



EDITORIAL

This is our second issue for the year 2010. We owe a debt to all our contributors for their efforts in making the issue vibrant and interesting.

The IJAIS is so widely cited in scholarly research done on and by Anglo-Indians that this is something to be proud of. New contacts keep coming our way and it very heartening to note that so many scholars want to contribute to the journal and have so much to add to the body of work already available on Anglo-Indians in all the issues of the journal since its inception.

There seem to be many Anglo-Indian reunions going on simultaneously: a welcome trend. There is one in Bangalore, India called 'Jamboree 2010' from 26th to 30th October (Source: 'Anglos in the Wind' Vol 5, Issue 20, March-May 2010). It would be good to know of more that are happening elsewhere. In September/October 2010 the 8th World Anglo Indian Reunion is taking place in Perth, Australia. From the perspective of The International Journal Of Anglo-Indian Studies, it should help and be of great interest to those who like to write and publish academically, to meet up with each other. To this end, Dr. Robyn Andrews is organizing a Researchers Workshop and hopefully some people presenting papers will be amenable to their work being published in the IJAIS. We heartily welcome that. A Symposium is being held by the organizing committee of the reunion themselves, to examine where Anglo Indians have reached in contemporary times. There will also be a discussion to examine how poor Anglo-Indians can be helped. The results of these discussions should be valuable to record for scholars doing work on any aspects of Anglo-Indian charity, or charitable organizations.

The reunion is also a jamboree of festivities and social gatherings. Indeed those of us who can attend are fortunate but it will surely be beneficial if some serious research and serious commitment to aid for the poor is realized here. This is an

excellent opportunity to come up with ideas in this regard. It would of course be wonderful if more people could attend this reunion. Perhaps there can be a fund set up to send some not so well off Anglo-Indians, who nevertheless, have much to contribute, for such reunions in the future.

In this issue Deborah Yadav (nee La Fontaine), reviews an interesting and fascinating book sent to us by the publishers Wakefield Press, Australia. Its interesting premise is “the historic relationships and connections between Australia and India” from the time the continents were physically joined as ‘Gondwanaland’ to the present. Sheila Pais James does another soundly researched article on Anglo Indian identity and origins. This is part of her Ph.D. thesis which she has kindly reworked as an article and permitted us to publish. Rudy Otter takes a sidelong glance at the colour consciousness of Anglo-Indians. No doubt he has set his work in the past but it would be interesting to hear if any other Anglo Indians feel that colour consciousness still exists within the community. The editor has contributed an article on “Anglo Indians and economic activity”, tracing the community’s economic life historically and underlining their enterprising spirit in contemporary times. Lastly, Aubrey Millet writes on Anglo Indians who “Stayed Back”. In a series of articles, this being Part 1, he examines the changing contexts of influences on the community etc. - their economic contribution and participation in Indian society and also in Indian politics, in the land that Stark so long ago named “the land of our mothers”. Thus the IJAIS is truly well launched once again. I want to thank all the contributors for giving their time to this journal when all are busy in their respective fields. This issue also sees the launching of the ‘Letters to the Editor’ section. We have been lucky to receive some encouraging ones. I hope readers will pass on the link to others and also write to us with their views. The address for letters to the editor remains susanddhavle@gmail.com. We welcome letters. New readers and new friends have emerged but it should be stressed that old contributors and old friends are as valued as ever. There is immense talent, both intellectual and creative, in this community.

Susan Dhavle has an academic background in History and Anthropology. She has an MA from Bombay University, in Ancient Indian History and Culture and another MA from the University of London, in Gender Anthropology and Development. She has worked for NGOs in editing and publishing newsletters, the last work being the

book “Struggles for Survival: A Tribal Resource Directory” for The National Centre of Advocacy Studies, Pune, India. She is now involved with editing the International Journal of Anglo-Indian Studies and The Anglo-Indian Wallah. She can be contacted at: <susanddhavle@gmail.com>