INTRODUCTION

This article focuses on the tribute contribution of Anglo-Indian and we would like to make up for that deficiency by celebrating “The Anglo-Indian Woman” in an anthology made up of non-fiction and fiction articles devoted exclusively to the world of Anglo-Indian women.

CONTRIBUTORS OF ANGOLO-INDIAN LITERATURE

The publication, depicting Anglo-Indian women will cover a broad historical and contemporary canvas. This article could be first time narratives from the perspective of an Anglo-Indian woman, or third person stories about an Anglo-Indian woman friend or relative. We are looking for anecdotal material and well perspectives of an Anglo-Indian woman, or third person stories about an Anglo-Indian woman or women.

We will not consider material, which, in our sole discretion, is obscene or slanderous.

The writing style should be meticulously polished but easy to read, and entertaining enough to provoke and sustain interest.

Entry is not restricted to Anglo-Indians; anyone may participate in writing about “The Anglo-Indian Woman”, provided that the content of their work illuminates a relationship or significantly important interactions with an Anglo-Indian woman, or women.

This article provides insight and balance into the reality of the Women of Anglo-Indian women. Anglo-Indian literature comprises the works written about India. There is a large body of writing on Indian life and society, history etc by Englishmen including bureaucrats and missionaries. All these Ango-Indian writers were critical, in most cases of India and Indians. All that they wrote was primarily designed to influence opinion in Britain. In those times, it was from these works that the legislators, and that narrow section of the British people which made up public opinion, acquired their image of India. They preferred the evidence for India’s depravity and backwardness. The prejudiced views of these Anglo Indian writers helped to create a climate in Britain favorable to the consolidation and advance of western ideas of government and economics in India. But there were Englishmen, who favorably disposed to India like William Sleeman. In his ‘Rambles and Recollections of an Indian Official’, he has uncharacteristically painted the picture of an India damaged by contact with the west.

As these stories reveal, many were widowed at a young age with meager financial resources, who took on the tasks of rearing families with gentle (or sometimes not so gentle) male heads of households were involved in their careers, it was their women-folk that helped to create a climate in Britain favorable to the consolidation and advance of western ideas of government and economics in India. But there were Englishmen, who favorably disposed to India like William Sleeman. In his ‘Rambles and Recollections of an Indian Official’, he has uncharacteristically painted the picture of an India damaged by contact with the west.

One of the most important names that come up when we discuss Anglo Indian fiction is Rudyard Kipling. He became the laureate of Anglo India for a larger audience than it could ever have considered possible. Kipling explored the shallow lives of the British in India and reflected some, but by no means all, of their prejudices. The few Indians who appear in such work as was written in India are either servants or ‘incompetent’ educated Bengalis. It was only after leaving India Kipling was able to write ‘Kim’ which is undoubtedly the best work of fiction about India by an Englishmen. Several works of Kipling are still quite popular, especially ‘The Jungle Book’, which continues to be lapped up by our children. As a novelist Rudyard Kipling is valued even today. But with his sense of racial superiority Kipling also became notorious for his pro-imperialist opinions.

As an Anglo Indian novelist E.M. Foster, the author of ‘A Passage to India’, is more important than Kipling. Though hailed by Indians for its attack on Anglo Indian society and its prejudices, is just as offensive in its drawing of Indian character as its predecessors. Foster succeeds in capturing the tensions, ambivalences and contradictions of colonial rule in India as well as the doubts and frustration and ignorance of a number of English officials and their wives in remote Indian town. Two other note-worthy Anglo Indian novelists are Flora Anne Steel and E.M. Thomson who are very famous Anglo Indian women writer.

When we come to Anglo Indian poetry we have say that it’s worse than their fiction. Much of what they wrote was extremely awful; some reached a fairy high standard of mediocrity of Anglo-Indian women writers.

CONCLUSION

Anglo Indian women were the unsung heroines of our Community. While the male heads of households were involved in their careers, it was their women-folk who took on the tasks of rearing families with gentle (or sometimes not so gentle) discipline, instilling home-grown principles of honesty, diligence and respect for elders. They honoured Christian beliefs and true-blue Anglo-Indian traditions. As these stories reveal, many were widowed at a young age with meager finan-
cial resources; most had growing families to support, and their courage and determination in the face of tragedy makes for extraordinary reading. The contributors to this collection of essays pay tribute, sometimes with wry humour and at other times with deeply felt emotion, to the women who shaped their childhood years. Every reader will find parallels to their own personal 'heroines' - mothers, sisters, aunts and last, but far from least, those school teachers whose values have enriched their lives hats off to them.

REFERENCES