



STELLA MARIS COLLEGE

1998



# Stella Maris College

(Autonomous)

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**1998**

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## CONTENTS

Principal's Report	1
<b>IN APPRECIATION</b>	
Dr. Sr. Mary John, <i>fmm</i>	9
Dr. Mrs. Meena N. Swamy	10
Dr. Mrs. Mary John	11
Dr. Mrs. Padma Seshadri	12
Mrs. Celine Rodriguez	13
Dr. Miss Vijaya Parthasarathy	14
Sr. Christine Antony, <i>fmm</i>	15
Dr. Mrs. Yesodha Doraiswamy	16
A Tryst with History	17
Felicitation	19
<b>IN MEMORIAM</b>	
Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry, <i>fmm</i>	22
Excerpts from the Memorial Service for Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry	24
Sr. Teresita Polycarpus, <i>fmm</i>	26
Sr. Nora Edwards, <i>fmm</i>	27
Sr. Annamma Luka, <i>fmm</i>	28
Ms. P. Gnanam	29
Ms. Shalini Xavier	29
Mr. Michael	30
St. Clare of Assisi	31
Inauguration of St. Clare Centre	32
St. Clare Centre... A Dream Come True...	33
From the Visitor's Book	35
Letter from A Visiting Faculty	38

## **REPORTS**

Games	39
NCC	41
NSS	43
Students' Union - Strike Deeper Roots, Reach Higher Still	45
Cultural Report	47

## **PROJECTS**

Culture and Drug Use/Abuse in Asian Settings – Research For Action	49
The Functional Literacy Programme	50
The Writing Centre	50
Career Guidance Centre	51
Ujjwala	51
Journalism	52

## **SEMINARS**

Faculty Training in Leadership	52
Tourism in India: Prospects and Challenges	53

## **CREATIVE WRITING**

Looking Back - The World in 1000 AD	54
Haikus	56
Voices	57
Untitled	58
Nemesis	59
Star Light Star Bright	60
Sheep, Shah Rukh and Science Fiction	61
What's Hot, What's Not in Computers	65
Macbill — The Richest Man in the World	66
The Celestine Prophecy	73
My Prodigal Sons	74
Tamil	
Hindi	
French	

*Lord you have been our refuge  
from age to age...*

*A thousand ages are to you  
like a yesterday which has passed,  
like a watch of the night....*

*May the sweetness of the Lord be upon us  
To confirm the work we have done.*

*Psalm 90*

# Editorial

WITH THE FAST APPROACHING 2000 AD, THE DUST SETTLES ON ANOTHER THOUSAND years of human history. The doomsayers and Y2K experts excepted, the world seems to be awaiting the next millennium with phlegmatic calm. India has completed fifty years of independence as a nation, and Stella Maris half-a-century of its existence. This is a significant stretch of time for a country and a college, though only a twentieth part of a thousand years. Every decade of the half-century has introduced yet more radical shifts, keeping up a relentless pace of change. A creative adapting to change is perhaps best accomplished by those who can identify and hold on to a changeless core in their lives. To determine what that core is, is as important for nations and institutions as it is for individuals.

The nation has seen dramatic changes in the past few months and for Stella Maris too, it is an end and a beginning. A decade of autonomy has come to a close; six stalwarts, some with over thirty years of service have retired; death has claimed three of our former members of the faculty and with the passing away of one of our foundresses, an age has come to an end. At the same time the college is also witness to vibrant new beginnings. The credit based system of education offering a new flexibility and variety to the student, is now a year old. The St. Clare centre with its new open-air theatre stands, bearing graceful testimony to three years of dedicated effort and the generosity of the benefactors and well-wishers of the college. The smart new canteen echoes with excited voices.

Janus, after whom the month of January is named, was the two-faced Roman god of doors. Doors permit a double movement – inward and outward. On our cover is a Janus-faced bird that looks both forward and backwards. Our contributors have, in different ways tried to illuminate the theme of endings and beginnings. “The World in 1000 AD” looks back across the centuries in order to assess how far humanity has travelled in a thousand years. The short story

‘Sheep, Shah Rukh and Science Fiction’ projects forward into the future in a comic attempt to warn against contemporary trends. ‘Star light, Star bright’ laments the end of a relationship, even while it finds consolation in a new acceptance. ‘My Prodigal Sons’ examines the predicament of an old woman who is rejected by her biological sons and robbed by servants, the substitute sons. The parody ‘Macbill’ places Shakespeare in Silicon valley to execute an amusing variation upon an original theme. And our reports of student activities are here as always to establish that sweeping changes have come; but some things go on, providing, one hopes, that changeless core. Prayer and contemplation at the chapel, the stimulus of encountering a new book in the library, pleasant moments under the trees near the tennis courts, morning assembly as the college readies itself for the day, the euphoria that comes when a whole class breaks into delighted laughter - all these we trust will continue as before, giving Stella Maris its unique identity.




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## EDITORIAL BOARD

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		<u>Department</u>
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Layout prepared by Elizabeth Verghese, Alumni, Stella Maris College.



# STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

COLLEGE DAY — March 21, 1998

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

DR. SR. ANNAMMA PHILIP, FMM

Prof. P.T. Manoharan, Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras, Mrs. Kanakavali Manoharan, Sr. Mary Rose, fmm., Provincial Superior, Madras Province, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, fmm, Secretary and Superior, Sr. Leony, fmm., Superior, Stella Maris, Sr. Irene Mathias, fmm., former Principal, Stella Maris College, dear parents, friends and benefactors of the college, faculty members, administrative and supportive staff, and dear students:

**T**HE PRIMAL FORCE THAT EXISTS IS THE vibrant flow of life. It gushes forth from all around us and the universe is the testimony to its presence - be it in the fiery rising of the sun, the sparkling eyes of youth or the twinkling reflection of the starry skies. This force has varied forms and in the field of

education its vibrancy and its potency is most strongly imbibed and felt. In its life span of over 50 years, Stella Maris has had the proud privilege of having dedicated faculty and staff who have kindled the spark of knowledge in thousands of young minds. The various events of the past year were but a celebration of this glorious privilege.



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### INDIA & STELLA MARIS — A SHARED CELEBRATION

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In fact, the college Golden Jubilee celebration, in August 1997, brought together the macrocosm and the microcosm, the past and the present, the country and the college, as we simultaneously sought and affirmed our identity in specially warm and joyous togetherness.

A unique bond of historical tradition links the foundation of the college with India which won its political freedom on this day. August 15, the Golden Jubilee of the College was marked with an air of solemnity and gaiety.

After the flag hoisting by Dr. V.C. Kulan-  
daiswamy, former Vice-Chancellor, Anna  
University, lively group dances generated an  
atmosphere of thanksgiving and joy.

A special postal cover designed by Dr. Sr.  
Mary Ann, fmm, and Dr. Ms Ordetta Mendoza,  
was issued by the Department of Posts and  
Telegraphs, a signal mark of honour from the  
nation to Stella Maris on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A  
symbolic dedication to the cause of knowledge  
and social upliftment, the blessing of the new  
Canteen Block by Fr. Kurien Thomas, our  
chaplain and its inauguration by Sr. Mary Rose,  
fmm, Provincial Superior, the cutting of a huge  
Jubilee cake and sharing of light refreshments  
were other solemn and delightful aspects of the  
day's programme.

The curtains were drawn on the Golden  
Jubilee Celebrations on August 20, 1997. The  
strength of an institution lies in the dedication  
and commitment of the faculty and staff. In a  
moving tribute to those who had helped to  
establish and shape this premier institute of  
learning, the college honoured fifty three of our  
faculty, administrative and supportive staff, both  
present and retired, who have put in twenty five  
years or more of service.

We were specially privileged to have with us  
luminaries who felicitated the college on the  
completion of 50 years. The presence of three  
students of the first batch of 1947 added an  
endearing touch to the occasion. The Golden  
Jubilee Souvenir and a video cassette *The Stella  
Marian Saga - On the Road to the Future* released  
on this occasion were another attempt to fuse  
the past and the present and produce a  
permanent record of a process and a precious  
moment in time. Publications authored by the

faculty during the Jubilee year were also  
released.

During the *At Home, Day* organised by the  
Alumnae Association in August, mothers and  
daughters, faculty and students, generations of  
the Stella Marian family shared unforgettable  
memories.

Among our major accomplishments, the  
completion of the four-storeyed building, the  
introduction of the credit based system and the  
institution of scholarships deserve special  
mention.

I am proud to announce that fifty one  
Golden Jubilee Scholarships, have been  
instituted, each with a principal of Rs.30,000.  
The interest on these is awarded to deserving  
students on a merit-cum-means basis. The list  
of students who will be receiving these  
scholarships at the beginning of the next  
academic year has been published in a booklet.  
We are immensely grateful to the donors of  
these scholarships for their generous support to  
the cause of women's education.

As educational institutions seek to achieve  
excellence in the realm of higher education,  
faculty are motivated to do quality teaching,  
developing innovative methods. Ten years of  
autonomy have given us the impetus to launch  
into new avenues in the teaching - learning  
process. True to its pioneering spirit Stella  
Maris introduced the credit based system of  
education at the undergraduate level in June  
1997. For the effective implementation of this  
new system new faculty positions such as  
Academic Deans and Deans, Curriculum  
Development, were created.

The Golden Jubilee Commemorative

Building, St. Clare Centre, was blessed in October 1997, by His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Arul Das James, Archbishop of Madras - Mylapore and inaugurated in January '98 by Sr. Christiane Megarbané, Superior General, Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. The new building accommodates the administrative offices, a conference room, computer laboratories, a prayer room, audio-visual room, and classrooms.

We are immensely grateful to our building committee members for their valuable advice and unstinting support. To Mr. Sambandan, our engineer we owe a debt of gratitude for the meticulous planning and execution of the work.

This building stands as a testimony to the unfailing Providence of God, the generous contributions of our benefactors, well-wishers, parents, faculty, staff, alumnae, and students.

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### RECOGNITION

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I take this opportunity to place on record our deep appreciation of six of our faculty members who will be retiring this year.

Responsible and committed, Dr. Mrs. Meena Swamy, Vice-Principal and Head, Post-graduate Dept. of Mathematics, has carried out her duties in a meticulous manner for the past thirty two years at Stella Maris. As Vice-Principal for the past three years she has generously shared in the responsibility of college administration.

Dr. Mrs. Mary John, Head, Dept. of Social Work, is retiring after thirty three years of dedicated service. With an acumen for research, she has been nominated as International Woman of the Year - 1997 by the International Biographical Centre, Cambridge, UK, for her

distinguished contribution to research in social work.

Diligent and unassuming, Dr. Ms Vijaya Parthasarathy, Head, Dept. of Botany has carried out her duties for the past twenty nine years with loyalty and dedication.

Dr. Sr. Mary John, Head, Dept. of History, serene and committed has contributed richly to the growth of the department for the past twenty six years. She has ably shouldered the responsibility of college administration in her capacity as Dean of Student Affairs, Vice-Principal and as Principal-in-charge.

Mrs. Celine Rodrigues, faculty, Dept. of Mathematics, has generously shared her knowledge and experience with students for the last twenty six years.

Dr. Mrs. Padma Seshadri, faculty, Dept. of English, has discharged her duties with a quiet confidence and sense of devotion for the last nineteen years. She has also served the college as Dean of Student Affairs.

We are indebted to our retiring faculty for their loyalty and dedicated service to this institution and to the cause of higher education. You have shared the best part of your life with Stella Maris and the noble values you have communicated to generations of students will ever live on.

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### REMEMBRANCE

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It is with deep regret that I recall the various members of the Stella Marian family who have passed away during the last year: Sr. Teresita Polycarpus, fmm, Co-ordinator of the Evening College and former Professor and Head, Dept.

of Economics, Sr. Annamma Luka, fmm, former administrative staff, in-charge of maintenance, Ms Shalini Xavier, student of II B.Sc. Zoology, Sr. Nora Edwards, fmm (Mother Sylvester) one of the founding sisters and first Vice-Principal of the college, Ms P. Gnanam, former Professor and Head, Dept. of Physics and Mr. Michael, former security staff of our college.

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ACADEMIC EXCHANGE  
PROGRAMMES

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During the past year the college has played host to several visiting professors and Fulbright scholars from abroad. Dr. Judith Perkins from St. Joseph's College, Connecticut, USA, Dr. Betty Weidmann, from City College, New York State University, USA, Fulbright scholars from Fort Belknap College, Montana, USA, and the faculty of Deklab University, Georgia, USA.

The bonds of fellowship between Sinclair Community College, Ohio, and Stella Maris College were further strengthened by the visit of Dr. Jean Cook and Mr. Bob Keener, as well as Dr. Peggy Garrison and Ms Susan Johnstone.

Dr. Mrs. Prema Bhat returned to Stella Maris after an eventful year at the Williams Woods College, Missouri, USA, where she was a visiting scholar under the auspices of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia programme. Dr. Mrs. Patricia Gabriel, faculty, Dept. of History is currently in the USA on a similar programme.

As Vice-President of the International Federation of Catholic Universities, I was privileged to attend its 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Santiago, Chile, in October 1997.

Ms Mity Fernando of III B.Sc. Physics was

once again invited by World Vision to attend an All Artists Associate Programme in Tennessee, USA. Ms Mitchell D'Silva of II B.Sc. Zoology, was invited to USA as Youth Ambassador of World Vision.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

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It is rewarding to note that our dedication to excellence is being recognised by society at large. Stella Maris was placed among the top 10 colleges in India by *India Today*. The college also received "The Excellence Award" from the Lions Club of Madras City.

In September 1997, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, fmm, former Principal was awarded the "The Best Principal Award" while Dr. Mrs. Radha Paul, former Head, Dept. of Social Work was awarded the "Best Teacher Award" by the Government of Tamil Nadu for the year 1989.

March 1998 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sr. Edith's arrival in India. Foundress of the Dept. of Fine Arts, honoured with the Stree Ratna Award for her outstanding contribution to Art Education by the Director K. Subrahmanyam Memorial Trust, Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry's dedication and commitment are witnessed in the keen interest she evinces in the activities of the college even at the ripe age of ninety two.

Faculty improvement programmes are given priority in an environment which nurtures discovery and innovation. We are proud to state that five of our faculty members received their doctoral degrees from the University of Madras this year — Dr. Ms Bhagavathy Jayaraman, Dept. of Mathematics, Dr. Ms Ordetta Mendoza, Dept. of Botany, Dr. Sr. Rita

Marneni, fmm, Dept. of Zoology, Dr. Mrs. Mridula Jose, Dept. of English and Dr. Mrs. Sujatha Ramanathan, Dept. of Sociology.

Seminars and workshops are an integral part of the academic milieu at Stella Maris. The Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent Endowment Lecture of the Economics Department, the Shrimathi Indira Gandhi Endowment Lecture of the History Department, the Dr. Ms. Thangamani Endowment Lecture of the Mathematics department and the Sr. Irene Mathias Intercollegiate Quiz Programme, part of the Gold Chem-Fest of the Chemistry department, were some of the annual highlights.

Several of our faculty have attended orientation and refresher courses, work-shops and seminars organised by other universities and colleges, both as participants and resource persons. Mrs. Rukmani Srinivasan, was invited to present a paper at an International Conference in Texas, USA.

Dr. Mrs. Geetha Swaminathan, was awarded the "Environmental Safety Award" by the Ramya Cultural Academy for her work in the field of environmental awareness.

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### PROJECTS AND SEMINARS

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The department of History organised a seminar on *Tourism in India - Prospects and Challenges* whose focus was to present a holistic understanding of the tourism phenomenon in India. Sustainable strategies for the future were envisaged. The findings of an exploratory study on the impact of tourism on women from the coastal areas of Kovalam, Betal, Mammallapuram and Pondichery carried out with financial assistance from UBCHEA by

Dr. Kamala Aravind and Dr. Susan Oommen were also presented.

The other projects of the UBCHEA programme included the Dynamics of Design in the Fine Arts department, the Writing Centre of the English department, the Career Guidance cell and the Journalism project.

The students of the Vocational Course in Food Science and Quality Control have been involved in sensitising the public to the problem of food adulteration. The department of chemistry collaborated with King Institute, Fedcot and the Madras Corporation in the implementation of this programme.

The department of Physics organised a two-day inter-collegiate programme – *Potentials -'98* which brought out the latent talents in the students.

Other workshops conducted in the college include a workshop on *Seven Habits for Effective People* for the faculty of the college, *Personality Assessment* organised by the Commerce department, and on *Testing and Evaluation* for the faculty of the English Department.

Gender issues are at the forefront in today's society and we at Stella Maris have an active Women's Studies Cell – UJJWALA. An intercollegiate seminar was conducted on *One – Third Reservation for Women in Parliament: A Gender Perspective*. International Women's Day was celebrated with slogan and essay writing, and picture portrayal competitions.

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### SERVING THE COMMUNITY

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Community service programmes shape the community and the educational institution associated with it. Stella Maris College

contributes in no small measure to several community development programmes.

Recognising the link between drug addiction and AIDS, the project on *Drug Abuse in Asian Settings* has initiated several awareness programmes in its community centre located at Kasimedu in Royapuram area. A transit school was set up in September in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. The objective is to eliminate child labour and reduce drug abuse by helping school drop-outs re-enter the educational system. We are grateful to Rosary Matriculation Higher Secondary School for their tremendous support. In connection with the International Day for Drug Abuse Prevention a "Unity March against Drug Abuse" was organised in which Faculty and Students from Stella Maris, other colleges and schools in the city, and the community leaders and youth of Kasimedu participated.

The 232 NSS student volunteers work with the physically disadvantaged, visually and hearing impaired children and the aged in twenty different projects. The NSS volunteers are also called upon to participate in various outreach programmes, stage street plays, help at seminars and workshops organised by the State and University. They have attended camps on sustainable development and organised blood donation in the college. Ms Pauline Deepa of III B.A. Sociology was selected to represent the Madras University at the Republic Day Camp and Parade at New Delhi.

The students of the department of Social Work, the NSS volunteers and the Rotaract Club members of Stella Maris were engaged in both the phases of the National Pulse Polio Programme. The Corporation of Chennai and

the Rotary International, District 3230 have appreciated the services of our students.

Under the auspices of the Functional Literacy Programme of Stella Maris College, the residents of the villages of Nemam, Kuthambakkam and Bana Vedu Thotam have made rapid strides both in their level of literacy and in their self-help projects. A short documentary evaluating the activities in these villages has been produced. This year the college adopted another village - Karambakkam. About a hundred of our students are involved in this project.

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#### STUDENT ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

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Student activities are manifold in their diversity. Students experience the college in myriad settings outside the classroom especially through participation in student activities and in recognised student organisations.

The Department of Religion and Value Education continues to inculcate in students sound values and strengthens their faith formation through campus ministry and other programmes.

In the field of sports and games our students have represented Madras University South Division in several major games and athletics competitions and have garnered numerous prizes. In basketball alone, the team participated in twelve tournaments at the intercollegiate, State and National levels and were winners in eleven of them.

Several of our students have also represented the University of Madras at the All India Inter-University Tournaments and the

State level tournaments in various games.

The National Cadet Corps Unit has always been a source of pride to the college. This year four of our cadets represented Tamil Nadu, at the Republic Day Camp held at New Delhi. They are Cadet Srividhya Pasupathy, Flt. Cadets Roweena and Ramya and Sgt. Gayathri. Flt. Cadet Roweena was part of the NCC contingent for the Prime Minister's Rally and Flt. Cadet Ramya was selected for the Guard of Honour. Sgt. Gayathri won the Bronze medal at the All India Best Cadet Competitions.

Three of our Cadet Senior Under Officers Meghna Apparao, Nisha John and Lakshmi attended the Youth Exchange Programmes in Canada, Singapore and Bangladesh respectively.

The cadets besides bagging several medals and trophies at the inter-group and intercollegiate competitions also participated in various camps and adventure programmes – from trekking in the Himalayas to military attachment camps.

The Students' Union offers excellent opportunities to participate in and enjoy experiences through the sheer variety of activities on campus. The Union's motto was *Strike Deeper Roots, Reach Higher Still*. A hunger banquet was celebrated on World Food day while *Samarpan*, the inter-year competitions, and *Melange*, the intercollegiate competitions, were conducted in a truly pleasant spirit of friendly rivalry. The Students' Union also organised lecture-cum-demonstrations on the performing arts of India which included workshops on pottery and puppet making and a course on self-defence by Shihan Hussaini.

The Stella Maris Chapter of the Indian Society for Training and Development focused

on promoting and developing interest among the students in various aspects of management.

What has been presented is but a brief account of the achievements of Stella Maris over the last year. This wholesome exercise of deliberating on the past gives us an insight into the projects and promises for the future. Stella Maris is irrevocably committed to the enhancement of academic progress. The introduction of a Bachelor's Degree Programme in Computer Applications in the coming year is but a concretisation of the spirit of commitment.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Before I conclude it is my privilege to express my appreciation and gratitude for the committed and efficient services rendered by all the members of the Stella Marian family.

The smooth functioning of the college would not have been possible without the able and dedicated work of the administrative staff guided by Sr. Florine Monis, fmm, Mrs. Felcy Romeo and Sr. Ann Mathew, fmm, the examination unit ably directed by Dr. Ms. Geetha Swaminathan, Controller of Examinations, Mrs. Jayalakshmi associate Controller of Examinations, and the supportive staff supervised by Sr. Madonna, fmm.

It is also my pleasant duty to thank -

Sr. Mary Rose, fmm, Provincial Superior  
and President of our Governing Body,

Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, fmm, Superior and  
Secretary, Stella Maris College,

Dr. Sr. Mary Ann, fmm, Former Secretary of  
the College,

Dr. Sr. Flavia, fmm, and Dr. Mrs. Meena N.

Swamy, the Vice-Principals,

Dr. Sr. Colleen North, fmm,

Dr. Mrs. Margaret Clarence and  
Mrs. Bharathi Ramanan, the Deans of  
Student Affairs,

Mrs. Leema Francis and Dr. Ms Ordetta  
Mendoza, the Academic Deans,

Mrs. Jacintha Fenelon and Dr. Sr. Rita  
Marneni, fmm, the Deans for Curriculum  
Development,

The members of the faculty and our dear  
students,

The University of Madras, the Education  
Department, Regional Directorate, Directorate  
of Collegiate Education, Tamil Nadu State  
Council for Higher Education, and the  
University Grants Commission for their co-  
operation, advice and help extended so willingly  
and generously at all times;

The International Federation of Catholic  
Universities, the United Board for Christian  
Higher Education in Asia, the All India  
Association of Christian Higher Education, the  
Xavier Board of Higher Education in India, the  
Stella Maris Extension Counter of the Indian  
Overseas Bank and other public and private

sector organisations and agencies who have  
generously supported our student welfare  
programmes and projects and those who have  
instituted scholarships for the deserving and  
needy students;

The Public Utility departments of the  
Government of Tamil Nadu and the Central  
Government for timely service rendered.

A special word of thanks to you dear  
parents, friends, benefactors and well wishers  
for your continued support and sustained  
interest in all the activities of the college.

In conclusion it may be said that a college  
is a bold reminder of the human spirit of  
curiosity and wonder and amidst the  
multifarious activities, students generate an  
energy that can captivate and enthrall. May  
the resilience and power of the human spirit  
that can shape and mould the destiny of our  
youth lead us onward into the new millennium.  
May Stella Maris, the Star of the Sea,  
continually prod us to new beginnings and  
may the all pervading wisdom of the Almighty  
spur us onwards as we welcome the dawn  
of a new era.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS.





# IN APPRECIATION

## Dr. Sr. Mary John, fmm

A SERENE AND COMMITTED PERSON OF SIMPLE LIVING AND high thinking, Dr. Sr. Mary John, fmm, Head, Dept. of History, former Vice Principal and Principal in-charge has rendered twenty six years of service to Stella Maris College. Her unique contribution has been a deepening of the values of truth and charity. The importance of these precepts has been emphasised in her messages to students and staff on all occasions and inculcated by the example of her own life.

For her doctoral studies, Dr. Sr. Mary John chose the topic *The Rise and Development of Visistadvaita and Saiva Siddhanta in the Chola Empire*, which covers her areas of interest – Indian philosophy, history and spirituality. She introduced a course titled *Development of Religion and Philosophy in India* for students of history.

An ardent and quiet worker for inter-faith harmony in the college, Dr. Sr. Mary John organised prayer meetings, lectures and discussions for faculty and students. This effort led to the group producing an audio-cassette, SANJEEVANI, on national integration and inter-faith harmony.

To Dr. Sr. Mary John goes the credit for introducing at Stella Maris a counselling cell for those preparing for the I.A.S. exam. She also introduced a more broadbased course on general knowledge and current affairs adapted to all competitive exams. Several students have benefited from these courses. Sr. Mary John's leadership, organising ability and breadth of knowledge made her a successful co-ordinator of three programmes for three groups of American students from St. Mary's College Indiana, USA.

Dr. Sr. Mary John has published several philosophical and theological articles, presented papers and delivered lectures at various centres and colleges and conducted prayer sessions for different religious groups. Her deep appreciation of Indian spiritual values and innate discipline and asceticism led her to adopt the



ashram way of life and to choose to live outside Stella Maris with like-minded sisters.

After her retirement, Dr. Sr. Mary John will journey to Rome where she intends to immerse herself in a study of St. Francis of Assisi and the Mother Foundress. In Sr. Mary John we see a diamond that never sought the limelight, but when duty demanded or the opportunity arose, yet another facet of her talented nature was exposed. May God be with her in all her future endeavours.



## Dr. Mrs. Meena N. Swamy

DR. MRS. MEENA N. SWAMY BEGAN HER TEACHING CAREER in Fatima College, Madurai. She taught there for seven years, before joining the Dept. of Mathematics at Stella Maris College, in 1966. She became the Head of the department in 1994, and in 1995 was elevated to the high office of Vice-Principal, along with Dr. Sr. Flavia, fmm..

Mrs. Meena has held several important positions during the past three decades. She was a member of the Stella Maris College Governing Body; and the University of Madras Academic Council. She served on the Boards of Studies in Statistics at Madras and Pondicherry Universities and the Undergraduate Board of Studies, University of Madras. She was the subject expert for Boards of Studies in Statistics at Presidency and Loyola Colleges. She was the all India level resource person for the refresher course in "Statistical Theory and Applications" organised by the Academic Staff College, University of Madras. She attended the summer school in Regression Analysis organised by the International Centre for Pure and Applied Mathematics in Nice, France.

Mrs. Meena has been an outstanding teacher of great repute, who always stood for academic excellence and perfection. She taught with clarity and authority. Her erudition has won her legions of admirers. She is indeed a teacher par excellence!

One striking aspect of Mrs. Meena is her remarkable talent for leadership and its twin – responsibility. She gracefully and successfully managed the twofold obligations of HOD and Vice-Principal. Dr. Meena Swamy treated the Vice-

Principal's post as a temple of duty and devotion. At the same time, all work in the department received her personal care and attention. She personified the adage "work is worship."

Mrs. Meena is clear-sighted and logical in thought – a quality complemented by a strong sense of the right. She is bold, forthright and fearless. Yet her criticism was always constructive and without any malice. For, Dr. Meena Swamy is a very warm, friendly and affectionate person who relates to all people. She had a very good rapport with the administrative and non-teaching staff. Her kindly tone and pleasant manner have won her numerous friends.

As an individual, Mrs. Meena is a woman of giant will and inflexible purpose. One cannot help but admire the stoical calm with which she accepts life's challenges and hardships. Neither age nor ceaseless application have dulled her indomitable spirit.



## Dr. Mrs. Mary John

DR. MRS. MARY JOHN, RETIRING AFTER THIRTY THREE YEARS of service has been one of the most dynamic teachers Stella Maris College has known. The first woman to complete a Ph.D. in Social Work from Tamil Nadu, Dr. Mary John was also the first woman Principal of Madras School of Social Work.

As head of the Social Work Dept. of Stella Maris she conducted several projects, revived the department magazine and introduced a comprehensive certificate for the post-graduate students. While NSS co-ordinator at Stella Maris during the decade 1962 — '72, she organised several camps. In the role of chief co-ordinator of the planning committee for the introduction of the Credit Based System in the college, she made a significant contribution that will be gratefully remembered.

A member of the Board of Studies of several colleges, Dr. Mary John is a prolific contributor to academic journals and has presented numerous papers at seminars. She was distinguished at the national level when selected as a member of the panel established to restructure the constitution of the Association of Schools of Social



Work in India in 1997. Additionally, Dr. Mary John co-ordinated the academic programme for students of Ohio State University for four years and was project director for the academic programme for a group of professors from International Women's University, Miami, USA.

Dr. Mary John is distinguished by her excellent organisational abilities, her questioning mind, frank manner, and spontaneous warmth. With her deep commitment to social work and higher education, it is certain that retirement will be merely a path to fresh achievements.



## Dr. Mrs. Padma Seshadri

A GIFTED TEACHER, A TALENTED ACADEMICIAN AND A generous colleague, everything that Dr. Padma Seshadri did was marked by warmth, creativity and a gentle rectitude. Retiring from the English Dept. of Stella Maris College on June 30, '97, after twenty years of committed service, Dr. Seshadri can look back on a distinguished career. A brilliant student of Delhi University, she taught at Indraprastha College, Delhi and SNDT University, Mumbai, prior to joining Stella Maris. Her post-graduate diploma from Leeds, UK, and her doctoral thesis on *The Adsorption of Science and Technology on the Language of Twentieth Century Poetry* testify to her scholarship and original mind.

Dr. Padma Seshadri has contributed numerous articles to leading journals and to an Encyclopaedia of Post-Colonial Literature, translated a Hindi novel and is the author of three books on Indian mythology. Her pioneering efforts introduced the UGC sponsored vocational course in Functional English at Stella Maris. Her talents found an outlet in the innovative teaching, syllabus framing, materials production, organising of guest lectures, workshops, seminars and placements this challenging course generated. Indian writing was another field which held her enduring interest and students gratefully remember her inspiring lectures on twentieth century Indian writers.

Gifted with a human touch and a natural interest in students' welfare, Dr. Padma Seshadri was Dean of Students from 1979 — '83. Mrs. Padma Seshadri is gentle in

her ways, deeply religious in her outlook, and enthusiastic and highly motivated in her teaching. Colleagues in the department found her generous with her time, her books and her knowledge. Students and staff profited by her breadth of vision and wide information – the result of her travels in India and abroad. Her value education classes were marked by an in-depth knowledge of Indian philosophy. During her retirement, Dr. Padma Seshadri has embarked on a study of religious texts and Indian mythology.



## Mrs. Celine Rodriguez

MRS. CELINE RODRIGUEZ BEGAN HER TEACHING CAREER IN Seethalakshmi Ramaswamy College, Tiruchi, where she taught for two years, followed by a further two years at Vanniaperumal College, Virudhanagar, and a year at Holy Cross College, Nagercoil. She joined the Dept. of Mathematics at Stella Maris in 1971.

Mrs. Celine – the very name evokes a calm and quiet personality – is soft spoken and unassuming. She has etched a style of her own in the art of teaching Mathematics with quiet confidence. Her students treat her with utmost respect. A particularly remarkable feature about Mrs. Celine is her neat and beautiful handwriting – a quality that, according to Mahatma Gandhi, is an external reflection of the inner self.



Simple and unassuming though she is, Mrs. Celine has held some important positions in the college. To cite a few, she was a member of the College Finance Committee, a member of the College Literature Committee and Secretary of the Catholic Staff Association. She is very systematic and meticulous in all she does. She likes to do things quietly and unobtrusively. She is a living example of the Biblical verse – “Be still and know that I am God”.

Mrs. Celine is a woman of deep faith. For her God is not only a belief, but a reality of daily life. This remarkable attribute of hers has made her a woman of great

fortitude, courage and endurance. May her rock-like faith in the sustaining power of God continue to be her refuge and strength in the years to come and may she be blessed with a happy, peaceful and relaxed retired life.



## Dr. Miss Vijaya Parthasarathy

DR. MISS VIJAYA PARTHASARATHY ENTERED SERVICE AT Stella Maris College in 1968, bringing with her a rich experience in teaching at three other colleges – SIET, Chennai, Ethiraj College, Chennai, and Seethalaxmi Ramaswamy College, Tiruchi. After twenty nine years of dedicated service she retired as Head, Dept. of Botany in October 1997. She has the unique achievement of working on a totally new interdisciplinary branch called Cecidology – a combination of Botany, Entomology and Biochemistry – for her doctoral dissertation.

Her interest in Algology led her to an involvement in the Krishnamurthy Institute of Algology at Chennai. She is the executive member and editor of its newsletter. Furthermore, as a subject expert she serves on the boards of studies of various colleges. She has organised and convened two national workshops on Phyto-chemistry and conducted summer training courses for vocational students of Madurai Kamaraj University on Industrial Algology. She has given talks on botanical topics over AIR.

She has a wide range of interests and enjoys organising tours to botanical gardens and forests. Her versatility as an amateur artist, linguist and critic is well known. She is widely read in Tamil Literature. Her knowledge of herbs and their medicinal value makes her a veritable mine of information. Her human appeal is evidenced in the nickname her students and friends have bestowed upon her – Florence Nightingale.



## Sr. Christine Antony, fmm

THE NAME “SR. CHRISTINE” CONJURES UP IMAGES OF A lively, intense person who handled every aspect of college and personal life with a life-affirming zest which she has passed on to people she has associated with. She set tough educational, social and ethical standards and was uncompromising in following them, even if it meant being hard on herself.

As Programme Officer of the college NSS unit, she was a dreamer, a realist and a critic at the same time. Conducting field trips and camps among the tribal and rural areas, she brought home to students more familiar with the comfort of urban classrooms, the realisation that the larger society should be the arena for learning and growing. This helped, in fostering a cross-cultural learning experience for many young women and as the numbers increased, the units also grew to four, a record still not equalled in the college.

As the longest serving Dean of Students, Sr. Christine’s contribution to student community is the proactive attitude she developed. This may be seen in the way she mobilised a record number of student scholarships and fostered leadership and participation, cutting across all the layers that existed among the student community.

Those who worked with her marvelled at her meticulous attention to detail, systematic planning and shoulder-to-shoulder teamwork which propelled the task to perfect completion. Thus, acknowledging Sr. Christine’s twenty years in the Dept. of Sociology – as its foundress and guiding spirit, the alumnae devised a logo of a spreading tree to symbolise Sr. Christine. Deeply rooted in religion and society, branching out into various areas and yet open to the changing and enlivening atmosphere of the sun and the wind, she truly represented a humble tree which quietly contributes to the environment not expecting any public returns – existing in the spirit of *nishkama-karma* or doing one’s duty without expectations. The Alumnae of over two decades gathered together and presented this hand-drawn picture of a tree which they all autographed along with the poem given below:

At the welcoming gates of our college you stood  
As we stepped, young adults, out of our childhood.  
Shared our joys over the years,  
Consoled our sorrows, wiped our tears,  
As we left college and led our own lives  
As career women or caring housewives.



We carried your message along with our hearts  
To play to the hilt our several parts;  
How much you mean to us, we didn't stop to think  
Until now, when suddenly we are on the brink of parting with you . . .  
The tear that wells in the corner of our eye  
Expresses how we feel as we bid you goodbye  
Your shining example has been able to show  
How one may grow to serve and serve to grow  
May we beseech God to bless you as this new chapter starts  
And retain a bit of you in each of our hearts.



## Dr. Mrs. Yesodha Doraiswamy

DR. YESODHA DORAISWAMY, FORMER HEAD OF THE Department of Chemistry, was one of Stella Maris' most accomplished and dedicated teachers. "No personal consideration should stand in the way of performing a public duty" – this professional ethic advocated by Ulysses S. Grant distinguishes Dr. Yesodha's 32 years of yeoman service. Deeply admired by her students Dr. Yesodha came across as motherly and dedicated yet youthful and friendly. Her department colleagues allude to her as a "walking encyclopaedia in organic and inorganic chemistry, and biochemistry." Dr. Yesodha

Doraiswamy had co-authored a textbook in Biochemistry and several manuals for students taking food chemistry as an allied subject.

In addition to her academic responsibilities, Dr. Yesodha Doraiswamy was an acknowledged Telugu short-story writer. She is listed in the "Who's who" of women writers in Telugu that is published by the Sahitya Academy of Andhra Pradesh. A deeply religious, and yet a progressive person, Dr. Yesodha Doraiswamy epitomised the observation made by Anatole France – "It is by acts and not by ideas that people live."

*(At the time of preparing this magazine for publication, we received the sad news of Dr. Mrs. Yesodha Doraiswamy's demise on September 2, 1998.)*





# A TRYST WITH HISTORY

**A**UGUST 15 IS A DAY TREBLY SACRED FOR STELLA MARIANS. A UNIQUE BOND OF HISTORICAL tradition links the foundation of this college with India which won its political freedom on this day. Moreover, 132 years ago on August 15, 1865, Mother Mary of the Passion, our Foundress was informed that she must go to India. We see this not as coincidence, but what Jung termed synchronicity – a fateful pattern pointing to hidden identity and design. By understanding and drawing from such patterns we can breathe significance into our awareness of ourselves in the present. Thus the college celebrations on August 15 and 20, 1997, were marked by an attempt to bring together the macrocosm and the microcosm, the past and the present, the country and the college, as we simultaneously sought and affirmed our identity in specially warm and joyous commemoration.

On August 15, after the Flag Hoisting by Dr. V.C. Kulandaiswamy, former Vice-Chancellor Anna University, lively group dances generated an atmosphere of thanksgiving and joy. Joining us in the jubilation were several of our retired faculty and alumnae – including three Stella Marians from the first undergraduate class of 1947. A special cover designed by Sr. Mary Ann, fmm, and Ms Ordetta Mendoza was issued by the Post and Telegraph Department, a signal mark of reciprocal honour from the nation to Stella Maris College on its 50 Golden Years. A morning prayer service explained the origin and significance of the jubilee, seen in religious terms. Representatives from all departments and sections offered lighted lamps and gifts in a symbolic dedication to the cause of knowledge and social upliftment. The new canteen block was blessed by Fr. Kurian Thomas and opened by Sr. Mary Rose, fmm, and yet another gracious edifice on the campus, a focus for future fun and food and conviviality, was commissioned. The sharing of a huge Jubilee cake provided a delightful finale to the event.

On August 20, the nation was remembered in a Tamil Thai Vazhthu and patriotic songs. An invocatory dance celebrated light as symbolic of the dawn of freedom as well as the spread of education. Dr. Muthukumar, Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education, and

former Vice Chancellor, Bharathidasan University, was our chief guest. A galaxy of luminaries, including His Grace, Dr. Arul Das James Archbishop, Dr. A. C. Muthiah, industrialist, Dr. Mani Jacob, General Secretary, AIACHE, Delhi, and Mrs. Sheela Priya, Secretary to the Governor of Tamil Nadu and an old student of Stella Maris College, added lustre to the occasion.

The Golden Jubilee Souvenir released on the occasion collated messages and reminiscences from the college's numerous well-wishers and all who had been associated with its formative years. In the process, it sketched the story of the growth of an institution as seen by the people who shaped its destiny. The video cassette THE STELLA MARIAN SAGA: ON THE ROAD TO THE FUTURE released on this occasion was another attempt to fuse past and present, and produce a permanent record of a process and a precious moment in time. The video traced the growth of Stella Maris College, as well as captured the multimedia programme on College Day '96 — '97, presenting the latter as the culmination of the college's dynamic march through the decades.

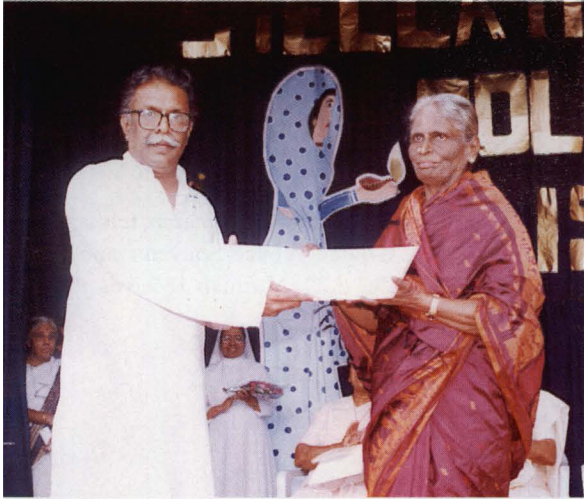
The college then released publications authored by the faculty during the Jubilee Year. Sr. Helen Vincent, fmm, former principal, and Dr. Radha Paul were congratulated on their being recipients of State Government Awards recognising the worth of their contribution to the cause of higher education.

In a moving tribute to those who had helped to establish this as a premier institute of learning, the college then felicitated administrative and supportive staff, and members of the faculty who had rendered twenty five years and more of dedicated service. Thus, past effort, present achievement and future goals, all divinely destined, were recognised in a mood of gratitude and delight.



# GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

August 15, 1997



Shri T. Bhaskaran, Chief Post-Master-General, releasing the special postal cover on STELLA MARIS COLLEGE and Mrs. B. Jayalakshmi, former Head, Dept. of Tamil and Controller of Examinations receiving the same.



Sr. Mary Rose, fmm, Provincial, Madras Province, INAUGURATES THE NEW CANTEEN.

August 20, 1997



## Dignitaries on the Dais

(seated L to R) - Dr. Mani Jacob, General Secretary, AIACHE,  
Sr. Mary Rose, fmm, Provincial, Madras Province,  
His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Arul Das James,  
Archbishop, Madras - Mylapore,  
Dr. A. Muthukumar, Member-Secretary, TANSICHE,  
Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal,  
Dr. A.C. Muthiah, Vice-Chairman & President, SPIC,  
Mrs. Sheela Priya, I.A.S., Secretary to the Governor of  
Tamil Nadu.



Seen in the forefront are members of the faculty, administrative and supportive staff who were felicitated at the function.

## GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



Dr. A. Muthukumaran releasing the Golden Jubilee Souvenir and Dr. A.C. Muthiah receives the first copy.

Dr. Mani Jacob releases the  
TEXTBOOK ON BIOCHEMISTRY  
co-authored by  
Dr. Ms. Yesodha Doraiswamy  
& Dr. Ms. S. Geetha.



His most Rev. Dr. Arul Das James releasing the video-cassette THE STELLA MARIAN SAGA ON THE ROAD TO THE FUTURE. Sr. Mary Rose, fmm, receiving the first tape.

# FELICITATION

A signal compliment was paid to members of the staff who have been associated with the College for twenty five years or more. At the Golden Jubilee Celebrations held on August 20, 1997, a silver plaque with the insignia of the College on it was awarded to them.

## FACULTY PRESENTLY AT STELLA MARIS COLLEGE

		<u>DEPARTMENT</u>
1.	DR. MRS MARY JOHN	<i>Social Work</i>
2.	DR. MRS. SEETHA SRINIVASAN	<i>English</i>
3.	DR. MRS MEENA N. SWAMY	<i>Mathematics</i> <i>Vice-Principal</i>
4.	DR. MS M.D. VIJAYA PARTHASARATHY	<i>Botany</i>
5.	MRS. JILLY JOSEPH	<i>Zoology</i>
6.	DR. SR. FLAVIA MARIAPRAGASAM, FMM	<i>English</i> <i>Vice-Principal</i>
7.	DR. MS. JATINDER SINGH	<i>Fine Arts</i>
8.	DR. MRS. S. RAMANI	<i>Economics</i>
9.	DR. MRS. MARGARET CLARENCE	<i>English</i>
10.	DR. MRS. EVELYN CHANDRASEKHARAN	<i>Mathematics</i>
11.	MRS. ELIZABETH GEORGE	<i>Chemistry</i>
12.	DR. SR. K. J. MARY, FMM (SR. MARY JOHN)	<i>History</i> <i>former, Vice- Principal</i>
13.	SR. LEONY MARY, FMM	<i>Mathematics</i>
14.	MRS. CELINE RODRIGUEZ	<i>Mathematics</i>

## RETIRED FACULTY

### DEPARTMENT

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1.	DR. SR. EDITH TÖMÖRY, FMM	<i>Fine Arts Vice-Principal</i>
2.	SR. IRENE MATHIAS, FMM	<i>Chemistry Principal</i>
3.	DR. SR. HELEN VINCENT, FMM	<i>Economics Principal</i>
4.	DR. MRS. DARLEY VARGHESE	<i>Hindi</i>
5.	DR. MRS. MEERA PAUL	<i>Zoology Vice-Principal</i>
6.	PROF. MRS. B. JAYALAKSHMI	<i>Tamil Controller of Examinations</i>
7.	PROF. MRS. CHANDRA PARTHASARATHY	<i>Tamil</i>
8.	MRS. MANGALADURAI	<i>Physical Directress</i>
9.	DR. MRS. CHELLAM MITRAN	<i>Economics</i>
10.	DR. MRS. PRAMILA ETHIRAJ	<i>Economics</i>
11.	PROF. MS RAJALAKSHMI N. E.	<i>Botany</i>
12.	MRS. RAJLAKSHMI T. B.	<i>Physics</i>
13.	PROF. SR. MARY CHRISTINE ANTONY, FMM	<i>Sociology Dean of Students</i>
14.	MRS. SUSHILA FELIX	<i>Chemistry Controller of Examinations</i>
15.	DR. MRS. YESODHA DORAISWAMY	<i>Chemistry</i>
16.	PROF. MS SHANTHA K. N.	<i>Physics</i>
17.	DR. MS J. THANGAMANI	<i>Mathematics</i>
18.	DR. MRS MYTHILI RAMAN	<i>Sanskrit</i>
19.	DR. MS STELLA JESUDOSS	<i>History</i>
20.	PROF. MS KAMALAKSHI SRINIVASAN	<i>Tamil</i>
21.	DR. SR. MARY ANN, FMM	<i>Fine Arts Secretary</i>
22.	PROF. SR. JULIANA, FMM	<i>Mathematics</i>

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ADMINISTRATIVE & SUPPORTIVE STAFF PRESENTLY AT STELLA MARIS COLLEGE

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1. SR. ROSE ABRAHAM, FMM
  2. MR. THAMBIRAJ
  3. MRS. MANUEL TERESA
  4. MR. SUBRAMANIAN
  5. MR. ALEXANDER STEVES
  6. MR. DEIVASIGAMANI
  7. MR. MANI K. S.
  8. MR. SIMON JOHN
  9. MR. EBENEZER DANIEL
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RETIRED ADMINISTRATIVE & SUPPORTIVE STAFF

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1. SR. CELINE PAUL, FMM
  2. MR. DOSS C. J.
  3. Ms SUSHEELA M. J.
  4. MR. PONNUSWAMY
  5. MRS. NAGAMMA
  6. MR. CHELLIAH
  7. MRS. PONNAMMA
  8. MRS. SAROJA
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# IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry, fmm.

24.07.1905 — 30.05.1998

BORN IN BUDAPEST, HUNGARY ON JULY 24, 1905, Dr. Sr. Edith Tömöry was the second of five children. She had most of her early education at home under a special tutor.

After her school education Sr. Edith joined the University of Budapest where she followed a course on St. Francis and which eventually led to her spiritual calling as a Franciscan Missionary of Mary. Sr. Edith studied at Louvain and at the Sorbonne in Paris and later went on to complete her Doctorate in Fine Arts in Germany. She also studied in Italy where she received a scholarship from the University of Perugia.



She entered the novitiate of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary at Grottaferrata, Italy. During World War II she was occupied with secretarial work for war relief, under the auspices of the Vatican. During the war she also took care of the orphans. Those were years of hardship and privation, not to speak of the constant fear of the threat of bombs. This certainly left a mark on her character.

Noticing her potential, the Superior General decided to send Sr. Edith on mission to India. She travelled by a cargo ship to India along with Sr. Luigia Vittoria and arrived in Bombay on Good Friday in March 1948. They soon found themselves entrusted with the task of giving direction and shape to the newly born institution of Stella Maris College. Fluent in French, Hungarian, Italian, German and Latin, she had to face the challenge of learning a new language – English.

As Vice - Principal, she was a great help to Mother Lillian, the first Principal of the College.



Sr. Edith was a woman of vision with fierce determination to get what she wanted - be it to convince the then Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar, to open a new degree course in Fine Arts or to bring out a comprehensive textbook on the study of Fine Arts in India and the West.

As the Foundress of the Department of Fine Arts she evinced keen interest in all the activities of the department. It blossomed under her leadership. Sr. Edith studied Indian Art on her own and authored the first ever textbook for students of Fine Arts. This text is being followed even today. In preparation for this monumental work, she visited the most famous temples and churches all over India. She continued to remain as Emeritus Professor several years after her retirement and guided candidates for their doctoral programme.

She keenly followed the progress and growth of the College and took every opportunity to participate in all the functions organised in the College.

She was the recipient of the Director K. Subramanyam and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Stree Ratna Award. This award was given to fifty eminent women as a recognition of their contribution to the progress of our nation through excellence in their respective fields of activity. At the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the College in March 1997 Sr. Edith was given a special award for her untiring and dedicated service to the College. She was also the recipient of a special award given by the Hungarian Government for her service to the cause of Higher Education.

An ardent follower of the Universal Church, she had a great esteem and loving concern for the Holy Father. She also had a great devotion for the Eucharist and would never miss Mass in spite of her failing health.

She was keenly interested in Music and even more in all the happenings around the world especially her beloved 'Magyar'. Beneath an apparently stern appearance Sr. Edith nurtured a tender heart, especially for the poor.

With fifty years of long and devoted service at Stella Maris, Sr. Edith will continue to be a pillar of strength and support for those who continue this noble mission.



EXCERPTS FROM THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DR. SR. EDITH TÖMÖRY HELD  
AT STELLA MARIS COLLEGE ON JULY 24, 1998.

WE THANK GOD FOR THE GIFT OF SR. EDITH – THE GIFT THAT SHE WAS TO HER FAMILY, TO THE INSTITUTE of the FMM, to India, to Stella Maris College and to its Fine Arts department.

When Sr. Edith was sent to India in 1948 as a missionary, it was for a life-long mission. For her it meant sharing life with the people, appreciating their culture, art, traditions, language and religions. For Sr. Edith there was no question of returning to her native country, Hungary. Besides, she had fallen in love with India, the country of Ahimsa, and she had fallen in love with its people whom she found engaged in a deep search for God in contemplation.

She had also fallen in love with Art, where she saw beauty which was a reflection of God's beauty. We are told that it was during her school days that she became interested in History and in Fine Arts. The sources of her encouragement were her mother and her teacher who made history come alive and fine arts a reality.

When she first arrived in India, she knew neither English nor Indian art. She read a lot, mastered the English language and studied art on her own. She took delight in her search for the aesthetic value and deep significance of Indian sculptures and paintings and in sharing her knowledge with others. She was a walking encyclopaedia on art. To help the students she brought out a comprehensive textbook on the study of Fine Arts in India and the West. Her aim in writing it was to prepare the soul to meet the Invisible, leading the human person from material perception to spiritual understanding and love. To quote Sr. Edith "Self development is not selfish development. The true self is Atman – God. I want to develop God in me that is Jesus."

Hers was a life committed to God through self-giving, self sacrifice and service for the past fifty years at Stella Maris College. May she continue to be a pillar of strength and support to us today and in the years to come.

Sr. Irene Mathias, fmm  
former Principal, Stella Maris College



I WRITE AS ONE OF THE PRIVILEGED GROUP WHO KNEW DEAR SR. EDITH FOR THE PAST FORTY YEARS AND I have always been one of her admirers.

*"A diamond is a chunk of coal that stuck to its job."*

Our dear Sr. Edith is one such priceless diamond that decorates the edifice of Stella Maris. The history of Stella Maris over the past fifty years is also the history of Sr. Edith and her success story in God's Service.

With constancy and consistency, for fifty years, Sister dedicated her life to one ministry, one cause,

one goal, one college and one department. Behind her firmness and determination, strong character and will, we discover a woman of great faith, courage and commitment, care and concern, love and kindness. She reached out to the families of her students. Many parents, brothers and sisters of our students remember her love and concern.

Education and especially higher education for women in India was Sr. Edith's goal. Her zeal for the house of God was her artistic appreciation of God's beauty and creativity around her. Art took her closer to God and her message through art education was God's goodness and bounty. Sr. Edith gave her students a spiritual experience of God through art, and encouraged hard work through dedication and service.

May God continue to Bless her work of Art in the Department of Fine Arts and grant her eternal Rest.

Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, fmm.  
Superior and Secretary, Stella Maris College



*"Should God Himself and my Guru stand before me together, I would pray to my Guru first,  
for it is she who made me realise the other.*

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS OWES ITS VERY EXISTENCE, GROWTH, FLOWERING AND STATUS TO THE vision of Dr. Sr. Edith. She achieved her goal through practical wisdom, an indomitable spirit, astute scholarship, broad-minded vision and generosity.

Although a firm disciplinarian, Sr. Edith's inherent compassion and charm softened her words. She reprimanded in righteous anger but never failed to combine it with witty remarks and her disarming smile.

She was relentless in her pursuit of excellence in higher education. She would demand that students write the alphabet on squared paper to acquire good handwriting. Her students also learned to present any chapter or text in points ; it took hours to do, but once done, you knew the topic thoroughly and it made revision simple. Despite a stringent budget, the departmental library with more than 4500 books is unique and probably the best Fine Arts library in India. The two textbooks on Art history, particularly the chapters on Indian art, bear testimony to her scholarship and sensitivity to students' learning needs.

Sr. Edith's death on the May 30, 1998, leaves us bereaved indeed. I pray to God that he continues to shower His blessings on Stella Maris College and transform each of us into instruments of Sr. Edith's ever-young and glorious vision.

Dr. Mrs. Ramaa Narayanan  
Faculty , Department of Fine Arts



## Sr. Teresita Polycarpus, fmm

30.07.1929 — 27.11.1997

WE AT STELLA MARIS COLLEGE GRIEVE THE LOSS of our Reverend Sr. Teresita Polycarpus who left us suddenly last November.

Sr. Teresita Polycarpus Parathumveetil (Teresita Mary) was born in Palluruthy, Kochi on July 30, 1929 as the eldest among six daughters. She entered religious life at Palluruthy in 1950. After she made her first vows in 1954 she was sent to St. Thomas Convent, Mylapore to pursue higher studies at Stella Maris College. She completed her post-graduation while teaching in the school at Palluruthy. In 1965 she was sent to Poona and



was in charge of the aspirants. She was appointed Principal of Maris Stella College, Vijayawada in 1966. She returned to Stella Maris College in 1978 as the Head of the Undergraduate Department of Economics and continued until her transfer as Principal to Rosary Matriculation School, Mylapore. Sr. Teresita was more recently the warden of St. Helen's Nursing Hostel, Tiruchi and finally sent to Stella Maris once again to co-ordinate the Evening College Programme in June 1997.

Sr. Teresita was indeed God's gift to us. She touched the hearts of whomsoever she met through her simplicity, sincerity and dignity. It is not an exaggeration to say that she was a person of determination, dedication and discipline, and acted objectively without fear or favour. We felt understood and comforted. A great counsellor she was. She was a person of immense confidence and had the courage of conviction. If one was just and right, one could be sure of her support – she would stand by you like a rock.

Sr. Teresita performed all her duties with a deep religious attitude and was very friendly, hardworking and selfgiving. Her laughter was infectious and her smile lit up the faces of all who came into contact with her. After talking to her for a few minutes, one would feel unburdened and therefore peaceful.

She was an embodiment of modesty and humility. A warm person, basically she was a friend, philosopher, guide and disciplinarian, all rolled into one. All the faculty in the Economics department frequented Rosary Matriculation school after she was transferred there. Likewise when she took over her new assignment as Hostel Warden of the Nursing school in Tiruchi, it became a pilgrimage centre for all of us. We were all so happy to have her once again in our midst when she returned to Stella Maris as the Co-ordinator of the Evening college in 1997. But fate snatched her away suddenly.

With the passing away of Sr. Teresita, a devoted teacher, a friend and guide to many of her students, an era has come to an end. We thank and praise God for the gift of Sr. Teresita to the

College. We will remember forever what she was to each one of us and pray that she will intercede with God the Almighty and be a source of strength from above. May her soul rest in peace.

Dr. Mrs. Ramani,  
Head, Dept. of Economics

## Sr. Nora Edwards, fmm

(M.M. Sylvester)

21.07.1915 — 25.02.1998

SR. NORA ENTERED THE INSTITUTE OF THE Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in Coldash, England on March 15, 1941. After brief mission experiences in US, Canada and Australia she came to India in 1946 where she made her final profession.

She began her ministry in Nazareth School, Ooty as headmistress, in charge of boarding and guides. When Stella Maris College began in 1947, Sr. Nora became the first Vice-Principal and contributed to the growth of the new institution. She was also the Head, Department of Economics from 1959 — 1962 and as well as the foundress of the Department. of History at Stella Maris College.



Sr. Nora was sent to Vijayawada where she was associated with the foundation of Maris Stella College in 1962. At Maris Stella, she was also in charge of the community's affairs until 1965. After her retirement Sr. Nora was asked to be the Directress of SPES (Special English Studies), Providence Convent, Bangalore in 1977. Here once again she worked with total dedication and loyalty preparing future FMM while they learned English. The sound formation of young women coming to join the order was her major concern. She continued her activities till the end despite her failing health.

Sr. Nora was a woman who dared to live her 'Yes' daily, 'Yes' to Christ, 'Yes' to change, risk, challenges and 'Yes' to service. She always reached out to all those who crossed her path with a smile or a word of encouragement. She had the capacity to make each one feel that she was special to her. She was a tower of strength to many of the sisters and her powerful presence is being missed deeply by all those who knew her.

May her exemplary life continue to inspire us always.

## Sr. Annamma Luka, fmm

09.09.1940 — 31.01.1998

IT IS HARD FOR US TO BELIEVE THAT SR. ANNAMMA Luka is no longer with us. She hailed from Kottayam in Kerala and entered religious life in 1966 at Pune Novitiate. She came to Chennai in 1969, where as a young religious she looked after babies at the crèche in St. Thomas Mount. During 1971 — 1974 she was at Amali Seva Illam helping in the hostel and kitchen. She was the assistant warden of Stella Maris Hostel for a few years and came back in 1982 to take care of the campus and college maintenance. In 1993 she was sent to Child Jesus Hospital to take care of maintenance and in August 1997



she was called to St. Thomas Convent to take care of the maintenance of Rosary Matriculation School.

The outstanding qualities of Sr. Annamma were her profound faith and her devotion to duty. Wherever she was sent, whatever work the Lord asked of her she accepted wholeheartedly and served with unquestionable devotion and admirable religious spirit. Despite her health problems she remained undisturbed in her equanimity.

To Sr. Annamma Luka goes the credit for eco-awareness in Stella Maris. She had the proverbial green thumb which made everything she touched come to life. She has also planted several trees in the college campus. In 1990, the chief guest at the college day celebrations, in his address, commented on the immaculate state of the campus. The credit went entirely to Sr. Annamma. Electricity or water supply, clean class rooms or green campus, lawns, well groomed plants, workers' welfare or students' demands, staff enquiries or sisters' comforts – she saw to it all.

She had a very good rapport with the faculty in the college and this earned her many friends. She was the same to all, whether they were staff, students, or workers. She brought a personal touch to every task she undertook.

Diligence, hard work, generosity and thoroughness were her special virtues. She visited the workers in their homes and assisted them in their needs. When their children required books or medical aid, they could approach her with confidence.

She was too good and that is why the Lord took her away from us – He could not wait. Her untimely demise on January 31, 1998, has left a void that is hard to fill.



## Ms P. Gnanam

MS GNANAM GAVE TWENTY SIX YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO Stella Maris College as a faculty of the Department of Physics. She joined the college in 1958 and retired as the Head of the Dept. of Physics. It was during her period as the head, that the department began to offer Physics as a major course. An excellent teacher, she had a unique personality – deeply religious, dynamic, selfless, always optimistic in her outlook and cheerful. She had deep concern for all those who came in touch with her and would go to any extent to help them in times of need – whether they were colleagues, relatives, friends or students. She had a large circle of friends, of all ages, and from all walks of life.



Mentally and physically agile, her close friends trying to describe her would say - "one wonders which is faster – Ms Gnanam's mind or her walk." She had the unique distinction of combining *gnanam* and *vignanam*. At a time when few women knew driving and girls were chauffeured to college, Ms Gnanam cycled everyday to college - in her independent and environment -friendly style. The Dept. of Physics pays homage to this wonderful person. We remember with gratitude and pride her role in laying the foundation for this department.



## Ms Shalini Xavier

(*II B. Sc. Zoology*) 04.06.1979 — 08.12.1997



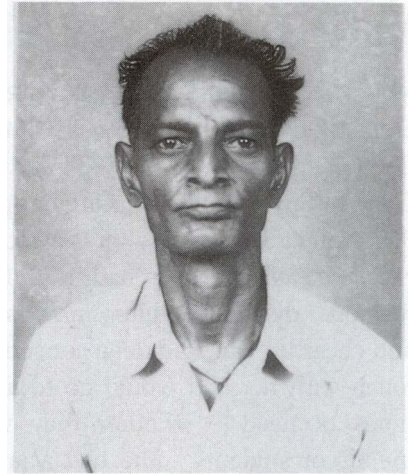
WE RECORD WITH DEEP REGRET THE SUDDEN AND UNTIMELY demise of Ms Shalini, a student of II B. Sc. Zoology. Shalini was a girl with a radiant smile. Cheerful and enthusiastic she was always willing to take on a task or help others. Shalini died on December 8, 1997, but, the memory of a warm and spontaneous girl lingers with us. We pray to the Almighty to bestow his eternal rest on her.



## Mr. Michael

*Well done good and faithful servant,  
Come and enjoy eternal happiness."*

MICHAEL CAME TO WORK AS A GARDENER AND NIGHT WATCHMAN in 1958. A simple and honest villager, he had left the parched fields of Tirunelveli and migrated to the city in search of a livelihood. Hardworking, obliging and loyal to the core of his being, he was willing to do any work. The campus at that time was insufficiently lit and had no compound wall. Michael would walk around the campus tirelessly all night, accompanied only by the Alsatian dog Thambi, his tall figure scaring away urchins and other intruders. He continued serving the college for thirty years, until his retirement in 1988.



Yet Michael's life was not without tragedy. His five-year old son was run over by a car in front of the college. However, he surmounted this loss and continued his labour. Before his death he built a house for his family, set up a cycle shop for his youngest son and married his three daughters into respectable families. To his credit, it could be said, Michael never shirked work, picked a quarrel or was found wanting in honesty and dedication. Michael was a good and god-fearing man, an honest watchman, a loving father and responsible husband. God has blessed his family and has now called his faithful servant to enjoy eternal happiness.

Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, fmm  
Superior and Secretary, Stella Maris College

*Death is not extinguishing the light;  
it is only putting out the lamp,  
because the dawn has come.*



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## ST. CLARE OF ASSISI

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**C**LARE OF ASSISI, A GREAT WOMAN OF THE FRANCISCAN TRADITION, WAS BORN IN 1193 TO A wealthy family of Assisi, in Italy. Docility to her parents, generosity and compassion for the poor, dedication to daily prayer are some of the virtues listed of her childhood.

Attracted to a life of radical poverty, she left her home, family and friends, the pleasures and treasures of the world, to follow in the foot-prints of Christ as Francis of Assisi did. She chose to live in the 'Cloister' and to serve the Lord in 'highest poverty.'

Within a short period of time the young Clare was joined by others including her younger sister Agnes, and these 'Poor Ladies' of Assisi became recognised as followers of Francis, the poor man of Assisi. They were outstanding for their pursuit of Gospel perfection - their practice of charity, humility, poverty, silence and contemplation. As a dedicated follower of Francis, Clare expressed his spiritual vision in a unique way. Her femininity expressed the universal validity of the Franciscan charism and reinforced its rich and enduring qualities. She died in 1253.

The followers of St. Clare, living in poor, cloistered communities throughout the world have continued that tradition. They have remained stable, unassuming because of the poverty and contemplation that are at the heart of the Franciscan ideal.

True to her name, Clare was 'clear' in her manner of living as a follower of Christ and became a 'clear mirror' to the entire world through her life and writings which are a reflection of the glory of God and the beauty of the human person. She challenges us today to 'clear' and clarifying expression of the Spirit of the Lord, who works in the hearts of all men and women in hidden and mysterious ways.

# INAUGURATION OF ST. CLARE CENTRE

January 21, 1998

Address by: SR. CHRISTIANE MEGARBANÉ  
SUPERIOR GENERAL  
FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF MARY, ROME

**D**R. ANANDA KRISHNAN, PROF. VICTOR, Sr. Cecily Paul, fmm, Sr. Mary Rose, fmm, Sr. Helen Vincent, fmm, Sr. Annamma Philip, fmm, Members of the faculty, Staff and Students, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greetings to you all and Blessings of Peace from Rome.

It always gives me great pleasure to visit our community here at Stella Maris. This time the occasion is as joyous as it is significant.

It is indeed a unique privilege to be here in India and particularly on this campus. The rare honour of sharing the date of founding of the institution with that of the country belongs to Stella Maris and what a memorable structure you have created to mark this Golden Jubilee.

I congratulate the Sisters, Faculty, Staff and Students for the wonderful co-operative effort and dedication that have resulted in the tremendous strides made by Stella Maris. This gathering I see before me, I am told, of Stella Marians past and present, members of the Governing Body, Academic Council, Building

Committee, friends and well-wishers of the college, is a living testimony of the influence and reach of the college.

I have watched from afar, and once from up close, as this once tiny institution grew steadily until it now provides higher education to over 2,300 young women. The video cassette brought out on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee brilliantly traces the Stella Marian Saga and is a fitting record for posterity. Today it would be appropriate that I express our deep gratitude to the pioneers whose selfless toil laid the foundation of this institution.

Those of you who have the honour of being associated with Stella Maris today are continuing the vision Mary of the Passion, our Foundress, had for the upliftment of the women of India. All the world over there is a realisation that only through education can a better order of society be built up. Besides it is said, that when you educate a man you educate an individual, but when you educate a woman you educate a whole family. Stella Maris has since its inception realised that education is to know the

# ST. CLARE CENTRE ....

October 17, 1997

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His Grace, the Archbishop.... with Rev. Fr. Kurien Thomas, Chaplain, Stella Maris.



....with Dr. Sr. Mary Ann, fmm and Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, fmm.



Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, fmm, Principal and Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, Secretary,  
Lighting the Lamp



Members of the Building Committee, Faculty, Students....

laws of nature and revelation and then to fashion the affection and will into harmony with those laws. Working for the less privileged sections of society, the incorporation of faith formation and value education into the curriculum are all steps in the right direction and I whole-heartedly commend you for it.

We are filled with wonder and gratitude for the great things that God has accomplished through Stella Maris. In the strength of the glorious past that is yours and with a sense of legitimate pride, you can look to the future with confidence as you forge ahead into the

third millennium. May God give you a clear vision of your mission and may the Star of the Sea continually call your faith to new beginnings as she guides and steers your path.

With deep gratitude I greet you all and extend to you my best wishes on the occasion of the inauguration of St. Clare Centre. St. Clare of Assisi, a woman of clear vision and immense power, will be the beacon that guides you while you forge ahead seeking new vistas.

MAY GOD'S BLESSING IN ABUNDANCE BE ON EACH ONE OF YOU!



## ST. CLARE CENTRE . . .

## A DREAM COME TRUE . . .

Address by:

DR. SR. ANNAMMA PHILIP, FMM  
PRINCIPAL, STELLA MARIS COLLEGE

**S**R. CHRISTIANE, SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, Dr. Ananda Krishnan, Vice-Chairman, Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education, Prof. Victor, Regional Joint Director of Collegiate Education, Chennai Region, Sr. Cecily Paul, fmm, Assistant General, Sr. Mary Rose, fmm, Provincial Superior, Madras Province, Sr. Helen Vincent, fmm, and Sr. Leony, fmm, Superiors, Stella Maris, Sr. Irene Mathias, fmm, former

Principal, Stella Maris, Members of the Building Committee, our cherished retired faculty, dear parents, valued friends and benefactors of the college, alumnae, dedicated members of the Faculty, Administrative and Supportive Staff and dear students,

It is indeed with a deep sense of gratitude and accomplishment that I stand here before you this morning to thank God for having made this day possible.

The opening of this four- storey building - St. Clare Centre is a dream come true. Stella Maris has come a long way having made rapid strides since its inception in 1947. As we move into the third millennium we realise that the Administrative offices of the 1960's, the Computer Centre of the 1980's, the classrooms, audio-visual facilities and seminar halls are insufficient to cater to the rapidly changing scenario of higher education. This prompted us to embark on an ambitious project of constructing a four-storey building.

When we began this building project in 1995, the college had approximately Rs. 25 lakhs. Today this building stands as a testimony to the unfailing Providence of God, the generosity, unstinting support and goodwill of our benefactors, well wishers, friends, parents, alumnae, faculty, staff and students.

The foundation stone of this building was blessed by His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Arul Das James, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, and was laid by Shri R. Venkataraman, former President of India, on March 18, 1995 – the 48th College Day.

The building completed recently, is a fitting commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of the college. It has:

- Ground floor: Administrative Offices
- First floor: Conference room & computer laboratories
- Second floor: Audio-visual room, prayer room and classrooms

Third floor: Classrooms.

The building was blessed on October 17, 1997, by His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Arul Das James, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore.

All this would not have been possible without the untiring services of those who worked sincerely and diligently.

I would like to place on record our deep appreciation of the sincere and dedicated services of our Engineer, Mr. S. Sambandan. His meticulous planning and execution of the construction of this building has been a source of inspiration.

Dr. Sr. Mary Ann, fmm, former Superior and Secretary of the college, has been a tower of strength and support. Her attention to details at every stage of the building project has been tremendous.

Sr. Florine Monis, fmm, has also been keenly involved in this project and gave of her time generously. We are indeed grateful to Srs. Mary Ann and Florine for having followed up the progress of the building.

We are also indebted to all those who have worked at the construction site, braving the scorching sun and rain, to make this a reality.

The valuable advice and unstinting support of our building committee members, the generous contribution from our benefactors and well-wishers and the Blessings of the Almighty have indeed made our dream come true.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL AND GOD BLESS.



# Opening of ST. CLARE CENTRE

January 21, 1998



Sr. CHRISTIANE MEGARBANÉ, fmm Superior General, Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, inaugurates ST. CLARE CENTRE



Sr. Christiane Megarbané, fmm, addresses the gathering



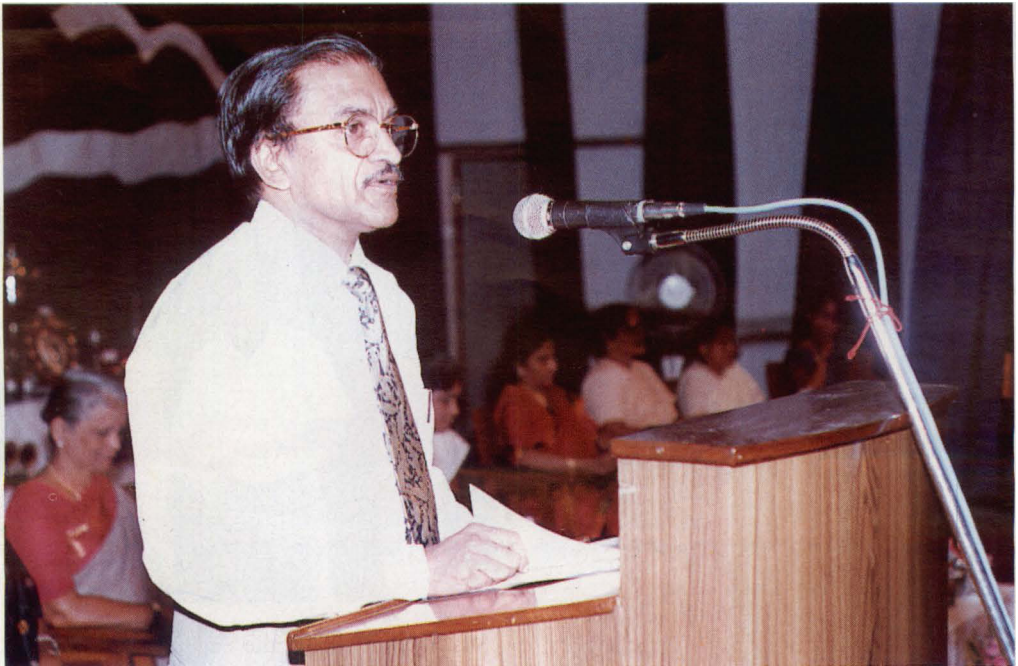
Mr. S. Sambandan, the engineer and builder St. Clare Centre receives a token of our appreciation from Sr. Christiane Megarbané, fmm

## College Day

March 21, 1998



On the dais (L to R) : Ms Saritha Thomas, Vice-President, Students' Union, Dr. Mrs. Meena N. Swamy Vice-Principal, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, fmm, Superior & Secretary, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, fmm, Principal, Prof. P.T. Manoharan, Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras, Mrs. Kanakavali Manoharan and Sr. Mary Rose, fmm, Provincial, Madras Province.



Addressing the gathering - Prof. P.T. Manoharan



## FROM THE VISITOR'S BOOK

There is no doubt that this college will rise from splendour to new heights of glory in serving the nation; that this College is increasingly taking care of the interests of the students from the weaker sections and is also in tune with the national aspirations and goals.

The need for women's education is no more a subject or topic of debate, thanks to the efforts of institutions like Stella Maris.

I wish the institution every success.

-sd-

S. ELANGO VAN,  
*Sec. Govt. of Tamil Nadu,  
Higher Education Dept. Chennai.  
19 July, '97.*

It was a very worthwhile experience to be here for the Golden Jubilee. I mentioned the concern for quality, openness for innovation and change, stress on values, contribution to women's leadership, rootedness in Indian culture, the national character of Faculty and students and involvement in concerned solidarity as special achievements of Stella Maris. May the congregation succeed in establishing a similar high quality institution of women's empowerment in rural India very soon!

-sd-

MANI JACOB  
*Gen. Sec. AIACHE.  
20 Aug. '97.*

Thank you very much indeed for a wonderful afternoon. The girls were excellent: interested, patient, questioning. They listened with attention and questioned me

thereafter incisively. No question of it: Stella Maris is among the Top Ten; eventually, it could be Top of the Ten!

-sd-

MANI SHANKER AIYER, M.P.

4 Sept. '97.

It was a great joy to be with Sr. Cecily for the inauguration of St. Clare's building and to witness the life in the College and the beautiful work that is done by thousands of young women. I appreciate very much the quality of the education. May the Lord bless each one and be your Guide and Light.

-sd-

SR. CHRISTIANE MEGARBANÉ, FMM,

*Superior General.*

21 Jan. '98.

It was indeed a great pleasure for me to visit your esteemed college today and deliver the Dr. Thangamani Endowment Lecture to a packed and enthusiastic audience dominantly composed of bright eager young minds . . . .

I wish the young students here the very best in their future career and no matter what battles of life lie in store for them, as long as they retain their interest in learning and observing and following knowledge like a shining star, life will continue to be a great experience. I look forward to visits in the future.

-sd-

DR. C. SIVARAMAN

11 Feb. '98.

On this memorable occasion of the college day of this wonderful institution called Stella Maris, let me submit that we all should work together to bring quality and excellence to higher education to meet the needs of this country. I am sincerely happy that this Institution excellently meets the standards expected by this grand old and mature University of Madras. I wish the College staff and students all the best in

the grand adventure called higher education. Let me at this juncture give my praise for all that has been achieved thus far and let me expect more from the college in future.

-sd-

PROF. P. T. MANOHARAN,  
*Vice-Chancellor,  
University of Madras.*

I was honoured to be invited to the Valedictory Function for the passing out students. Their enthusiasm, cheerful spirits and optimism were infectious, making me reluctant to get back to the rough and tumble of office. The regard of the students for the faculty was also apparent.

Perhaps, one day, my offspring might choose to study here!

-sd-

DR. ANURADHA RAJIVAN, I.A.S.

I am immensely happy to be among the new graduates of Stella Maris College which is celebrating its Golden Jubilee on their Convocation Day. The India of the next 50 years and beyond is in their hands and I am sure the education and training they have received in this great Institution will enable them to fully blossom in their endeavour.

I hope the institution grows from strength to strength in the coming years and plays its role in purposeful education.

With best wishes to the staff, faculty and students of this great institution.

-sd-

PADMA SHREE DR. R. M. VASAGAM,  
*Vice-Chancellor,  
Anna University, Chennai.*



## LETTER FROM A VISITING FACULTY

Thank you for allowing me to hold my Fulbright grant at Stella Maris during the past four months. I will always be grateful for the very welcoming environment I experienced at the College. Everyone was so wonderful to me. I cannot speak highly enough of the English Department. Their deep knowledge and dedication to their students was literally awe inspiring. I know that my time at Stella Maris and all I learned there will make me a better teacher and scholar in the future. I was so fortunate to be there during the fiftieth anniversary and to share in all the festivities. Stella is a very special place made up of very special people and I will always be grateful to you for inviting me to be a part of this community.

I hope you will, however, be able to fit in a visit in the near future. I also hope that we will be able to maintain close ties between our two colleges. I so appreciate your hospitality at Stella Maris. I learned so much and benefited so much; my experience, I believe, is a testament to the merits of international exchange programmes. Thank you for helping to make my time in India such a positive and worthwhile experience.

-sd-

JUDITH PERKINS  
*Saint Joseph College,*  
*Connecticut*  
*USA*



# GAMES REPORT

THIS YEAR THE CREDIT BASED SYSTEM OF EDUCATION WAS INTRODUCED AND GAMES WAS INCLUDED as a credit course in the curriculum. Now, students gain two credits at the end of two years. Included in the credit courses, are the major games like basketball, volleyball, lawn tennis, cricket and athletics. Activities like karate and yoga are part of the credit system, too. In the last academic year, 530 first year students opted for earning credits through games.

Meanwhile, Stella Marians continue to be strong competitors at sports meets. In the intercollegiate tournaments, our teams brought home trophies in basketball, table tennis, shuttle badminton and lawn tennis, and were the runners-up in chess. The basketball team participated in twelve state level, national, intercollegiate and open tournaments, and won 11 of these tournaments. They stood third in the all India Tournament at Pondicherry.

Nor were the other teams far behind in winning laurels. The throwball team won the state level intercollegiate tournament conducted by JIPMER, Pondicherry. Our table tennis team bagged the runners-up trophy in the Buck Memorial tournament conducted by the YMCA college of Physical Education, Nandanam, Chennai.

Our students have also been included in state and university level teams in major games. Most notably, M. Muthamizh, N.S.P. Kaushika and Leebana Mercy were honoured as "best players" at several of these tournaments. Following are the students who competed at the various sports events:

## MADRAS UNIVERSITY SOUTH DIVISION:

Basketball:	M. Muthamizh	III B. Com.
	M. Sheeba Pramola	III B. Com.
	S. Ramya	III B. Com.
	N.S.P. Kaushika	II B. Com.
	Sharmila	I B. Com.
	Leebana Mercy	I B. Com.
	J.P. Femin	I B. Sc.

Shuttle Badminton:	Nisha Giri	III B. Sc.	*
	Shivani R	II B. Com.	

Table tennis:	L. Nithia	III B. Com.
	R. Radhiga	I B. Com.
	Pradeepa	I B. Com.

Cricket:	Sunanda Thambuswamy	III B. A.
	Jasmine Angeline R.	III B. A.
	Vidhya Gopal	II B. Sc.
	S. Anuradha	II B. Com.

Lawn tennis: Sunanda Thambuswamy III B. A.

Athletics:	W.R. Tamilarasi	I B. Com.
	Sunanda Thambuswamy	III B. A.
	Sumalya Sundaram	III B. A.

#### MADRAS UNIVERSITY:

Basketball:	M. Muthamizh	III B. Com.
	N.S.P. Kaushika	II B. Com.

Cricket:	Sunanda Thambuswamy	III B. A.
	Vidhya Gopal	II B. Sc.

Rowing: Roopali Raghavan II B. Sc.

Shuttle badminton: Nisha Giri III B. Sc.

#### TAMIL NADU STATE TEAMS:

Basketball:	M. Muthamizh	III B. Com.
	Sheeba Pramola	III B. Com.
	N.S.P. Kaushika	II B. Com.
	J.P. Femin	I B. Sc.

Shuttle badminton: Nisha Giri III B. Sc.

Cricket:	Vidhya Gopal	II B. Sc.
	S. Annuradha	II B. Com.

Tennikoit: V. Roopa III B. Com.

And finally, there were the inter-year competitions – the athletic event of the year at Stella Maris – marked by spirited contests on the playing field and vigorous cheers from the spectators!



# NCC REPORT

**T**HE NATIONAL CADET CORPS IS ONE OF THE foremost youth organisations in our country. Its objective is to instil discipline in youth and prepare them, physically and emotionally, for life's challenges. 1997 - '98 was as eventful as previous years for the Stella Maris NCC Company.

The activities began in June with the ANN(ATC) held at the Hindustan College of Engineering, Padur. Here the girls received training for the 1998 Republic Day parade. Soon after, we were busy with the NCC orientation programme. The talks, video presentations and exciting display material encouraged many enthusiastic first year students to enroll with the NCC.

For the new cadets, the inaugural camp at the Theosophical Society Camping Ground, Besant Nagar, introduced them to life in the NCC. Similar to the Republic Day Camp, there were competitions like line area and flag area competitions. The first requires cadets to pitch their own tents, clear the area and "create" living quarters, as in the army. The second, has cadets design a thematic composition on a given subject. They then do a pictorial representation on the ground using rangoli powder, and explain its symbolism. Finally, there are the cultural competitions in music and dance, and the National Integration show. All in all it was two days of intense hard work, but also a lot of fun with the cadets working together towards a common goal.

In keeping with our tradition for excellence,

Stella Marian cadets emerged winners at the various sports events and competitions organised by the NCC. The first intercollegiate sports competition our cadets attended this year was Crossfire, the firing competition hosted by Loyola College. The girls won the runners-up trophy. Then the second year cadets fared excellently at the Inter-Group Basic Leadership Camp in disciplines like First Aid, Home Nursing, Signals and Firing.

Similarly, at the Best Cadet Competition, for our first year cadets, Pavithra Kabir was the triumphant overall winner. This competition was part of CADO FEST '97 hosted by D.G. Vaishnav College. The Stella Maris contingent were also the overall winners in the general knowledge, general service knowledge and IQ events. At another camp in Chennai, the Military Hospital Attachment Camp, Cdt. Charumathi won the first prize while her fellow participant Cdt. Rhonica carried home the second prize. Our cadets' adventurous outlook took them beyond Chennai to the extremely exciting All India Trekking Camp at Sikkim. Our cadets Nita Sangeetha and Angela represented Stella Maris at this camp.

The next challenge was the state level Inter-Group Republic Day Camp where Cdt. Gayatri Gowrishankar was adjudged the Best Cadet in Tamil Nadu. She then represented the TNP&A Directorate at the All India Best Cadet Competition in New Delhi. This time Gayatri secured the third place amidst stiff competition. She was appointed master of ceremonies for the

TNP & A Flag area and cultural programme.

The grand finale of all NCC competitions is the Republic Day camp in New Delhi. We are truly proud of the four cadets, who, after a rigorous selection process spanning eight months, made it to the Golden Jubilee NCC camp in January '98. Cdt. Srividya Pasupathy was the master of ceremonies at the motivation hall. Both Srividya and Gayatri Gowrishankar were privileged to meet the Chiefs of the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force, and the then Prime Minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral.

Our flight cadets, F/C Roweena and F/C Ramya attended the Vayusainik Camp in October and represented the TNP&A Directorate for the second consecutive year at the National Level Competition. F/C Roweena was a part of the Prime Minister's Rally marching contingent, while F/C Ramya was one of the twenty five girl cadets selected for the Guard of Honour.

Back to the activities in Stella Maris conducted on our very own NCC ground, the Stella Maris Inter-Company competition was held on January 15, 1998, with friendly rivalry

between the four companies Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. The competitions included contingent drill, individual drill, crop cross country, general knowledge, general service knowledge, first aid and home nursing, and signals. The Alpha company swept the honours in most events and were the overall winners.

Finally we are proud to announce that Stella Maris had three globe-trotters this year. Selected from over 1700 cadets, CSUOs Megna Apparao and Lakshmi N, and CUO Nisha John travelled overseas on youth exchange programmes. CUO Nisha John attended the International Air Cadet Exchange Programme in Singapore, while CSUA Lakshmi N. visited Bangladesh during her exchange programme. CSUO Meghna Apparao, the All India Best Cadet for 1996, spent three months in Canada as part of the Indo-Canada Youth Exchange programme.

And so, we completed one more eventful, fun, and achievement filled year of NCC activities. We now look forward to see what the next year has in store for us.





# NSS REPORT

**T**HE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME UNITS OF the College function to provide opportunities for students to be actively involved in the needs and problems of the community around them. With the motto 'Not me but you', the NSS seeks to train students for responsible citizenship, leadership and aims at enhancing the personality of the concerned individuals. Through individual and collective participation, the NSS strives to create social awareness and arouse the social consciousness of student volunteers.

During the academic year, Regular and Special Camping Programmes are organised to channelise the potential and resources available with and among the volunteers.

A total of 232 volunteers were placed in twenty projects during 1997 — '98 and were required to render three hours of service weekly.

The regular services ranged from working with the disabled, visually and hearing impaired, the aged and school children. Educational guidance, play therapy and recreational activities were some of the areas of work undertaken.

Special programmes and activities were also included in the calendar of events for the year. Special requests for voluntary services from the Governmental and non-governmental agencies were accepted in order to provide scope for the students.

The Drug Abuse and Aids Prevention Project of Stella Maris College organised a unity march against drug abuse, in which thirty five NSS

volunteers participated. The same participation was accorded to the Rally by ACCORD for the recognition of the disabled. An awareness programme on "Sighted Guide Techniques for the Visually Disabled" at the YMCA College of Physical Education was attended by the NSS volunteers.

An Aids Awareness Training programme for Peer Counsellors was organised by the Voluntary Health Services and two senior NSS volunteers were trained. A function on October 1, 1997, on the occasion of World Elders Day, arranged by the Chennai Geriatrics Society provided a wonderful opportunity to almost one hundred volunteers to display their love and concern for the senior citizens.

NSS volunteers also rendered their services to eradicate polio through the National Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme during its two phases in December 1997 and January 1998 at different health centres across the city.

During the fiftieth year of the country's independence, special programmes were organised both by the University of Madras NSS unit and Stella Maris College. A Quit India Rally and the Golden Jubilee Celebrations at the University witnessed the participation of NSS volunteers in a big way. The NSS unit of SMC organised a 'Freedom Fifty' Regional seminar on November 29, 1997, and the same was attended by sixty one students from Madras and Pondicherry Universities. The seminar was co-sponsored by the NSS Regional Centre.

On August 13, 1997, the NSS volunteers staged a street play on Training Options for early school leavers as part of the International Conference organised by the Madras Community College and the Centre for Vocational Education in collaboration with Sinclair Community College, Dayton, Ohio, USA, and the USAID Project.

A ten days special camping programme on Youth for Sustainable Development was organised at the adopted village in Padappai from January 2 – 11, 1998. Fifty volunteers and a Programme Officer participated.

A final year NSS volunteer, Pauline Deepa from III BA Sociology was chosen to be part of the twelve member team from the University of Madras for the Republic Day camp and Parade at New Delhi from January 4 – February 3, 1998.

At the end of the academic year, NSS Day was held on March 10, 1998 with the participation of 150 volunteers/participants from various institutions. A cultural programme highlighting the talents of NSS volunteers from other city college NSS units and our own was organised for the students of SMC. Various

stalls displaying items like stamp collections, handicrafts, Terracota, textiles and saplings were also organised for the benefit of students. The NSS day was a fitting end to a fruitful academic year. All these programmes and activities were possible only with the systematic organisation and guidance of our able and dedicated NSS co-ordinator, Ms. Prabha Nair.

Take up one idea, make that one idea your life, think of it, dream of it, live on that idea. Let the brain, the muscles, the nerves, every part of your body be full of that idea and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success" – Swami Vivekananda

And this is the way of the NSS, as proved by the many volunteers who have been motivated to emerge as enthusiastic individuals, to live up to this call and build a better society believing in their ability and uniqueness. Impressions and experiences can never be erased and NSS has enabled many Stella Marians to stand up and face the turbulent waves of difficulties in life and to kindle the fire of service in their hearts for others in society.





Sports Day, February 21, 1998



NCC Day, March 6, 1998



NCC

## Seminar on Improving the Academic Environment Using Information Technology Stella Maris College, April 7, 1998



Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, fmm, Principal with  
Dr. B.B. Sundaresan, President, MALIBNET, and  
Prof. T. Viswanathan, Executive Director,  
MALIBNET & Director, INSDOC, New Delhi.



Prof. T. Viswanathan addressing the gathering.



Preparing to  
welcome our guests

A dance dramatisation of Richard  
Bach's "Jonathan Livingstone  
Seagull."



**The 1997 - Students'  
Union Office Bearers with**  
Dr. Sr. Colleen North, fmm, Dean,  
Dr. Mrs. Meena N. Swamy, Vice-  
Principal, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, fmm,  
Principal, Dr Sr. Flavia Mariapragasam,  
fmm, Vice-Principal Dr. Mrs. Margaret  
Clarence Dean and Mrs. Bharathi  
Ramanan Dean.

# STRIKE DEEPER ROOTS, REACH HIGHER STILL

**A**S THE STUDENTS' UNION OFFICE BEARERS for 1997 - '98, we evolved this motto to guide us in planning activities and implementing them through the academic year. Our intention was that each student would make it her own, and thereby endeavour to be the best she could possibly be.

It has been our objective to:

- ★ Develop intellectual curiosity and inter-disciplinary awareness.
- ★ Help students appreciate the richness and variety of our culture
- ★ Create the need to respect and conserve our environment
- ★ Develop a feeling of solidarity in order to make college life memorable.

To begin with, the academic year witnessed the introduction of *Othello the Turtle* – our college mascot who symbolises the persevering spirit in Stella Marians. *Othello* has since become an intrinsic part of college life, and no activity, be it an intercollegiate cultural competition or a theme day, is complete without him.

In keeping with our objectives, we decided on activities which included the entire student body. The many theme days celebrated through the year are an example. Besides they provided a welcome diversion from everyday routine. The themes were fun oriented and were as diverse as hats, flowers and ethnic days.

Given our increasingly consumerist lifestyles, we sought to sensitise our students to the areas on our own campus where food and / or water is often wasted or misused. On October 16, World Food Day, the students took part in a scavenger hunt that drew attention to the issue of food and water wastage. They then sat down to a hunger banquet where the "lucky few" had a sumptuous lunch and the "unlucky majority" had less than even the required minimum. It was a stark reminder to each of us of the discrepancies in food consumption between the first and third worlds.

We celebrated Children's Day, early in the second semester, with the children from Shanthi Bhavan. It was a fun-filled afternoon of shared lunches, songs, dances and most of all shared smiles. We really enjoyed the opportunity to watch future Prabhu Devas and Lata Mangeshkars display their talents.

December is Chennai's season of classical music. To launch our own mission to raise students' awareness of the richness and diversity in Indian culture we held *Yukthi* on December 4, 1997. Several artistes held lecture-cum-demonstrations on the performing arts of India. These ranged from martial arts, to street theatre, to carnatic music. There were also workshops on pottery and puppet making, as well as a week-long food festival. Our budding music *vidwans*, had veena classes arranged for them

throughout the year.

Continuing in our efforts to empower women, we organised a certificate course in self-defence. Mr. Shihan Hussaini, the instructor, taught the young ladies simple and practical self-defence techniques. By week's end, upon completing the course, the participants were confident they could protect themselves (and their friends) from anybody, anytime, anywhere!

The year's activities culminated with Union

Day on March 27, '98. In keeping with tradition, we had the official handing over ceremony, during which the next academic year's office bearers take on the mantle of leadership. The students then gathered at the NCC grounds where variety stalls and games had been arranged making it one more memorable day of college life..

Being a part of the Union has been a great learning experience. And despite all its ups and downs, it is one we will always cherish.

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### THE STUDENTS' UNION OFFICE BEARERS ('97 - '98)

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<i>President:</i>	Meera Jacob
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Saritha Thomas
<i>General Secretary:</i>	Ameeta Fernando
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Aparna Natraj
<i>Cultural Sec.(Arts):</i>	Charmaine Soares
<i>Cultural Sec.(Science):</i>	Subadhra Seetharaman

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# CULTURAL REPORT

IT HAS BEEN A YEAR OF MEMORIES – SOME good and some that we wish could have been better. We started off with a bang, introducing our very own mascot *Othello the Turtle*. We are the first college in Chennai to have a mascot and *Othello* has become a popular figure on campus and at other colleges too..

To represent the diverse student interests we have 13 campus clubs. We introduced a system of club rotations, to make the clubs more active and effective. These culminated in Club Week held in February 1998. Through the year certain clubs proved to be more successful in organising workshops and promoting enthusiastic participation. These were the Western Music Club, Western Dance Club, Light Music Club, Folk Dance Club and the Art Club.

Simultaneously, the union office bearers organised theme days which we hoped would make college life memorable and fun filled. We had Hats, Ethnic, and Flower Days with everybody wearing something unusual even as classes continued as usual! But an extended break-time, buzzing with games and food stalls reminded us of the day's uniqueness. In continuing with the previous union activities we also had veena and guitar classes which were held thrice a week.

Stella Maris turned 50 this year. Being a special year we organised a unique parade with a float built by the students, representing *The*

*Star Of the Sea*. *Othello*, of course, was an integral part of the parade. Other special features on campus such as the college handbook, the college telephone and Hitler the cat were uniquely depicted.

*YUKTHI*, a lecture-cum-demonstration on diverse Indian folk and classical performing arts, was presented in December. The programme made us more appreciative of the richness and variety inherent in our culture. Throughout the week there were craft workshops. *YUKTHI* was definitely well attended and appreciated.

And then, there was the annual mega event – the Inter-Years. We christened the event *Samarpan*. The campus buzzed with activity as students put their heart and soul into winning performances. The judges were extremely impressed with the quality of the competitions and the students' spirited participation. This year, "Distortion" was the only event, which was dropped. It was replaced, on popular demand, by soap carving. The four hectic days in September (24 - 27) concluded with the third years emerging as the overall winners of *Samarpan '97*.

Next, was the much looked forward to Stella Maris intercollegiate culturals – *Melange* held in January. The preparations began a whole month ahead. Work was delegated to various committees and clubs. Although some of the invited colleges were unable to attend the event,

the level of competition was still high. Ethiraj College for Women emerged the overall winners for *Melange '98*.

Showcasing the talents of Stella Marians at various intercollegiate culturals, we are proud to say we have been the winning team or runners-up at every programme we participated in! Recorded below is the final tally: Our students

also won several essay writing and oratorical contests all through the year.

As we announce these results, we would like to thank the students, faculty & management who helped us make this possible. We really appreciate your efforts.

INTERCOLLEGIATE CULTURAL COMPETITIONS ORGANISED BY:	<i>THE STELLA MARIS TEAM WERE THE:</i>
Ethiraj College	<i>Overall Winners</i>
Madras Christian College	<i>Overall Winners</i>
Octavia (music competition at MCC)	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Place</i>
Women's Christian College	<i>Overall Winners.</i>
Bharat Utsav (I I T, Chennai)	<i>Overall Runners-up</i>
MOP Vaishnav College	<i>Overall Runners-up</i>
JBAS College for Women	<i>Overall Runners-up</i>





# Convocation '97

March 28, 1998



Padmashree Dr. R.M. Vasagam, Vice-Chancellor, Anna University, with the Principal, Secretary, Vice-Principals and members of the Staff Council.



The graduates at Convocation '97

NSS volunteers perform a street play at the conference on TRAINING OPTIONS FOR EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS



The Administrative staff felicitate the retiring faculty.



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# PROJECTS

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## CULTURE AND DRUG USE / ABUSE IN ASIAN SETTINGS — RESEARCH FOR ACTION

**D**RUG ABUSE AND ITS CONSEQUENT LINK with HIV / AIDS infection is a health hazard and hence, cause for serious concern. In Chennai, few realise how widespread the disease is and its source in drug abuse.

Recognising the link between drug addiction and HIV / AIDS illnesses, the Stella Maris project team researching "Culture and drug use / abuse in Asian settings" has initiated several awareness programmes in its community services. These are implemented through "Sangamam" -- the community centre located at Kasimedu in the Royapuram area. Stella Maris has been among the first educational institutions to initiate awareness programmes within the affected community itself.

The programmes are constantly evolving and new activities have taken root in the past year. Most recently, in September 1997, a transit school was set up in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. The objective is to eliminate child labour and reduce drug abuse by helping school drop-outs to re-enter the educational system. Children attend classes for a year, at the end of which, they enroll for the regular school programme. About 25 children, ranging from 9 - 16 years, regularly

attend classes. This child education effort has received tremendous support from the Principal and students of Rosary Matriculation School, Mylapore. The school Principal, Sr. Leena, fmm, has generously gifted books, slates and related school material, to the project. We gratefully acknowledge Sr. Leena's and Rosary Matriculation School's contributions.

To ensure holistic community services, Sangamam has also reached out to the mothers of the transit school students. These mothers have been encouraged to participate in a savings scheme and are trained in an income generating skill like tailoring. They receive non-formal education, too. Complementing Sangamam's outreach work, Stella Maris also organised the "Unity march against drug abuse". The Provincial and the Principal of Stella Maris College led the group which included faculty and students from Stella Maris, other city college students, and school children, teachers and community leaders of Kasimedu. The group submitted a memorandum to the Minister of Social Welfare to highlight the problem of drug abuse in Kasimedu.

The focus of action in this project, is on education, the family and society as these three factors are the key to drug abuse prevention.



## THE FUNCTIONAL LITERACY PROGRAMME

**O**UR AIM IS TO IMPROVE THE LITERACY RATE among women in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu. To begin with we surveyed several villages. This year, we surveyed Karambakkam, Padu and Erullappakkam villages. From these, Karambakkam was selected for the project, as the others did not have sufficient basic infrastructure. Karambakkam was also prioritised because of its high illiteracy rate. The villagers welcomed the project and responded with overwhelming enthusiasm.

Meanwhile, we selected Puzhal village for our project next year. Mr. Krishnachand Chorka, General Secretary, Jain Vidyashram Campus, has assured us assistance for our programme in this village.

During the year, Ms K. Thirupurasundari, Dept. of Tamil, was the guest speaker at the silver jubilee celebrations of Indian Bank (Porur Branch). In her lecture, she explained the programme's objectives and the efforts by which

the college strives to help eradicate poverty and illiteracy. The talk raised a lot of interest in the project. Mr. Valliappam, General Manager of Indian Bank, has assured us generous financial assistance for our work. Furthermore, Bana Vedu Thottam, the village where we have been working for the past two years, has been selected by Indian bank as the model village for their project. Our students are also involved in this programme, which has proved enormously successful so far.

In addition to the field work, we have had a busy year. In August '97, we held a training programme for school drop-outs. More than fifty Stella Maris students participated in the seminar on self-help organised by Indian Bank. We have also initiated a project, at Shanthi Bhavan, to provide assistance to poor mothers. Visitors from Sinclair Community College made two village visits to study our programme, and found the video presentation exceptionally useful.



## THE WRITING CENTRE

**T**HE WRITING CENTRE CONTINUES TO HELP students acquire better writing skills. This year, we had 51 writing assistants, of whom 49 were third year students from the departments of English Literature, Economics, History, Sociology and Commerce, and two post-graduate students (Eng. Lit.). The centre also has seven staff advisors.

The assistants guided first year students with

their written assignments on aspects like grammar, vocabulary and sentence structure. The centre is a source of help to students from all departments. This year, we had students from History, Sociology, Economics and English Literature benefited from this programme. They gave us a positive feedback, and at the end of the year, the 51 writing assistants received certificates of appreciation.



# CAREER GUIDANCE CENTRE

ANY GRADUATE EMBARKING ON A CAREER soon realises that planning, self-assessment and developing job skills are key requirements. This is where the Career Guidance Centre (sponsored by the UBCHEA) steps in to help students. During the second semester, several third year students had the opportunity to attend workshops and learn more about the career options open to them.

In January, there was the workshop on self-assessment. Ms Susan Johnstone, from Sinclair Community College, Ohio, USA, conducted the programme for graduating students. The participants' feedback was very appreciative. At the workshop on career expectations, the students learnt how to track down career information and to widen their employment

alternatives. The job skills workshop highlighted communication techniques besides advising participants on a range of related areas – from writing résumés to preparing for interviews.

All these workshops were eagerly looked forward to and the students showed enthusiastic involvement. They were sure that such inputs would help them make the right career choices when the time came. The Alumnae Association provides active support to the centre. This year the association invited professionals like fashion designers, journalists, lawyers, and economic and financial consultants to talk about their work. The centre is equipped with books and journals to facilitate activities.



# UJJWALA

THIS YEAR, UJJWALA, THE WOMEN'S STUDY cell of Stella Maris College, organised two major events. The year also marks the tenth anniversary since Ujjwala's inception.

The first event, was a seminar on One-third Reservation for Women in Parliament. The main speakers were Ms Arulmozhi, advocate and women's activist, Prof. Padmini Swaminathan from the Madras Institute of Social Studies, and Prof. Saraswati, Head, Dept. of Sociology, Queen Mary's College. In addition to our students, several faculty and students from other city colleges also attended the programme. The participants were all very appreciative of the insights gained at the

seminar.

We then celebrated International Women's Day on March 9th. The chief guest was Ms Geetha, the editor of Tara Publications and an activist. Her talk on the various phases of feminism was truly inspiring and the highlight of the day. The occasion also gave us an opportunity to felicitate Mrs. Jayalakshmi, the associate Controller of Examinations for our college, for her quiet, but significant, achievements as a woman. Meanwhile the essay, picture portrayal and slogan competitions ensured active and enthusiastic participation from our students.



# JOURNALISM

**T**HIS UBCHEA SPONSORED PROJECT brought together students from various academic disciplines. The programme introduced them to the basic functioning of the print media. In fact, the session on computer editing and DTP gave them a “hands on” experience of the journalistic process. Guest

lectures by journalists, both editors and reporters, were the mainstay of the programme. Likewise, the group participated in several workshops and seminars. With their training, the students published two issues of THE STELLA TIMES and are now engaged in producing a magazine.



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## SEMINARS

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### FACULTY TRAINING IN LEADERSHIP

**A** TWO DAY SEMINAR BASED ON THE SEVEN HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE authored by Stephen Covey, a noted American trainer in Leadership, was conducted by Prof. Albert Selvanayagam, retired Professor, St. Joseph’s College, Bangalore.

The seminar endorsed a holistic, integrated, principle – centred approach for solving personal and professional problems. Prof. Albert, a person with deep insights and universal values revealed a step-by-step path towards living with fairness, integrity, honesty and human dignity.

The seminar focused on three major areas of human development. Personal vision, leadership and management leading to Private Victory; interpersonal leadership, empathetic communication and creative co-operation, facilitating Public Victory and, three, a principle of balanced self-renewal ensuring Physical Well-being.

The participants were able to analyse their own competencies and recognise their inner potentials. Mr. Selvanayagam’s efficient use of various communication strategies and interactions enhanced conceptual clarity.

The socio-emotional climate though slightly closed at the beginning was open and warm towards the end. A number of participants expressed their appreciation for Mr. Albert Selvanayagam and the Management of Stella Maris College for having conducted this programme.



# TOURISM IN INDIA: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES

TOGETHER, THE DEPARTMENTS OF HISTORY AND ENGLISH LITERATURE CONDUCTED A seminar – **TOURISM IN INDIA: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES** on March 2, 1998. The seminar attempted to present a holistic understanding of the tourism phenomenon and pinpoint the shortcomings and hurdles for tourism development in India. In turn, this understanding would lead to sustainable strategies for the future.

To ensure comprehensive inputs, participants were invited from different sectors of the industry, including hoteliers and tour operators. Mr. S. Rajarethinam, IAS, Secretary, Dept. of Information & Tourism, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, delivered the presidential address. Then the findings of an exploratory study on the impact of tourism on women from the coastal areas of Kovalam, Bekal, Mamallapuram and Pondicherry, were presented by Dr. Kamala Aravind and Dr. Susan Oommen.

Some topics highlighted at the seminar were:

- ★ The need for better infrastructure, a clean environment, and adequate safety and health standards for tourism development.
- ★ The reasons for India's lack of prominence on the international tourist map.
- ★ The need for product definition and innovative concepts in hotel services to encourage tourism.
- ★ The importance of an integrated approach among airlines, travel agents and tour operators to ensure a more co-ordinated industry.
- ★ A study of existing tourism projects in Tamil Nadu and the identification of areas where change is necessary.
- ★ The need for humanising the tourism industry, i.e. suiting the needs of the people (keeping in mind the sentiments of local residents) and preventing environmental degradation.
- ★ The need to educate and create greater awareness of tourism development in India so that a tourism policy can be devised which is well integrated, sustainable and easily implemented.



# LOOKING BACK - THE WORLD IN 1000 AD

AS 2000 AD APPROACHES, A THOUSAND years of human history draw to a close. In terms of the universe, in terms of astronomical time, a thousand years are of course nothing. However, when considered in relation to human time, a thousand years is a long spell. We can best understand the immense significance of the moment in time that we now occupy by looking back a thousand years.

1000 AD falls in what is referred to as the medieval period in history. The term 'medieval' is used not merely in a descriptive but also in a qualitative manner. It is used to distinguish a social and cultural situation which is considered inferior to the ancient or 'classical' age. Those who subscribe to the wave theory of categorising history would say that 1000 AD was essentially a period when the world was passing through the 'trough' phase.

The superior civilisation of the Greco - Roman empire and its contemporaries all over the world had deteriorated by 1000 AD and a decadent political structure and a defunct military system with innumerable socio-religious defects had taken root.

1000 AD was also an age of war. The law of the jungle prevailed; the not - so-mighty became extinct. In the eye of the storm was central Asia where living conditions were becoming tough. As the population increased, it became increasingly difficult to find a suitable environment for survival. A struggle for the

greenest pastures ensued. The fittest survived, the not-so-fit searched for new lands. The Mongols and the Huns, the fittest of the fit, overran central Asia. Recognition by the Caliph of Baghdad was not security enough for the Sultans of central Asia. They required a lot of wealth to protect themselves and they turned to the one place where they knew they would find plenty of it -- India.

## INDIA

India was the USA of 1000 AD - a haven for fortune seekers. It was this lure of wealth that prompted Abdul Qasim Mahmud, the heir to the prestigious throne of Ghazni to invade India seventeen times from 1000 AD to 1027 AD. To justify his greed he declared that his invasions were a jihad (holy war) on the infidels of India. North India thus bore the brunt of hordes of marauders who tried to strip her bare. In the meantime in South India, the imperial Cholas under the ambitious ruler Rajendra (1013 AD to 1044 AD) conquered Sri Lanka and Myanmar; thereby sowing the seeds of future ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka.

## CHINA

China in 1000 AD was ruled by the Sung dynasty. It was a period of renaissance in the arts and in education. Medieval China was a remarkably stable and enduring society. It produced an infinite variety of ideas, philosophies and institutions some of which have survived into modern times. Sung China



in particular, was remarkable for its diversity of thought and for a relative absence of official orthodoxy.

### JAPAN

As for the land of the rising sun, she was still centuries away from being the light of Asia. 1000 AD in Japan is called the age of Heian (peace and tranquillity). It was a period when the Japanese began to display intellectual maturity. It was also a period when Japanese culture let go of the apron strings of the older and richer Chinese culture and acquired her own distinct identity.

### THE AMERICAS

America in 1000 AD was an empty wilderness, inhabited by various tribal groups. A group of tribes generally known as the Mississippians formed what is called the Temple Mound culture. The inhabitants depended on hunting, foraging, trading and agriculture for their food and supplies. Influenced by the thriving societies in South America, they evolved into a complex, hierarchical society which took slaves and practised human sacrifice.

### EUROPE

In Europe, the Holy Roman Empire continued to exist, though it was a far cry from what it had been when Charlemagne was crowned emperor two centuries earlier (800 AD). In Eastern Europe, the Byzantine empire continued in a shrunken state, hard pressed from all sides. In 1066 AD, William the Conqueror became the master of England. And in 1096 AD the first crusade began and Eastern Europe was ravaged.

### AFRICA


Africa in 1000 AD was the "dark continent", mysterious and dangerous. It would be many centuries before Livingstone and Stanley arrived to open up Africa to the rest of the world. In the process they disrupted a tribal way of life, as civilised in its own way as anything the West could exhibit.

### AND AS FOR WOMEN . . .

Turning aside from history to 'herstory', the lives of millions of women all over the world would have been remarkably similar. If few men had access to leisure, culture and education, the women who accessed these would have been even fewer. Women would have spent the greatest part of the day in fetching water, gathering firewood, feeding, nursing and caring for families and livestock. They lived and died in the villages where they were born. Living with death as an ordinary experience would have been inevitable - wars, epidemics and unsanitary conditions, of cities in particular, would have ensured this.

### A MILLENNIUM LATER

Almost a 1000 years later, the world is a very different place. However detailing, even in brief, the extent of the change would be beyond the scope of this article. Despite many changes, there are a few institutions such as family and religion which have not only survived but have retained their charm. Looking forward a thousand years it is difficult to predict what is in store. However institutions such as these will probably endure for all ages to come.

DOLLY THOMAS   
Faculty, Dept. of History

# HAIKUS

CREATIVE WRITING, (II MA, English Literature)

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## MOODS

*Deeping orange flash.  
Brazen red; Streaking scarlet.  
Demure dusk-coy pink.*

PUSHKALA SHIVRAM



## WATCH

*Two Black men visit a  
dozen stations now and then just  
to keep us ticking.*

APARNA JOHN



## BETRAYAL

*Lantern lit romance.  
Neon nothings. Small spark snuffed.  
Bulb bare. Shame engulfs.*

PUSHKALA SHIVRAM



## REASON

*Socrates, Nietzsche,  
Light in darkness, reason's dreams;  
Reason still dreaming.*

DIANA Z.



## BUTTERFLIES

*On green blades dancing  
flighty topaz melodies  
a breath here, no more.*

SHINY PHILIP



## PENANCE

*On Hospital bed  
Absolution at pain's hands;  
white death to new life.*

DIANA Z.



# VOICES

This is right  
This is wrong  
Don't waste your time  
think...  
Be Good ...  
Do you listen to the voice of reason?  
The voice of your mind?  
Your head says stop.  
Do you stop?  
Do you stall?  
To understand  
or listen?  
Your head looks down upon the way  
you lead your life. . .  
Yes. You're a fool.  
But let's just ignore that fact for now.  
Ever tried convincing your head?  
Most often, you can't.

Some people let their body rule  
The voice of the mind is left behind  
The voice of hunger  
The voice of desire  
The voice of comfort  
prevail.

Some people let their hearts rule  
The voice of the soul is heard. It  
echoes  
in the head and battles with the  
voices  
The voice of feelings  
The voice of fear  
The voice of emotion  
remain.

There is for sure  
a link between the body,  
mind  
and heart  
in every one of us.  
The difference, I believe is in what  
we obey.

I feel first.  
You touch first.  
Some think first.  
The war goes on, inside  
And I wonder if I'll ever change  
from being what I am now...  
( A fool)

AMI JANGLA  
*III BA English Lit.*



# UNTITLED

Two people sitting across each other  
One playing with his fingers;  
The other listened on.

He wanted to say something,  
Something was burning deep inside him,  
Spitting flames of fury,  
threatening to overwhelm his  
compressed insides.  
The other listened on.

His face now was a portrait of anguish.  
His eyes were now flashing  
a message that was  
immediate in its silence  
and yet as *inexpressible*  
as grass drying in the sun.  
The other listened on.

He cried as simply  
as a sky throwing a tantrum.  
The other stopped,  
pulled out his ear plugs,  
stood up, straightened his shirt  
and walked out.

NIRUPA



*II BA English Lit.*

# NEMESIS

Downwards we flow  
through the soil, through the core  
somewhere to get stuck.

The obstructions are too strong. We fight. To flee.  
To fly, To see. The exteriors of our souls. Our Beings.

Illusions, like fog, thick and sure, prevent definite escape. We stumble. We fall.

Nemesis.

Why are we meant to be what we may not wish to be?

Nemesis. In time  
come

moments of pleasure, Moments of pain.

It's all so much in a moment. A moment of a life. A life in a moment.

Inevitable. Undeniable. Overpowering force...

Nemesis...

You scream, We shiver

You laugh, We smile

You hurt, We cry

You Govern. . .

Why?

AMI JANGLA  
*III BA English Lit.*



# STAR LIGHT STAR BRIGHT

We must have made an odd pair that night, as we traced our footprints on the wet sand with only the whispering waves for company. He, a tall man, built like a prize fighter, with a face as rugged as the nearby *ghats*, deep-set eyes, hooded now to mask his emotions. And me, a painfully thin, scrawny, awkward looking boy, in torn jeans. We shared a bond of frightening intensity that could only arise from shared experience. . . . we both had loved and we had lost.

The world called her “Stella”, which in Latin means “star”, a name most appropriate for a woman whose smile lit up a million faces, whose touch sent spines tingling, whose accent was emulated by a thousand wannabes. She could be tender, passionate, sinister, warm, divine. And on stage, she was the most promising star of the silver screen, her life the typical rags to riches story. From a naïve village belle to diva, glamour, glitz, power, money, fame, she had it all, we had it all, and we had nothing . . . .

And yet, it had not always been this way. After all, she had married the simple country lad that my father was (and perhaps still is). Even during the early struggle to stardom, she had found time to love and be loved . . . and I was born. The impulsively planted kisses, carefully prepared sweetmeats, enthusiastically spun yarns . . . though a distant memory had nevertheless existed.

Fame does strange things to different people. Some live with it, some live by it, some are not so lucky...like my mother. She died. The doctors diagnosed cancer, but we knew better, papa and I. Drinks, drugs, debts... got her before the devil could. And yet what hurt us most was the fact that she had stopped loving us. At least, she ceased to believe that she did.

Man that my father is, he felt no betrayal, no anger, only pain that someone so young and so beautiful had to die. That he had loved and he had lost. But I, barely ten, could not be so generous!

The questions tumbled out “Why did she leave us ? Was she not happy with us, why couldn’t she be? I loved her papa! Why did all this have to happen?” Incoherent perhaps to a stranger, but not to my father. He knew I needed to know.

“Look up, son” he said. “Can you see that star up there, shining mesmerisingly. Ask no questions! You can admire her, you can reach for her, but ultimately you cannot touch her. Your mother was like that star, son. Think of her that way. Stars give us light. Let us not ask for warmth.”

I looked up again, the first morning rays were emerging. I could see “Stella” no more. The pent up tears flowed. I sobbed.

“Star light, Star bright, could you shine for me, once more with all your might?”

Did I tell you? Even the waves had stopped whispering.

KUSUMANJALI RAVINDRANATH  
*I BA Sociology*



# SHEEP, SHAH RUKH AND SCIENCE FICTION

I'M NOT SURE WHETHER TO BLAME M. F. HUSSAIN or Nawaz Sharif or Bollywood for my fate. May be all of them put together precipitated my predicament. But I think on the whole, I would like to squarely put the finger on that MO syllabus; yes EL/MO/FS 32 if you want the whole and do I feel smug that I can reel off the code like that before I have even taken the paper. What I didn't know that hot June afternoon when all this happened was the syllabus for the paper on the twentieth century novel and the college was about to reopen. So I dropped in on my goody-goody friend. Sure enough, she had the syllabus (she would). Had even bought the texts. "Read them already, like a good child?" "Only 'Portrait of a Lady'. It's beautiful." It was also 450 pages. I groaned. "Okay, don't spare me. What are the others?" She turned to her bookshelf and tossed them over to me. Four fat novels, four fat novels, I repeated glumly to myself. "The Time Machine," I said peevishly as I fingered the thinnest of the lot uneasily. "What a corny text. Imagine having to study that." "Why not?" asked Mita coldly. She was so virtuous that if 'Finnegan's Wake' had been on the syllabus, she'd have convinced herself that it was an ideal choice. "It's not Lit., at all," I said crossly. "It's sci-fi, and stupid at that." "Oh, have you read it?" I hadn't and that made me even more irritated. "For Pete's sake, you don't have to read the book to know what it's all about.

Everyone knows that some nut of a scientist invents a TM, you jump on it and go back centuries and get bitten by dinosaurs. Or shoot forwards to find that robots have taken over." "I don't think you should judge Wells by his imitators. Why don't you read the novel and give the poor guy a chance?"

"Well, OK," I said nonchalantly and pocketed the volume before Mita could think of a reason to avoid lending it to me. "Give it to you next week. And thanks a lot." She snorted unpleasantly but didn't actually snatch the book from my grasp, so that was all right.

I went home, had a nice heavy lunch and started on Wells' masterpiece, before the good resolve could weaken. Mita could say what she liked, but the more I read, the more I felt I knew it already. Twenty pages, and I was yawning at regular ten-second intervals. "It's all nonsense and just part of the stupid pessimism of writers," I thought. "Why should life be worse thousands of years from now? If some woman came from 1000 AD right here, would she find life so rotten? I mean, she would have a few surprises, that was for sure, but once she got adjusted, she wouldn't have found it too bad. Microwaves, pressure cookers, tap water, electricity. If she had any sense, she would dump her medieval boyfriend and the time machine and stay here forever. Yes, forever". I really think that's about when I slouched deeper into the cushions and

fell asleep.

I woke up startled to find myself in a long, cool room that seemed to stretch on and on. The first thing I noticed was the curtains which went right round the room, not just doors and windows. Nice curtains. They started quite high up. As high as the ceiling. I was just looking up to settle this point when I noticed a man sitting beside me on the couch. That ugly-handsome face, that wide mouth with the impish grin, that naughty little-boy look. If I had seen it once, I had seen it a thousand times on the Hindi screen and of course, in my dreams. "Shah Rukh...!!!" I whispered incredulously. "Is that really you?" His mobile eyebrows shot up. "Call me Sholly," he said casually. "Charlie?" I asked, puzzled. "Sholly, that's my name, you know. What's yours?" I wondered whether I was dreaming. I decided if this was a dream and I was alone on a desert island (well, sort of) with Shah Rukh smiling into my eyes, I could go right on dreaming. If he had asked me to call him Mickey Mouse, that would have been OK with yours truly. "I'm Lathika. I'm doing Lit. at SMC and I would like to tell you, Shah Rukh, I mean Sholly, I think you're the greatest. 'Baazigar' and 'DDLJ' and 'Pardes', I mean like wow!"

"Don't know what you're saying," he said, still with that wonderful smile that made my heart go pitter-patter.

"Has she woken up yet?" Someone had come in while I was gazing deep into my hero's eyes. I whirled round. Then I rubbed my eyes. This guy was the absolute image of my darling Shah Rukh. For a moment I thought he had just shifted 180 degrees. Then I turned, saw Sholly was still by my side. Two of them. Was I in a dream in which he was playing a double role?

Couldn't be. Two Shah Rukhs. All the books said, if you got drunk, you saw double. But how could I have got drunk on my mom's tomato soup, which was all the liquid sustenance I had had for lunch? "The exhibit's up?" Yet another person. No, it couldn't be, but yes, it was; another Shah Rukh. I let out a wail. Three more men hurriedly parted the curtains and stood beside my couch, which had unaccountably turned into a (time?) machine. Yes, they were all Shah Rukhs I gave a silly laugh. "I have to see a doctor. Please, fast, I'm seeing sextuplets. Six Shah Rukhs. Please fetch a doctor fast before I go mad." "Relax, sweetie. I'm Rolly." "Krolly", "Holly", "Cholly", "Nolly". I had heard six people speaking, but their voices sounded ditto too. I put my fingers in my ears, then shut my eyes. Then I slowly opened them again. There were still six of them.

"Look, are there six of you in this room? Answer me." "Of course. We're clones. That's why we're identical." "Clones?" I heaved a sigh of relief. Then I wasn't drunk or mad. "All clones of Shah Rukh?"

"A twentieth century actor. I seem to remember he was called Shah Rukh," said Cholly, or perhaps Nolly.

"Why aren't you called Shah Rukh?" I asked feebly. A dumb question, of course, but all I can say is I wasn't feeling too bright.

"All names end with 'ly' on this planet. This is to honour the first clone, the immortal sheep Dolly."

"You mean Molly," said Cholly.

"Dolly. Or at least I think so."

The other guy turned to me in appeal.



"Wasn't the first clone Dolly?" But I have a brain like a sieve when it comes to things like that. I mean, it's as much as I can do to remember Shakespeare is spelt with an 'e' at the end, let alone worry about a sheep's name.

"Look it up in some encyclopaedia," I snapped. Then I stopped to consider the situation. It couldn't be that bad, not really, to live in a world with lots of Shah Rukhs. Better than the creeps on the bus and the roadside Romeos back home any day. It was like that woman from 1000 AD I had been thinking of just before I fell asleep. All I had to do was adjust and it would be fine, I might even marry one of these handsome guys. Of course there would be small teeny-weeny differences between them all so I could tell them apart. Identical twins never confuse their families. But wait a minute. All names on this planet? "Do all the men look like you?" I asked them. "Yes!" Six voices, one answer.

"But . . . why?"

"It was the war, of course." They were surprised at my ignorance.

"War? Which war?"

"The Indo-Pak war."

"1965 or 1971?" I asked, pleased to actually remember some dates.

"No, no, the Indo-Pak war in 1998 which led to World War III."

My mouth fell open. "Huh?"

"The nuclear war, don't you know? The one that started when a missile fell on Bombay. Nobody could figure out in Delhi whether Pakistan or China had done it. So they gave the

command to bomb both Peking and Islamabad simultaneously. After that . . . all hell broke loose."

I listened in dismay. "But why the Shah Rukhs? I still don't understand." "Oh, the radioactivity made the human race--what was left of it--sterile. Luckily, a few scientists who knew how to clone were still alive. So they saved mankind by generating clones. Now there are billions of us."

"Phew. Are there any women?"

"Of course. Hey, Milly, come here!"

A shapely svelte figure parted the curtains. I groaned as I gazed at the well-remembered (and unloved) features of Madhuri Dixit. "Why her?" I asked peevishly. "Couldn't it have been Kajol or Karishma?"

"I believe M.F. Hussain was given the right to decide as artist and aesthete. He voted for Madhuri as the quintessential Indian woman."

"The true Saraswati," said Milly coyly.

"The one and only Sita," said yet another.

"Can it," I said unpleasantly. "My ears need a rest." To tell you the truth, I was fed up with the whole business. "I think I would just like to go out for a breath of fresh air," I said. The whole roomful of Shah Rukhs and Madhuris burst out laughing. When they finished rolling about and going 'Hyuk! Hyuk!' they explained (again in one voice), "You can't go out. The habitable space is covered with a huge glass bubble to seal off the radioactivity." I ran to the curtain and soon found out that I was against a wall. A glass wall. A high wall that curved. A sky of grey lead, dense with poisonous mist, outside. Nothing else was visible. God, this was

awful.

When the going got tough, the tough got going. I retreated to the couch. It was the couch that had brought me here. It must be the time machine, though I didn't see how. If so, there must be a knob. Everyone knew that when things got sticky, you just pushed some button, any button, and beat it to the next century, forward or backward. So all I had to do was find the button.

But the couch was all soft cushion. No knob, no button. And I didn't quite like the way the men were looking at me.

"She's beautiful."

"She's different."

"Takes just one to make a difference."

"I think I'll marry her."

"You mean ME."

Help! This couldn't be happening to me. In Classical Mythology last year, we learnt about Damayanthi who had to choose the real Nala out of five identical chaps. The gods had disguised themselves to win her hand. But no myth explained what a girl could do when she

wanted none of the six identical creeps.

Pinch myself. That's what I had to do, I decided. I was just asleep and in a nightmare. Everyone said you woke up when you pinched yourself. So I started.

"Darling, you don't have to do that," said Cholly or Krolly. "I'd be happy to pinch you."

"Me! I'm the one to pinch her!"

"Hands off!" I yelled, stepping back in a hurry. If any of these goons tried anything, they'd learn what it was to tackle Shihan's star pupil. I thanked my stars for Stella and Shihan's training. The Madhuris meanwhile were simmering with rage.

"How dare you! That ugly twerp of a girl!"

"Disgusting!"

"Revolted looks! Men have no taste, no taste at all."

They had edged between the men and me and I had won a little time. So all I had to do was wake up. Pinch, pinch, pinch . . . I'm pinching like mad and I'm black and blue all over. Will someone, anyone, help me wake up? I have to, I just have to...

A.C. MAUVE



## WHAT'S HOT, WHAT'S NOT IN COMPUTERS

With computers setting the pace in practically all fields ranging from launching spacecraft to hairstyling, it is imperative to know at least some of the jargon used. Though computers have been in use for over four decades, we could manage without them until now. However, since the eighties, computers have developed into an all-pervasive influence. Consequently, someone without even a rudimentary knowledge would certainly feel disadvantaged.

The computer industry is constantly changing, with companies having to upgrade and innovate, just to stay in the market. As a result, the terms that were in yesterday, are out today. Hopefully this article will familiarise you with some of the current terminology.

PENTIUM: It is Intel's microprocessor which, after initial teething problems with floating point accuracy, has become the new standard for computing speed in PCs. The latest trend is to upgrade all to 486 machines the Pentium or its next version i.e. the p6 and p7.

WINDOWS: If you still wonder how MS-DOS manages your machine's memory, programs, compilers etc., then you are way behind. The Windows Operating System has opened the door for Graphical User Interface(GUI). Taking a printout has never been this easy. Just point and click the mouse when the cursor is positioned on the printer icon. Windows 98 is the very latest in this operating system.

CD-ROM: CDs are old hat for music buffs but CDs in computers? In their quest for storing more information in less space, computer science engineers have hit on CD-ROM's. Hence, CD-ROM's are becoming the most sought after information storage system since papyrus.

NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS: At first, computers occupied 400 sq m of floor area. Then as technology progressed, they became smaller in size and yet more powerful. PCs, portables, laptops, and now notebooks pack more power and are smaller than ever before. User-friendliness is the goal.

CLIENT-SERVER ARCHITECTURE: Increasingly, networked computers using a server are gaining acceptance. Whenever clients (users) transmit data, they do so via a common server. Hence a multi-user system allows each user to work independently while accessing common resources through the server.

MULTIMEDIA: This is arguably the most exciting development in recent times. Imagine preparing a financial statement, sending E-mail to a friend across the seas, watching Baywatch, speaking to a client and attending a video conference – using the same computer for these varied activities. Well that's what multimedia is all about.

Fields like hand-writing recognition, machine translation, optical character recognition, pattern recognition, speech recognition and synthesis are yet to win widespread acceptance. And finally, if you feel lost when someone talks of neural networks, artificial intelligence, expert systems or fuzzy logic, take heart. You are in good company.

DIXEENA DONNA NATHAN  
*II B.A. English Lit.*



# MACBILL -- THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD

## DRAMATIS PERSONAE

MACBILL : A genius at computers, hailed as the greatest thing that's happened to computers.

MRS. MACBILL : Macbill's wife

BANQUO : An out of work actor. He was once promised the part of Banquo in Macbeth, but the production was never staged, though Banquo had memorized all his lines.

DUNCAN KING: The Chairman of Orange Computers, and Macbill's former employer.

MAN IN POLKA

DOT TIE : An executive, with no experience in handling a CEO's Voice of Reason; nor any idea about the workings of a corporate set-up. He has no name and is identified only by his tie – a yellow tie with pink polka dots.

MAN IN ORANGE

TIE : Another executive, similarly identified by his tie.

JAKE W. ITCH : An old man in his 80's, hard of hearing, shrivelled up, dressed in black clothes too big for him, is often seen with an identical twin brother.

THE SHRINK : Never appears in the play. He is an ex-insurance salesman, who joins the most lucrative profession at Silicon Valley.

THE METALLIC

VOICE : A Macintosh computer, one of Macbill's old favourites before he switched to the IBM PC for financial reasons.

THE ATTORNEY : Duncan King's solicitor.

## ACT 1, SCENE 1

(A Boardroom with many serious-looking men typing away furiously at their IBM Think Pad laptops. Mr. Duncan King enters, everyone pretends not to notice.)

KING : Ahem!! Good morning, gentlemen.

(No response)

KING : You can expect a salary raise...

MAN IN ORANGE TIE : When??

MAN IN POLKA

DOT TIE : Now???

KING : At the turn of the century!! Our shares are sliding down faster than an eel in a butter factory and no one is doing anything about it!!!!

MACBILL : What was that about eels now??

BANQUO : I think we're having eels and butter for lunch.

MACBILL : Yuck!! I hate Chinese. You know I do!!!

KING : We haven't launched a decent program in ages.

MAN IN POLKA

DOT TIE : But DOS version 6000.3 was launched only 2 weeks ago.

KING : (very angry, turns towards man in polka dot tie) What's with you?? What do they teach you at business school these days?? In my days, they spent one year and three months telling us that superiors are always right and under no condition must be questioned, they then wasted the remaining three months in frivolities like market analysis, accountancy, crisis management. Bill, what do you have to say?

MACBILL : Who, me??

BANQUO : Good sir why do you start and seem to fear  
Things that do sound so fair? I the name of truth  
Are ye fantastical or that indeed  
Which outwardly ye show? My noble partner  
You greet with present grace and great prediction.

KING : What is this all about??? Get him out of here someone, take him to the shrink!! The company will pick up the tab.

(Banquo is dragged out of the room by two men in ties)

KING : Tell me now Bill, everything is settled now isn't it? What prevents you from coming up with a DOS upgrade in four months time?

MACBILL : It's the Chinese, I hate Chinese food.

KING : I'll tell you what Bill, you give me that DOS upgrade in four months, and I'll make sure you never have to eat eel all your life.

MACBILL : It's a deal, Mr. King.

## ACT 1, SCENE 2

(At the office, Macbill is working at the computer, Banquo enters.)

BANQUO : How goes the night, boy?

MACBILL : What night, it's lunch hour yet.

BANQUO : What sir! Not at rest? The king's a-bed  
He hath been in unusual pleasure...

MACBILL : Oh, do shut up and at least pretend to make some sense. I can't seem to integrate my programs at the OS/2 level, I think it's got to do with the RAM

BANQUO : Restrain in me the cursed thoughts that nature

Gives way to in repose!

(enter Jake with a twin)

BANQUO :     What are these,  
                  So wither'd and so wild in their attire,  
                  That look not like th' inhabitants o' the earth  
                  And yet are on't. Live you? Or are you aught  
                  That man may question? You seem to understand me,  
                  By each at once her choppy finger laying  
                  Upon her skinny lips. You should be women,  
                  And yet your beards forbid me to interpret  
                  That you are so.

MACBILL :     (to Jake) Don't take notice of him, his shrink isn't in town this week.

JAKE W. ITCH : I got mail for ya, are you Mr. Macbill??

MACBILL :     I sure am, I've been Macbill for many years now.

(Jake leaves the letter with Macbill and leaves along with his twin)

MACBILL :     (opens the envelope and reads)  
                  Thou art a fool  
                  Endless Riches  
                  King is dead, Long live the king.  
                  Is this some kind of Joke?  
                  Perhaps this needs to be computed . . . what do you think Banquo??

A METALLIC

VOICE :     Logic computed, code deciphered. Message reads : you are a fool if you keep working  
                  for Orange Computers, you will be rich beyond your wildest dreams one day when  
                  Orange Computers and Duncan King have perished.

MACBILL :     Huh! Are you sure?? Wonder who sent this message?

### ACT 1, SCENE 3

(Macbill's house with computers and assorted hardware strewn across the room.)

MRS. MACBILL : So .. endless riches, hmm . . . what else did the computer say?

MACBILL :     That all this will happen when Duncan and Orange Computers eat the dust.

MRS. MACBILL : So, you have to kill him now, don't you??

MACBILL :     Yeah, but what if my SPCA membership is revoked because of this . . . ?

MRS. MACBILL : You silly man, that's only for animals.

MACBILL :     I'm not sure about that, lemme check the rule book.

MRS. MACBILL : Forget it, I'll do it myself.

MACBILL :     Maybe you should. It'll give you something to tell the shrink when you go to him the

next time.

(The telephone rings, Mrs. Macbill answers it.)

MRS. MACBILL : Hello! Oh one second. It's for you.

MACBILL : Yes... what do you mean he's dead? Oh okay, I'll be there right away.

MRS. MACBILL : What's up??

MACBILL : Someone killed King.

MRS. MACBILL : Who would do that??

MACBILL : I'm not sure...

## ACT 2, SCENE 1

(Macbill's house, everyone is wearing black.)

AN ATTORNEY : Mr. Macbill, your former boss, Mr. King has left all his life's savings to you.

MACBILL : Why did he do that?

ATTORNEY : I don't know his reasons Mr. Macbill, but you are now two million dollars rich.

MRS. MACBILL : I'm overwhelmed. I'm so touched I'm so . . . .

MACBILL : Oh, shut up!

MRS. MACBILL : No, really

MACBILL : Maybe you should see the shrink about this.

MRS. MACBILL : Maybe I should.

MACBILL : I wonder who killed him.

MRS. MACBILL : Must've been some psycho.

MACBILL : In Silicon Valley, the description "Psychopath" fits almost everyone, which explains why there are more psychoanalysts in Silicon Valley than computer programmers.  
Can I have another sandwich?

MRS. MACBILL : How can you think of food at a time like this? The people from Mo' Money are coming to interview us, and you aren't even dressed yet.

MACBILL : Oh, I am.

MRS. MACBILL : You're going to meet them looking like that?

MACBILL : They like it when you look dumb, it gives them a sense of belonging.

## ACT 2, SCENE 2

(Microhard Corp. headquarters, a launch party in progress.)

MAN IN POLKA

DOT TIE : Ladies and gentlemen, I have great honour in welcoming you to the launch of Doors 95 – the program which revolutionises the way you look at computers. It turns your computer into a microwave, a dishwasher, and a vacuum cleaner all at once. You can enjoy the excitement of multimedia and open a whole new world of edutainment for

your children. Now presenting the Chairman of Microhard Corp. Mr. Macbill . . .

(Applause as Macbill comes up to the mike)

MACBILL : Hello there, um er, I'm happy everyone's here and all that. Hope you buy Doors 95, it's really cool, it'll be kind of fun even if you already own a microwave, dishwasher, vacuum cleaner and a television. Um, er, we'll be coming up with more software upgrades that are Doors 95 compatible, we hope you enjoy them too. Good evening and thank you.

### ACT 3, SCENE 1

(Macbill's office, a huge computer occupies most of the space)

BANQUO : How goes the night?

MACBILL : Hey!! How's it going?

BANQUO : All's well. I dreamt last night  
Of the weird sisters; to you they have shown some truth.

MACBILL : Weird sisters?? You mean the courier and his twin?

BANQUO : Ay, good lord.

MACBILL : Speaking of which, look who's here.

(enter Jake)

JAKE W. ITCH : Here's more mail for you.

MACBILL : What does this one have to say?? (reads)  
When Silicon Valley moves to Bangalore,  
The dollar begins to decline  
What ever does that mean??  
Whoever wrote this, probably flunked poetry.

BANQUO : The earth hath bubbles as the water does  
And these are of them. Whither are they vanished?

MACBILL : Shut up, let's see what the computer has to say.

THE METALLIC

VOICE : Order computed, logic analyzed, message decoded. Message reads: When the earth shifts polarities and Silicon Valley floats away to Bangalore, you will no longer remain the richest man on earth.

MACBILL : Well that can't happen now, can it?? Earth's polarities are hardly gonna change.

### ACT 3, SCENE 2

(Board room of Microhard Corp.)

MAN IN POLKA



DOT TIE : We're in trouble Mr. Macbill.  
MACBILL : We are?  
MAN IN POLKA  
DOT TIE : Doors '95 has many errors, it's not comprehensive enough.  
MACBILL : Well.. um er...  
MAN IN POLKA  
DOT TIE : But we're still outselling every other software ever written.  
MACBILL : Well . . .  
MAN IN POLKA  
DOT TIE : It's been 6 months since Doors 95 was launched, we need to prepare for the launch of another product or our stock prices will start plummeting like an eel in a butter factory.  
MACBILL : Leave Chinese food out of this conversation.  
MAN IN POLKA  
DOT TIE : Huh??  
MACBILL : Announce that we have an upgrade ready for Doors 95 called Doors 97.  
MAN IN POLKA  
DOT TIE : But how can you launch something that you don't have??  
MACBILL : I think you need to see the shrink.

### ACT 3, SCENE 3

(At the Microhard Corp. headquarters.)

MAN IN POLKA  
DOT TIE : Our stocks have hit an all time low.  
MACBILL : Yeah well, these things happen.  
MAN IN POLKA  
DOT TIE : And all your staff are leaving.  
MACBILL : So get some other people to come and work.  
MAN IN POLKA  
DOT TIE : There's no one left in Silicon Valley, sir.  
MACBILL : Where is everyone?  
MAN IN POLKA  
DOT TIE : In Bangalore sir; Silicon Valley has moved to Bangalore.  
MACBILL : Say that again!  
MAN IN POLKA  
DOT TIE : Yes sir, in Bangalore, Silicon Valley has moved to Bangalore.  
MACBILL : Get me my shrink, I feel sick.  
MAN IN POLKA

DOT TIE : Your regular shrink is not in town, sir.

MACBILL : But my wife went to see him just yesterday.

MAN IN POLKA

DOT TIE : Yes sir, but soon after, they left together for Bangalore. Your wife called to say, that she's now the shrink's secretary, and that she earns more money per hour than you earn per week.

MACBILL : What do I do now?

MAN IN POLKA

DOT TIE : I'm sorry sir, but you are no longer the richest man on earth.

MACBILL : Let me guess, it's the shrink now isn't it??

MAN IN POLKA

DOT TIE : Yes sir.

(enter Jake)

JAKE W. ITCH : This is the last mailer I have for you.

MACBILL : You are the cause of all my problems, what have I got now??

(Jake hands him the letter and leaves)

MACBILL : (reads) The past 2 mailers that arrived anonymously have affected your life in some way or the other. You and 99 others received identical mailers in an attempt to study the effect of direct marketing on human behaviour. Please fill in the forms enclosed and help us in our study.

(Curtain falls as Macbill faints)

Bala Manian   
III B.A. English Lit.

# THE CELESTINE PROPHECY

BY JAMES REDFIELD

“THE MORE ENLIGHTENED OUR HOUSES ARE,” WROTE ITALO CALVINO, THE MORE THEIR WALLS ooze ghosts.” THE Celestine Prophecy is a fictional account of a mysterious manuscript found deep in the Peruvian jungles, supposedly dating back to the year 6000 BC and containing some very essential truths about the way humankind is heading. The manuscript describes Nine Insights, each of which has to be grasped sequentially if the human being wants an understanding of the events that have shaped and structured the world around us. It predicts that human beings will arrive at these insights of their own accord, leading into a growing awareness that will culminate in a spiritual reformation of sorts.

The moment Descartes said “I think , therefore I am,” he prioritised the intellect and banished myth and fantasy by creating a structured, empirical world-view. Redfield’s oddly transcendentalist scientists are a poignant (if not convincing) appeal for a move away from the Cartesian reality that most people prefer to live in. Environmentalism has led to an alienation from the natural world, a distancing from it. Redfield talks of “energy-fields” (one is reminded of T. Lobsang Rampa’s remarkably convincing theories on Karma and astral travelling and other fun things to do when you’re bored) existing around all life forms on the planet, and when you begin to perceive these fields you realise that you are at your most energetic when you have mystic communions with Nature (this includes, among other things, falling in love with trees).

The Celestine Prophecy is what Calvino would call a ghost. It is about coming full circle to find the truth. It expresses the idea that we have come as far as we could with empiricism; it is now time to go back to mysticism, myth and faith - believing is seeing. Redfield’s cataloguing is certainly neat, his ideas well thought out and excellently represented through the eyes of an unwilling sceptic. However, intriguing though the idea is, at the end it is simply, as Bryan Appleyard wrote while discussing English mysticism, “decorative but impotent”. Mark Victor Hansen, co-author of the Chicken Soup for the Soul series, claims that “we are helping to change the world by transforming the way people think”. Redfield is certainly pro-science and attempts to bring technology and global welfare into his idea of a coherent whole, but somehow the whole process comes across as too neatly contrived and, in a way, desperately optimistic. It is very definitely an adventure, though, worth the ride if one is willing to suspend scepticism during the journey.

MEGHNA MUDALIAR ✍

III B.A. Lit.

# MY PRODIGAL SONS

“Tea, love?”

The eagle flask with the russet tartan print labelled ‘autumn’ in white letters near the base, hovered over her teacup.

She winced slightly, crinkled up her loose pink mouth as though she was trying to make out Bessie Menezes’ figure. Then, crinkling up her mouth a little more, into a pursed wet smile, she shook her white head. Kept shaking it; like a Thanjavur doll; holding all the while onto her baby blue cotton napkin, whose ribbed texture she could barely feel in her wrinkled white hands.

“Can’t hear yer, love”.

The flask shook a little, faltering in the air. Bessie Menezes’ figure was an intruding shadow, its sides blurring with the veranda’s columns and the shiny leaves behind her in the garden. It seemed as if the shadow would fall upon her and take her into the great wide beyond. Shahzenan kept shaking and shaking her head. At last Bessie grew tired, set the flask back upon the old round wooden table and flopped into her easy chair with a long sigh. Shahzenan was still shaking her head, pulling her baby blue cotton napkin tightly from both sides.

As a soft summer breeze moved the air at 5 in the evening, and newspapers flew from their tables and from old men’s desperate hands, Sr. Pramila padded down the corridors in her stockinged feet and her Bata hushpuppies. She stopped at intervals, to smile, perhaps say a word or two to her wards, the inmates of Greenwood Home - a nod for Mr. Janardhanan here, for Mr. Santhanam, “Hello, Mr. Fernandes, how are we doing today!. And you, Mr. Gopal?”, Mrs. Rebello, Mr. Rebello, Mr. Pillai, and here was Mrs. Shahzenan Nazir. Sister gifted each with her warm smile and when she reached the end of the protected veranda, she stuck one hand out of her pocket and called, “Gopalakrishnan, *inge konjum vaa paa, yaaro tea-ye kottitaange.*” Mr. Gopal looked up as though he’d heard a ghost and when Mr. Rebello grunted “It’s not for you boy!” he bent his head and resumed examining his varicose veins.

At 6 every evening, the residents of Greenwood Home were helped back to their rooms by the nurses and ward boys. At times, this could lead to problems. There were instances when some of the old people would cling to a nurse or an attendant and refuse to let go. Some openly demanded an ear that would listen; others tried through subtler means to create situations that were difficult to

get out of. Mrs. Shahzenan Nazir fell into the second category. At first, Sr. Pramila used to dread the task of taking her back to her room but soon, she grew used to it.

Everyday she called out to a different son – Salman, Arif, Rahim, Farhath, Niaz, the list was endless. At times she introduced variety. Hence, Gopalakrishnan and Mani, Greenwood's attendants, were alternately Kirpal, Iqbal, Shivaji, Suresh, Karthik, Calvin, Naveen, John, Birju, Sameer, Narain those were as many as Sr. Pramila could recall. And each would have to endure a half hour long tirade against the evils of the world, about how he had foolishly forgotten God the Almighty and about how he'd burn in hellfire if he didn't fulfil his obligations towards his own mother.

"Heaven lies at the feet one's mother, *bete*. Don't forget that, ever-"Mrs. Nazir would be at her melodramatic best. A cough or a sniff later, a pause. Then came the final bit. "I'll be waiting for you tomorrow. Give me some time to pack my bags. And come only at 11, not as early as 8 or 9 or anything like that. We are all *buddhe*, you know, growing old". Her hand would stroke the nape of her bent head. "I have to wish everyone goodbye and ... and ... have a bath, of course. Shouldn't I be clean and fresh when I meet my grand children?" Then came the slight shifting in her seat. "Okay, beta, go now. "And in a gentler tone, "And go carefully, my darling." Mrs. Nazir's face would break into a 1000 smiles, sunbeams in a dark little room in Greenwood Home.

Even 15 minutes after the attendant had left, Sr. Pramila, on her rounds, would catch Mrs. Nazir alternately speaking and praying after her son's retreating figure. It nearly broke Sister's heart. And Mrs. Nazir would continue talking, intruding upon Sr. Pramila's ruminations, and send her along her rounds again.



"Saleem! How many times have I told you to close that door! Do you want unwanted eavesdroppers?"

Really, I was amazed at myself this evening. Barking like that at my own long absent son! But he didn't really seem startled, as far as I can see. He seemed to be well, how do you put it, quite enjoying himself, I think. In the dimness of my room, he moved surreptitiously from door to table and table to cupboard. I know he can't keep his hands still - I can't either. So I pulled up my cane and whacked his behind. "Thak!" He swiftly grabbed my cane away and moved threateningly towards me when we both heard Sister call out - "Mr. Dorai, do you need anything?" My cane was thrown upon the bed hastily, Saleem's shadow was very near; he breathed a guttural curse.

When it stank, I could stand it no more - "You should brush more often Saleem, or at least see a good dentist. You smell of bad rice and yesterday's dal..."

Knock! Knock!

His shadow retreated, away from the light.

"Mrs. Naseer...?" Sister. can never pronounce the 'z' in my name and I've given up telling her. She's a nice sort, though. Forever enquiring after my good health.

"Mrs. Naseer, how are you doing today?" A favourite line of hers, and always uttered brightly. She's full of life, that one.

"And where....?"

"Where? Sister?" I asked

"Your son,... Mrs. Naseer?" - hesitating, enquiring.

"Oh. He's gone, I suppose... Oh, Sister. Could you do me a favour?"

"Yes, Mrs. Naseer?"

"Do call him and let him know he's to pick me up at 11 tomorrow morning".

"I will, Mrs. Naseer!" I could dimly see her moving towards my table. "Oh, ma'am, where's your silver ring? Have you kept it carefully?"

"Oh, that! Didn't you know? It rolled down the gutter this morning. Never mind, I can do without it." I gave her my best smile.

"Do be careful, Mrs. Naseer," She was singing a lullaby. "Anyway, take some rest now. I'll send Radha up with your veg. mash at 7. Then you can go to bed". She held my hand warmly, dear girl, and shut the windows before she left. My eyes wandered from the door to the table. I couldn't help gnashing my gums.

God, these attendants!

AMINA AHMED ✍

*II M.A. Lit.*

## நன்றும் நீ..... தீதும் நீ

என் இனிய உயிரே!

இதயத் துடிப்பில்  
இளமையாய்!  
இனிமையாய்!  
இதமாக வீற்றிருக்கின்றாய்!

எல்லா விதிகளும் நின்னால் அமைவன!  
எல்லா விதிகளும் நின்னால் அமைவன!

ஆற்றிவு மனிதரிலும் நீ இருக்கின்றாய்!  
ஐந்தறிவு விலங்கினத்திலும் நீ இருக்கின்றாய்!

பெரிய உயிர்களான டினோசரிலும் நீ இருக்கின்றாய்!  
சிறிய உயிர்களான ஏறும்புகளிலும் நீ இருக்கின்றாய்!

என் இனிய உயிரே!

நின்னை எந்நாளும்  
நினைக்குந்தோறும் என்  
நினைவில் நீங்காது  
நிலைத்து நிற்கின்றாய்!

நீ இல்லையேல் நின்று போகும் என் உயிர்த் துடிப்பு!  
நீயே எந்நாளும் என் இனிய இதயத் துடிப்பு!

அறிஞரிலும் நீ இருக்கின்றாய்!  
பேதகளிலும் நீ இருக்கின்றாய்!

கல் போன்ற இரும்பு மனத்திலும் நீ இருக்கின்றாய்!  
பனி போன்ற இளகும் மனத்திலும் நீ இருக்கின்றாய்!

என் இனிய உயிரே!

ஆற்றல் மிகுந்தவை உருபெறுபவை உன்னால்தான்!  
அழிவை உண்டாக்குபவை உருபெறுவதும் நின்னால்தான்!

அன்புடைய மனத்திலும் நீ!  
அழிவுடைய நெஞ்சிலும் நீ!

காந்தி போன்ற மகான்களிலும் நீ!  
ஹிட்லர் போன்ற நீசனிலும் நீ!

புண்ணியம் செய்யும் உள்ளங்களிலும் நீ!  
பாவம் செய்யும் உள்ளங்களிலும் நீ!

என் இனிய உயிரே!

நன்றும் நீ!  
தீதும் நீ!

## சிறகுகள் விரிப்போம்; சிந்தனை வளர்ப்போம்

உயிரென்றார்; உறவென்றார்; ஒவியம் நிகரென்றார்;  
ஒளிநிறை நிலவென்றார்; பனியுறை மலரென்றார்;  
மயிலென்றார்; மாலையிள வெயிலென்றார்; - மங்கையரை  
மனமயக்கச் சிறையதனில் பூட்டியன்றோ வைத்திருந்தார்.

ஆண்மைதான் மேன்மையென்றார்; அடங்குதல் பெண்மையென்றார்;  
அவைதனில் மாதருக்கு அனுமதியேயில்லை யென்றார்;  
மூண்டெழும் எரிதணலில் வெந்தழிய விதிசமைத்துப் பெண்ணை  
மூலைதனியிருட்டில் முடக்கியன்றோ வைத்திருந்தார்.

ஊரடங்கிப் போனபின்னர் உறங்கச் சொன்னார்  
ஒளிபிறவா முன்பொழுதில் விழிக்கச் சொன்னார்  
சோராமல் நாளெல்லாம் உழைக்கச் சொன்னார் - உண்டி  
சுருக்கியே பெண்ணெழிலை வளர்க்கச் சொன்னார்.

பாறை மலைக்குகை களெல்லாம் குடைந்தெடுத்து  
பாவையரின் எழிலுருவம் செதுக்கி வைத்தார்  
கூறைச்சேலை குழல்பூக்கள் எழில்கூட்டும் - உயிர்க்  
கோதையரைத் தனியிடத்தில் ஒதுக்கி வைத்தார்.

விறகாய் வெந்து தணிந்தது போதும்;  
விதியினை நொந்து குனிந்தது போதும்;  
சிறுமைப் பட்டுத் தளர்ந்தது போதும்; - இனி  
சிறகுகள் விரிப்போம்; சிந்தனை வளர்ப்போம்

திரேசா  
ஆங்கிலம்  
(பழைய மாணவி)



## धोरवा

शादी के सुख झिलमिलते जोड़े में सजी अनु अपने को निहारते न थकती थी । उसे कितना रुप चढ़ा था देखते ही बनता था । वह स्वयं अपने रुप को देखते न थकती थी । लाल साड़ी भी दुल्हन का खूब मन लगाकर श्रृंगार कर रही थी । उसकी गोरी कलाईयों पर चमकती सोने की चूड़ियाँ ऐसी लग रही थीं मानों सूर्य की सुनहरी किरणें सागर की लहरों पर अठखेलियाँ कर रही हों । सखियों को कमरे से बाहर कर वह स्वयं को दर्पण में निहारती हुई ठगी-सी खड़ी थी । उसे यह विश्वास नहीं हो रहा था कि मैं वही लड़की हूँ जो कभी एक मैली सी फ्राक में घूमा करती थी । आज उसे सब नया नया लग रहा था मानो पुराने आवरण से निकल कर स्वप्न लोक में जा रही हो । सारा वातावरण ब्याह की शहनाइयों से गूँज रहा था ।

इनही भावनाओं में बहते हुए उसने महमूस किया कि शहनाई का गूँजता स्वर एकाएक सन्नाटे में बदल गया । चारों ओर लोगों के बोलने चालने की आवाज़ें आनी बंद हो गयी थी । इस सन्नाटे से घबराकर उसने पिताजी को पुकारा । उनके आने पर उनके मुख को देखते हो उसने भाँप लिया कि कुछ अशुभ धटना घटी है । वे लड़खड़ाते कदमों से उसकी ओर बढ़े और काँपते हुए हाथों से उन्होंने कागज़ का एक टुकड़ा अनु की ओर बढ़ाया । डरते हुये उसने उस कागज़ को पढा ।

“घनदौलत के लिये शुक्रिया  
सदा के लिये अलविदा”

‘रकेश’

पढते ही मानों उसके कदमों के नीचे से धरती खिसक गयी हो । उस क्षण यदि धरती फट कर उसे अपने में समा लेती तो वह परमात्मा की शुक्रगुज़ार होती । इससे पहले कि वह कुछ बोल पाती उसके पिताजी की आँखों में बेबसी एवं लाचारी के आँसू झलक आये और वे उसे कमरे में छोड़ कर चले गए ।

बिस्तर पर पड़ा कागज़ पँखे की हवा से ऐसे फड़फड़ा रहा था मानो उसका दिल फड़फड़ा रहा हो । कागज़ को देखकर अनु को वह दिन याद आया जब वह पहली बार रकेश से मिली थी । अपनी सहेली रुपा के घर आयोजित पार्टी में उसने रकेश को देखा था । उसका लम्बा कद, गोरा रंग और हंसमुख चेहरा देखकर अनु का मन रकेश से बात करने को मचल उठा । पार्टी के दौरान रकेश से मिलने पर ज्ञात हुआ कि वह अमीर खानदान का इकलौता वारिस है और माता-पिता की मृत्यु के पश्चात सारा कारोबार स्वयं सम्भालता है । किस प्रकार रकेश और वह परस्पर एक दूसरे में घुल मिल गये, समय का पता ही नहीं चला । पार्टी के पश्चात अनु ने रकेश को अपने घर का पता दिया और आमंत्रित कर लिया ।

अगले दिन प्रातः जब वह सो कर उठी और बगीचे में गयी तो रकेश को अपने पिताजी के साथ खड़े देखकर स्तब्ध रह गयी । पिताजी के चहरे को देखकर उसने जान लिया कि उन्हें रकेश से बातचीत

कर बड़ा आनन्द आ रहा था । मन ही मन अनु ने भगवान को धन्यवाद दिया कि राकेश उसके पिताजी को भी पसन्द आ रहा था ।

उस दिन के बाद राकेश का आना जाना बंद हो गया । उसके माता पिता राकेश से काफी प्रभावित थे और यह जानकर कि वह सारा कारोबार स्वयं संभाल रहा है, उनकी नज़रों में वह और ही ऊँचा उठ गया था । अनु ने कई बार महसूस किया कि राकेश उसे अपने कार्य के बारे में कुछ नहीं बताता है और पूछने पर बात टाल जाता है । उसने पिताजी को यह बात बतायी थी परन्तु उन्होंने उसकी बात को हँसी में उड़ा दिया ।

उस दिन वह बगीचे में पौधे सींच रही थी जब उसके पिताजी उसके पास आये । उन्होने कहा कि राकेश जैसा लड़का सम्पूर्ण संसार में खोजने पर भी नहीं मिलेगा और मैं चाहता हूँ कि तुम और राकेश शादी के अटूट बंधन में बँध जाओ । लज्जा के कारण अनु बगीचे से भाग आयी । उधर राकेश ने भी इस रिश्ते को स्वीकार कर लिया । अनु के पिता चाहते थे कि दहेज की वस्तुओं के बदले अपनी सम्पत्ति राकेश के नाम लिख दें । सबके समझाने पर भी वे न माने और कार्यवाही करवा ली ।

हवा में फड़फड़ाता वह क्रागज़ का दुकड़ा अब भी पलंग पर पड़ा था मानो अनु की खिल्ली उड़ा रहा हो । मानो उसे चिढ़ा रहा हो कि उसके समस्त सजीले स्वप्न कहीं खो गये, कहीं बिखर गये ।

तभी उसके कँधे पर किसी ने हाथ रखा । उसने मुड़ कर देखा तो उसको माँ खड़ी थी । माँ का स्पर्श पाकर वह अपने पर काबू न कर पायी और अपनी बदकिस्मती पर फफक फफक कर रो पड़ी ।

चारु मायुर  
97/EC/18

## ENSORCELÉS

Elle S'appelait Félicia Félix-Mentor. Sa condition était effrayante quand on l'a trouvée, en octobre 1936, à Haïti. Elle ne savait où elle était, elle ne savait même pas son identité.

Les habitants du village n'avaient aucune difficulté à la reconnaître - mais, tout le monde croyait, à ce moment-ià, qu'elle était morte depuis deux ans. C'était, alors, le premier exemple d'un "ZOMBI"-un mort vivant - un phénomène bien connu à Haïti.

Haïti, une île près des Bermudes, de Cuba et de la Jamaïque dans l'océan Atlantique est synonyme de "Voodoo"; quelquefois on l'appelle "La Religion de Voodoo". Pour des siècles, les oracles ou "HOUNGAN", de cette secte bizarre, ont dominé les peuples de Haïti, jusqu'à un point qu'il touche chaque aspect de leur vie. Pour comprendre comment ce pouvoir formidable, s'est perpétué, les historiens ont remarqué que des siècles de violences, de meurtres et de dictature ont empêché la population de s'instruire. Presque dès le moment que Colombbe est arrivé à Haïti, le massacre s'est démarré.

Les habitants indigènes, les Indiens "Arawak" et "Carib" ont été tués en masse, au point d'extinction par les Espagnols. C'était à peu près deux décennies après, que les premiers esclaves ont été emportés par les Européens. Même s'ils ont été opprimés, ils ont retenu leurs pouvoirs magiques, et un héritage de leur culture. Ils avaient une foi acharnée en magie et en occultisme c'est à dire, les origines de Voodoo.

Qu' est-u que c'est alors, le phénomène de Voodoo, qui a un choc terrifiant sur les résidents naïfs de Haïti?

Les croyants de Voodoo pensent que le dieu ne peut pas occulter leurs corps sans déplacer leur âme. L'âme, croient-ils, est comprise, de deux esprits, le "GROS-BON-ANGE" et le "TI-BON-ANGE". Le dernier est ce qu' on peut appeler la conscience d'un individu. Le "Gros-Bon-Auge" est son âme essenlielle le coeur de son existence - et sans cet esprit, le Ti-Bon-Auge et le corps ne peuvent pas se contacter. Pendant la "Possession", c'est le Gros-Bon-Auge qui est déplacé par le dieu, d'une telle manière que la personne n' agit pas comme elle le faisait avant. D'habitude la possession se termine spontanément et le, Gros-Bon-Auge d'une personne retourne d'une façon automatique. Mais Le retour se passe quelque fois seulement avec l'aide d'un Houngan. Après la mort d'un individu, il faut prendre des précautions pour se rassurer que son âme peut transmigrer dans un autre être. L'âme qui passe quelquesemps au fond d'une rivière, est rappelée par une cérémonie spéciale, et elle est placée dans un bocal sacre-une remplaçante pour un corps vivant. L'âme devient l'esprit qui va conseiller à sa famille pour des générations suivantes. Et guidés par les esprits de leurs ancêtres, les Vouduns continuent leur tradition de menacer les autres avec leurs pouvoirs occultes, de Voodoo.

Et alors, le Voodoo est - ce réel? irréal? Oui? Non? On ne sait pas. Et en toute probabilité JAMAIS on ne le saurait....

Bhargavi Padmanabhan  
Preeti Sanghrajka  
III Sociology

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