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Anna Rutherford

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Recommended Citation
Rutherford, Anna, NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS, Index, Kunapipi, 19(3), 1997.
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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

RUKHSANA AHMAD is a writer, playwright and translator. Her plays have been broadcast on BBC Radio 4 and have toured nationally; her short stories have appeared in various collections; and her first novel, The Hope Chest, was published by Virago in 1997. We Sinful Women (1991), her collection of feminist Urdu poetry in translation, is widely known in Britain.

RANJANA ASH is a freelance writer and lecturer on South Asian literatures and on women writing in diaspora. She was an Associate Fellow of the Centre for Research on Asian Migration at the University of Warwick in 1990-1994; and an editor/consultant for the Heinemann Asian Writers Series until 1995.

ALOK BHALLA received his PhD from Kent State University and teaches at CIEFL, Hyderabad. As editor, his publications include Stories about the Partition of India (3 vols.); Writings from the Indian Subcontinent (6 vols.); Indian Responses to Colonialism in the 19th Century (with Sudbit Chandra); and Images of Rural India in the 20th Century (with Peter Brooke). He has translated Dark Dispatches by Nirmal Verma; Leaves and Other Stories by Intizar Hussain; and The Sea and Other Stories by Ravi Kumar. He has also published on the Gothic Novel and the Vampire Tale, and the social history of 19th-century England.

SUJATA BHATT was born in Ahmedabad and currently lives in Bremen, Germany. She has studied and worked in the United States; and in 1992, was the Lansdowne Visiting Writer at the University of Victoria, B.C., Canada. A poet and translator, she has published three books of poems: Brunizem (1988) which received the Commonwealth Poetry Prize (Asia) and the Alice Hunt Bartlett Award; Monkey Shadows (1991), a Poetry Book Recommendation; The Stinking Rose (1995); and Point no Point: Selected Poems (1997). Her translations of Gujarati poetry into English are included in the Penguin Anthology of Contemporary Indian Women Poets.

SANJUKTA DASGUPTA is a poet, critic and translator. Among her many publications are Snapshots, a collection of poems in English which appeared in 1996; and The Novels of Huxley and Hemingway: A Study in Two Planes of Reality, a critical study. She teaches English and American literature in the Postgraduate Faculty of Calcutta University.

SHASHI DESHPANDE was born in Dharwad, and educated at Bombay and Bangalore. Beginning as a journalist, she started to publish fiction in the 1970s. Besides five collections of short stories and four books for children, she is the author of seven novels including The Dark Holds No Terrors (1980), Roots and Shadows (1983), both of which have received major awards; That Long Silence (1988), which received the Sahitya Akademi award; The Binding Vine (1993); and, most recently, A Matter of Time (1997). Her work has been translated into a number of Indian and foreign languages.

SHAMA FUTEHALLY was born in Bombay, and studied English at the Universities of Bombay and Leeds. Her publications include a novel, Tara Lane (1993); In the Dark of the Heart (1994), translations of Meerabai; short stories appearing in The Book Review (Delhi) and collections such as The Inner Courtyard (Virago) and In Other Words (Kali for Women). She has recently completed a second novel. Currently she is teaching at the National School of Drama in New Delhi.
AMITAV GHOSH was born in Calcutta and currently lives in New York. He studied in Delhi, Oxford and Egypt and has taught in various Indian and American universities. His essays and travel writing have been widely published in journals and magazines, including *Granta, New Republic* and *New Yorker*. His major works are his novels: *The Circle of Reason* (1986), awarded the Prix Medicis Etranger; *The Shadow Lines* (1988), which won several important prizes in India; *In an Antique Land* (1992); and *The Calcutta Chromosome* (1996) which received the Arthur C. Clarke Award for 1997.


SALIMA HASHMI studied Fine Art at the National College of Art in Lahore, at Corsham, UK, and Rhode Island College of Design, USA. She is currently the Principal of the National College of Arts in Lahore. She has exhibited widely in India, the USA, England, as well as Pakistan; and her work is represented in a number of private and public collections around the world, including Lahore National Art Gallery; the National Gallery, Pakistan; and Bradford Art Galleries and Museums.

SHOAIB HASHMI studied Economics at Government College, Lahore, where he is currently Professor of Economics, and at the London School of Economics. He also obtained a degree from RADA in London. He has played a central role in the development of theatre in Pakistan, and has acted and directed a number of plays for both stage and television. He writes satirical columns weekly for *The News* and *The Gulf News*.


AAMER HUSSEIN was born in Karachi and came to England in 1970. He is the author of two collections of short fiction: *Mirror to the Sun* (1994); and *The Lost Cantos of the Silken Tiger* (forthcoming) from which ‘Sweet Rice’ is taken. He has edited *Hoops of Fire* (1998), an anthology of Urdu stories in translation. He teaches at Pepperdine University and Queen Mary and Westfield College, London University. He reviews regularly for the *Times Literary Supplement*. 
SUKIT MUKHERJEE translates Bangla poetry, fiction and criticism into English. He is also the author of a collection of essays entitled Translation as Discovery (1982; new edition 1994). His translation of Rabindranath Tagore’s novel Gora appeared in 1997. Published by the Sahitya Akademi of India, it includes notes by the translator and an introduction by the critic, Meenakshi Mukherjee.

SUNITI NAMJOSHI was born in Bombay and currently lives in England. She has worked as an officer in the Indian Administrative Service, and held various research and teaching posts at universities in India and Canada. Her poems, fables, articles and reviews have appeared widely in literary and Women’s Studies journals in India, Canada, the USA and Britain. Among her many published books are: collections of poems, such as The Authentic Lie (1982) and From the Bedside Book of Nightmares (1984); fiction, such as Conversations with Cow (1985); and books of verse and fables, such as Feminist Fables (1981), Because of India: Selected Poems and Fables (1989); and most recently, Building Babel (1996), contributions to the Babel website are invited. See published work for details.

TEJASWINI NIRANJANA teaches in the Department of English, University of Hyderabad. She is the author of Siting Translation: History, Post-structuralism and the Colonial Context, and the co-editor of Interrogating Modernity: Culture and Colonialism in India.

NIMA POOVAYA-SMITH studied English at the Universities of Karnataka, Mysore and Leeds. Since 1986 she has worked for Bradford Art Galleries and Museums, and is currently Senior Keeper, International Arts. She has curated (and written about) exhibitions on historical and contemporary themes, such as Crypt Paintings From the Ramayana (1989), Worlds Beyond: Death and the Afterlife in Art (1993), and An Intelligent Rebellion: Women Artists of Pakistan (1994).

BAPSI SIDHWA was born in Karachi, Pakistan, and educated at Kinnaird College, Lahore. She has published four novels: The Crow Eaters (1978); The Bride (1983); Ice-Candy-Man (1988, published as Cracking India in the USA); and An American Brat (1994). Her work has been translated into German, French and Russian. She received the Sitara-i-Imtiaz, a Pakistan national honour, in 1991; and the Litteraturpreis in Germany for Ice-Candy-Man, also in 1991. Bapsi Sidhwa lives in the United States but travels frequently to Pakistan.

NELUKA SILVA is a lecturer at the University of Colombo. She successfully completed her PhD thesis at Leeds in 1997 on representations of gender and nation in contemporary South Asian literatures.

S.V. SRINIVAS teaches in the Department of English, Arunachal University. He is the author of essays and review articles on South Indian films, and is currently completing a doctoral dissertation on stars and fans in Telugu cinema.

ALEX TICKELL is a research student at the University of Leeds, currently completing his doctoral thesis on the representation of cultural and political identity in selected South Asian texts.

LINDEN THORTON is a Final year student at the School of English, University of Leeds.

NIRMAL VERMA was born in Simla and took a Master’s degree in History at St. Stephen’s College, Delhi. He started to publish in the 1950s and is the author of four novels, five collections of short stories, and several volumes of travel writing and essays in Hindi. His ground-breaking use of the short story form in Hindi is judged to have fathered a new genre, the Nai Kahani or new story.
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