

Helga Anton (p. xx) were not discussed as their authors were unfortunately unable to be present.

The speeches of various dignitaries are followed by those papers that covered South East Asia (pp. 1-261) and social history (pp. 269-763). Fortunately, all the papers presented to the conference are in fact included, and we have a much better idea of the scope of the conference than that gleaned from the programme referred to.

From a collection that ranges so widely and that is, in general, of so high a quality, it is difficult to pick out papers for special praise. But a notice of this first volume would be incomplete without mentioning the scholarly paper by S. Singaravelu, 'A comparative study of the story of Rāma in South India and South-east Asia' (pp. 89-140) in the section on South East Asia, and that by S. Arasaratnam entitled 'Aspects of the role and activities of South Indian merchants c. 1650-1750' (pp. 582-96) in the section 'Social history'. Papers of such quality as these provide the cutting edge of contemporary Tamil scholarship and the justification for the conferences that bring them into being.

The volume is excellently printed, with very few literals. Fortunately, the extraordinary transliteration invented for the defunct (but reviving) periodical *Tamil Culture* and envisaged as standard for these conferences seems to have been pretty generally ignored.

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*Proceedings of the first International Conference Seminar of Tamil Studies, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, April 1966. Vol. 1. xli, 764 pp. Kuala Lumpur: International Association of Tamil Research, 1968.*

The scheme to hold biennial conference-seminars of Tamil studies, the third being in Paris in July 1970, was naturally received with interest by scholars of Dravidian, by Indologists in general, and by Tamil opinion both in South India and in those countries where Tamil speakers live. Tamil is the only regional language recognized in the constitution of India to have international conferences devoted to its literature, linguistics, and associated history and culture. It was perhaps appropriate that the first such conference, held in April 1966, should have taken place in South East Asia, to the culture of which region South India in the past made so significant a contribution.

This is the first of two volumes to report the proceedings of this conference, which was held in Kuala Lumpur, the second volume, though in print, not having been received at the time of review.

The brief report of the conference (pp. xi-xiv) is indeed all too brief, and a short history both of the International Association of Tamil Research and of the genesis of the conference itself would have been appropriate. There ensues the conference programme, clearly a reproduction of the advance programme rather than a résumé of what really occurred. The titles of several papers actually discussed are missing, while several such as that of Dr.