

ONE OF THE LAST WITNESSES OF A DYING CULTURE

At the “Contemporary Writers’ Forum” on Thursday, 19 May 2005, about 40 students welcomed Prof. Nilufer E. Bharucha at the University of Siegen. Bharucha, who has already published a considerable collection of critical writing and short stories, talked to the students about creative writing in general and then even more precisely about postcolonial literature.

Her first short stories were published when the author was a 20-year-old student in Bombay (now Mumbai). Today Nilufer Bharucha is a professor of literature there and also gives lectures on creative writing. “Writing is always a process,” she says. “Once a sentence is spoken or written down, it is gone, it does not belong to you anymore but to the one who listens to or reads it.” She considers that her stories belong to her readers, especially to those who have the same background as the author, the Anglo-Indians.

Nilufer Bharucha is one of the “last witnesses” of the Parsi culture, as she describes other Indian writers like Rohinton Mistry, who tell about the downgrading of a formerly influential ethnic group. In any case Bharucha is a passionate writer and from whom could one better learn than from somebody who really loves what he or she does?

Dana Kestner