

私のねずみグッズ(2)

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1994年にインドのボンベイでアジアオセアニア PCO 大会 (FAOPMA) が開催された。深夜にホテルに到着、翌朝眠い目をこすりながら新聞に目を通すと、一面に「スラート市がペスト宣言」の記事が飛び込んできた (図1)。インド西部のスラートを中心に、飛沫感染をする死亡率の高い肺ペスト患者が続出し、死者は100人を超えた。パニックに陥った住民30万人もがスラートを脱出し、首都ニューデリーやボンベイに流れ込んできたというもの。街には口をマスクや布で覆う人で溢れ、薬局には抗生物質を買う行列ができていた。心配された大会は予

定通り開催され、楽観主義の日本人グループは最後まで残ったが、韓国グループは初日に本国に帰ってしまった。自分の身は自分で守るという国民性の違いだろうか。

骨董屋で土産物を物色していたところ、ヒンズー教のシヴァ神の息子で、智慧と富をもたらす象頭神「ガネーシア」の乗り物がネズミで、店内におびたどしい数の絵や彫り物を見つけた。嬉しくなつてついつい買ったものである (写真1)。

大阪の天王寺動物園にある夜行性動物館を訪れたところ、下水管の中にいるドブネズミが展

示されていた。飼育員にさっそくねずみ駆除協議会の話をしたところ、動物園の定期刊行物に記事の投稿を依頼された。ほどなくして掲載された冊子と飼育員手作りのねずみの張子が送られてきた (写真2)。

日光で求めた竹細工の虫の指揮者のもとに、私のねずみグッズによる楽団を結成した (写真3)。

写真1. ガネーシア



THE SUNDAY TIMES

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38 PAGES WITH REVIEW

Surat city declared 'plague-affected'

The Times of South West India
 25th September 1954

With the latest news report
 indicating the persistence of
 plague in Surat, the health
 department "plague officer" the
 chief minister, Mr. Chhatrasal
 Patel, announced from the as-
 sembly today that 150 persons
 had died in Surat and 100 persons
 were being admitted to the hos-
 pital.

The health officer was gripped by
 "plague fever" with symptoms
 such as hot dry skin, swollen
 glands and enlarged lymphatic
 glands, according to reports
 from the health department, 64
 persons in the city had died
 without any medical help. How-
 ever, he stated that these pa-
 tients had not died of plague,
 but of other ailments, such as
 cholera, typhoid, malaria, etc.

Following reports from
 the health department, the
 chief minister, Mr. Chhatrasal
 Patel, today declared that
 Surat was "plague-affected".

He said that the "plague" was
 present in the city within the limits
 of the health department com-
 petence.

Mr. Patel said today the health
 department had indicated that the
 disease had not yet spread to the
 surrounding areas.

Following is the list of cities
 in Gujarat where plague has
 been reported to have been
 detected in the past:

- Surat — 304 cases
- Amreli — 8
- Baruch — 4
- Chhatrapur — 1
- Palanpur — 1
- Godhra — 1
- Official mortality figures in
 Surat — 27
- Deaths — 1

Mr. Patel said that the health
 department had been
 completely satisfied to have
 the number of reported cases
 being admitted to the Surat city
 hospital, but declared, Mr.
 Chhatrasal said, he had
 four days since the outbreak, 27

people had died, Mr. Patel said,
 while 100 cases had been ad-
 mitted to the hospital.

Mr. Chhatrasal said today
 that he had today personally
 asked by the Prime Minister, Mr.
 P. V. Narasimha Rao, who is
 deeply concerned about the sit-
 uation, to visit the affected city and
 offer assistance in the form of
 medicines, including simple quanti-
 ty of drugs and medicines in case
 of any emergency.

The chief minister said that
 there was absolutely no need to
 be alarmed.

He stated that the health
 department was taking all
 possible steps to control the
 disease.

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With four more deaths in the city, an already rampant with hot weather made to Surat, Surat on Friday

図1. ス
 ラート市
 のペスト
 宣言



写真2. 張子のねずみ



写真3. ねずみのオーケストラ