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Professor Dr. John Vincent Ferreira (1922–2010)

A distinguished academician, Prof. John Vincent Ferreira, passed away on June 27, 2010 at the age of 88. He was an Associate Member of the Anthropos International.

Professor Ferreira began his career as a Lecturer in Sociology at Siddharth College of Arts and Sci-

ence at Mumbai, Maharashtra, having been interviewed for the post by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. He was the editor of K. M. Munshi's *Social Welfare Weekly* (Bombay). Establishing a reputation as a well-informed and engaging teacher, he was attracted to St. Xavier's College, where Dr. Stephen Fuchs SVD and Dr. Hermann SVD started the Department of Anthropology and Sociology. The popularity of that department and the number of students opting for the subject were enhanced by the captivating lectures of Dr. J. V. Ferreira. After serving at that college for several years, he left for higher studies in Vienna, thanks to the good offices of Dr. Stephen Fuchs SVD, renowned anthropologist and the founder of the Institute of Indian Culture, a branch of Anthropos Institute in Mumbai.

John V. Ferreira obtained his doctorate from the University of Vienna on the subject of totemism in India, under the guidance of Dr. Wilhelm Koppers SVD, the scholar companion of Dr. Wilhelm Schmidt SVD – a member of the Vienna school of ethnology, the founder of the journal *Anthropos* (1906) and of the Anthropos Institute (1931).

Professor Ferreira joined the Department of Sociology at the Bombay University and served as its head from 1976 to 1982. He occupied the position of Professor in Cultural Anthropology. He has also served as the Honorary Director of the Western Regional Centre of the Indian Council of Social Science Research and as the chairman of the Coordinating Committee of the East African and Soviet Area Studies Centre of the Bombay University. He was appointed Special Executive Magistrate by the Government of Maharashtra as well as the chairman of a committee concerned with the Halba/Halbi Koshti problem. He received the Certificate of Merit from the National Foundation for Teachers' Welfare for valuable services rendered in the field of education. Finally, Dr. Ferreira was Hon. Professor at the G. D. Parikh Centre for Educational Studies and at the Institute of Indian Culture, where he also served as the deputy director of its governing body.

The scholarly works written or edited by Prof. Ferreira include: "Totemism in India" (1965), "Essays in Ethnology" (1969), "The Outlook Tower: Essays on Urbanization in Memory of Patrick Geddes" (1976), and "Nemesis – Critical Perspectives on Modernization" (1983). He was also a contributor to the "Survey of Research in Sociology and Social Anthropology in India," 3 Volumes (1972–1974).

Dr. Ferreira's love for books was extraordinary. For decades, every week on a Monday, he purchased at least two or three books from Strand Book Shop including grammars, dictionaries and a whole range

of encyclopedias. He donated hundreds of books to the Institute of Indian Culture. In view of his passion for books, his sister Phyllis suggested that one of the books he owned be placed in his coffin. The book selected for the purpose was an elegantly edited one with the title: GOD. There could be no better companion for dear Professor Ferreira during his final journey.

Dr. Louis D'Silva and Dr. S. M. Michael SVD

Itinerary Ear-Cleaners

Notes on a Marginal Profession in Urban Muslim Punjab

Jürgen Wasim Frembgen

It was not until the 1990s, when during sojourns in larger cities of Pakistan and North India I became aware of traditional medical practitioners who wandered the streets in search of clients to remove earwax. It proved difficult to satisfy my professional curiosity through ethnographic observation and conversation as these extraordinary looking men, wearing red headgear with iron sticks tucked under it, seemed to vanish as fast as they materialized all of a sudden at a street corner. Sometimes I could only catch a glimpse of such an ear-cleaner while passing by in a speeding rickshaw. Finally, in November 1999, I had my first chance to talk to one of them who was attending to a customer in front of the Tarannum Cinema in Lahore's infamous Hira Mandi area. This became the starting point for occasional, mostly unplanned meetings with ear-cleaners, mainly in Lahore but also in other Punjabi towns, in the course of anthropological fieldwork devoted to other topics. Thus, I am only able to present stray notes which were so-to-speak collected on the side. Nevertheless, I am tempted to do so because this marginal profession is rapidly disappearing from the urban landscape due to radical socioeconomic changes. Not a single ear-cleaner I met between 1999 and 2006 had an apprentice.¹

1 As ear-cleaning service is still in demand, this poses the simple question as to who is now fulfilling these needs for the poorer segments of society? Apparently, footpath dentists extract earwax for men and women working in beauty-parlours or offering this service indoors for ladies.