



Balkoba Natekar

Death 13/1/1910

Another of high caliber singer in the troupe of Annasheb.Kirloskar was Balkoba Natekar. He was an asset in the cast of the musical 'Shakuntal'. Balkoba was a good singer as well as an actor. Very strong memory, amazing grasp of music as well as dramatics were the characteristics of Balkoba's contribution to the Marathi theater.

He was good at Indian classical music as well as playing musical instruments such as 'been, sarod and sitar'. He was an erudite in music. He used to play different roles in 'Shakuntal'. He used to sing the 'nandi' in Act I, play the disciple in Act II, Kanva in Act IV, Kanchuki in Act VI and Matali in Aact VII. In 'Soubhadra', he would play Narada and Krishna. Instead of accepting the risk of being a partner in

the drama company, Balkoba worked on the salary of Rs 200/- p.m. and in 1890 on Rs 150/- p.m. as a result of deterioration in his voice-quality.

In 1893, due to some hassles over the salary amount, Balkoba accepted retirement. He kept away from joining any other company. Instead, he continued his singing, music, performing as well as teaching.

Balkoba was one of the pioneering singers in the history of musical plays on the Marathi stage.

