



St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA

Melbourne, Australia

Established 1992

P.O.Box 551, Rosanna, Vic 3084

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Our Objectives:

Socialise and share the Patrician spirit with benevolence

Support our Alma Mater in meaningful ways

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Patrician Nite 2014 is on Saturday, September 20, 2014

College News from Fr Rector

Our Under 18 Football Team emerged **Champions** at the All Island Schools ' Football Association Division III tournament held in Anuradapura on 11/12 January 2014.

At the Final Round SPC team won

3-1 against Wattala St. Antony's College

6-0 against Kalutara Maha Vidyalaya

3-0 against Pitipana St. Mary's College.
(Quarter Final)

2-0 against Rajagiria President's College
(Semi Final)

3-0 against Trincomallee St. Joseph's College.
(Final)

The **Best Goal Keeper's** award and the **Man of the Match** award were presented to J. Jayapragash and A. A. Jenet respectively.

Melbourne OBA 's Annual Family Day held on 26 January 2014

Cricket Match

Winners - Long House (Captain - Gnanasooriyar Canisius)

Runners up - Matthews House (Captain - Nimal Augustine)

Best Batsman - Isidore Manoraj

Best Bowler - Nimal Augustine

Player of the Match - Shane Coster

The final selections were made by a Panel of Eminent Patricians present at the match

Rounders

Winners - Long House (Captain - Yaso Fernando)

Trophies will be presented at the Patrician Nite 2014 (planned to be held on Saturday 20 September 2014)

St Patrick's Day celebrations on Saturday, 22 March 2014 - 5.45 pm

Annual Mass followed by AGM & Dinner

St Paschal's Church & Hall, 100 Albion Road, Box Hill.



A BRILLIANT SCHOLAR – Rev Fr H.S.David

Written by J. C. N. Rajendra & T. Mukunthan

The complete article can be found in http://www.academia.edu/4912574/A_Brilliant_Scholar.

(The authors - J. C. N. Rajendra is Professor of Physics, Department of Physics, Faculty of Natural Sciences, and T. Mukunthan is Lecturer, Department of Early Childhood and Primary Education, Faculty of Education at The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka..)

Introduction

Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Singarayyer David was a renowned 20th century scholar and a product of Jaffna, Sri Lanka. Although everyone knows Fr. H. S. David as a priest, teacher and researcher, few had the opportunity to interact with him both academically and spiritually. Fr. H. S. David was very active in his scholarly and social work as we knew him during our school days at St. Patrick's College, Jaffna. The way he promoted education among needy people, his simple life style, the contribution and impact he had made through his exceptionally skilled research on languages inspired us to a very great extent. Though the first named author of this article had seen some of his books during his school days (1966- 1978), he could not value and appreciate their contents, since it was extremely difficult at that age to read and understand the high standard of literature and information contained therein. However, this troubled him later and prompted to search Fr. H. S. David's scholarly work and place them in archive, so that anyone who excels in the field of languages can continue his noble and highly skilled research work. The authors of this article would like to pen down some of the valuable information they have gathered over the past few years, within the scope of their limited endeavours about Fr. H. S. David's achievements and scholarly work.

Biography

Fr. H. S. David was born on 28th June 1907. He was the eldest son of Abrahampillai David and Elizabeth of Thumpalai, Point Pedro, Jaffna. He had his primary and secondary education at St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, Sri Lanka from 1913 – 1924. Fr. H. S. David was fortunate to have had his father Mr. A. David on the teaching staff of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, during his entire student days. Mr. A. David served as a language teacher at St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, for 36 years. After completing his secondary education, as a young and enthusiastic person he enrolled himself as an external student to read for his degree in history at University of London, through University College, Colombo, as it was then called. He continuously excelled in his studies and obtained a first class honours degree in History gaining gold medal for excelling in Economics and History, being top student among the external students. With his remarkable achievement in this level, he could have easily entered the prestigious Ceylon Civil Service at that time. Instead he chose to serve God almighty and decided to become a priest. He entered St. Bernard's seminary and was ordained a priest on 19th December 1931. He joined the teaching staff of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, in 1936 and served for 31 years (1936 to 1967). In 1947 he obtained his Master's degree in Indo-Aryan languages. While serving as a teacher at St. Patrick's College, he spent 4 years (1948 -1952) in UK to complete his postgraduate studies. He obtained his PhD in 1952 from University of London for his work titled 'A critical study of Tolkappiyam, with special references to the Eluttatikaram.

Research and Publications

During his teaching career at St. Patrick's College, he came to know (Rev Fr) Nallur Swami Gnanapragasar who initiated the Tamil lexicon. Unfortunately Fr. Gnanapragasar passed away in 1947 before he could complete his work. Fr. H. S. David continued his mission and worked on the lexicon, tracing the roots and links in Aryan, Dravidian and Euro languages to the Tamil languages. Fr. H. S. David has published several books and scholarly articles throughout his career. According to the article written by A Dominic (SPC OBA Norway), Fr. David entrusted his personal library prior to his demise in 1981 to his nephew Mr. M. Philipneri, a senior lecturer at the Palali Teacher's training College, Jaffna, Sri Lanka. Before Mr. M. Philipneri left for Guayana in 1985 (4 years after Fr. H. S. David's death) he handed his uncle's PhD thesis and some of the books to Jaffna Catholic Library. He also left some of Fr. David's books with Mr. Ulaganathan, the Grama Sevaka at Palali. These books were destroyed in 1987 during the civil war. It is very important to trace all the documentary evidences that Fr. H. S. David has claimed through his valuable research done throughout his lifetime. This will help not only for future researchers who are interested to continue his research, but also to maintain his identity in history. At present some of his work is traceable and some are not. However, authors of this article strongly believe that it could be available among community/institutions around the world.

(Continued next page)

A recent Google search revealed that some of his publications are available around the world, including Harvard University, University of Wisconsin, and University of Virginia. Below is a list of some of his publications:

The Tamil book of proverbs.

An etymological and comparative lexicon of the Tamil language, Parts I- III,

An etymological and comparative lexicon of the Sinhala and Tamil, Part IV,

An introduction in English to the Etymological and comparative lexicon

Some contacts and affinities between Egypto-Minoan and the Indo-Dravido-Sumerian culture.

Some further contacts and affinities between the Egypto-Minoan and the Indo (Dravida) Sumerian culture.

The exact connection between the Harappan and Sumerian cultures and their probable date: could either of them have been Aryan?

The earliest Tamil poems extant.

A critical study of Tolkaappiyam, with special references to the Eluttatikaram

The Gnaanam-Daaviid Cankam's criticism and appreciation of Dr. J.T. Xavier's work - The land of letters: whence came Sinhala here?

The Beautiful (People) in the Beautiful (Land)

All of us, Ceylonese, are kith and kin

Professor S. Vithiananthan (International Association of Tamil Research, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia) in his review article titled 'Tamil Studies in Ceylon; a review essay of 1968' refers to Fr. H. S. David's work.

Rev. H.S. David has made a critical appreciation of the Tamil books of proverbs, Pazhamoli Naanooru. This work is one of the eighteen minor classics. The author of the article discusses the peculiar diction compared to the sangam works, the common structure of the stanzas, their arrangement, and gives an appreciation of the proverbs. Father H.S. David, director of Oriental Studies and History, St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, establishes connection between the Egypto- Minoan culture and the Indian cultures and then discusses the contacts between Sumerian and Egypto-Minoan civilizations in an article which he contributed to the Tamil Culture. In another volume of the same journal he establishes some further connections between the Egypto- Minoan and the Indo (Dravido) Sumerian culture. In another article, he traces the exact connections between the Harappan and Sumerian cultures. In an article entitled 'The Earliest Tamil poems extant', Father David discusses the dates of some early poem. From his historical background, obsolete diction, the old grammatical pattern of the nominal system, the peculiar adverbs, the archaic verbal system, the ancient- syntactical and other feature, he concludes that in Kuruntokai we possess the earliest poems extant in Tamil, with the exception of some poems of Puranaanooru and Akanaanooru and the Narinai occupies an intermediate position as regards the time of their composition. Father David submitted a thesis on A critical study of Tolkaappiyam with special reference to the Eluttatikaaram.

Proficiency in Languages

It is widely believed that Fr. H. S. David's unique scholarly research work was strongly supported by his professional knowledge in several languages. Throughout his lifetime he mastered 33 languages which consisted of 14 European languages, 5 Semitic and other languages and 14 Indo-Asiatic Dravidayan (Ardra) languages. These are English, Latin, French, Greek, German, Dutch, Lithuanian, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, Russian, Hebrew, Malay, Assyrian, Sumerian, Arabic, Tamil, Sinhalese, Sanskrit, Vedic, Hindi, Kannada, Pali, Prakrit, Avestan, Telugu, Malayalam, Brahui, Tulu & Kui.

Summary

Literature survey available so far has shown the amount of scholarly work that Fr. H. S. David has contributed in tracing the roots and links in Aryan, Dravidian and Euro languages to the Tamil languages and Lexicon, and how fruitfully he continued the work of Fr. Gnanapragasar of Nallur. Fr. H. S. David's publications contain much useful material for etymological research. and it is important that his work should be continued to fulfill his ambition and vision.

Note: Fr H S David Foundation was established on 28 June 2013 - at the Lakshman Kadirgamar Inst for International Relations & Strategic Studies - to continue Fr David's work. An award ceremony - to commemorate the foundation's first programme in the North - was held on 28 December 2013 and at the ceremony, Dr Poologonathan (Member of the Melbourne OBA) announced his ambition to erect a statue in honour of Fr David on the land next to his 'Institute Of Family Medicine' premises at 125 Main St Jaffna.

President's Message

Dear Fellow Patricians,

It is with great pleasure, once again, I write a message for this edition of our Newsletter. I feel proud to report that we had a very successful annual family day on 26 January 2014 at Wattle Park. The Hopper Lunch was a change from the usual Bar-B-Que (and less to clean up afterwards) and was followed by the cricket match and game of rounders. The kids also played tennis and this year we appointed a panel of 3 patricians to select the best players (to receive the trophies at the Patrician Nite). All in all, it was a great day and the format was welcomed by all those who attended.

Our next function is the Annual mass to celebrate St Patrick's day to be followed by the AGM and a dinner. Complete details are provided in the adjoining panel. In December 2013, some of our members hosted 2 dinners - one for Albert Santiapillai Master and one for the President of the Colombo OBA - Anton Gerard. They were quite enjoyable occasions with tales & reminiscences from years past and shared by all.

From the SPC Cricket Fund, \$1,500 is being sent to the College to help support the school's cricket activities. The AGM will elect the office bearers and committee and panel members for the 2014/15 Patrician year at the AGM. We have tentatively planned to hold this year's Patrician Nite on Saturday 20 September 2014. We also hope to see and meet as many Patricians and families as possible at these events. May God bless you and your family. **Anandarajan James**



The serenity prayer written on a stone at "Ädisham" St Benedict's Monastery, Haputale

Do you have books that are appropriate for a school library?

Fr Rector has made a special request that books which can be added to our college library be sent.

If you are in possession of such valuable books please contact any of our committee members to arrange collection. Books appropriate to all grades are welcome.

Notice Board

The Annual General Meeting of St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA, Melbourne, will be held on Saturday, 22 March 2014 at St Paschal's Church Hall, 100 Albion Road, Box Hill.

The event will follow Holy Mass —concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Michael Patrick (Patrician from Portland, Oregon, USA) and Rev Fr Antony Gnanaprasam (Tamil Community Chaplain for Victoria) at 5.45 pm. A donation of \$10 per family will be appreciated to cover the cost of hall hire. AGM will be followed by stringhopper/pittu dinner prepared and provided by Committee members and spouses.

The following members have volunteered to serve in the Management Committee for the year 2014/15:

Anandarajan James as President

James Joseph as Secretary

William Nimalraj as Treasurer

Philip Ravindraraj as Asst. Treasurer

Angelo Fernando, Chrys Gunanayagam, Jeyandra

Antonipillai, Noel Rajiv, Patrick Rajaratnam & Rukshan Theophilus to serve as Committee members &

Alfred Reynald, Anton Newton, Cyril Kulendran, Dr. Anton Mariampillai, Edward Arulnesathasan, Isidore Manoraj, Guanaratnam Arulanantham, Jeevaranjan Fernando, Jerard Jogaratnam, Jerry Anthonypillai, Joseph Vijayaratnam, Reg Cherubim, Vincent Chandran Benedict, Vincent Pius, William Rajendram to serve as members of the Advisory & Support Panel

SPC Jaffna OBA—Melbourne

Current Membership:..... 31

No. of Patricians in Vic : 140

Annual Membership Fee: \$20.00

WEBSITE: www.spcaustralia.com

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Please pay your annual subscription at the AGM or into the Association's bank account