

ASAA NEWSLETTER

Association for the Study of Australasia in Asia

Website: www.asaa.net.au

Association for the Study of Australasia in Asia

Patrick White Conference

University of Hyderabad

5-7 November 2012



DAY 1: NOVEMBER 5

The luxurious greenery of its gardens and the sprawling campus of The Central University of Hyderabad, India offered an appropriate ambience for the Patrick White Centenary Conference organized by ASAA and the Department of English, University of Hyderabad. Nobel Laureate Patrick White is the best-known of Australian writers and is perhaps the most widely read in Asia. A large number of overseas scholars and writers and academics from across the country participated in the programme.

The conference began with the Pro-Vice Chancellor's Address at the official inaugural ceremony and the traditional lighting of the lamp. Ms Deepa compered the ceremonies, which were followed by a High Tea.





The conference was planned so as to allow a focus not only on White's oeuvre but also on key issues in Australian life which had been a special focus of attention for Patrick White in his later years. A key issue for White had been the situation of the Indigenous peoples of Australia. A special plenary session had been planned and this followed soon after the opening ceremony with the Keynote Address delivered by Hon. Fred Chaney AO (former Co-Chair of Reconciliation, Australia) and one of the country's best-known advocates of Indigenous rights. His paper appropriately titled "The Australian Journey: From Exclusion to Reconciliation and Recognition," acknowledged the tribulations of the Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders in Australia since the time of colonization but also outlined the steps taken towards reconciliation and indicated how the legal system in Australia still grappled with reforms to ensure that their rights would be on a par with the mainstream, community.

Other important aspects of the Indigenous narrative were highlighted in the papers which followed: Kieran Dolin's "White, Mabo and the Rewriting of Australia's foundation narrative";

while Keith Truscott offered the conference attendees, the rare opportunity of listening in to an Indigenous perspective on this important defining piece of legislation and its impact on the community. Legal Consultant Anne De Soyza (Rio Tinto) offered the audience more special insights in a knowledgeable paper entitled "Aboriginal Progress in a new era: Indigenous self-determination and disadvantage."

An impressive feature of the conference was the large number of plenary addresses (six in all) given by speakers who were all recognized authorities in their fields. A second plenary followed delivered by Professor Kirpal Singh from Singapore Management University, a knowledgeable 'insider/outsider' having completed his postgraduate work in Australia and who had co-organized the first ever National Conference on White's work in Australia (1970s). Professor Singh explored the complexities of the Australian response to their Nobel Prize winning writer and how nations respond to their celebrities, especially those critical of a nation's mores.

A very large number of the Papers delivered during the afternoon's three parallel sessions focused on the early novels,

like the *Tree of Man* and *Voss*. *Voss* appeared to attract an inordinate amount of interest in the earlier session and was the focus of several interesting papers showing both originality and ingenuity in the analysis of this text, which is possibly one of White's best-known works. Dr. Suman Bala (University of Delhi) offered a comparative study of Patrick White's *Voss* and Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. Dr. K.T. Sunitha (Mysore) spoke on *The Tree of Man* and R.K. Dhawan (Delhi) compared *Voss* with Yann Martel's *Life of Pi* with reference to the theme of identity and exploration. The later sessions brought in a focus on newer areas like Glen Phillips' Paper on Patrick White's poetry, a section of White's oeuvre which has rarely been written about, as well as some challenging new approaches to the study of *The Solid Mandala*.



The tightly packed programme for the first day was followed by an enchanting Cultural Show featuring an accomplished dancer and graduate from the University of Hyderabad's own College of Dance. The dancer and her entourage presented a programme of dance and music native to the region of Andhra Pradesh; a pro-

gramme which held the audience entranced. Dinner that night was hosted by the University of Hyderabad.



DAY 2: NOVEMBER 6

The first Plenary Session for the second day of the conference commenced with John Barnes' presentation. Emeritus Professor at La Trobe University and an iconic figure amongst Australian literary critics, he presented a view of White which could be regarded as a summing-up of his decades-long acquaintance of White's work. His paper "Patrick White--Australia's *Prodigal Son*" analysed White's decision to return to Australia after the Second World War, rescinding an earlier plan to make his career in England like so many other expatriate Australian writers and the consequences of that momentous decision. Professor Mark Williams (Victoria University, Wellington) defined a new departure perhaps in White Studies by instituting a comparison between Patrick White and James K. Baxter, the New Zealand writer comparing the responses of both literary artists to their nations' histories and their central positions in the literary canon of their respective countries.

The afternoon's parallel sessions brought in discussions of new genres not explored so far in the individual presentations: studies of White's drama and the filmic representations of White's short story and particularly the recent film of the novel *The Eye of the Storm*. Bridget Grogan's interpretation of "Body Language: Reading Corporeality in Patrick White's Fiction" introduced a new strand of White criticism in bringing in a critical commentary on his work for the first time, from a South African critic. Sissy Helff's discussion of the film version of the *Eye of the Storm* was planned to interestingly juxtapose a view from Germany against an Australian view, but although Alice Healy's paper did not arrive as hoped, Sissy's paper was absorbing enough on its own.

Lyn McCredden's thought-provoking presentation "The Sacred and the Secular in the Fiction of Patrick White" was the second plenary presentation for the day. It gave the ever-recurrent debate regarding White's oeuvre a new twist and was presented with a vivacity that kept her audience rapt. The afternoon's later sessions brought in much that was new and invigorating: besides studies of White's last novel, *A Twyborn Affair*, a challenging feminist study of *A Fringe of Leaves* and Ameer Ali and Stephen Alomes' probed national issues in which White had expressed his personal interest. Dr. Ali explored the concept of "otherness", in Australian attitudes of exclusion towards those they considered different from the Australian norm—here the Muslim community in Australia. Dr. Alomes probed the contradictions in Australian

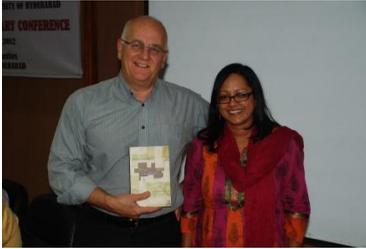
attitudes towards the place of the British monarchy in the Australian context. There was also Jeanine Leane's presentation (for the first time) of an Indigenous view of White's representation of Indigenous people in *A Fringe of Leaves* and Jane Stafford's (Victoria University of Canterbury) presentation on Robert Sullivan's 'Star Waka' re-claimed interesting space for Maori writing. Together with Mark Williams' contribution, it reaffirmed the place of New Zealand in the ASAA group, which latterly had fallen into neglect.

The day wound up with two more entertaining events: A Writers' Meet, featuring four Hyderabad guest writers and writers from overseas attending the conference. The writers spoke about their work and read selected excerpts to the audience (See last two pages for details of the Writers invited and their achievements.) This was followed by a number of book launches.

BOOK LAUNCHES



Stephen Alomes's *Australian Football: The People's Game 1958-2058* (Walla Walla Press, 2012) was launched by Prof. Kieran Dolin.



Pavithra Narayan's *What Are You Reading: the World Market and Indian Literary Production* (Routledge 2012), was launched by Prof. Bill Ashcroft.



Nathaniel O'Reilly, introduced his own distinguished new book to the audience: *Exploring Suburbia: The Suburbs in the Modern Australian Novel* (Amherst 2012)

The Writers' Meet and the Book Launches were ably compered by Professor T Vijay Kumar of Osmania University. A dinner was hosted by ASAA the same evening for all guests.



Suneetha Rani's *Dalit Womens' Writing* (Prestige, 2012) was launched by Professor Alladi Uma.



Jessica White's novel *Entitlement* (Penguin 2012) was launched by Professor Lyn McCredden.

DAY 3: NOVEMBER

The final day of the conference was also packed with much that was intellectually challenging and conducive to many new and stimulating insights into White's work and an understanding of his impact on the Australian socio-cultural scene. It opened again with two Plenary Addresses: the first by the internationally - famed Professor Bill Ashcroft, perhaps Australia's most eminent theorist in the realm of postcolonial studies and the second by the well-known cultural theorist Professor Suvendrini Perera who explored her perception of White's role in the Australian context as a 'public intellectual' with his views for the betterment of Australian public life. Bill Ashcroft whose responses to White over the years have followed a trajectory from a balanced scepticism to a much more appreciative view of his achievement presented an impressive paper which will resonate

as a definitive pronouncement on White's importance on the Australian cultural scene for years to come.

It is a remarkable fact that almost all the individual presentations which followed in the early afternoon sessions were given by speakers from a range of international backgrounds; all well-published scholars and writers: Nathaniel O'Reilly (Texas Christian University) on "The Myth of Patrick White's Suburbanism"; Isabel Alonso (University of Barcelona) who presented an interesting analysis of the mystical elements in White's earliest published short story, 'The Twitching Colonel.'; Julie Mehta (Univ. of Toronto) explored comparison between the outcaste Velutha in Roy's *The God of Small Things* and the Aborigine Alf Dubbo in White's *Riders in the Chariot*. Two fascinating papers from Indian scholars Gursharan Aurora and Ishmeet Kaur noted significant synergies between the mysticism of White's novels and those of Indian religious traditions.

Papers in the later afternoon sessions maintained audience interest and involvement to the last hours of a packed schedule. Pavithra Narayan (Washington State University, Vancouver) presented an 'outsider's' perspective on White as a critic of Australian society while Greg Battye (University of Canberra) presented a wholly absorbing Paper on portraits of White in painting and film. The last session had a particular ambience as it featured two writers: Jessica White (a grand-niece of the great man himself) who discussed the landscape of selected novels; while Meira Chand an internationally recognized novelist her-

self compared her mode of writing a historical novel (focusing particularly on her current work) with White's technique in *A Fringe of Leaves*.

The observance of a highly disciplined schedule had enabled so many events to be packed into a rigorous three days and it was a refreshing change that the closing events were appropriately marked with a convivial informality. A welcome innovation was the informal meeting and 'chat' session between the group of plenary speakers onstage and the whole assembled audience. Dr. Dhawan took on the onerous challenge of keeping order and managed with great aplomb. This passed seamlessly into an informal Valedictory as impressions of the conference and lessons learned were tendered informally and received with general good humour. A special vote of thanks was offered to all the student volunteers whose tireless efforts to assist all the conference attendees through three eventful days had been deeply appreciated by all. The Conference was a befitting tribute to the great Australian author Patrick White.

N. Bindu, Suman Bala, V. Sangeetha

NOTE: ASAA wishes to record here its deep appreciation of the efforts of the Organising Team from the Department of English of the University of Hyderabad: Professor Suneetha Rani, Professor M. Sridhar and Professor Murali Manohar, who took over the headship of the department later on in the project but gave his whole-hearted support. Special thanks are due to the Dean of Humanities, Pro-

fessor Mohan Ramanan whose wise leadership was instrumental in guiding the project to its successful conclusion.

From among ASAA's own team of committee members we wish to single out for special mention, the great commitment and organizational skills shown by Dr. V. Sangeetha whose efforts before the conference as well as all through the three days of the conference ensured all events were most professionally coordinated. **Thanks so much Sangeetha!**

Press Release – Australian Deputy High Commissioner

The Deputy High Commissioner of Australia, Dr Lachlan Strahan, stated in a press release on 26th January that “having a strong bilateral partnership with India, Australia offers all the services required to complement India's economic rise in sectors like education, tourism and industry and a host of other professional skills”. He added: “The Australian education system has a strong international reputation and is known for its effective structure and innovative developments. If you want a quality education and a good life style, Australia is a place to be”.

Australian Cultural Festival

On 16 October 16, 2012, Prime Minister Gillard launched the ‘Oz festival,’ the biggest Australian cultural festival ever staged in India. Oz Fest travelled 18 cities and participated in more than 100 events. Part of its programme involved popularizing Australian culture and literature by the display of books across the country.

Academic Collaboration

Indian students can now get B.Tech degree from Australian universities. VIT University, Vellore, has entered into agreements with three universities—ANU, Queensland University of Technology, and Deakin University. Students can get education in these joint programs to get the prestigious degree. They will study the first two years in India and the last two in Australia.

International Conference on Indigenous Literatures: Guntur

A three-day international conference on Literary and cultural nationalism of the Fourth World was held at Nagarjuna University, Guntur, on 14-16 December, 2012. Organized by Professor Rajasekhar, the event drew more than three hundred scholars. There were 16 creative writers from abroad. Well-known Australian Indigenous writer Bruce Pascoe from Victoria, renowned scholar Lee Maracle from Toronto and New Zealand writer Hone Pareki Sadler, Auckland, delivered plenary lectures. Dr RK. Dhawan, University of Delhi, delivered the Valedictory address and also released five new books.

Writing Workshops in Sydney and Nepal

An innovative course on creative writing—fiction, poetry, travelogues—will be conducted at Sydney, Feb-March, 2013 and at Kathmandu, Sept-Oct 2013. The workshop will be held with Beth Yahp, an award-winning author, editor and creative writer. Her novel *Crocodile*

Fury has been translated into several languages. Contact address:
<bywritingworks@gmail.com>

**Conference on Postnationality:
Hyderabad, Jan 17-18, 2013.**

The English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) organized a two-day international conference on 'Postnationality in Transition'. Professor Bill Ashcroft delivered the keynote address. Other plenary speakers were: Prof Makarand Pranjape, JNU, Prof Meena Alexander, New York, Prof Rashmi Bhatnagar, USA, Prof Tabish Khair, Denmark, and Dr R.K. Dhawan, Delhi. Dr. Dhawan spoke on 'Voices from the Margins: Emergence of Subaltern Literature'.



IN MEMORIAM

**Prof C Vijayasree
(25 Oct 1953-18 May 2012)**

Prof C Vijayasree was Professor of English at Osmania University, Hyderabad and Director, Osmania University Centre for International Programmes (OUCIP). She was the author of nearly 20 books and 50 research papers. She was well known for her work in the field of postcolonial studies and for her translations from Telugu into English and vice versa.

Many people would know and remember Vijayasree as a thoroughgoing scholar, an inspiring teacher, an able administrator, and a great human being. For me, she was a close friend, a dear colleague and almost an elder sister. We shared a great rapport and I could often

communicate with her without having to say a word.

I had first met Vijayasree in 1993, and since then we worked closely together twice. The first was during 1999-2005 as office-bearers in IACLALS/ACLALS. The second was from 2008-12 as Director and Joint Director of OUCIP. During these two extended periods of working together, I came to admire two qualities in Vijayasree. One, her composure and sense of balance. She remained unflappable even in the most trying situations, and sure enough there were many of those. She seemed to handle her academic, administrative, and social/ domestic responsibilities with admirable ease and without any visible trace of stress. Two, her ability to take short, 'power breaks' from what she was doing and do something entirely different and then return to the original task with the same alertness. Sitting amidst a heap of office files, she would switch off briefly to quickly write or translate a paragraph or two.

Two things I will now miss forever: One, Vijayasree's laughter. She had a laughter that was wholehearted, unrestrained, almost girlish, and it used to light up her entire person. I believe that only those who are pure at heart can have a genuine laughter like that. Two, whenever I returned from a longish leave, Vijayasree used to welcome me back with a broad smile and warm hug and used to say "I don't know about others, but I missed you, Vijay". Now it is my turn to say, "I miss you, Vijayasree".

T Vijay Kumar, Hyderabad.

TRIBUTE TO VIJAYASREE

On behalf of friends all over the world, and especially Australia

Dear Vijayasree will be sadly missed also by so many of her friends all over the world.

ASAA owes Vijaysree a special debt of gratitude for the grace, courtesy and gentle efficiency with which the ASAA Conference 2011 was organized (with Vijay's help). The volume of the Conference proceedings will be dedicated to her as a tribute to an excellent scholar and very dear friend of ASAA. **CvD**

WRITERS AT PATRICK WHITE CENTENARY CONFERENCE, HYDERABAD



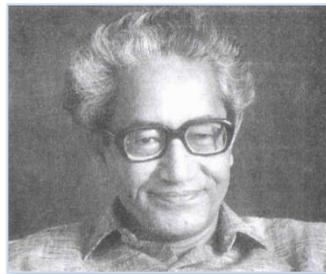
Meira Chand is of Indian-Swiss parentage and was born and educated in London. After marriage, she lived in Japan, and also she spent some years in India in the early 1970s. Since 1997 she has lived in Singapore. Her novels explore multi-cultural issues of identity and cultural dislocation. Five of her novels, are set in Japan, two in India: *House of the Sun* and *A Far Horizon*. Her latest novel, *A Different Sky* (2010) is set in pre-Independence Singapore. In the UK the bookshop chain Waterstones voted the novel their Cardholder's Book Circle Choice for July 2010; in the US the novel was on Oprah Winfrey's recommended reading list for November

2011. The book was long listed for the Impac Dublin literary award 2012 and the Commonwealth Writers Prize. Meira is an Associate Member of the Centre for the Arts, National University of Singapore and mentors budding writers. She has been Chairperson for the Commonwealth Writers Prize (South East Asia) and a Visiting Fellow at Mansfield College, Oxford.



In 2010, **Jeanine Leane's** first volume of poetry, *Dark Secrets After Dreaming: AD 1887-1961* won the Scanlon

Prize for Indigenous Poetry from the Australian Poets' Union and her manuscript, *Purple Threads* won the David Unaipon Award at the Queensland Premier's Literary Awards and was short-listed for the 2012 Commonwealth Book Prize. Jeanine is the recipient of an Australian Research Council grant for a proposal called 'Reading the Nation: A critical study of Aboriginal/Settler representations in the contemporary Australian Literary Landscape'.



Ramesh Chandra Shah is an acclaimed Hindi poet, critic, novelist and scholar. His works include

collections of poetry, short stories, novels

and literary criticism. He taught English in various colleges in Madhya Pradesh, retiring in 1997 as Professor and Head of English, Government Hamidia College, Bhopal. From 1997 to 2000, he held a Chair for creativity endowed by the Ministry of Culture, Government of Madhya Pradesh. He has won numerous awards for his novels *Gobar Ganesh* (1978) and others. 'Shikhar Samman' (1987-88), 'Ram Kumar Bhuvalka Puraskar' (1994) and others, the most prestigious being the 'Padma Shri' Award in 2004. His lectures on Vedic, Post-Vedic and Bhakti Poetry at Temenos Academy, London in 1998 were published as *Ancestral Voices*.



Kirpal Singh is a Professor at Singapore Management University. He is a poet, literary and cultural critic, and, has published several

collections of poetry and edited many literary works. He was a founding member of the Centre for Research in New Literatures, Flinders University, Australia in 1977; the first Asian director for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize in 1993 and 1994, and chairman of the Singapore Writers' Festival in 1990. He is currently Director of the Wee Kim Wee Centre for Diversity Education at the University and is internationally acclaimed as a creativity expert and futurist charting the possibilities for moving beyond contemporary anxieties. He is a regular guest at international arts and writers' festivals.



Sridala Swami originally trained to be a film editor, but now teaches yoga and conducts workshops in creative writing and film

appreciation. Sridala's first collection of poems was *A Reluctant Survivor* (India: Sahitya Akademi, 2007, rp 2008). Some of her poems can be found online at *Asian Cha, Desilit, Druken Boat, Spiral Orb, Nithposition, Pratilipi* and *Nether*.

Sridala has written three books for very young children, which were published by Pratham in 2009. She lives in Hyderabad, India and blogs at *The Spaniard In The Works*.



Volga

(Popuri Lalitha Kumari) is a noted feminist writer, critic, playwright, scriptwriter and

translator in Telugu. In her illustrious literary career, she has published many novels, plays and short stories. Some of her acclaimed works include *Svechcha, Akasamlo Sagam, Palikinchaku Mouna Mridangalanu* and *Vimuktha Kathalu*.

She has received many awards for her contributions including the Nandi Award from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the Best Story Writer (1998), the Potti Sreeramulu Telugu Vishwa Vidyalayam Sahiti Puraskaram 2005, the Best Woman Writer Award from Telugu University (1999), the most recent being Suseela Narayana Reddy Award (2009) She has translated some major works from English into Telugu and her works also have been widely translated into English, Hindi Marathi, Kannada, Tamil and Malayalam. She has been associated with 'Asmita Resource Centre for Women' since its inception and is currently its executive Chair Person.



Dr. V. Chandrasekhar Rao is a well-known short story writer and novelist in Telugu. His works include *Jeevani*, *Maya Lantaru*, *Lenin Place* (short story anthologies) and *Aidu Hamsalu*, *Aakupachani Desam* and *Nalla Miriyam Chettu* (novels). The English translations of his stories have appeared in *South West Review*, *Indian Literature* and *Chandrabhaga*. An anthology of his Telugu fiction in English translation *A Man on the Road* was published by Penguin and *Aidu Hamsalu* (translated as *Five Swans*) will be soon published by Sterling Publications. His works have also been translated into Kannada, Tamil, Hindi, Oriya and other languages. He has won numerous awards including the 'Katha Award' for Best Regional Fiction.

Dr Jessica White is a novelist and researcher. Her first novel, *A Curious Intimacy*, was published by Penguin in 2007 and won the *Sydney Morning Herald* Best Young



Novelist award in 2008. The novel was also shortlisted for the Dobbie and Western Australia Premier's Awards, and long listed for the international IMPAC award. Her second novel, *Entitlement*, will be published by Penguin in September this year. With the assistance of the Sir Arthurs Sims Travelling Scholarship, Jessica undertook her PhD, a ficto-critical exploration of writing and loss, at the London Consortium, University of London. She is now back in Australia, working on her third novel and on a book on 19th novelist and spiritualist Rosa Praed. Jessica has a family connection to Patrick White: her great-grandfather F.G. White, and Patrick White's father Victor White, were cousins.

REVIEW OF ASAA CONFERENCE (2009; SRI LANKA) PUBLICATION

Reprinted with kind permission of Editor, *Asiatic* Vol 6 Dec. 2012.

Change–Conflict and Convergence: Austral-Asian Scenarios, ed. by Cynthia vanden Driesen and Ian vanden Driesen, Hyderabad: Orient Black Swan, 2010, 372pp.

The fourth volume of ASAA, the Australian Asian Studies Association, gathers

thirty-three papers read at its conference in Kandy, Sri Lanka, towards the end of 2008, at a time when peace negotiations between the warring parties in the country had not yet been brought to an end. The more courageous proved the presence of participants from about ten foreign countries to meet local scholars and discuss a conference theme the Sri Lankan organizers had proposed, a theme that aptly related to the political situation in the country.

Several more contributions in the first of seven sections of the book underline the aspect of political change in Australia while the following half a dozen essays discuss future paths the country will hopefully follow, in particular the one of acknowledging its multicultural set-up, as Baden Offord argues, who puts his finger on Australia-Asian relations (45), thereby highlighting the geographical aspect of the conference title. In his most interesting essay, "Postcolonial Legacies and the 'Small Country Syndrome'", Stephen Alomes returns to A.A. Phillips's famous phrase of 1958 of the 'cultural cringe', which he feels does not only persist in Australia but can be extended to New Zealand, Canada and Sri Lanka (74), one proof of which he locates in postcolonial scholars' inclination – and practice – to prefer working in the so-called metropolitan centres instead of at 'the periphery': a state of the art, Bill Ashcroft's negotiation about "Australian Literature and Alternative Modernities" cannot really put aside.

While the number of papers by Australian scholars in this collection is the same as in previous ASAA conference

publications, their host country's colleagues play, laudably, a more visible role than Indian voices had done in the two previous conferences held in the sub-continent. And it is not just linguistic, literary, art, ethno-religious, demographic or sport issues in their own country they reflect upon in the fourth section of the book, "Change in the Sri Lankan Context: Some Reflections", but they also engage with "The International Scene" in the following section, namely the political, ethnic and cultural struggle against creating homogeneous spaces at home as well as in the Balkans, Kashmir, Malaysia or Australia. Here – as well as in the book's very last article, Arni Hinriksson's brief survey of Haldor Kiljan Laxness's work seen from a postcolonial point of view – the reader is offered a number of very wide-ranging interpretations of the conference theme that cross the borderlines of Australian-Asian scenarios and lead to the final section "Cultural Change: European and Canadian Perspectives", a slightly mixed bag of contributions. Perhaps the criterion of assembling here scholarly voices from outside Asia and Australia determined the editors' decision, with Sue Ballyn's and Isabel Alonso-Breto's presentations, thereby pointing at the important role of Australian Studies in Europe and in particular at the University of Barcelona in Spain.

The interdisciplinary character of the present collection – which compares with that of the previous volumes – confirms the Association's important role in bringing together Australian and Asian scholars across the boundaries of their respec-

tive disciplines, with literature not necessarily playing first fiddle. Indeed, only every third essay turns to mainly Australian or hyphenated Australian-Sri Lankan, respectively Canadian-Sri Lankan novels. On a more theoretical level Vijayasree Chaganti asks whether Salman Rushdie has broken new ideological ground in his post-2001 novels and the Sri Lankan-Canadian scholar Chelva Kanaganayakam questions the general neglect aesthetic inquiries have suffered under the postcolonial aegis of the last two or three decades. Though presenting his argument with no read-made answer as to how such postcolonial concerns as “politics, gender, psychology, and the subaltern experience” may be balanced against questions of “how writers construct their worlds, what they draw on, and how they shape their material to the demands of different influences” (346), Kanaganayakam lays his finger perhaps not on a wound but on a neglected yet central agenda of literary studies. His anxiety to reconsider the practice of postcolonial studies may be taken as an invitation to the ASAA to voice more clearly its interest in this aspect of Austral-Asian studies in its forthcoming conferences.

The two editors are to be congratulated for having done a great job in promoting the scholarly community’s concern about understanding of international cultural relations between Australia and Asia, and have been wonderfully supported by the Sri Lankan organizing committee. Personally, I am looking forward to the next volume of essays based

on the Hyderabad conference in December 2011.

Dieter Riemenschneider, Goethe University. Germany.

(NOTE: The names, offices and responsibilities are currently being revised. Contact details will need checking on)

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Membership Form

Association for Australasian Studies in Asia is an international organization that aims at promoting Australian and New Zealand studies in Asia. To promote wider interest in Australasian studies, the Association organizes seminars, conferences and brings out periodic newsletters. The last international conference of the Association was held in Hyderabad. It organized conferences in Mysore, Trivandrum and Kandy, Sri Lanka. Conference papers, each time, have been brought out in book form. Scholars interested in Australian and New Zealand Studies are welcome to join the Association.

Name (in capital letters) Prof./Dr./Mr./Ms. _____

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I wish to enrol as a member. As my membership for two years, I am enclosing Rs. 500; Aus/ US \$50 (cash/ money order/ cheque/ bank draft made out in favour of "AASA"). In case of cheque, please add Rs. 50/ Aus/ US \$10 towards bank charges. Members shall receive a complimentary copy of the journal *Australasian Studies*.

Date:

Signature

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Members may send in items of interest to the editor.
