

**PRESENTATION AT UNVEILING OF THE PORTRAIT OF
Dr.HAYMAN AT THE OLD THOMIANS SWIMMING CLUB
20TH MAY, 1992**

I consider it a privilege to participate in a ceremony which makes good a serious lapse in gratitude. Dr.Hayman's contribution to Swimming at S.Thomas' Mount Lavinia should have been recorded in an appropriate manner far earlier. It is to the credit of the Old Thomians' Swimming Club that this lapse has been made good, and it is indeed fortunate, that we have been able to do so in the presence of Mrs.Hayman who it is a great pleasure to have with us once again.

Of all the many sports that Dr.Hayman liked and on occasion took part in, swimming was possibly the favourite. Many of us present here, will remember as children being taught swimming personally by him at Mount Lavinia. When we were at Winchester, at the beginning of the 40's, swimming was actually a class period. S.Thomas' was possibly the first school in the country to give swimming such high priority. The effort Dr.Hayman made produced not only for the school, but for Sri Lanka, many fine swimmers. We recall on this occasion people like **Allan Smith** who went on to compete at the Olympics and the **Arndt** brothers whose exploits in the 3-mile swim in the Mount Lavinia sea were unmatched.

Dr.Hayman took his love for swimming to Gurutalawa too. Many of us remember the shramadanas that he organized digging the Swimming Pool and making it suitable for competition. He would use his one-piece, swimming costume, a relic of past times, not for swimming but for hard manual labour. Today's ceremony at Mount Lavinia exemplifies in particular, two facets of Dr.Hayman's extraordinary, rich and varied life. It reminds us firstly of his Mount Lavinia connection, from around the year 1927. Many of us are familiar with the contribution Dr.Hayman made to Gurutalawa and are apt to overlook the fact that for several years he was a pillar of strength at Mount Lavinia, expending his time, energy and personal wealth in building the school.

The other facet of his life which this occasion calls forth is his genuine love of sports. It was not only swimming, but every other outdoor and indoor sport too that received the full measure of his enthusiasm and his time. Cricket, Football, Boxing, Chess, Photography, Athletics, Outward Bound, to all of these, he gave to the full. Most of us first met him after his prime and possibly did not see him participate in these sports. We saw him more as a referee, and umpire, rather than as a player. But even there, his

performance was a joy to behold, full of attention and energy. In Cricket, the intricacies of the new L B W law deterred him from being head umpire. That was Fr.Foster's job. But he would eagerly volunteer to be leg umpire. And when he gave a batsman stumped or run out, the manner of his decision with upraised arm and crouched body left you in no doubt that you were completely and totally out.

I wish to take this opportunity of recalling if I may, four qualities that Dr.Hayman mostly exemplified. They are, I think, very much the elements of what is called the Thomian tradition.

First, there was his **simplicity**. This showed itself in a total lack of arrogance, intellectual or otherwise although he had much to be proud of. He was full of humility and almost shy in his public appearances. There was no place in his life for false show or humbug.

The second of the qualities that impressed us all was his innate sense of **fair play**. He didn't merely talk of justice, equity and equality. He actually practiced them. He was able unerringly to do the fair thing. Not to strike below the belt, nor to hit the man who was on the ground. Instinctively he went for the underdog. He had the courage to stand against the majority opinion if right was with the minority.

Dr.Hayman also had the quality of **caring**; compassion which all our religions teach. This meant for him giving time to others, to be generous not only in money, but sometimes, and more difficult, with time. All of us, his pupils, must keep with us copies of the numerous postcards and letters he would write us. Especially in the holidays, to write to him was to invite an immediate reply in his very legible small handwriting. How much he could compress in to a postcard or an aerogram. There was also with him a total involvement with his students and their families. He knew not only our parents, but even knew what our sisters or younger brothers were doing and would write to congratulate them when they did anything note-worthy.

The final quality was his **tolerance**. He had a deep understanding of the human condition and of the frailties of human-kind. So he could both forgive and forget. With his humaneness was included a puckish sense of humour with which he would embroider his enthralling stories.

As the years pass and as Dr.Hayman too passes into legend, it is good to periodically remember him at functions such as this and the sterling contribution he made to the school and all of us. It has been said that emulation is an extreme form of adulation. If, as we remember Dr.Hayman and we strive to emulate his qualities, some of which I have attempted to enumerate, I think we will be affording him the due respect and

regard that he surely earned by his work here. This to me will be his lasting contribution. Not alone the buildings and swimming pools which he created at great personal cost, but the qualities that he exemplified, and which may live, even in some small measure, in his pupils. In that event and to that extent, his memory will never die.

Bradman Weerakoon