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OBITUARIES C.D. Narasimhaiah and RK. Rajan

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Abstract
The study of literature in India has suffered two losses in recent times: firstly, through the death of Prof. C.D. Narasimhaiah in April 2005; and secondly, in Dr P.K. Rajan's fatal accident this January (2006).
The study of literature in India has suffered two losses in recent times: firstly, through the death of Prof. C.D. Narasimhaiah in April 2005; and secondly, in Dr P.K. Rajan’s fatal accident this January (2006).

Prof. Narasimhaiah will be known to many as a major innovator of the university English curriculum in India, owing to his introduction of American and then Commonwealth writing into syllabuses. A staunch Leavisite with allegiances to traditional Hindu aesthetics, ‘C.D.’ maintained high standards for the evaluation of literature and promoted scholarship through his dedicated efforts in publishing *The Literary Criterion* over several decades.

He also founded a study centre, ‘Dhvanyaloka’, in his home-town of Mysore, where he established a valuable research library and conference venue. Many younger academics owe their qualifications to gaining access to these resources, and to C.D.’s own writing and edited collections of critical essays. Prof. Narasimhaiah was of the same long-living generation as the writers he wrote on in his landmark book *The Swan and the Eagle: Raja Rao, R.K. Narayan and Mulk Raja Anand* (1969), and he was given a felicitation ceremony at the Hyderabad ACLALS conference for his 90th birthday not very long before his passing.

Perhaps less well known internationally, but also playing a significant role in the development of critical rigour in Indian literary studies, P.K. Rajan was Head of Department at the University of Kerala for twelve years. There he edited the journal *Littcrit*, a major vehicle for bringing new theoretical models into discussions of Indian literature that had been for a long time largely based on formalist close reading.

Dr Rajan went on to become the Vice-Chancellor of Kannur University from 2000 to 2004; during that time he built the university into a national research institution. Some of his own work is collected in *Contexts and Conflicts: Essays in Criticism* (2001) and he also edited the work of others, as in *Indian Literary Criticism in English* (2004). Prof. Rajan fell from from a train while travelling to a conference; he was 60.

Sympathies are extended to the families of both scholars and they will be greatly missed by all who work in Indian writing in English.