



Tamil Information Centre

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Committed to Human Rights and Community Development

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An Appreciation 12 October 2006

Demise of a Great Scholar and a Veteran Tamil writer: ALOSIOUS JEYARAJ CANAGARATNA

It is with immense sadness we record the death of A J Canagaratna popularly known as AJ, the distinguished Tamil veteran writer, scholar and translator who had done much to bring world literature to a whole range of people and groups in Sri Lanka, including university students, social workers, political activists and militant movements. He died on 10 October 2006 at the age of 72 as a bachelor in Colombo several days after he was taken to hospital following illness. He had a distinguished career as a journalist. He took pleasure in all things around him. The TIC came to know AJ closely when he was an editorial staff of the *Saturday Review*, which was supported by the TIC. He was an extremely simple, quiet and unassuming person, but an outspoken critic. No story of the *Saturday Review* would be complete without the touch of A J Canagaratna, the self effacing man who provided continuity between the two editors – S Sivanayagam and Gamini Navaratna.

AJ was one of the kindest and gentlest persons we have known. In a life dedicated to helping others, AJ not only touched the lives of thousands of people but also had a profound effect on all who knew him, whether they knew him well or just briefly.

Sri Lanka and we who knew him will miss AJ.