**A PERSPECTIVE IN
THEORETICAL COMPUTER SCIENCE
COMMEMORATIVE VOLUME FOR
GIFT SIROMONEY**

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PREFACE

Professor Gift Siromoney passed away on March 21, 1988, after a brief illness. His tragic and untimely death has resulted in the disappearance of a much-loved teacher and a highly productive research scientist with many-faceted interests. At the time of his death Dr Siromoney was the Chairman of the Department of Statistics at the Madras Christian College, Madras. In fact, he was the founder of the Department of Statistics and the architect of the Kibble Computer Centre there. For nearly four decades he taught and guided students and younger colleagues on a wide range of topics from Statistics to Computers, Epigraphy, Art, History, Linguistics, Anthropology, and Music. He was an enthusiastic amateur photographer, painter and bird-watcher, and took much interest in nature studies.

The Madras Christian College has started a *Gift Siromoney Endowment Fund* to promote research and scholarly work in the areas to which Dr Gift Siromoney himself had contributed so ably. In addition, it is proposed to publish commemorative volumes with contributions from friends, colleagues, and students in the areas in which Dr Siromoney was active. This volume is the first of such a planned series covering topics in Theoretical Computer Science. The contributors to this volume are eminent scholars well-known in this field, who were also personal friends of Dr Siromoney either as peers, colleagues, or students:

Much of the preparatory work to bring out this commemorative volume was done by Prof. (Mrs) Rani Siromoney, who was herself the foremost collaborator with her husband in his research work in Formal Grammars and Automata Theory. As the editor of this volume I am much indebted to Mrs Siromoney for her untiring assistance. Both of us are extremely grateful to all the authors who so readily agreed to contribute to this memorial volume and who, also, generously agreed to our suggestion to allow the publishers' payments by way of royalties to be consolidated and credited to the *Gift Siromoney Endowment Fund*. We would like to express our thanks to World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd. for their enthusiastic cooperation in bringing out this volume expeditiously.

No collection of articles can do justice to the personality of Dr Gift Siromoney. Those of us who had known him closely over the years would continue to cherish the memory of the love and warmth of a dedicated teacher and a loyal friend.

R. Narasimhan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The idea of bringing out a memorial volume to reflect the many-faceted research interests of Dr Gift Siromoney came from Professor J. P. Vijayathilakan, Chairman, Department of Statistics. Arul and I are grateful to him, members of the college community, the many friends and relatives, with special thanks to colleagues in the departments of Mathematics and Statistics, for the love and affection shown during Dr Siromoney's illness and the support given in bringing out this volume. A selected list of publications is included to show the broad spectrum of his contributions.

We are grateful to Prof. R. Narasimhan for agreeing to be the editor of this volume and for help at various stages of our research for the past two decades. Special thanks to all contributors who made this publication possible and to World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd. for the excellent production.

Rani Siromoney

Professor Gift Siromoney and his wife Rani.

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