



## IN MEMORIAM

### Professor Ramanand Sanjeevrao Gollerkeri

A Gentleman Geographer (1926 - 1992)

Professor Ramanand Sanjeevrao Gollerkeri, a founder member of the Institute of Indian Geographers died in a private hospital at Hubli on 29th January, 1992, following a surgery of the colon meant to eliminate the malignancy that he had developed. For about a month during the period of hospitalization, his wife, Nalini, was by his bedside, nursing him with care and affection. Ramanand and Nalini were living in Dharwar in a house bequeathed by his father to the family, ever since his retirement from the M. S. University, Baroda, in 1986.

Born in a Chitrapur-Saraswat Brahman family, on 17th January, 1926, at Jabalpur, young Ramanand grew up in western India, Bombay-Pune-Dharwar region, where his father was a zonal officer with an Insurance firm. Moving with the family, he had his schooling at Pune and Dharwar, and joined Karnatak college as a graduate student. Here, he came under the influence of the well-known geographer Prof. C. D. Deshpande. This was a turning point in his career as he graduated in geography and subsequently joined the M. S. University of Baroda in 1957 as a Lecturer in Geography. He continued teaching at Baroda till his retirement. His dedication to geography teaching, his rapport with the post-graduate students and above all his friendly relations with his colleagues, won the admiration of all and are fondly remembered.

I met Ramanand for the first time in 1958 when I joined the same department he was working in, as his junior colleague. I looked to him for advice and had the privilege of being his guest for the first

few weeks of my stay at Baroda. During this short period, I not only shared his flat on the first floor of the Manu Bhai Mehta Hall in the University Complex, but also many of his thoughts, as he talked, commented on events or made casual observations. Sunday gossips over morning tea, long cycle rides often outside the city, or a breakfast at Canara Cafe are some of the memorable moments I shared with him. Ramanand's place had an air that was intellectually stimulating. Known among his friends as H. Q. (The Head Quarters) it was thronged by young faculty members and even students. I recall the evenings when his friends would either discuss a topical theme or comment on the events of the day. People parted as they settled or unsettled in life but Ramanand maintained contact and correspondence with all.

With a genuine interest in art and literature, Ramanand was a sophisticated man, perhaps too sophisticated for his colleagues in geography department. He had more friends from literature and art that formed a meeting ground between him and his circle of friends. Tall, slim and always neatly dressed, he had a striking appearance that exuded simplicity and charm. More than being a geographer, that certainly he was by profession, Ramanand was known for being a gentleman and a friendly soul ever helpful to any one who approached him.

One of his favourite hobbies was painting, a hobby he had perfected to a level of accomplishment, and held several one man's exhibitions of his paintings. His water colours adorn the studies of many of his friends, and he has left behind a

rich legacy of beautiful water colours, mostly landscapes. The cover page of the Transactions of the Institute of Indian Geographers was designed by him, establishing an unbreakable link with the Institute. He was a connoisseur of Indian Classical music and has in his collection some of the rare LP's of the Ustads and Pandits of the yester years. In the pursuit of his hobbies and interests, Mrs Gollerkeri was not only an inseparable support but shared them in equal measure. His friends shall ever remember and miss the simple, unpretentious and selfless association they had with Raman-

and, who rightly was called 'Saint' by one of his friends.

In the death of Professor Gollerkeri, Indian Geography has lost a geographer who set the model of a dedicated teacher and the Institute of Indian Geographers a genuine friend. During my long friendship, if I can remember Ramanand ever being assertive it was only when he defended his gentlemanliness, and gentleman indeed he was.

—K.R. Dikshit