

BENGAL SCHOOL PAINTED POSTCARDS

Painting on postcards sent to Pulin Behari Sen

Curator's Note

Communication has undergone a revolutionary transformation over the last two centuries. Today, we live in an era of instant messaging through email and texting. However, there was a time when handwritten letters were the only form of communication. These letters, though often delayed, carried a deep sense of personal attachment and emotional resonance.

As with everything in our world, the art of letter-writing also evolved. In the late 19th century, postcards became the new norm for communication. Postcards often featured illustrations or photographs, introducing a new form of storytelling and memory-sharing.

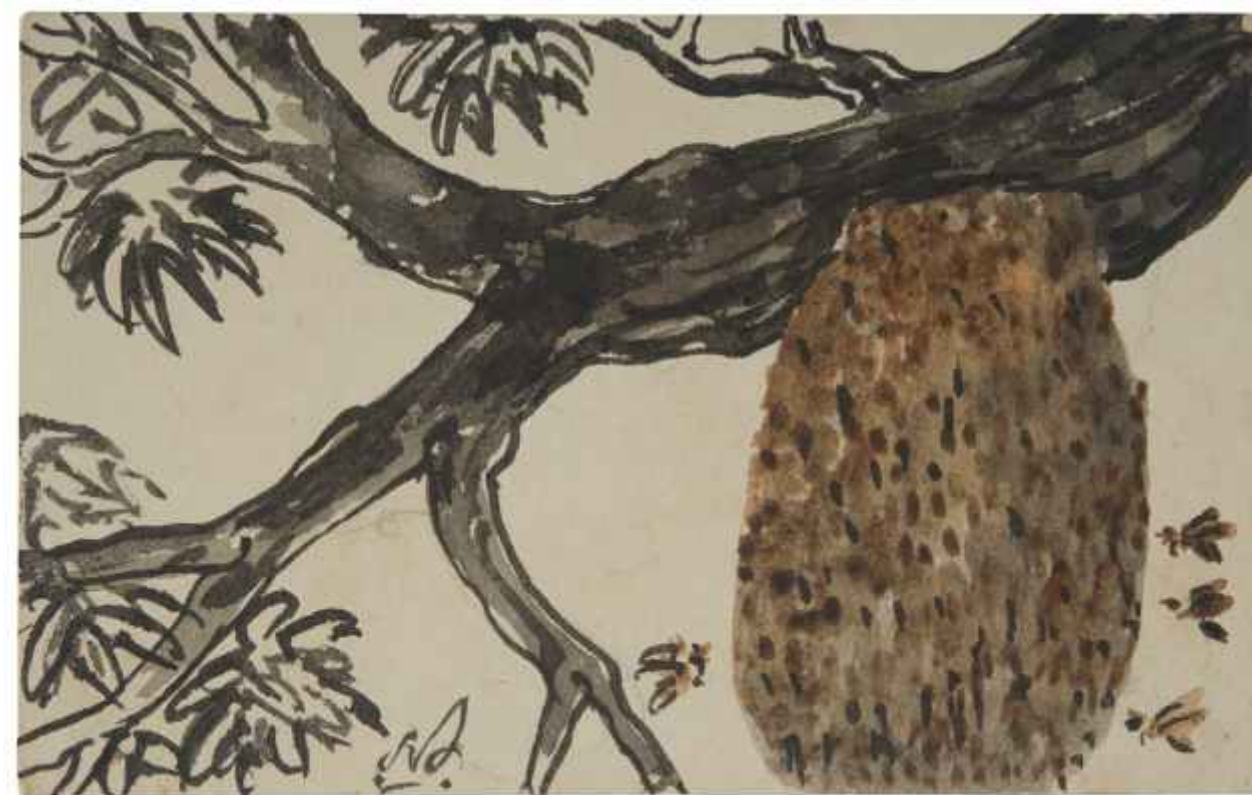
During this period, Bengal witnessed a cultural shift with the rise of art. The Government School of Art was established in 1854, and around the same time, Rabindranath Tagore was developing Shantiniketan. Several young students, including Abanindranath Tagore and Nandalal Bose, joined these institutions. The students of these schools often communicated with each other through postcards, many of which featured beautiful illustrations that enhanced their appeal.

Several postcards by Nandalal Bose have been discovered, filled with exquisite illustrations. In this exhibition, we showcase the postcards of Bose's students, such as Satyen Bishi and Shailesh Deb Barma, written to Pulin Behari Sen. Through this collection, we honour the art of postcards and the creativity of these talented artists.

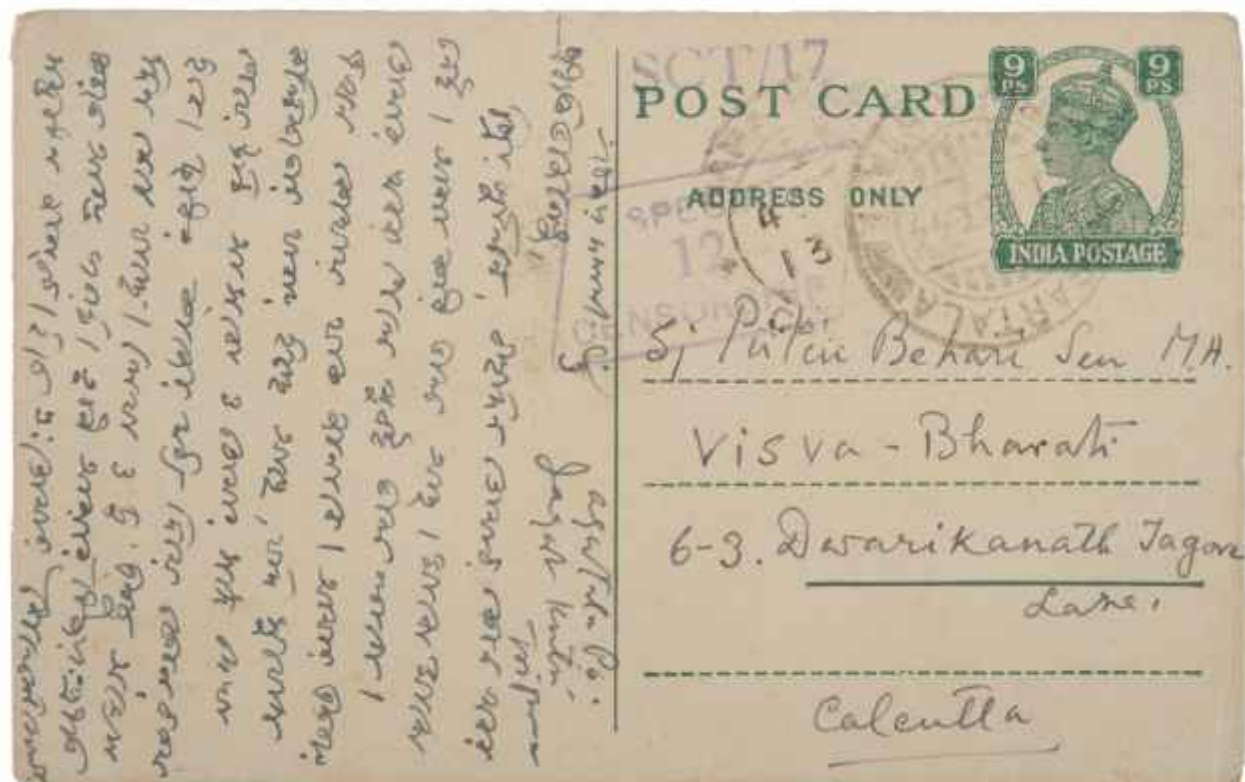
Sri Pulin Bihari Sen, M.A.
6-3 Dwarikanath Tagore Lane
Calcutta

Dear Pulin,
Wish you a Happy New Year. Hope you are
doing well. I feel good when I get your news.
What about Sagar? I have sent him some
letters but there is no reply. If you meet him,
please tell him to write me back. Nowadays
loneliness makes me feel good.

Yours
Shailesh
Agartala, P.O: Jagat Kutir



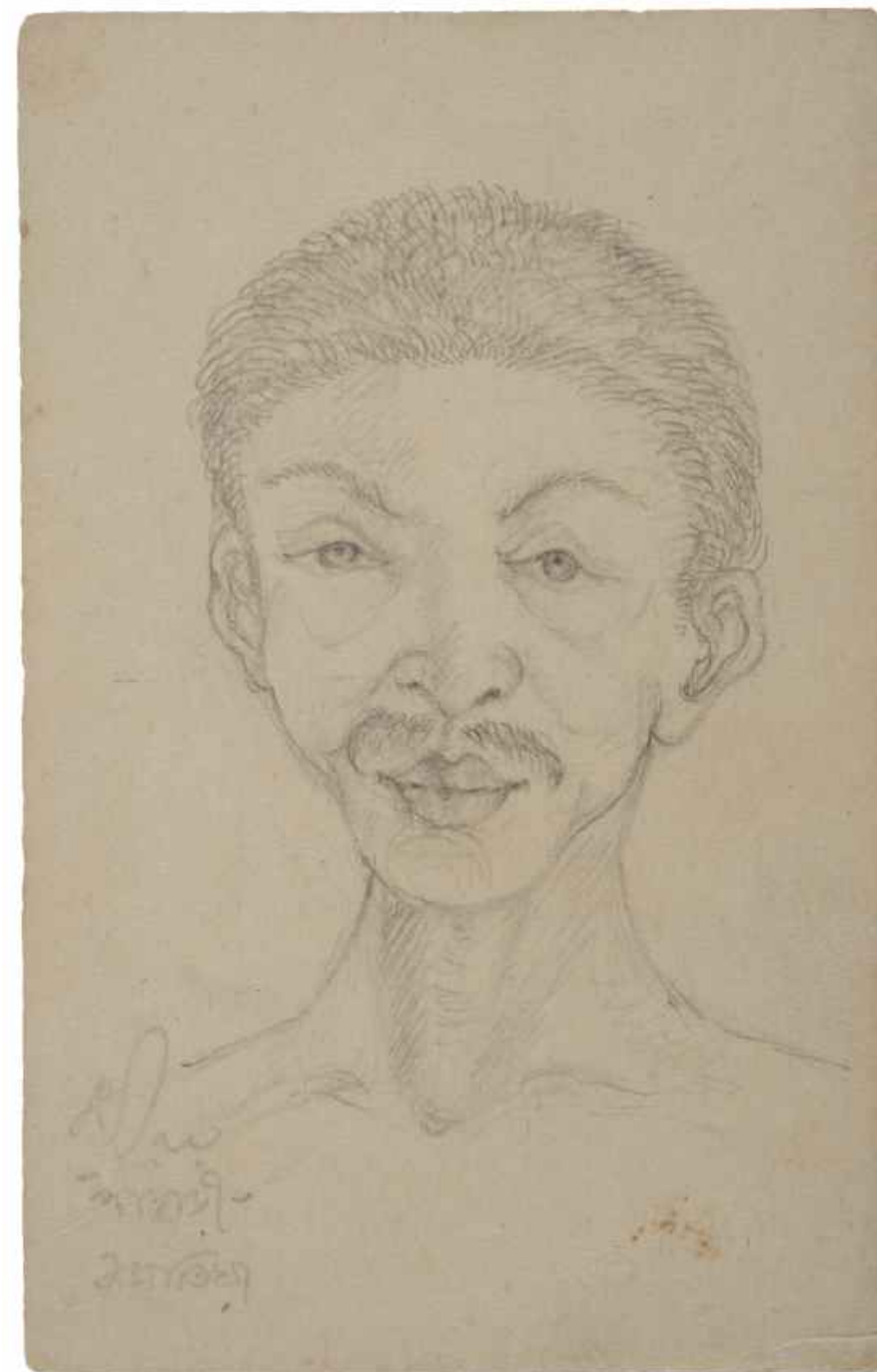
Artist Shailesh Dev Barma



Sri Pulin Bihari Sen, M.A. Visva Bharati
6-3 Dwarikanath Tagore Lane
Calcutta

Dear Pulin,
It has been a long time since I haven't heard anything from you. Hope you're doing well. Whenever I get your news, I feel good. Please tell me your current address. I wish to go to Calcutta this year, if possible, I'll come and meet you. Now I'm living with my drawings. Sometimes, I also try to write, you know? Get my love and blessing for Vijaya Dashami.

Yours
Shailesh Dev Barma
Agartala, Jagat Kutir



Artist Shailesh Dev Barma



Shri Pulin Behari Sen M.A.
54B Hindustan Park,
Calcutta- 29
West Bengal. India.

Om Bijaya Dashami.

Beloved Pulin,
Shri Anath Deb Barma went to Kolkata from here. I have given
him a handwritten letter to give to you for Rabindrayan Volume
1. Did he come? Please let me know in a reply. Wish you a very
happy and auspicious Bijaya Dashami.

Yours Truly,
Shailesh Dev Barma.

P.O Agartala
2/1, Jagat Kutir
Krishna Nagar
Tripura.



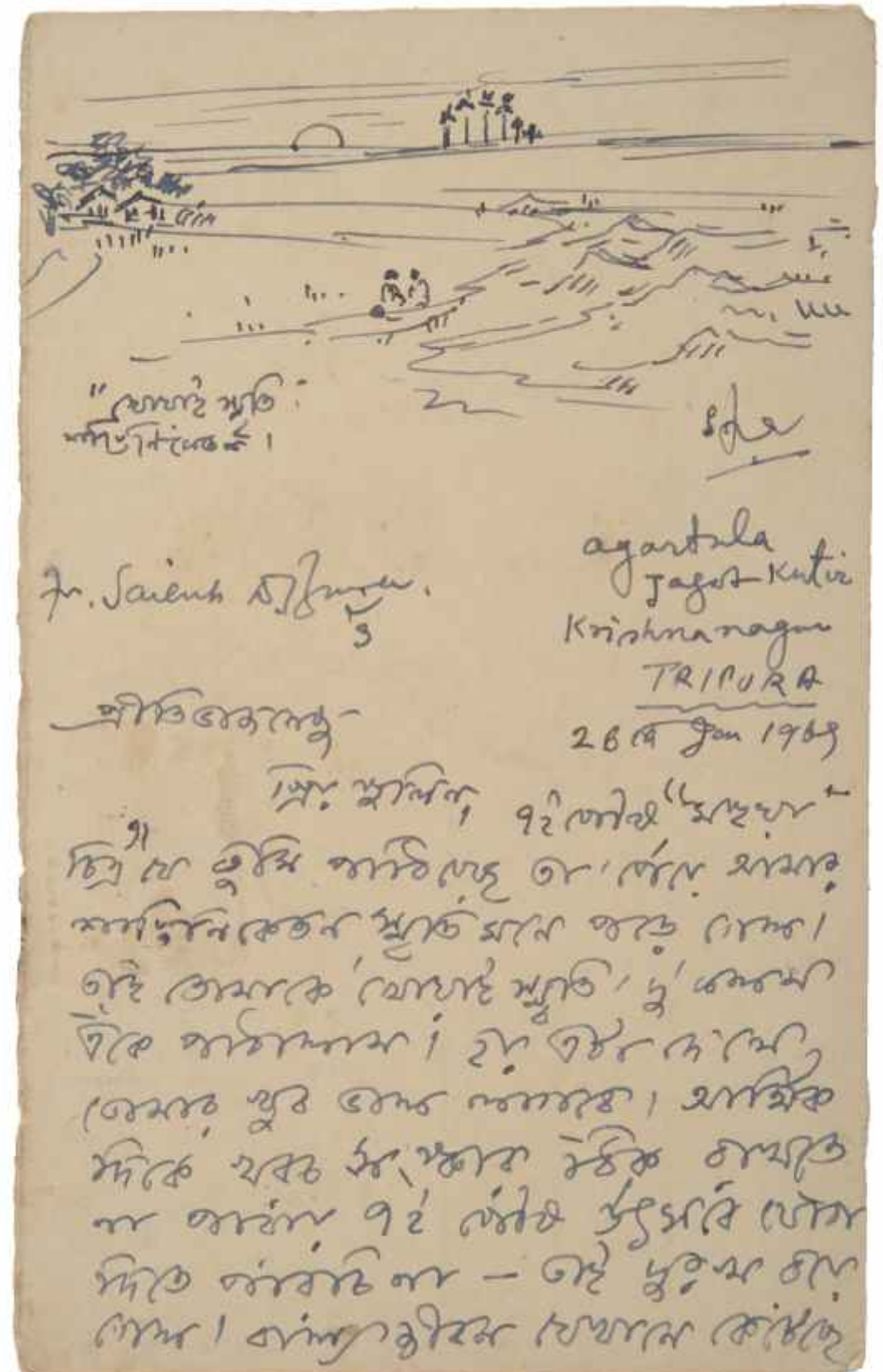
Artist Shailesh Dev Barma

Dear Pulin,

7th Poush you had sent me 'Mahua Chitra', and after getting it I again felt my Memories of Shantiniketan. So, I also painted a rough and sending you my 'Khoai Smriti'. Maybe it will make you feel good. Due to some financial problems, I couldn't go and attend the 7th Poush Utsab, so a distance remains from the place where my childhood was spent.

Yours
Shailesh Dev Barma.

P.O Agartala
Jagat Kutir
Krishna Nagar
Tripura.
26th January, 1969.



Artist Shailesh Dev Barma

Shri Pulin Behari Sen MA
Purbashree, Purbapally,
Shantiniketan, Birbhum.

I cannot forget his memories. Hope you all are well. If I can get your news at regular intervals, then it will be great. Do let me know which is keeping you busy these days. A very best of luck from me and stay blessed. I am spending my days painting and writing. This time in the Puja Edition of 'Samachar', my article named 'The Artistic Perspective' was published. Along with in the cards of Nanda Babu and Ramen Babu are also published. It's not bad. May God Bless you.

Yours,
Shailesh.



Artist Shailesh Dev Barma

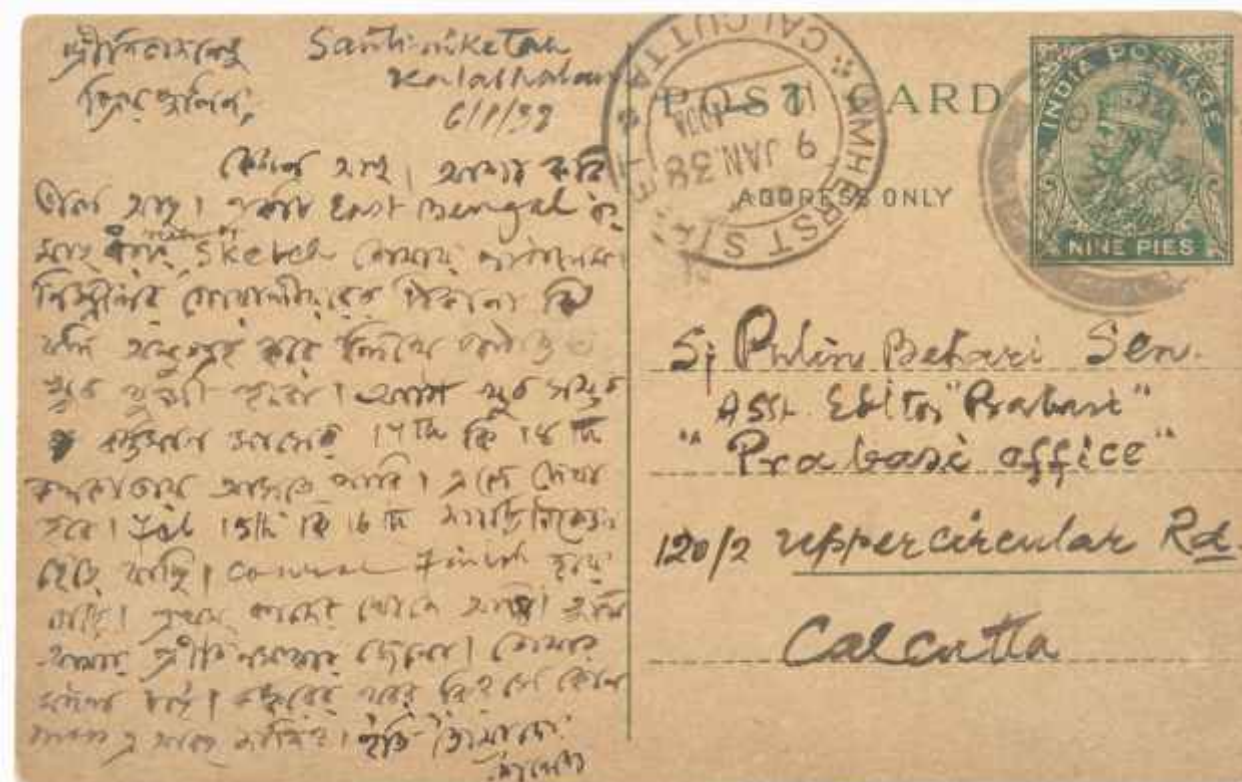
Shri Pulin Behari Sen MA,
Bichitra Bhavan,
6, Dwarakanath Tagore Lane,
Calcutta.

My Dear Pulin,
I was busy with work, so I am writing late.
Please don't mind about it. My Bijaya Regards
to you. I have Gurudeb's Letters and I want to
share them with Prabasi. What do you think?
There are 2-4 letters written to Somen Mama
also. If you reply in the affirmative I will send
them to you. They are kept in care. I am now
working Under Maharaja's Relief in Shillong
and some terracotta works. When finished I
will let you know and write.

Yours
Shailesh.
Agartala PO.
Jagat Kutir.
Tripura.



Artist Shailesh Dev Barma



Sri Pulin Behari Sen
Assistant Editor 'Prabasi'
Prabasi Office.
120/2, Upper Circular Road,
Calcutta.

Dear Pulin,

How are you? Hope you are in good health. I am sending you an East Bengal 'K' fish-catching sketch. Nirmal's Gwalior's address if known please send me, then I will be obliged. Maybe this month 17th or 18th I will visit Calcutta, we can meet. I will be leaving Shantiniketan on the 15th or 16th of Feb. I don't have any urge to finish the course. I am in search of a job. My wishes to you. May good be with you. How is Kankar? What is he doing nowadays? Let me know.

Yours
Shailesh.
Shantiniketan, Kala Bhavan.
6/1/38.



Artist Shailesh Dev Barma



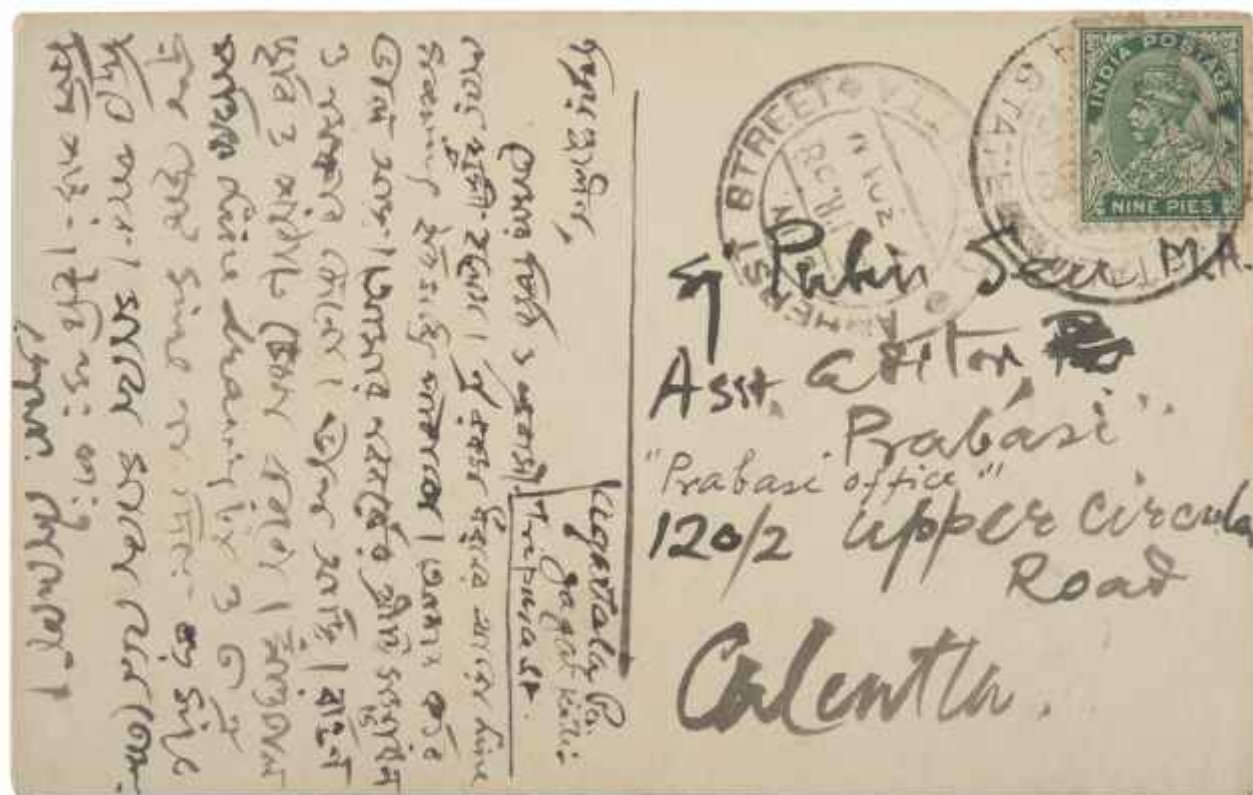
Shri Pulin Behari Sen MA
Viswa Bharati office,
6, Dwarakanath Tagore Lane,
Calcutta.

Beloved Pulin,
I got all of your letters. Due to work pressure
couldn't reply to you, please don't mind.
Wish you a very happy New Year. This sketch
is of a 'refugee Old Woman'. I am good, let
me know how you are.

Yours
Shailesh.
P.O Agartala
Jagat Kutir
Tripura.



Artist Shailesh Dev Barma



Shri Pulin Behari Sen MA
Assistant Editor 'Prabasi'
'Prabasi' Office,
120/2, Upper Circular Road,
Calcutta.

Dear Pulin,
Got your Letter and Prabasi, I am happy. I will
send some more Line drawings like these.
Hope you are well. Have a happy New Year. I
will try to send coloured paintings too. You
could print 'Saotal Pathik', the line drawing in
not so small size.

Yours
Shailesh Dev Barma.
P.O Agartala
Jagat Kutir
Tripura.

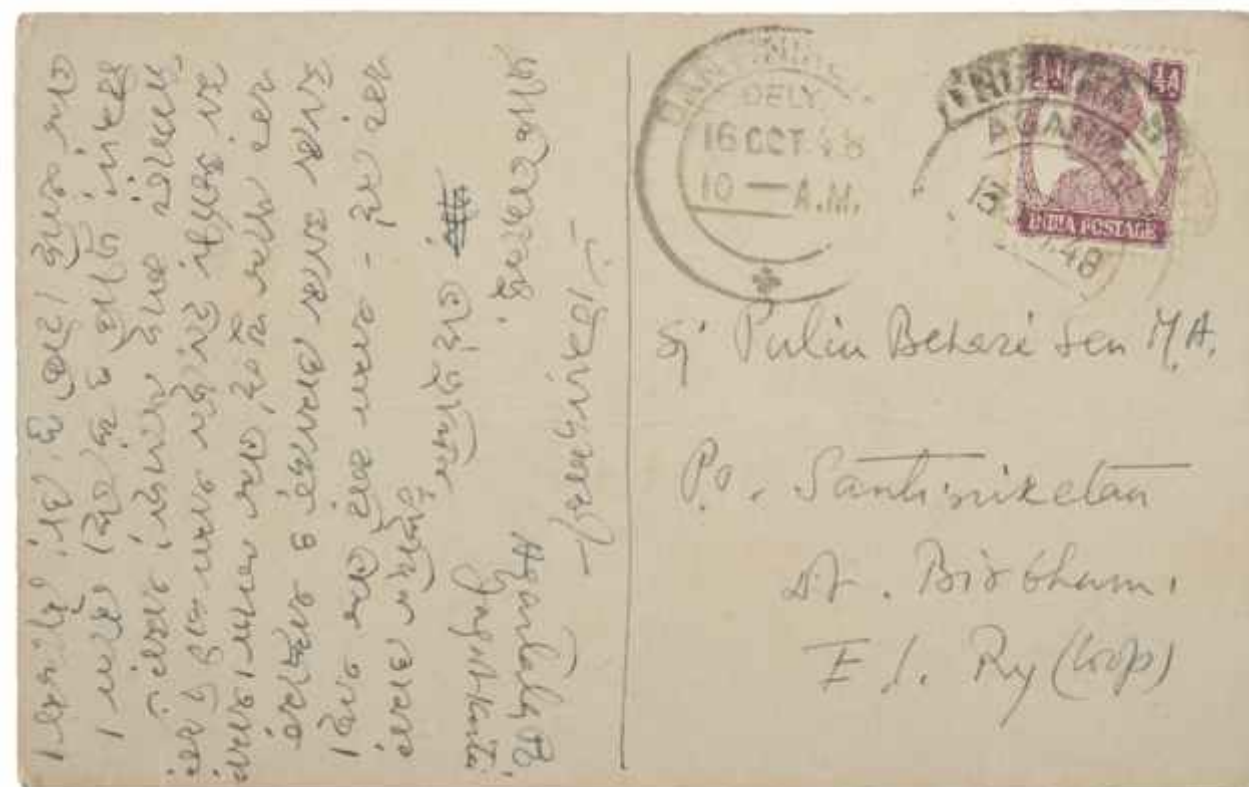


Artist Shailesh Dev Barma

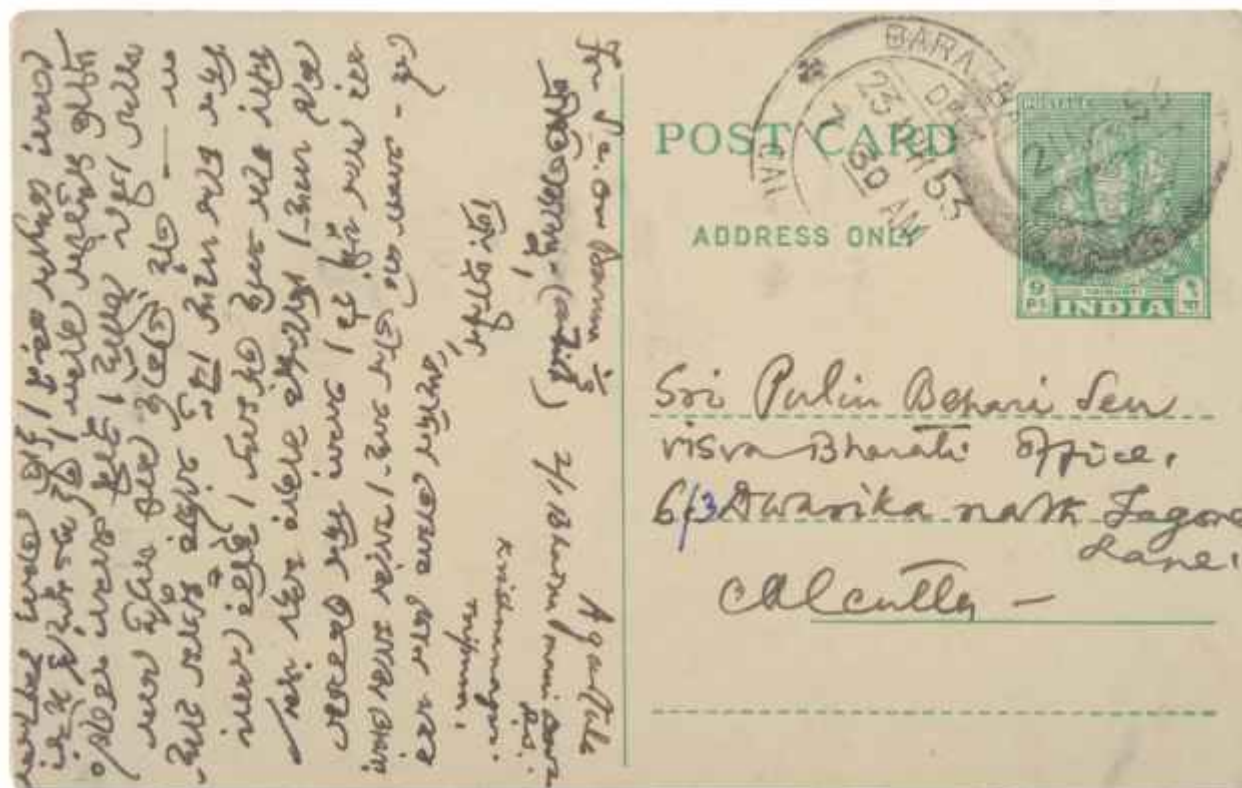
Shri Pulin Behari Sen MA,
PO Shantiniketan,
District – Birbhum,
E.I. RAY (Corp)

Dear Pulin,
Long time no news, Brother Pulin. Hope you
are good. Often yours and Ashram's news
comes to me, which makes me happy. My
mother passed away. Hope you got the news
from Sagar. Wish you a very happy Bijaya
Dashami to you. I am well.

Yours
Shailesh.
P.O Agartala
Jagat Kutir
Tripura.



Artist Shailesh Dev Barma



Shri Puli Behari Sen,
Viswa Bharati Office
6, Dwarakanath Tagore Lane,
Calcutta.

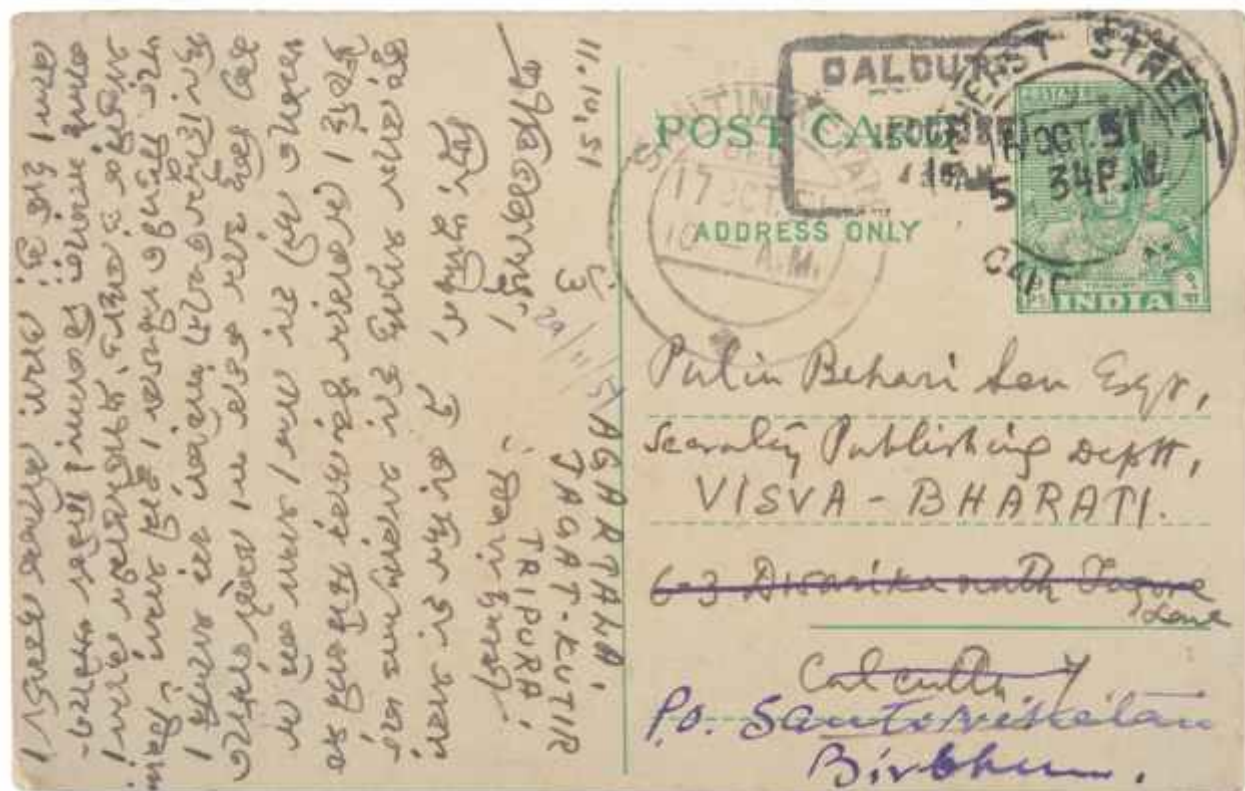
Dear Pulin,
Long time didn't get your letter. Hope you are good. If I get letters from you soon then I will be happy. My days are passing somehow. The art market is going low. Waiting for the right time. Days are passing with the addiction of paintings but money is not coming smoothly. I am in a dilemma that where I go. Very happy New Year to you. May god bless you.

Yours
Shailesh.

P.O Agartala
2/1, Bhasa Mani Gunj,
Tripura.



Artist Shailesh Dev Barma



Shri Pulin Behari Sen MA
Secretary Publishing Department,
Viswa Bharati,
PO Shantiniketan, Birbhum.

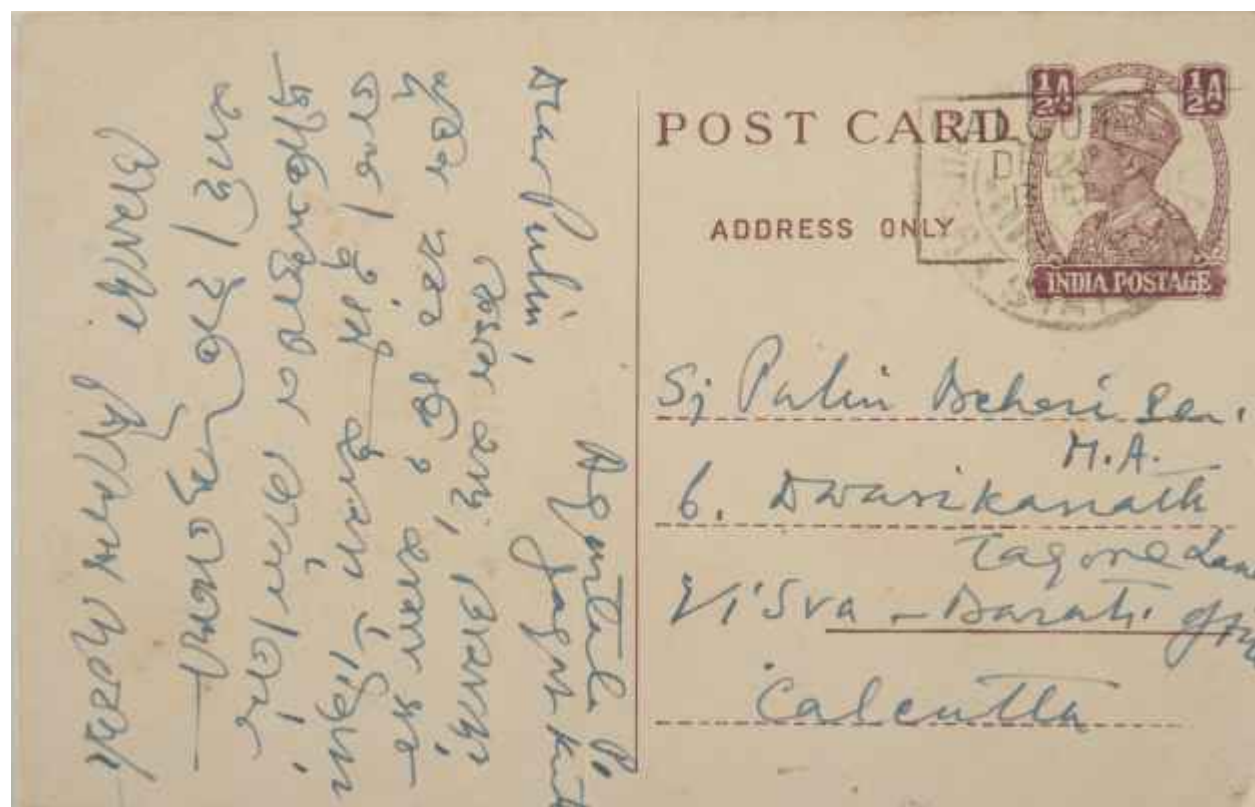
Dear Pulin,
I got cured of a log going fever recently. This is the reason that I couldn't sent Gurudeb's letters on time. Please don't mind. I managed one to and ordered it but didn't got any further news. I will write elaborately next time. Hope you have a great Bijaya Dashami. May god bless you. I will write to you in Kanai Sarkar's address.

Yours
Shailesh.

P.O Agartala
Jagat Kutir
Tripura.



Artist Shailesh Dev Barma



Artist Shailesh Dev Barma

Shri Pulin Behari Sen,
54B Hindustan Park,
Calcutta- 29
West Bengal.

Dear Pulin,
Please accept my Bijaya Regards. Hope you all are good. Did you get the 'Samachar' Magazine? It has a writing of me in it named 'Guru Nandalal Memoirs and the story of us'. Plenty of spelling mistakes are there and one line has been printed twice. Due to fast work on the proof it led to this situation. Biresh Da and Master's card has been given in prints, let me know how it was. As we haven't got your letter this time the editor got disheartened. Please give one for the next issue. We are well.

Yours
Shailesh Dev Barma.
Agartala.



Artist Shailesh Dev Barma

Shri Pulin Behari Sen MA
6, Dwarakanath Tagore Lane
Calcutta.

Dear Pulin,
Have a very prosperous new year. I didn't have
your address so; this letter is sent to
Jorashanko. What is the news of
Shantiniketan? The letters of Gurudev which
were given to you, did you sent publish them
yet in Prabasi? My works are progressing.
How is Nirmal? Let me know you people's
news often. If you and Nirmal meet then send
him my regards. Is he in Shantiniketan?

Yours
Shailesh Dev Barma

P.O Agartala
Jagat Kutir
Tripura.

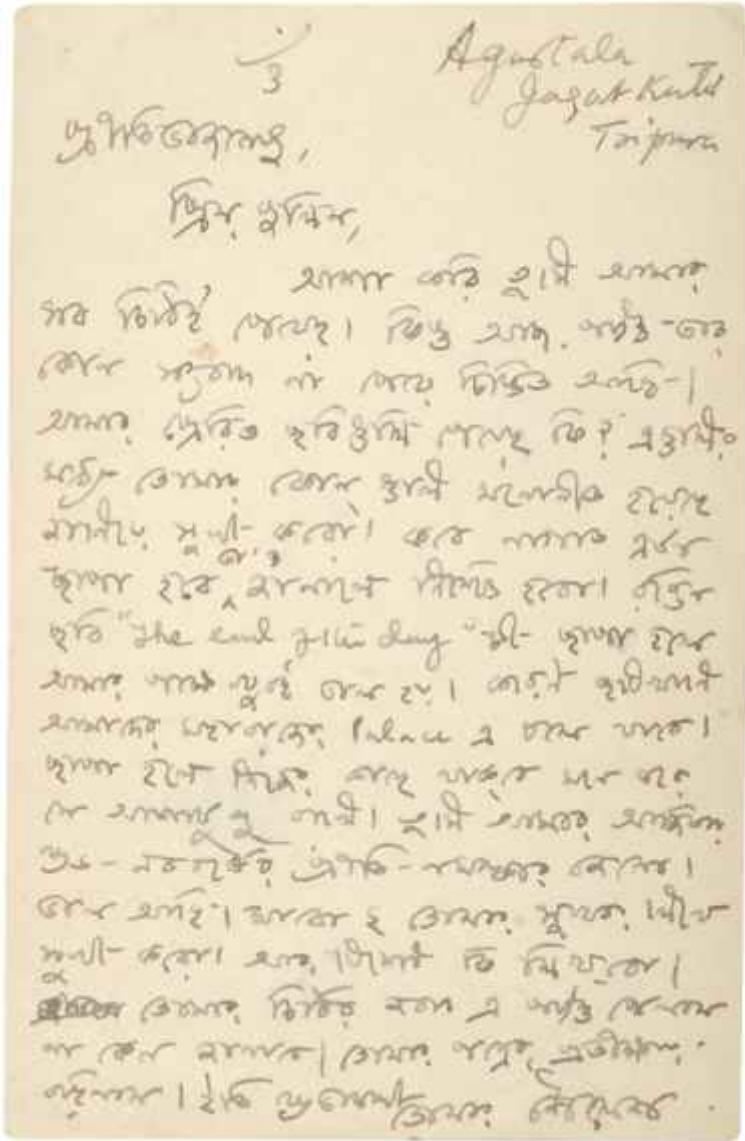


Artist Shailesh Dev Barma

Dear Pulin,

Hope that you have received all my letters in time. But till date didn't got any reply, so a little tensed. Did you received my paintings which I had sent? Which ones did you choose to publish, please let me know. When will it be published if known will make me happy. If 'The End of the Day' painting gets published it will help me a lot. Because it will go to the Maharaja's Palace. If it gets published I can still keep it to me and stay peaceful. Please do receive my New Year's regards. Why I didn't get your letters let me know? I am good. Nothing new or more to write. I am waiting for your reply.

Your Well Wisher
Shailesh.
Agartala, Jagatkutir, Tripura.



Artist Shailesh Dev Barma



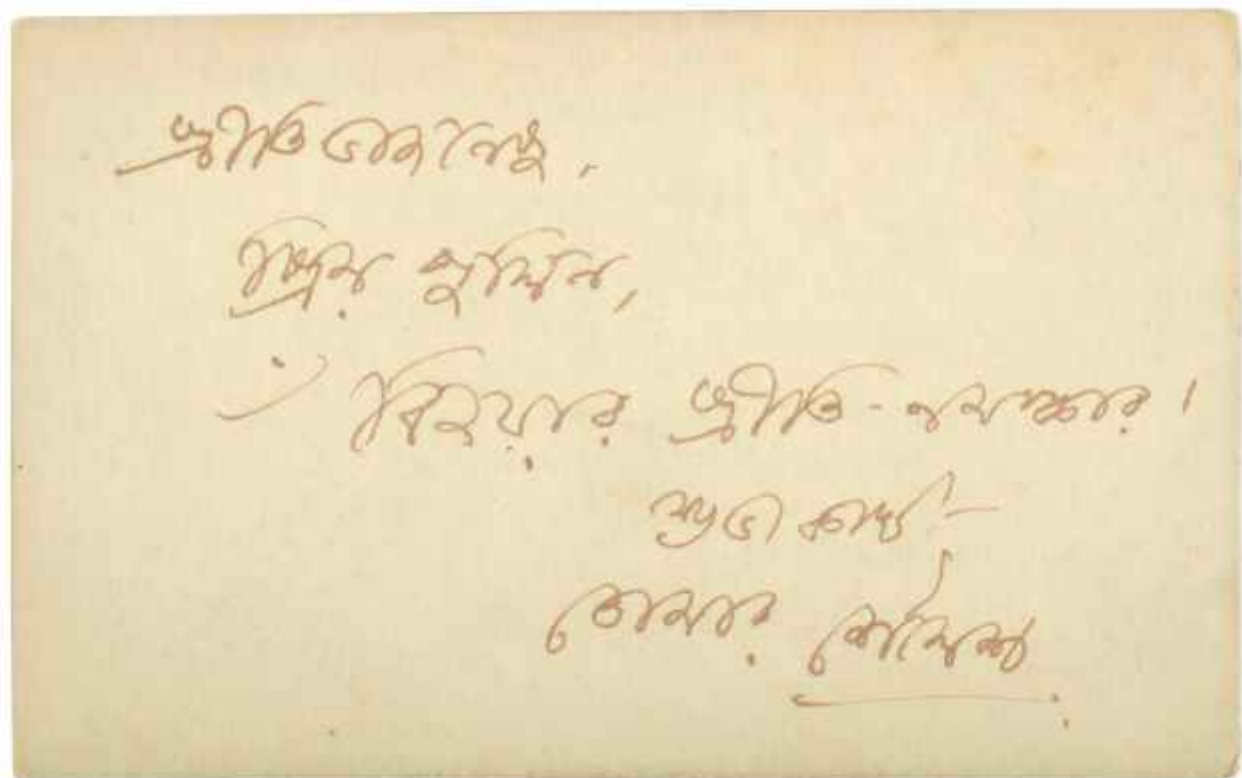
Shri Pulin Behari Sen MA
 Viswa Bharati,
 6/3, Dwarakanath Tagore Lane,
 Calcutta.

To my dear Pulin,
 Long time no letters or news from you. Hope
 you are good. I wish you a very happy Bijaya
 Dashami. I am tied up with a lot of work, so
 there is no time to write letters. I am not a
 Shall Guest of the Maharaja and will travel
 with him to Paternal India Map. I like to hear
 news from you all. I am good.

Yours
 Shailesh Dev Barma,
 Agartala PO.
 Jagat Kutir.



Artist Shailesh Dev Barma



To my dear Pulin,
Wish you a very auspicious Bijaya Dashami.

Your Well Wisher,
Shailesh.



Artist Shailesh Dev Barma



Artist Shailesh Dev Barma

Shri Pulin Behari Sen
Viswa Bharati
6, Dwarkanath Tagore Lane,
Calcutta.

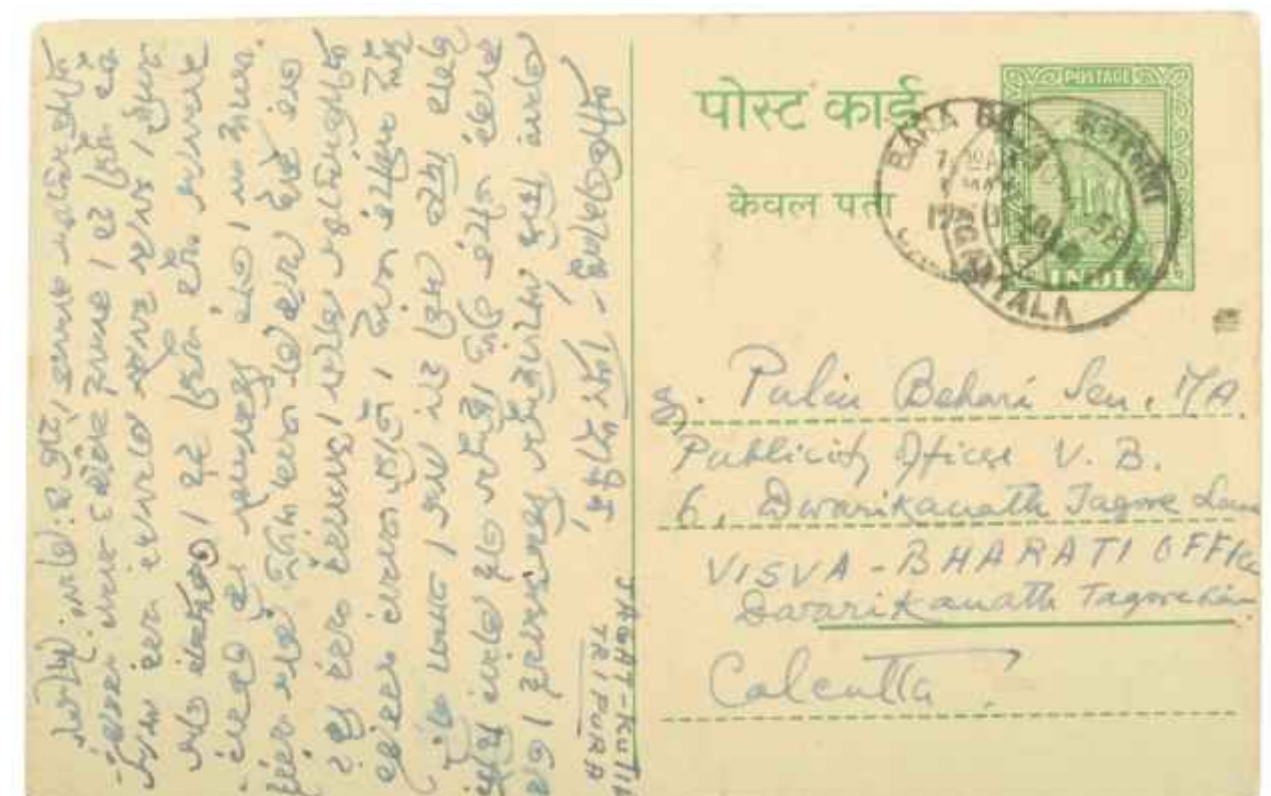
Dear Pulin,
How are you? Hope you are fine. Receive my
Bijaya Regards. Let me know about you time
to time. My work is also going well. I have a
question, have you left Prabasi's work? I am
good.
What is the price of the book, 'Sesher Kobita'?

Yours
Shailesh Dev Barma.
Agartala PO.
Jagat Kutir.
Tripura.

Sri Pulin Bihari Sen, M.A.
Publicity Officer V.B.
6-3 Dwarikanath Tagore Lane
Visva Bharati Office
Dwarikanath Tagore Lane
Calcutta

Dear Pulin,
I've got your letter in time. As I was busy then, that is why my reply takes so much time. Hope you are doing well. Take my love and blessing for Nababarsho. What about Sagar? I haven't heard from him for a long time. I will be grateful if you send me his address. I'm pretty good. I feel good when I get some news from you. Let Kanaibabu know my love and sanctification for New Year.

Yours Shailesh
Jagat Kutir
Tripura



Artist Shailesh Dev Barma

Sri Pulin Bihari Sen, M.A.
6-3 Dwarikanath Tagore Lane
Calcutta

Dear Pulin,
Wish you a very Happy Vijaya Dashami. I'm
good, busy in different works. I feel good
when I get your news often. What about the
ashram? Inform me where Rathida lives.

Yours Shailesh Dev Barma
Agartala
P.O: Jagat Kutir
05/011/47



Artist Shailesh Dev Barma



Artist Shailesh Dev Barma

Shri Pulin Behari Sen
C/O, Dr. Rabindranath Tagore,
6, Dwarakanath Tagore Lane,
Calcutta.

My Dear Pulin,
All the best wishes for this New Year. Hope
that you are good. Eagerly waiting to know
more of your news. Didn't understand why
my painting was not published. I am
somewhat good. Nothing special to write or
elaborate.

Yours Well Wisher
Shailesh.
Agartala
Jagat Kutir
Tripura.



Sri Pulin Bihari Sen, M.A.
Asst. Editor (Prabasi Office)
120-2 Upper Circular Road
Calcutta

Dear Pulin,
Take my love and blessing for a very Happy
Vijaya Dashami. I'm quite good. Please write
me back often. I always think of sending you
my published picture, but every time it fails.

Yours Shailish Dev Barma
Agartala
P.O: Jagat Kutir
Tripura

Artist Shailish Dev Barma



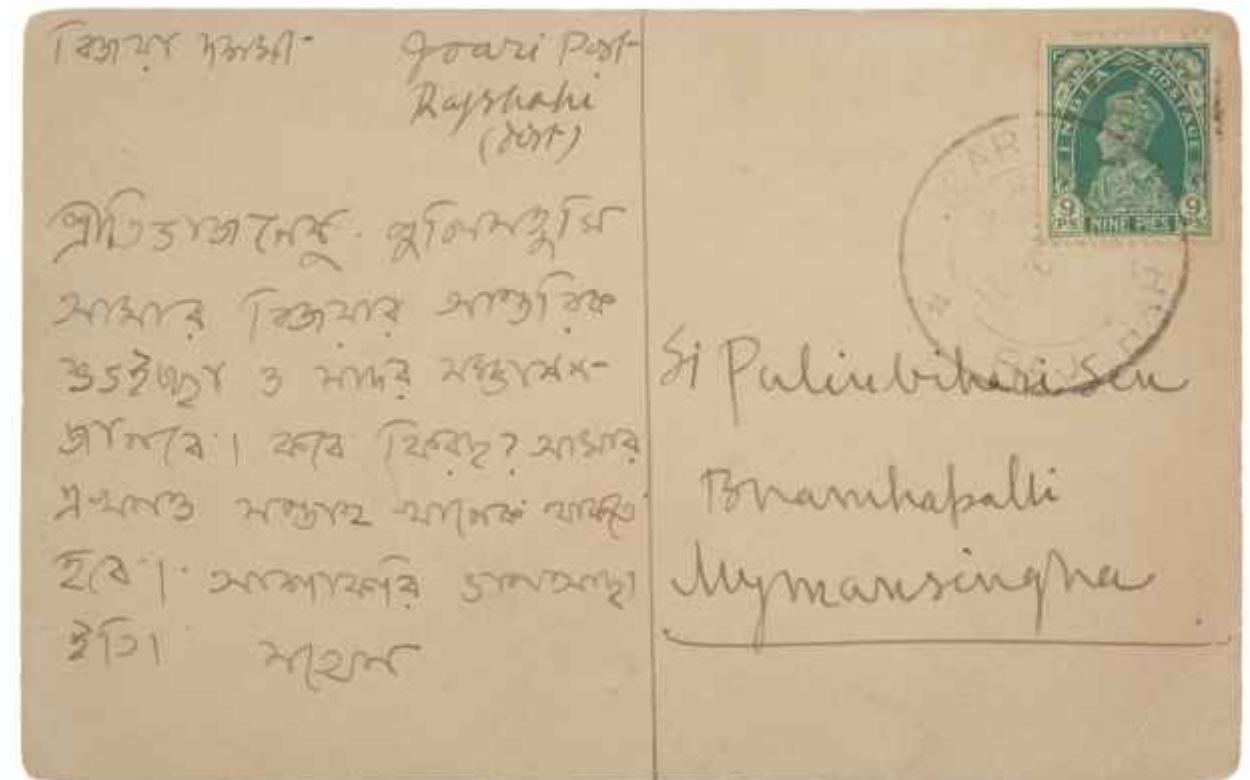
Artist Shailesh Dev Barma

Shri Pulin Behari Sen
BrahmaPalli,
Maymansingha.

Dear Pulin,

Wish you a very happy and blessed Bijaya
Dashami. When are coming back? I have to
stay for few weeks more. Hope you are
Good.

Yours
Satyen
Joari Post
Rajshahi (West).



Artist Satyen Bishi



Shri Pulin Behari Sen
38/1, Russa Road South,
Calcutta.

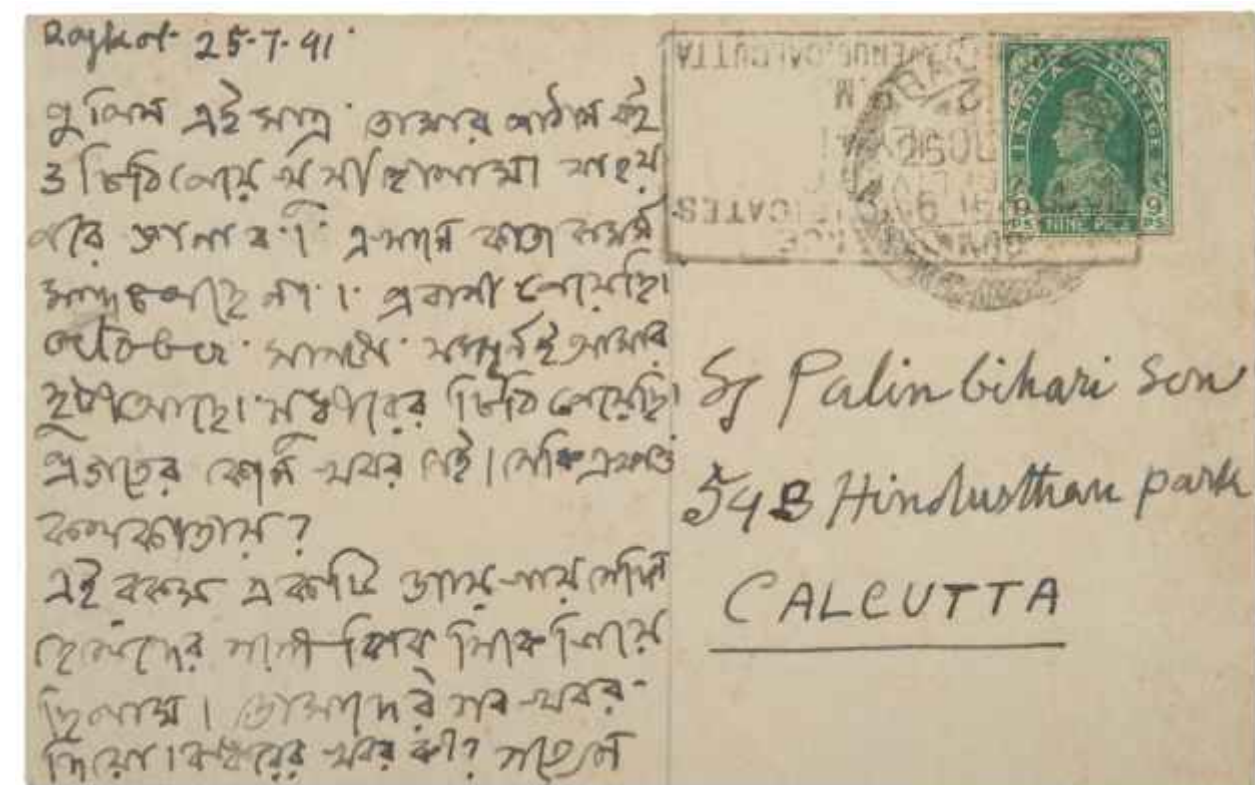
Dear Pulin,
I don't know where are you, Pulin? Stay bless
where ever you are in this auspicious Bijaya
Dashami.

Yours
Satyen Bishi.
Joari Post
Rajshahi
(West).

Artist Satyen Bishi

Shri Pulin Behari Sen
54B Hindustan Park
Calcutta.

Dear Pulin,
Just now got your book and letter. I am so happy. Will let you know how it was. I am liking the job here. Got your Prabasi. The whole October is a Holiday. Got Sudhir's letter. There is no news of Prabhat. Is he in Calcutta?
Went to do picnic with the students in a place like this. Let me know your news. And how is Kankar?
Yours
Satyen Bishi.
Rajkot
25/7/41.



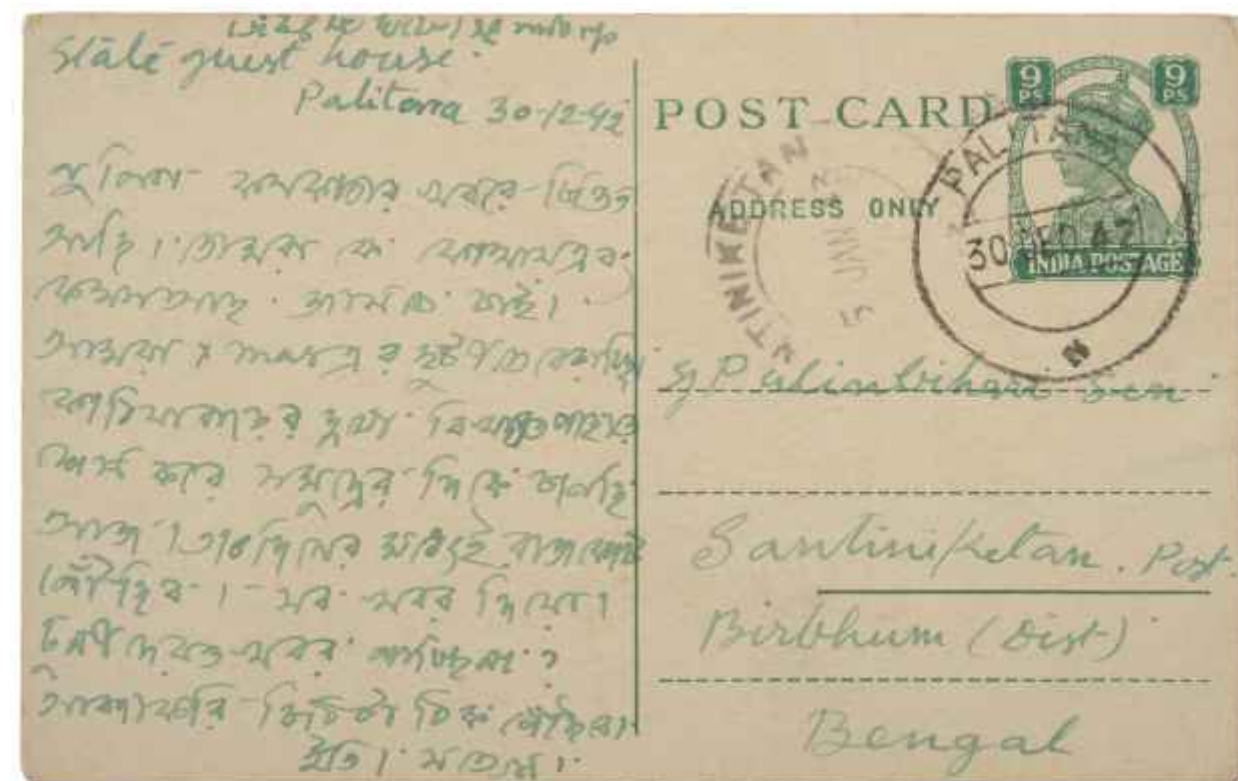
Artist Satyen Bishi

Shri Pulin Behari Sen
Shantiniketan Post
Birbhum District

Dear Pulin,

I am tensed with the news of Calcutta.
Where are you people? I want to know. We
are enjoying the holiday of Christmas. Have
completed seeing the two mountains of
Kathiyajhar. Now travelling to the sea. In 3-4
days we will reach Rajkot. Let me know all of
you. Not getting the news of Churni also.
Hope that the letter will reach in the right
place.

Yours
Satyen.
State Guest House
Palitara
30/12/42



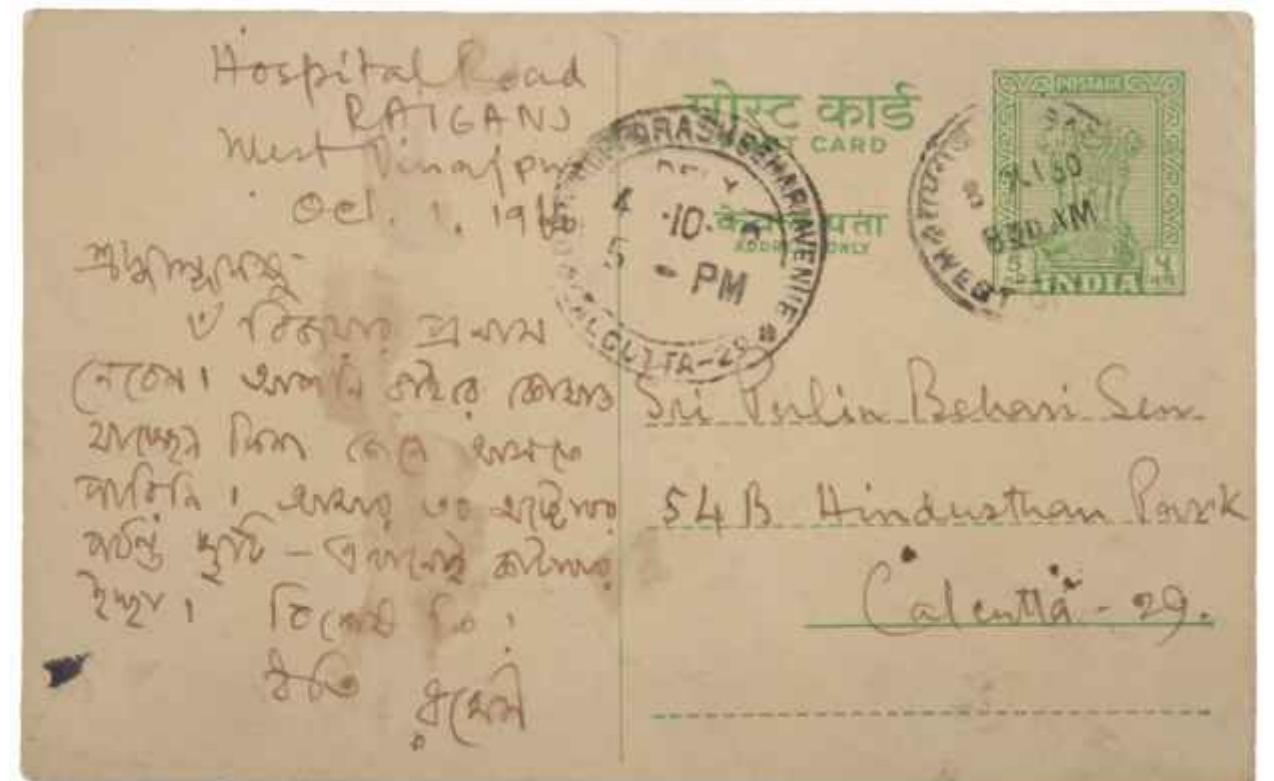
Artist Satyen Bishi

Shri Pulin Behari Sen
54B, Hindustan Park,
Calcutta- 29

Dear Pulin Sir,

Please do accept regards for Bijaya. I forgot
to know that are you going somewhere
outstation? I have my holidays till 30th
October. I will stay here. Nothing more.

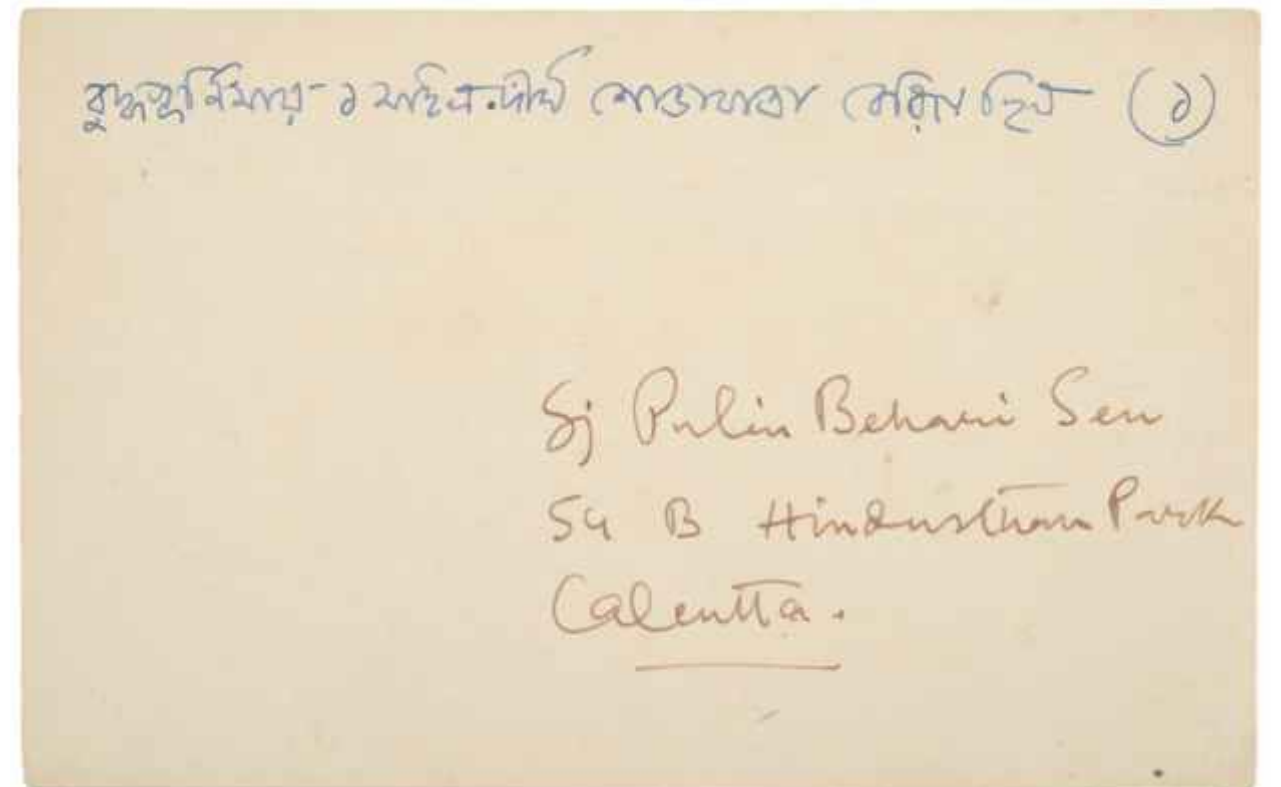
Yours
Ramen.
Hospital Road, Raigunj.
West Dinajpur
October, 1966.



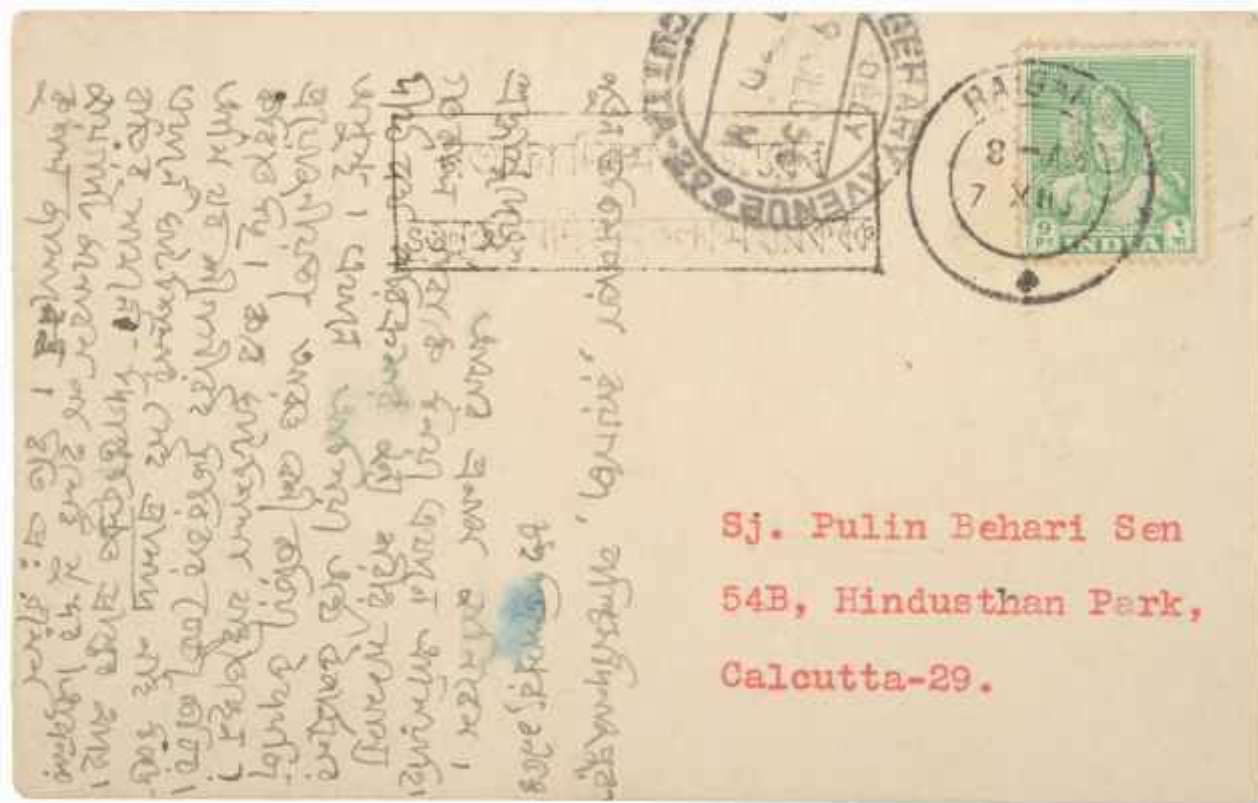
Artist Ramen Kundu

Shri Pulin Behari Sen
54B, Hindustan Park,
Calcutta- 29

A mile-long procession held for Buddha Purnima



Artist Ramen Kundu



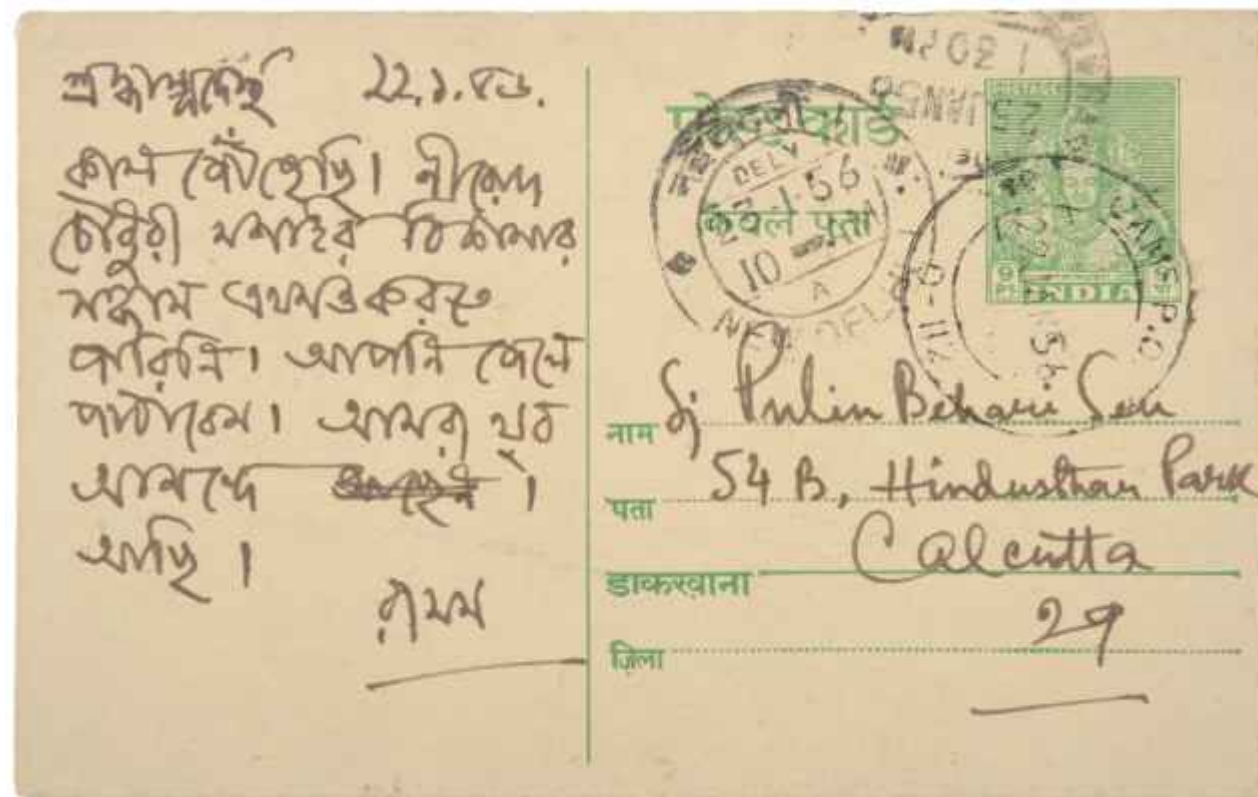
Sri Pulin Behari Sen
54 B, Hindustan Park
Calcutta 29

Respected Sir,
Take my bow. I have come here yesterday with by father. I feel a little bit ill because of the long journey. Now I feel the essentiality of earning money more. When will you go to Ghatshila? I'll try to return home as soon as possible. There is no gigantic palace like Ghatshila here, but you'll find a long distant meadow, that touches the horizon. This place may not be pleasant, but it is beautiful. Send me your blessing.

Yours
Ramen
New Ukilpara, Raigunj, West Dinajpur
8th December, 1954



Artist Ramen Kundu



Sri Pulin Behari Sen
54 B, Hindustan Park
Calcutta 29

Sir,
Reached here yesterday. I still can't find the
address of Mr. Nirod Chowdhury. If you get,
please send me. We are all happy.

Yours
Ramen
22.01.56

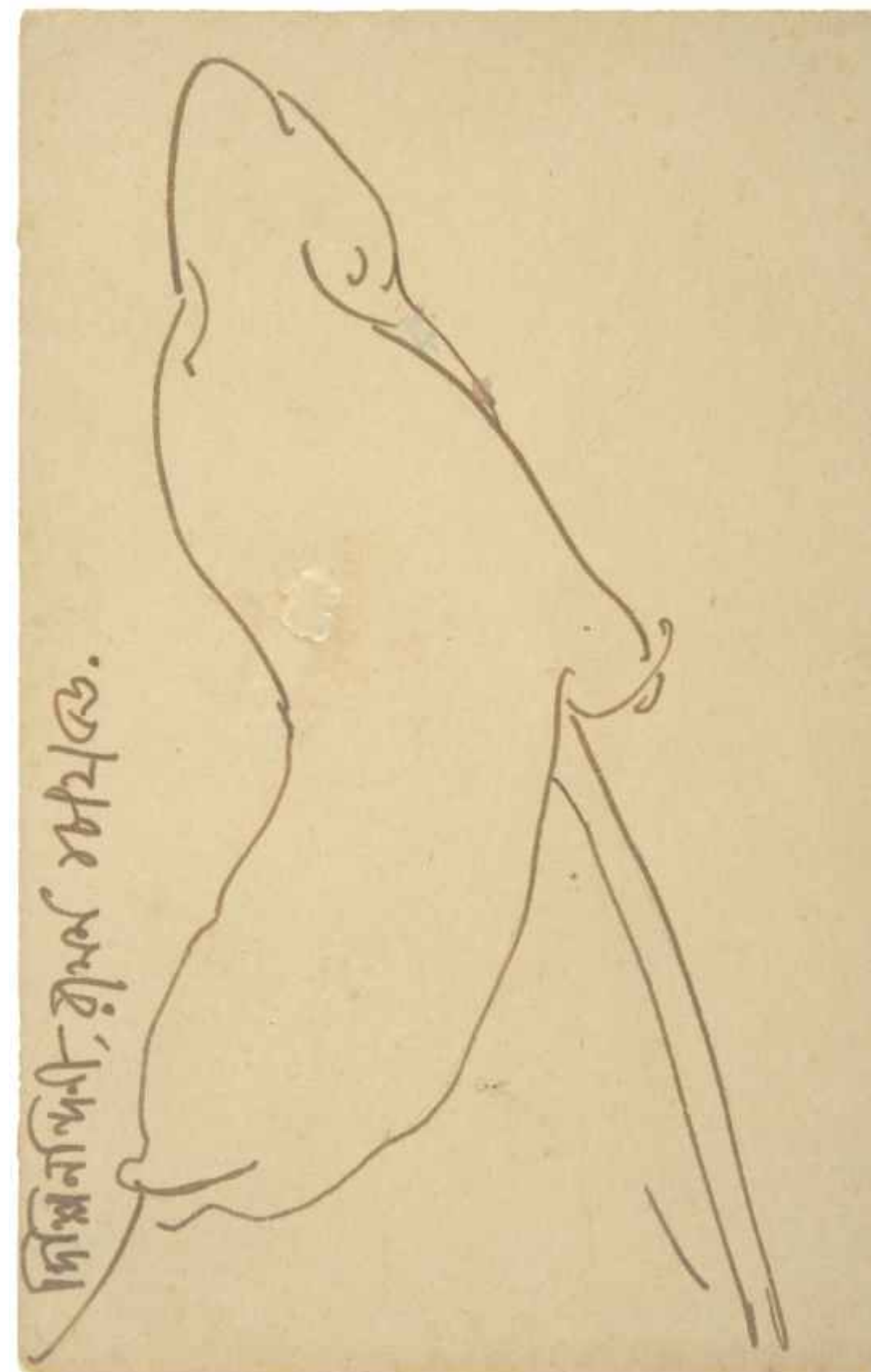
Artist Ramen Kundu



Sri Pulin Behari Sen
54 B, Hindustan Park
Calcutta 29

Sir,
I've got the money which you sent. But I feel worried as my salary has been stuck till now. Though I can easily manage for at least 15 days, it will be late to send you back the money. Apart from this, I am tensed as I can't money to my home too. I wrote to Amaladi about the exact duration of my staying in Mouchak, but there is no answer. Take my respect.

Yours
Ramen
Mouchak, East Main Road, Kalimpong
23 February, 1956



Artist Ramen Kundu

Sri Pulin Behari Sen
54 B, Hindustan Park
Calcutta 29
India

Sir,
Reached here yesterday. I have kept the money to Biswanath, hope you've got it. I'm going to Raigunj with my father within 2 or 3 days. Perhaps I have to stay there for 4 to 5 days. Inform me your date of journey to Ghatshila in the address mentioned below. In Calcutta, my aunt's health condition is very poor, perhaps she will be no more when I'll return. I've submitted 5 pictures to Academy, among them, there is also that Pomegranate tree of Ghatshila. What else? Take my respect.

Yours
Ramen
Kadamtala, Dhaka
01.12.54

Ramen Kundu
New Ukilpara
Raigunj
West Dinajpur



Artist Ramen Kundu

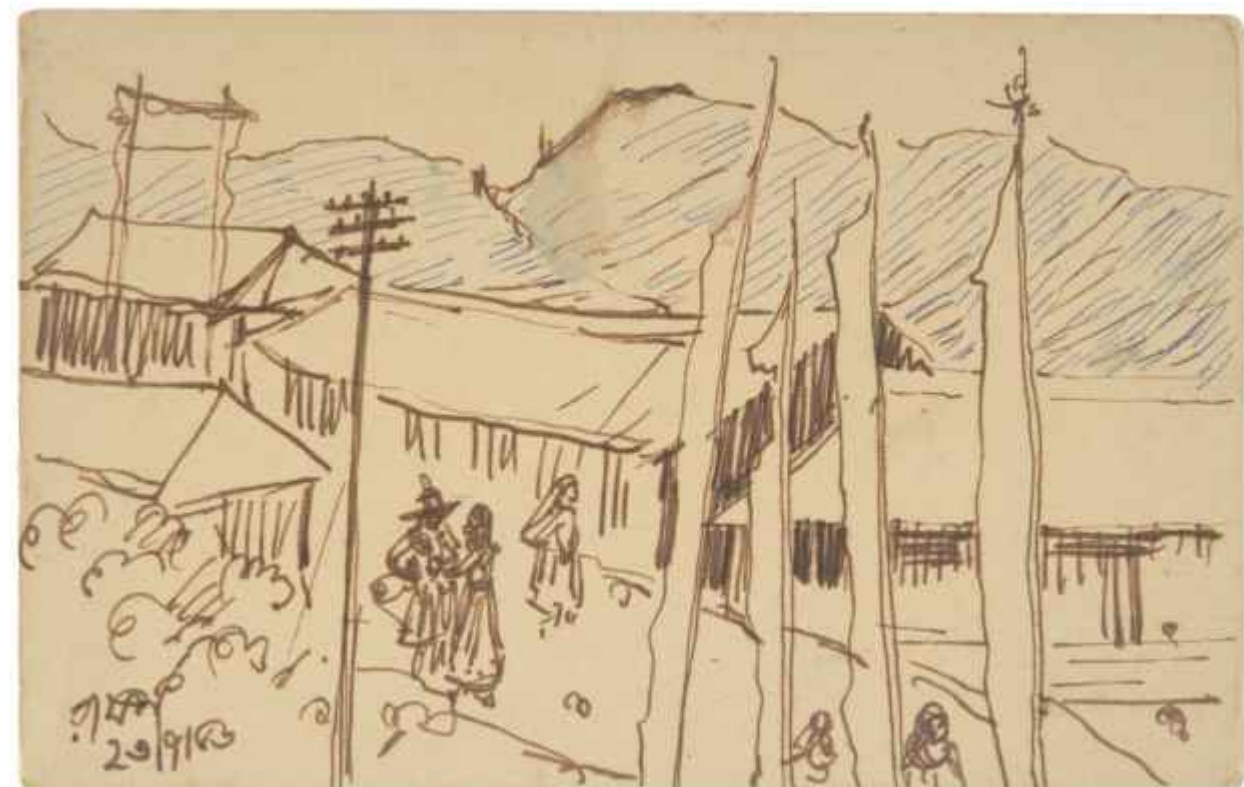
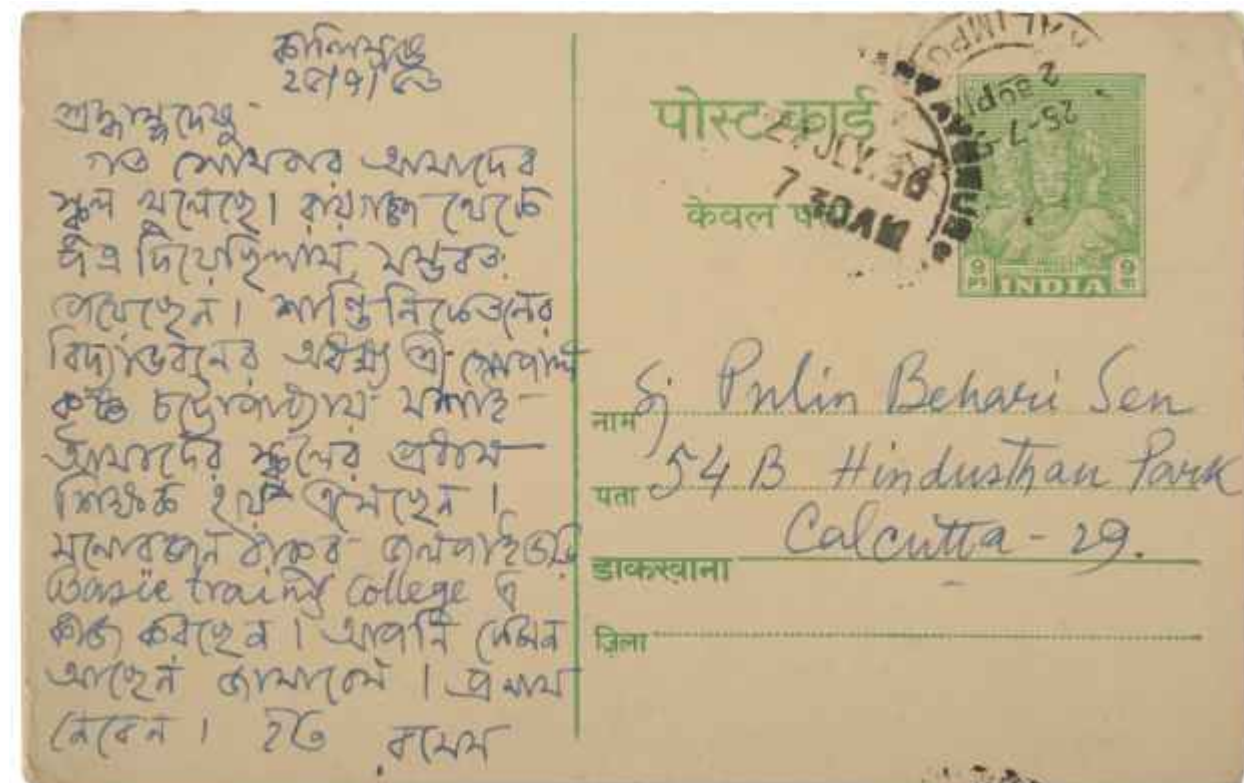


Artist Ramen Kundu

Sri Pulin Behari Sen
54 B, Hindustan Park
Calcutta 29

With Respect,
My school has been opened last Monday. I wrote from Raigunj, perhaps you've got it. Sri Gopalkrishna Chattopadhyay, the principal of Vidyabhawan, Santiniketan, has joined my school as head master. Manoranjan Thakur is working in the Basic Training College, Jalpaiguri. Please inform me about your health. Take my admiration.

Yours
Ramen
Kalimpong
25/07/56



Artist Ramen Kundu

Sri PulinBehari Sen
54 B, Hindustan Park
Calcutta 29

Respected Sir,
Subir Babu told me to leave the residence
within the first week of March. I have got the
letter on 3rd March, only four days remain.
The residence will be rented to some other
people. I haven't got my salary yet. I wrote to
Amala Di (Sister). Got your letter.

Yours
Ramen
Mouchak
East Main Road, Kalimpong
5th March, 1956

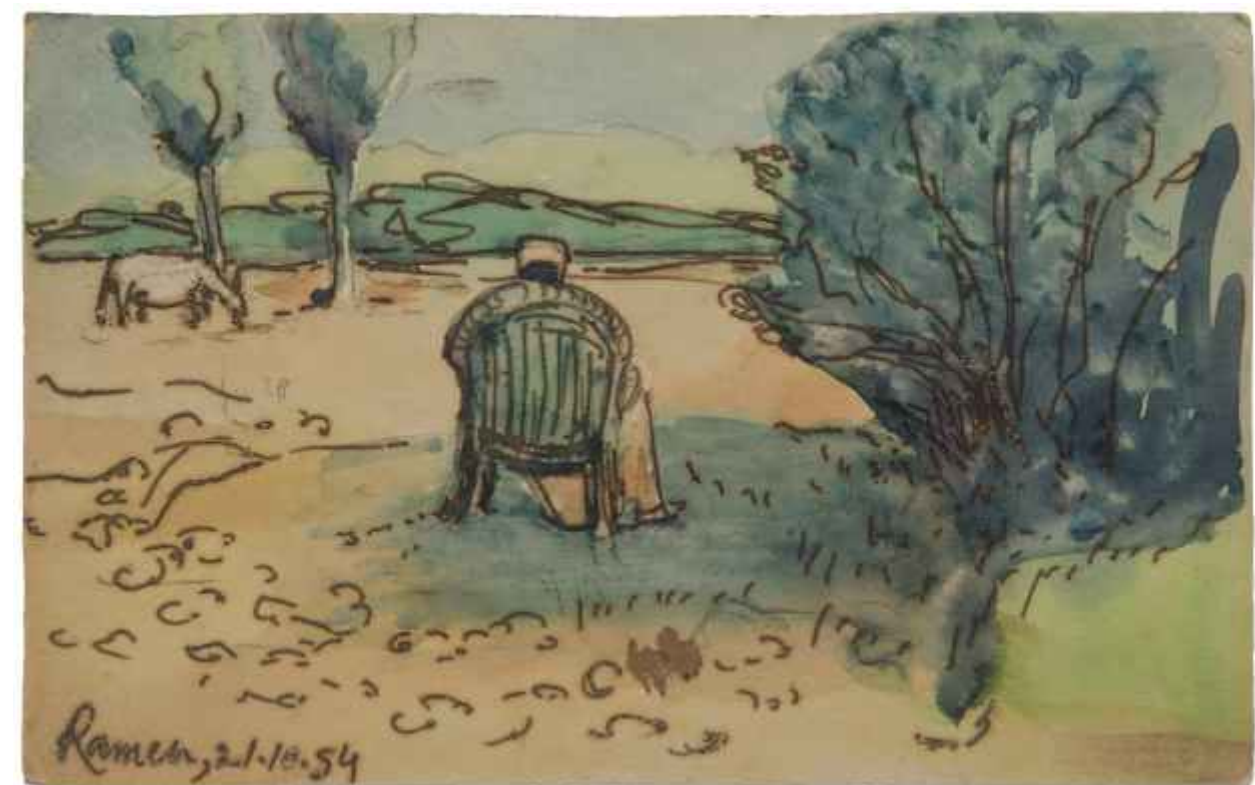
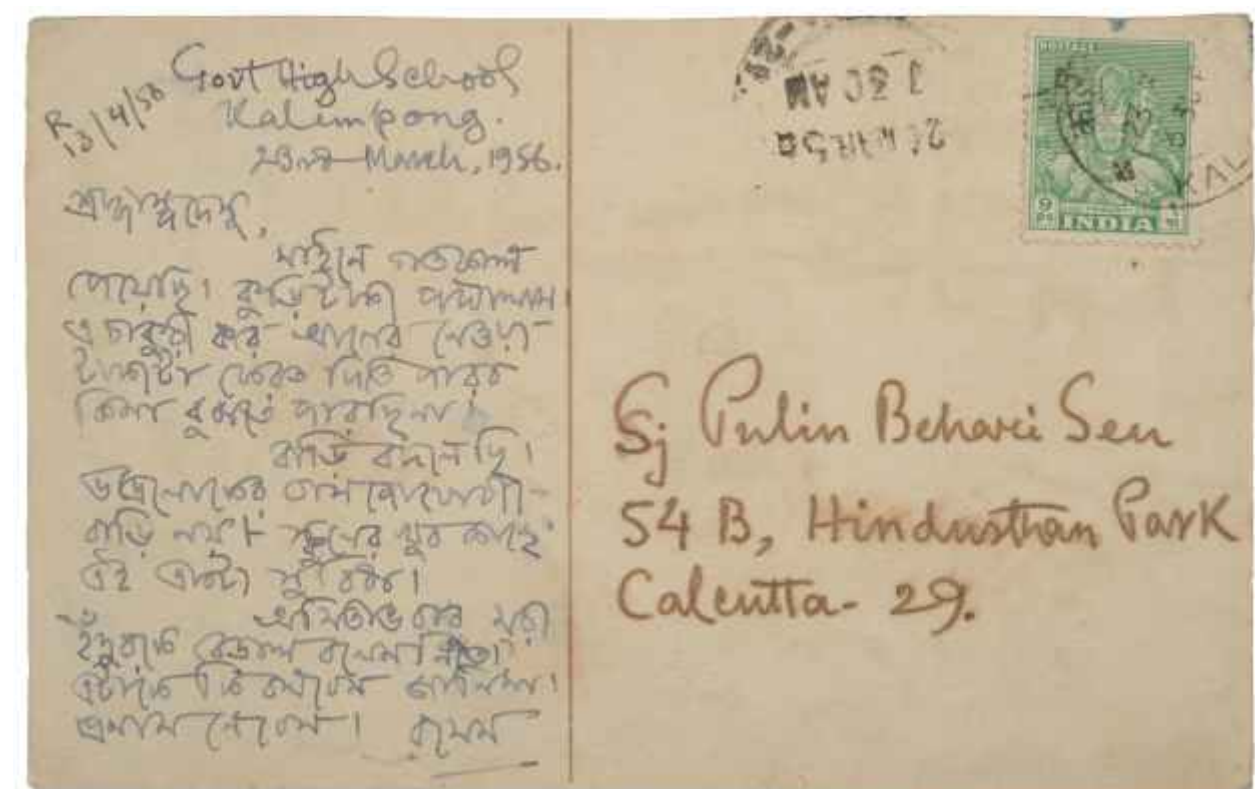


Artist Ramen Kundu

Sri Pulin Behari Sen
54 B, Hindustan Park
Calcutta 29

With Respect,
I got my salary yesterday, so sent you 20
rupees. I can't understand how I will pay my
debt with this small earning.
I have changed my residence, but it is not
suitable for gentlemen. The new house is
near my school, that's the only positiveness I
have.
Amitabhbabu explains a dead rat as a cat. I
don't what he'll tell this. Take my bow.

Yours
Ramen
Govt. High School, Kalimpong
23 March, 1956



Artist Ramen Kundu

Sri Pulin Behari Sen
54 B, Hindustan Park
Calcutta 29

With Respect,
I got my salary yesterday, so sent you 20
rupees. I can't understand how I will pay my
debt with this small earning.
I have changed my residence, but it is not
suitable for gentlemen. The new house is
near my school, that's the only positiveness I
have.
Amitabhbabu explains a dead rat as a cat. I
don't what he'll tell this. Take my bow.

Yours
Ramen
Govt. High School, Kalimpong
23 March, 1956



Artist Ramen Kundu



Shri Pulin Behari Sen,
54B, Hindustan Park
Calcutta- 29

Dear Pulin Sir,
Please do accept my regards. Here it is
raining all the time. How are you? Let me
know.

Yours
Ramen.
11/8/50.



Artist Ramen Kundu

Ardhendu P. Benrjee
C/o R.C. Benrjee
Syleht

Dear Ardhendubabau,
I came to know by letter that you have come home. How do you feel at home? I'm facing continuous rain and obscure moonlight here. As a result, I haven't been able to step outside my home for some days. You'll get your stuff soon, don't worry.

Yours
Ramen
Agartala



Artist Ramen Kundu

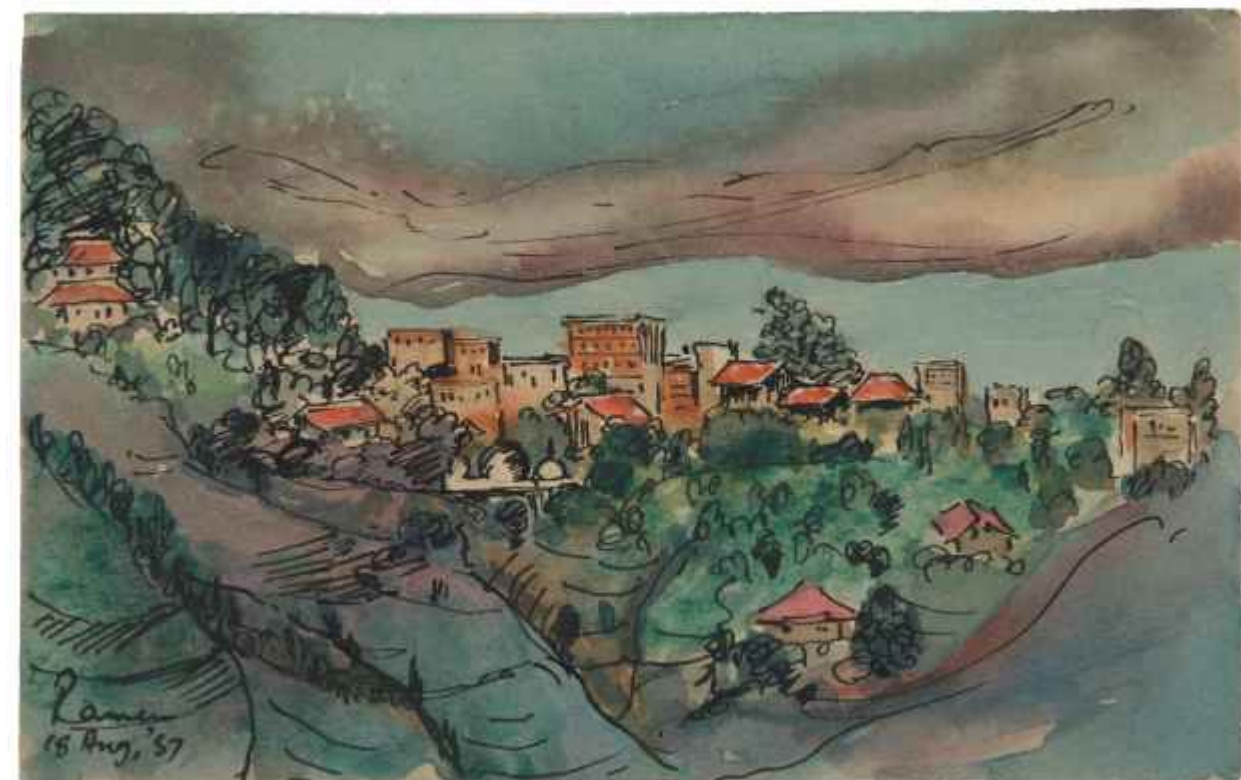
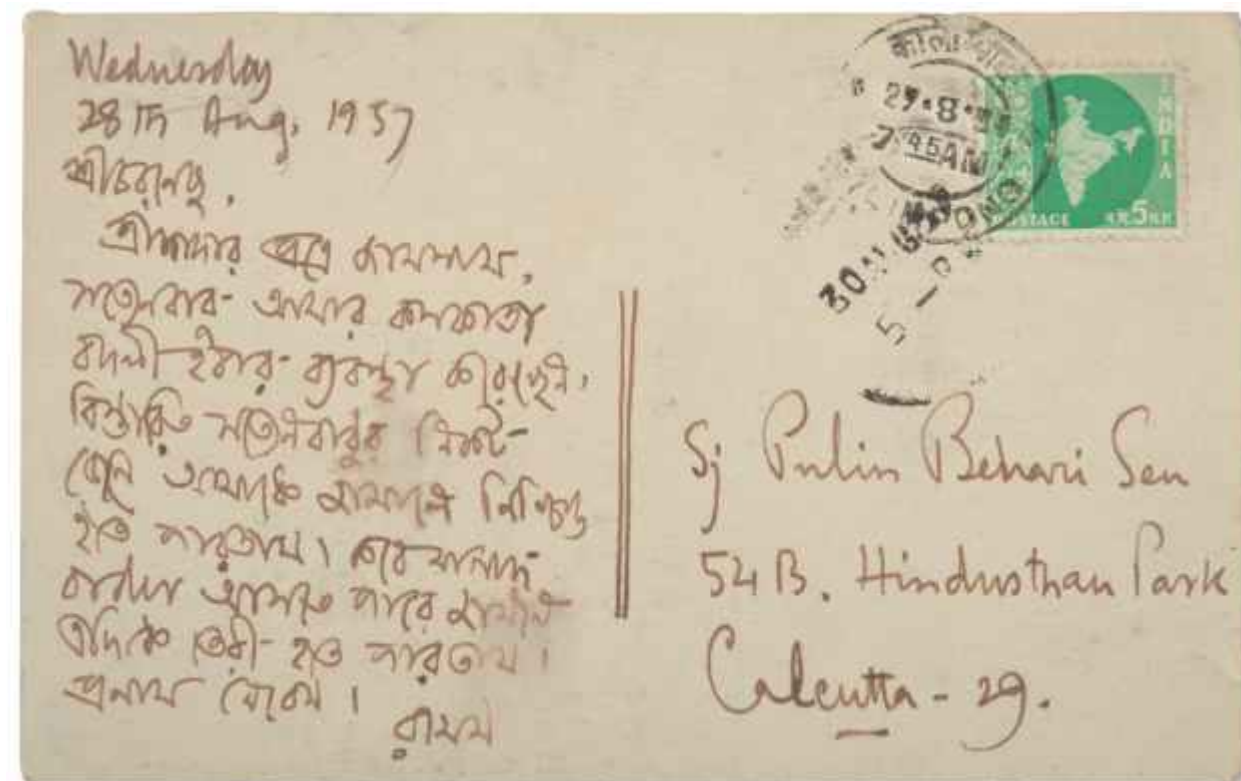


Artist Ramen Kundu

Shri Pulin Behari Sen
54B Hindustan Park
Calcutta- 29

Dear Pulin,
Shailesh Da's letter let me know that Satyen
Da has arranged my transfer to Calcutta. If
you can please let me know it elaborately
after knowing it from Satyen Da. I will be at
peace after knowing it. And can also arrange
for my departure.
Please take my regards.

Yours
Ramen.
Wednesday
28th August, 1957.



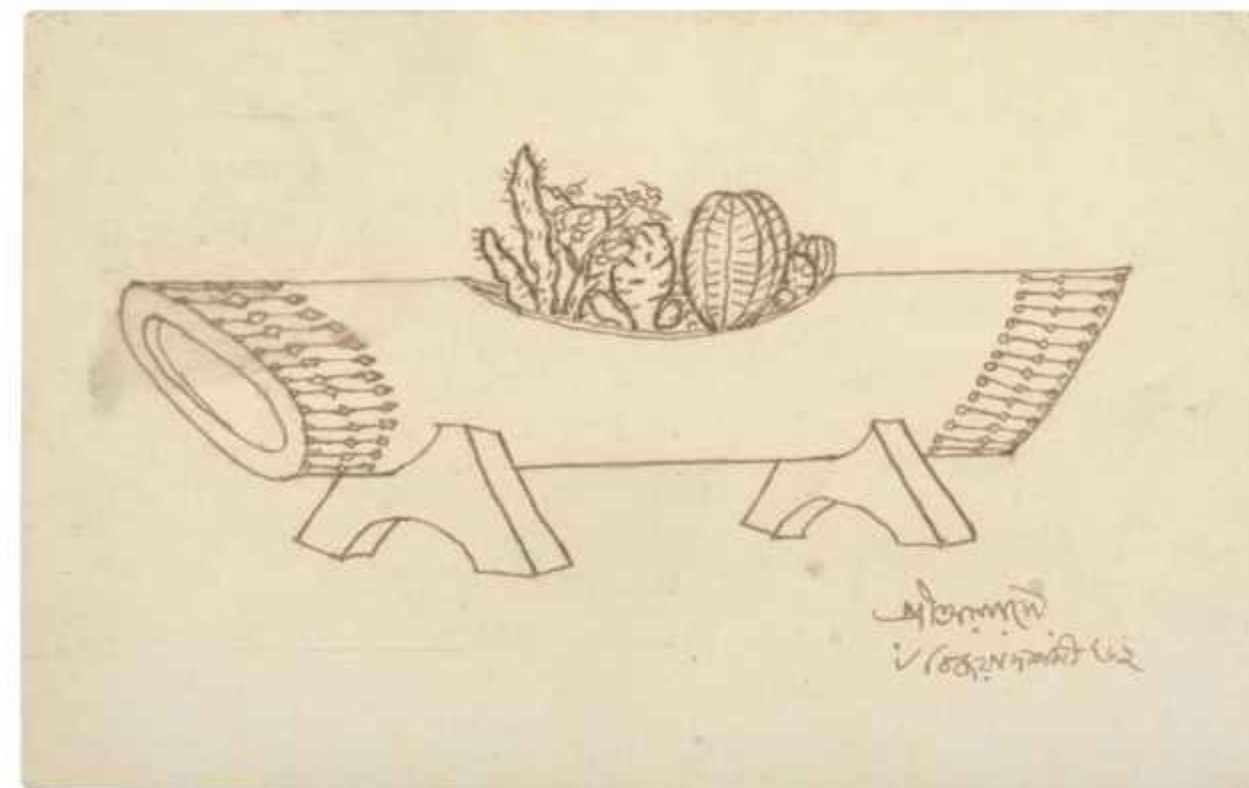
Artist Ramen Kundu

Sri Pulin Bihari Sen, M.A.
Mazumdar Bungalow
Tamak Pal
Ghatshila

Respected Pulinbabu,
Take my bow and love for Vijaya Dashami. I'm
not familiar with you, but I have heard of
you so much through Ramen that I consider
myself to be well-known to you. That is why I
expressed my respect for you. I have heard a
lot about you from late Ramenbabu also. If
you grant, I'm very much eager to meet you.

Yours ever
Amarendra Chowdhury

Amarendra Chowdhury
P 22/1 Gulu Ostagar Lane
Calcutta 6



Artist Amarendra Chowdhury

Shri Pulin Behari Sen
Majumdar Bungalow
JamaKupal
Ghatshila,

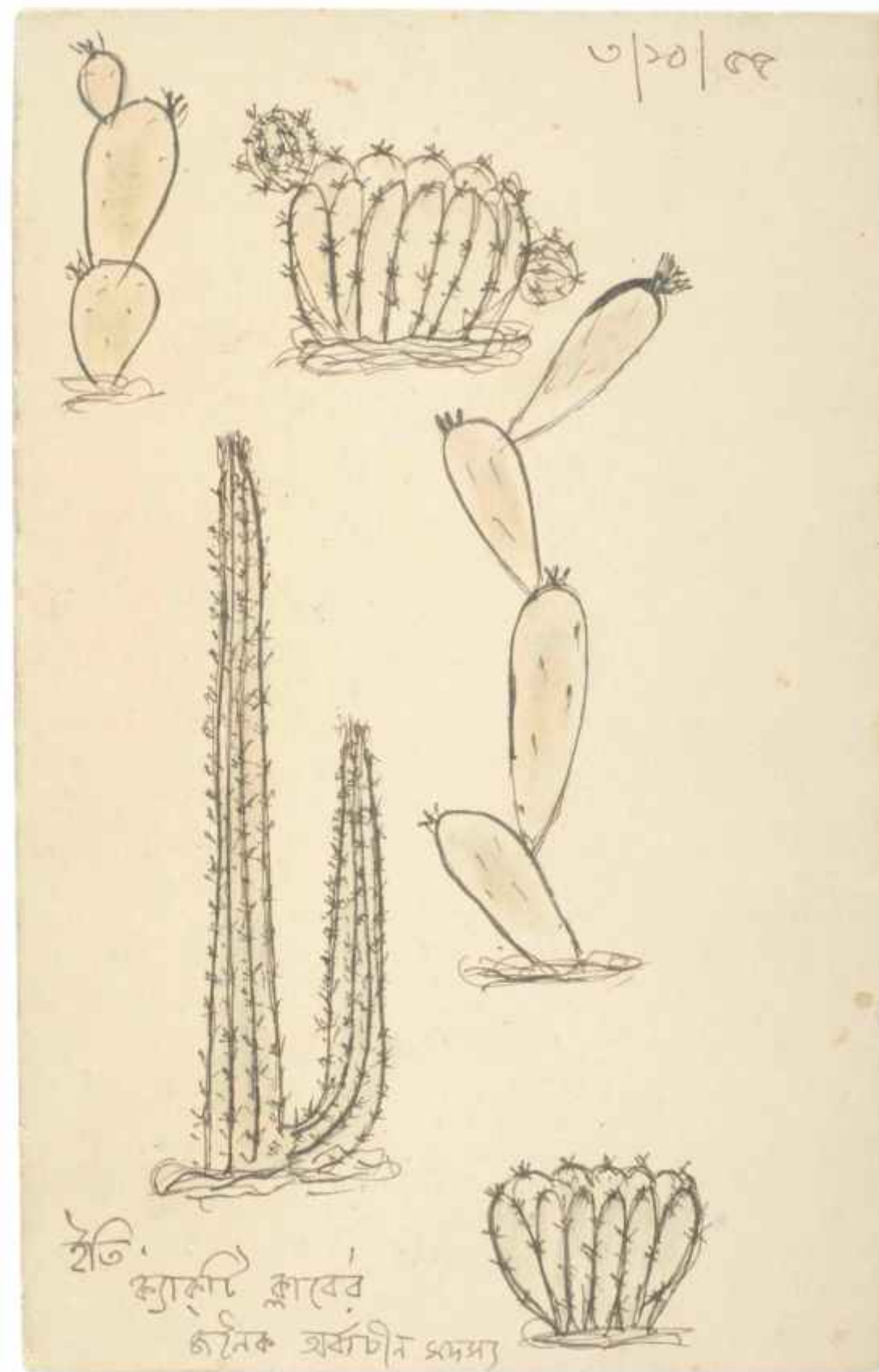
Dear Pulin,

Have a nice Bijaya. I want to visit there if you
give me permission. How is the fish market
there?

Yours
Fish Seller.
3/11/55
36C, Kalighat Road.



Artist Amarendra Chowdhury



Artist Amarendra Chowdhury

Sri Pulin Bihari Sen
Majumdar Bungalow
Tamurhal
Ghatshila
Bihar

Respected Kakababu,
Wish you my love and admiration for Vijaya
Dashami. I've got your postcard from
Khokan. He will arrive tomorrow from
Lucknow. Please give me some cards with my
father's painting. Hope you are doing well.
We are good here.

Yours loving,
Kalyani
101, Ballygunj Gardens
Calcutta 19
09.10.57



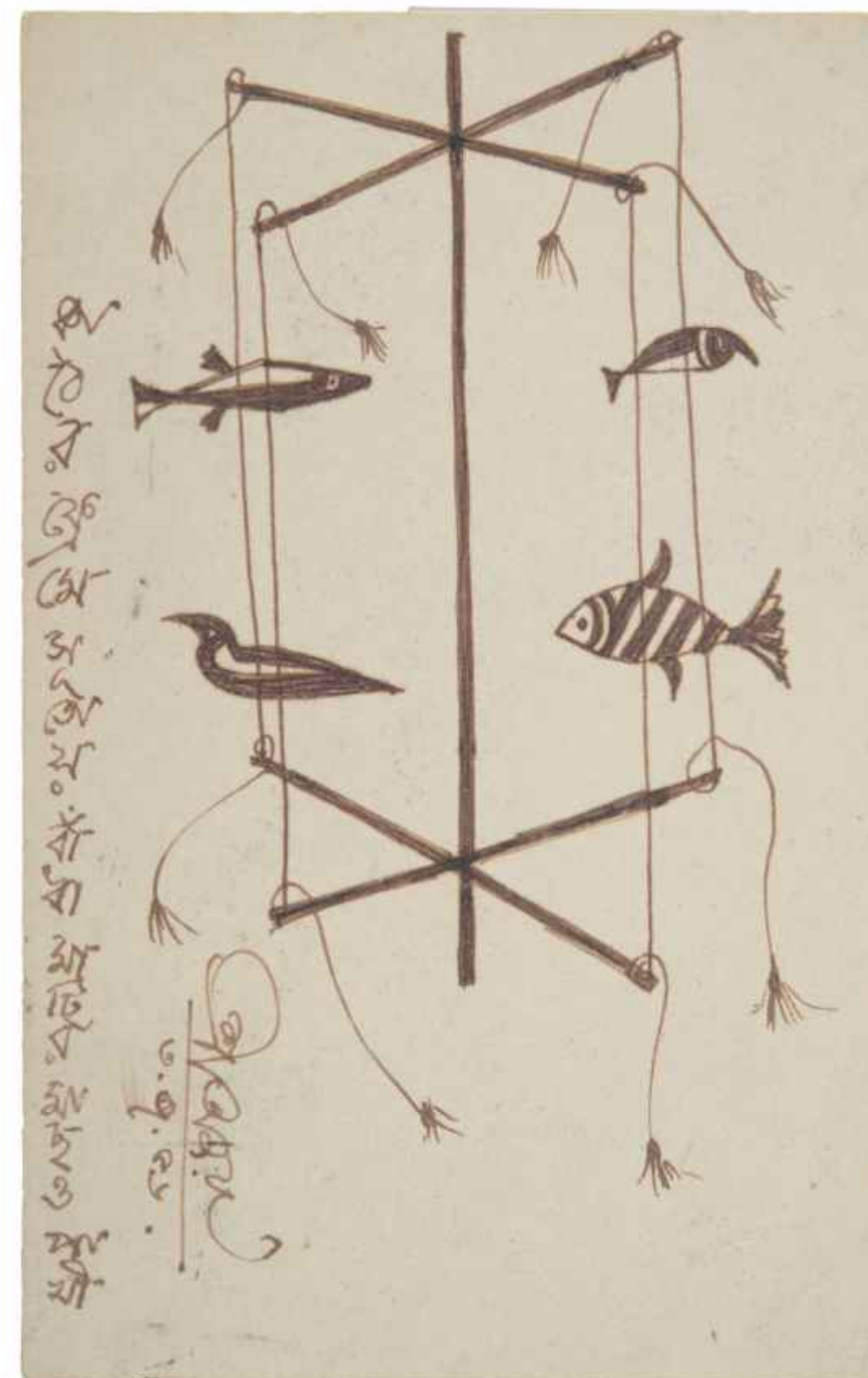
Artist Kalyani



Shri Puli Behari Sen,
54B Hindustan Park,
Ballygunge,
Calcutta.

Dear Pulin,
Saw your dolls and got amused. If needed
will again go. I have given the address of
Ardhendu Babu. Bless me for my best.
Yours
Ajay Mukherjee.

Ardhendu Banerjee.
21, J.K. Pal Road
Calcutta- 38.



Artist Ajay Mukherjee

Sri Pulin Bihari Sen
Brahmmo Palli
Mymen Sing

Pulinda,
The result has been out. I passed in the second division. Hope you've got my previous letter. I decided to continue my studies in Shantiniketan because it is very tough to get admission to another college without a first division. So, I'm bound to continue here. I got a letter from Mantu but didn't reply till now. Please tell Niharbabu about me and send him my respect. How are you?

Yours
Sagar
Shantiniketan

Please tell me which subjects I should take in I.A.



Artist Sagar





for
20/10/83
Haworth