

EDITORIAL / REDAKSIONEEL

It feels obligatory that this editorial should start with a comment on the year of this issue: 2020, the 65th anniversary of *Akroterion* and the (first) year of the Covid 19-pandemic, with business certainly not as usual. The editorial committee thus considers itself lucky that the journal drew good response from scholars of the ancient cultures and literatures, and that we managed to put together an interesting issue reflecting the rich diversity of our field. We have an article focusing on a single literary epigram and its female author Erinna, and one surveying the whole of Greco-Roman antiquity for the role of women in ancient warfare. One deals with the self-directed satire of Horace, and another with anecdotes reflecting ancient medical interest in lovesickness. Tacitus is read narratologically and Homer for his support of kindness shown to the destitute. One article adds to the current debate in the Netherlands on the companion(s) of Sinterklaas, another to discussions on Socrates' seemingly contradictory views about poets. We also include an article that should be published in this bicentenary anniversary of the 1820 Albany settlers, on Herodotus and decolonizing historiography. Finally, the issue publishes the winning essay in this year's essay competition of the Classical Association of South Africa: Mr Nicola Bruni, who impressed the judges with a fine discussion of Greek mercenaries in Egypt under the Saitic kings. In a nutshell, a good mix of perennially relevant topics and topics reflecting the discourses of heightened interest at the start of our current century's third decade.

I would like to thank the referees of submitted articles, both local and from abroad, for their invaluable effort, input, and contribution to the success of this volume. Thanks also to our copyeditor for the past twenty years, Dr Maridien Schneider, and to Dr Sjarlene Thom, the journal's administrative editor, who keeps everything together and running smoothly. A special word of thanks to Prof Johan Thom, who served *Akroterion* as editor in two stints for seventeen years altogether and continue to do so on the editorial committee. With such formidable support the future looks bright, even as we started with an *annus inusitatus*.

Philip Bosman