, D. J. S. College, Karachi, has been elected a member of our Society.

POONA,   D. D. KAPADIA,

1st April 1919.   *Hon. Joint Secretary.*

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Mr. V. Ramaswamiaiyer's Letter, dated 3rd April 1907.

Sir,—I recently sent a proposal to some gentlemen interested in mathematics suggesting the formation of a small Mathematical Society. The proposal ran as follows :—

Sir,—I believe several friends interested in Mathematics have felt the present lack of facilities for seeing mathematical periodicals and books. This is a very great disadvantage we are suffering,

I propose therefore that a few friends may at once join and form a small Mathematical Society and subscribe for all the important Mathematical periodicals and, as far as possible, for all important books in Higher Mathematics.

We may call the Society "The Analytic Club" for the present, and have it in view to give it a broader basis with a suitable name by and by.

Our work immediately will be to obtain all the important periodicals and new books and circulate them to members. I shall be glad to undertake the duties of Secretary for the first year and do my best to promote the object in view.

If half a dozen members can be counted upon to join immediately and each subscribe Rs. 25 per annum, we shall be able to make a good start. The Annual Subscription may perhaps be somewhat less, say, if a dozen members can be had ; but even a dozen members paying Rs. 25 per annum would not suffice to enable the Club to obtain the more important books appearing every year. I propose therefore that the subscription be Rs. 25 per annum,

It appears to me necessary also that members should be prepared for a further sacrifice, and I propose that each member should send the journals and books he receives on to the next, and the last to the Secretary, at his own cost. This in effect would be to add about Rs· 5 more to one's subscription. I hope friends interested in mathematics will not consider this a too heavy sacrifice—at any rate initially, in giving the Club a start.

Will you kindly write to me if you are in favour of the proposal ? In case you are, I request you will send me your subscription of Rs. 25 for 1907, as early as possible, so that we may make a start at once.

This is only a tentative scheme and we may try it for a year and then introduce necessary changes.

I propose to consider the Club formed as soon as three friends have agreed to the proposal, making with me four members. Thereafter all business requiring determination by the Club can be done by circulation. Requesting the favour of an early reply. I remain, Sir, yours truly,

<div align="right">(Signed) V. Ramaswami Aiyar.</div>

2. In response to this proposal (which I was able to send only to a very limited number of persons) the undermentioned have written to me consenting to become members of the proposed Society :

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Messrs :

R. N. Apte, M.A., LL. B., F.R A.S., Prof. of Math., Rajaram College, Kolhapur.

M. V. Arunachala Sastri, M. A., Assistant Professor, Nizam's College, Hyderabad.

K. Chinnatambi Pillai, B.A., Assistant Professor, Christian College, Madras.

B. Hanumanta Rao, B.A., Prof. of Mathematics, College of Engineering, Madras.

D. K. Hardikar, B.A., Professor of Mathematics, Nizam's College, Hyderabad.

G. Kasturiranga Aiyangar, M.A., Lecturer, Maharajah's College, Mysore.

B. Krishnamachari, M.A., Asst. Superintendent, Accountant-General's Office, Madras.

A. V. Kuttikrishna Menon, M. A., Teachers' College, Saidapet.

V. Madhava Rao, M.A., Prof. of Mathematics, Maharaja's College, Vizianagaram.

M. T. Narayana Aiyangar, M A , Prof. of Mathematics, Central College, Bangalore.

R. P. Paranjpye, B. SC., M.A., Principal and Professor of Mathematics, Fergusson College, Poona.

R. Ramachandra Rao, B. A., Collector of Kurnool.

K. J. Sanjana, M A., Principal and Professor of Mathematics, Samaldas College, Bhavnagar, Kathiawar.

P. V. Seshu Aiyar, B.A., Lecturer, Government College, Kumbhakonam.

S. P. Singaravelu Mudaliar, B A., Asst. Professor of Mathematics, Christian College, Madras.

R. Swaminatha Aiyar, B.A., Treasury Deputy Collector, Coimbatore.

T. R. Venkataswami Nayudu, B A., Professor of Mathematics, Maharaja's College, Mysore.

K. Krishnan Nayar, B.A., B.C.E., District Board Engineer, Mangalore.

S. A. Subramania Aiyar, B.A, B.C.E., Executive Engineer, Madras P. W. D., Madanapalli.

With me it makes 20 members.

3. I beg to declare on behalf of all those that have joined, that the Society is now formed, under the proposed name "The Analytic Club" for the time being; and I shall be its Secretary provisionally.

4. My thanks are due to the gentlemen who have joined, for the support they have given me in starting the Club. The membership has already exceeded my modest anticipations, and many more, I think, will be joining. This renders some changes and a better organization at once necessary. I shall soon be submitting to members proposals for a simple Constitution for the Society according to which the affairs of the Society will be managed by a committee consisting of a President, a few

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office-bearers and some additional members. From the support that I have received in this respect also, I feel we shall have a Committee giving the greatest possible confidence.

5.   I think, the Society should now aim at being a combination of all Professors, Assistant Professors and Lecturers, and men of like interest in Mathematics or in the promotion of Mathematical study, in whatever province of India, with a view to the creation of a Central Mathematical Library from which members can obtain all mathematical, including astronomical, books and journals through the post. Every journal should be sent in circulation to members who have made a general application for the same; and every book and journal should be sent to members on special application, as often as applied for. All this, of course, subject to rules that shall be made in this behalf.

6.   If this conception of the immediate aims of the Society be approved, our Library should preferably be in a place which is postally a good centre for all India. In this respect, Poona is, next to Bombay, the most central place for all India. It is practically Bombay as regards the rest of India and it is a centre as regards Bombay Presidency itself. Further, I am glad to be able to mention that Prof. Paranjpye will be willing to take charge of the Library, provision being made for the discharge of purely mechanical work through Assistant Librarians. My draft constitution will be found to provide for this. I trust Madras members will endorse my suggestions and show their full appreciation of the reasons which make Poona, which contains that noble institution, the Fergusson College, so felicitous a centre for our Society. Further, by voting Poona as our centre, we Madrassees will convince the rest of India that we do not look at the matter from a purely provincial point of view. And it is my deep hope that a combination formed on these lines may be of fruitful consequences in the future.

7.   Further, we shall have to get more than one copy of most books, and journals, and probably several copies of some journals, for the sake of convenience. This being the case, some of the extra copies we get can be placed in Branch Libraries in Madras, Allahabad, &c., as membership extends, so that members in these Provinces may get them quicker on their application.

8.   The subscription of Rs. 25 has been felt heavy by some of those whom I addressed. Among the provisions in the draft constitution that I shall submit, will be one enabling the Committee to reduce the subscription in the case of any particular member to Rs. 15, and to continue this concession as long as they deem fit. I trust that this provision will be passed and that it will sufficiently meet all cases where such encouragement may be necessary. The scheme ought to be taken advantage of, more specially by the younger gentlemen interested in mathematics, many of whom will be the future occupants of the mathematical chairs of our colleges,—and I hope none of them will feel deterred from applying for membership at once.

9.   Intending members will communicate with the undersigned.