

The late Dr Lola Chatterjee



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The late **Dr Lola Chatterjee** Passed away 5 June 2019

Professor of English Miranda House 1961 - 1984

Former Vice President and Member Advisory Board Shakespeare Society of India 1993 - 1999.

Lola Chatterji was the daughter of Norman George Leather, an Englishman who came to India as a member of the Cambridge Brotherhood and taught Mathematics in St Stephen's College for several years, and Jyotirmoyee (Trevie) Sen, who came from a Bengali Christian family settled in UP. She was born in London and had her early schooling in England. Trevie returned to India in 1938 with Lola and her sister Roma. Lola completed her Senior Cambridge from the Waverley Convent in Mussoorie, and then proceeded to a variegated collegiate career, obtaining an Intermediate from St. John's College, Agra and a BA from Lucknow University. She then studied for an MA in Philosophy at St Stephen's, but quit after the Previous to get married and bring up her children.

After a break of several years she obtained an MA in English from University of Rajasthan 1957.

Her teaching career began at Loreto House in Calcutta, 1958 to 1960, and then at **Miranda House**, Delhi, from 1961 till her retirement in 1984. She taught papers in the MA (English) at Delhi University from the late 1960s onward. Her area of interest was Elizabethan and Jacobean drama, but because of her wide interests and extensive knowledge of English Literature, taught many different papers over the years.

Lola continued to work as a free-lance editor until she was well into her eighties. She worked for OUP, Sage Publications, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), and others. She was co-editor of *The Fiction of St Stephen's* (Ravi Dayal), and editor of *Woman / Image / Text*, brought out by her own publishing house, **Trianka**. Trianka also brought out *Rethinking English*, edited by Svati Joshi. Two prominent books with which she was involved as an editor were *From Rajahs and Yogis to Gandhi*

and Beyond : Images of India in International Films of the 20th Century by renowned film maker and writer **VijayaMulay** and *Of Fibre and Loom : The Indian Tradition* by LotikaVaradrajan and Krishna Amin – Patel .

She had a life – long interest in Theatre and *played an important role in the growth of English Theatre in the Capital* , directing many plays including *Easter* (Strindberg) , *The Rape of the Belt* (Levy) , *The Member of the Wedding* (McCullers) , *Ring Round the Moon* (Anouilh) , and *Mourning Becomes Electra* (O'Neill) all classics of World Literature .

She was also closely involved as Staff Adviser and Mentor in three plays put up by **DUMADS** Delhi University Music Arts and Drama Society : *Rhinoceros* (Ionesco) , *A Man for All Seasons* (Robert Bolt) , and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (Stoppard) . After her retirement in 1984 she became Board Member of **Yatrik** . Probably her main contribution there was doing the make – up :

there's hardly a Yatrik actor who hasn't been made up by her !

The very lovable ,charmingchariningabd graceful Dr Lola Chatterji was actively associated with The Shakespeare Society of India SSI almost from its inception and was itsVice President from 1993 till 1999 , subsequently on its Advisory Board .

“ Her sage counsel and her quiet and unobtrusive participation in all the activities of the Society will be greatly missed” said Professor (DU alumnus)**Rajiva Verma** former Head Department of English and present President SSI .

Lola was married to Probhat Chandra Chatterji in 1946 ; he retired as Director General AIR in 1979 , passing away in 2002 .

They are survived by three children and four grandchildren .

adapted from **Obituary** authored by Professor Rajiva Verma .