

## THE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA: JANUARY 1975 – JANUARY 1979

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This account is the fifth in the series documenting the history of the Classical Association of South Africa.<sup>1</sup>

### *1 Eleventh CASA conference, 27-30 January 1975, Bloemfontein*

#### 1.1 Conference proceedings

At the Opening Meeting, on 27 January 1975, the Chairperson, Prof. Richards, welcomed the 19 delegates present; an equal number had sent apologies for their absence. The delegates stood in silence in memory of Prof Hugo, an esteemed colleague who had passed away shortly before the conference.<sup>2</sup> An amendment to the minutes of the previous conference recorded the passing of Mr G J Acheson, which had not been reported at the previous meeting.

Matters arising from the previous conference were then dealt with. The first concerned the approaches to the various Education Departments about the position of Latin in the new syllabus.<sup>3</sup> The Secretary of the Joint Matriculation Board affirmed its sympathetic stance towards Latin and recommended a new approach to teaching it, for example using the Cambridge Latin Course. Examiners had already been instructed to gradually alter the type of examination question in preparation for a new approach. The Transvaal Education Department (TED), also sympathetic, had already received a report from an *ad hoc* committee and concluded that the tendencies would be difficult to stop; in the interim, an undertaking was given to make it possible for pupils wanting to take Latin to do so within the framework of present policy. The Natal Education Department reported that it had already tried to remedy the situation by means of concessions, but that the number of pupils learning Latin continued to decline. The system of differentiated education was not the cause, and suggestions were invited from the Association. A more positive situation obtained in the Orange Free State: a successful refresher course for Latin teachers had been organised with the co-operation of the Education Department, an inspectorate instituted specifically for Latin, and contact between the university and the schools maintained.<sup>4</sup>

The Chairperson explained that problems had prevented Prof Vogel from attending the conference and visiting South Africa, but that negotiations were still continuing. He then delivered his report: the membership stood at 193; the Regional Branches were still active, but were requested to send their reports to *Akroterion*; due to unfortunate circumstances, CASA was not represented at the International Congress of FIEC in Madrid (see report below); and Prof Smuts had represented

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<sup>1</sup> See Henderson 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Notice in *Akroterion* 20.1 (1975) 1; obituaries by Baumbach 1975 and Smuts 1975.

<sup>3</sup> See Henderson 2007:108, item 4.

<sup>4</sup> For the name changes of Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State, see Henderson 2004:1 n. 3; 2005:109 n. 1.

CASA at the Second International Congress for Neo-Latin Studies in Amsterdam in September 1973.<sup>5</sup>

After the allocation of persons to chair sessions and thank speakers, the programme of entertainment was announced: an excursion to the Observatory, a luncheon at the President Hotel hosted by the University, and a cocktail party at the City Hall as guests of the Mayor of Bloemfontein.

The various reports were then tabled. In his financial report, the Treasurer, Dr D A Pauw, explained that the payment of subscriptions by debit order had proved to be impracticable at the particular Building Society,<sup>6</sup> and that the decision that receipts need not be sent for subscription payments caused confusion.<sup>7</sup> In the previous two years almost 50 new members had joined the Association, but it had become necessary to delete about 140 names from the membership list, some of whom had resigned and others not responded to repeated reminders. Membership now stood at just under 200. Two proposals were approved: that secretarial assistance at a maximum of R100 per annum be left to the discretion of the Executive Committee; and that receipts be issued for all income.

In his report of the Editorial Committee of *Acta Classica*, Prof Naudé requested and obtained permission to donate full sets of *Acta Classica* to the Fondation Hardt, the Directorate of the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae* and FIEC. To combat rising costs, the possibility of changing to a new system of computerised typesetting was being investigated. Dr M T W Arnheim (Witwatersrand) and Prof Raven (Natal) were nominated as collaborators on the Editorial Board. Prof Naudé informed the meeting that publications were being received from overseas publishers and authors for reviewing in *Acta Classica*. At the conference in Cape Town in 1971, it had been decided not to restrict reviews to books from Southern Africa only, but costs had to be limited.<sup>8</sup> The meeting was now requested to formulate a policy regarding the publications already received and to be received in future. The Editorial Committee's proposal to return to the previous policy of reviewing only Southern African publications was accepted. The policy to accept review articles of any publication remained in place.

The report of the subcommittee regarding the editorial corrections of the constitution was accepted.<sup>9</sup>

A proposal of the subcommittee for school and university texts to establish a standing Committee for Publications was accepted. The following were elected: Prof Henderson (convener), Prof Kriel, Prof Dietrich, Prof Smuts and Mr Henderson. The committee was to liaise with the following representatives of the universities: Proff Botha, Cipolla, Lubbe, Snijman and Van der Walt; Drs Arnheim, Atkinson and Benadé; Messrs Els and Scholtemeijer. The committee was given the authority to

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<sup>5</sup> See Smuts 1974. The 3rd congress of the Societas Internationalis Studiis Neolatinis Provehendis would take place on 6-10 September 1976, at Tours; notice in *Akroterion* 20.4 (1975) 105.

<sup>6</sup> See Henderson 2007:108, item 3.2.

<sup>7</sup> See Henderson 2007:108, item 3.4.

<sup>8</sup> See Henderson 2007:107.

<sup>9</sup> See Henderson 2007:108, item 1.

carry out its important task, but without any financial implications for the Association.

The report of the delegation to the Director of Education was presented by Mr Mans in the absence of Prof Kriel and its discouraging contents noted by the meeting.<sup>10</sup>

The report of the subcommittee for liaison with the Association of Law Societies<sup>11</sup> was equally dismal: the secretary who had contacted the Association had died and the endeavour proved too costly. The meeting proposed that the matter be taken up at regional level and that the Departments of Latin and Classics should contact their Law Faculties with a view to arranging discussions and seminars to promote good relations.

The report of the subcommittee for promoting Latin among parents would be tabled at the Closing Meeting.<sup>12</sup>

The *in absentia* report of CASA's representative at FIEC (Dr Hendrickx) noted that the subscriptions for 1973 and 1974 had been paid and that those of 1975 and 1976 were due. The meeting decided to place and arrange the Association's representation on a more regular basis, and Dr Hendrickx was asked to pass on the information regarding international and national conferences, symposia and seminars announced in FIEC's *Bulletin to Akroterion* for the attention of members. Members traveling abroad were reminded to inform the Secretary if they expected to be in the vicinity of such gatherings. It was further decided that CASA's conferences should also be advertised in the *Bulletin*.

The last report was that of *Akroterion*, which was presented by Prof Conradie. The Editorial Board had been expanded to include Proff Dietrich and Henderson, Dr Atkinson, and Messrs Drijepondt, Hasse and Henderson. An amount of R100 was granted to pay off the periodical's deficit, and the annual *ad hoc* grant was raised from R220 to R250.

Notice was then given of motions for the Closing Meeting, and the Chairperson reminded delegates to submit proposed themes for the next conference to the Secretary, and to nominate a new Patron to replace Justice Steyn who had retired.<sup>13</sup>

The Closing Meeting, on 30 January 1975, was attended by 29 delegates. The first item was the nomination of Chief Justice F Rumpff as Patron of the Association. Then the report of the subcommittee for liaison with the schools was dealt with. A pamphlet, in English and Afrikaans versions, was to be printed and distributed, in consultation with the Education Departments and schools, in particular to Std 5 (now Grade 7) pupils in primary schools close to high schools. Regional Branches were

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<sup>10</sup> See Henderson 2007:109, item 2. Because of other commitments, Prof Viljoen could not attend, and I was delegated in his place. I remember clearly the superior, unsympathetic and aloof attitude of the Director towards the senior CASA delegates, the prepared responses (handed over in a folder by a *praesens* secretary) to the statements and arguments of the delegates, and the sense of futility in the exercise.

<sup>11</sup> See Henderson 2007:109, item 4.

<sup>12</sup> See Henderson 2007:109, item 5.

<sup>13</sup> Minutes of Opening Meeting, 27 January 1975.

requested to place orders for the pamphlets in time for distribution to pupils before they chose their high school subjects.

A session had been held on the Wednesday to discuss the matter raised by the Taalkommissie van die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns concerning the spelling of Greek proper nouns in Afrikaans.<sup>14</sup> A committee was formed, with Prof Gonin as convener, to resume discussions with the Taalkommissie.

The meeting passed the following resolutions:

1. that attention be given to the promotion of Classical Culture courses in schools (prof Conradie and Dr Saddington);
2. that Article 3(a) of the Constitution be altered to read: "The following are eligible as members: university teachers in the Classics, teachers of Greek and/or Latin at secondary schools, and such persons as have successfully completed at least a major course at a university in Greek and/or Latin and/or Classical Civilization and / or Ancient History" (Dr Pauw and Mr Barkhuizen).

To investigate and pursue the first resolution, a committee was appointed consisting of Prof Gonin (convener), Prof. Dietrich and Prof Smuts. It was further recommended that lecturers and teachers in Latin offer their help with the classical material (myths, historical events and figures from the ancient world) encountered in subjects such as English, French and German.

Concerning the theme of the next conference, the meeting proposed the following for the incoming Executive Committee: to arrange a panel discussion with short papers (15 minutes) on a specific author; to arrange a symposium on a relevant theme, also with short papers; to devote one day to a theme where longer papers could be included; and to place longer papers on the remaining days.

The meeting then elected the new Executive Committee: Prof Conradie (C), Prof Baumbach (VC), Prof Botha (S), Dr Snyman (T), Prof Dietrich (AM).

The University of the Orange Free State was thanked for its hospitality, the use of its facilities, and the luncheon, and also congratulated on its 25 year as an independent institution. Votes of thanks were also proposed to the Departments of Greek and Latin for refreshments and assistance; and the outgoing Executive Committee.

The following matters were raised under General:

1. Prof Gonin and Naudé were requested to continue as Editor and Treasurer of *Acta Classica* and thanked for their work on the journal.
2. Dr Hendrickx was again nominated as the Association's FIEC representative.
3. Prof Botha invited the Association to hold the next conference at the University of Port Elizabeth.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> See Henderson 2007:112, 2.2.4.

<sup>15</sup> On the name change, see Henderson 2007:109 n. 59.

4. The date of the conference was to be in line with Art. 10 of the constitution.
5. The meeting took note of the brochure regarding Swan's Hellenic Tours.
6. Members were requested to bring the journal *Proceedings of the African Classical Associations* to the attention of university libraries.
7. In closing the meeting, the Chairperson proposed that letters of good wishes be sent to Prof Petrie and of condolence to Mrs Hugo. He then thanked the following: Prof Gonin, who was now finally retiring, for his contribution to CASA, and wished him good health and further contributions during his *otium*; the members who had served with him on the Executive Committee; the delegates for the high quality of the papers and the friendly atmosphere that characterised the conference; Prof Jarret for conducting the visit to the observatory; the colleagues in the Departments of Greek and Latin for their help; the editorial boards of *Acta Classica* and *Akroterion*; and Dr Hendrickx.<sup>16</sup>

## 1.2 Administration 1975-1977

### 1.2.1 General

The first indications of the changing political scene appeared in the correspondence of the Executive Committee. The Chairperson, Prof. Conradie, took up the question of "non-whites" (i.e. Blacks, Coloureds and Indians)<sup>17</sup> as members of the Association. The prevailing view of the rectors of Afrikaans-medium universities was apparently that "non-whites" could in fact be members of scientific associations, provided that contact remained on an academic level. As far as CASA was concerned, such persons were allowed at regional and national conferences; only "mixing" at school level should be avoided because it could result in conflict with the Education Departments. There was another problem if "non-whites" attended national conferences: accommodation in university residences. However, there were already cases of universities allowing "mixed" accommodation. Regional branches were to be approached for their views on the matter.<sup>18</sup> Informal discussions took place between members of the Executive Committee and the regional committees, but the matter was not formally raised at the next conference.

### 1.2.2 *Acta Classica*

The number of foreign journals received in exchange for *Acta Classica* varied between 41 and 60.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Minutes of Closing Meeting, 30 January 1975.

<sup>17</sup> I retain this term as a relic of the period, well aware of its abhorrent nature. Other terms like "non-Europeans" and "people of colour" are as inappropriate.

<sup>18</sup> C to Henderson, 24 March 1976; C to De Villiers, 26 October 1976.

<sup>19</sup> See Hasse 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978.

### 1.2.3 School and university texts

Included in the correspondence on this matter were letters and circulars to the Education Departments, Departments of Classics, Greek and Latin, and publishers. Academics and teachers were forthcoming with information, suggestions and ideas. There was general consensus that there was an urgent need for suitable material, in particular in schools, since Petrie's *A Latin Reader for Matriculation and Other Students* (Oxford 1918, reprinted many times), which had been prescribed reading for generations of Latin pupils, and his equally useful *An Introduction to Roman History, Literature and Antiquities* (Oxford 1918, 3rd ed. 1963), which also figured in university courses, were now out of print. It was also generally agreed that any new commentaries should concentrate on linguistic aid and more background on reading-material; that there was a great need for material in Afrikaans; and that, to make the project viable, a particular text book would have to be prescribed by several universities and Education Departments.<sup>20</sup> The possibility of bilingual commentaries was also raised.<sup>21</sup> The Natal Education Department suggested a coordinated approach by the Committee of Education Heads;<sup>22</sup> and the Cape Education Department defined the real need at schools as being a comprehensive anthology of graded works with interesting and typical selections, and suitable books for background study topics.<sup>23</sup> The Study Committee for Latin (Transvaal) proposed the following response to the questionnaire: to collect, revise and distribute the handouts on the background topics by various speakers at the previous and future meetings of the Transvaal Regional Branch; to include selections from Caesar, the poets and prose authors with commentaries in English and Afrikaans; and to provide material on the background studies for Afrikaans pupils. It was also suggested that study material should be interesting, contain discussion of content, language and context, and list additional reading.<sup>24</sup>

### 1.2.4 Next conference

Arrangements for the conference at the University of Port Elizabeth in 1977 were under way. Papers were canvassed for the theme, Mythology,<sup>25</sup> and a full program reported.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Dietrich to C, 9 May 1973; Dietrich to Henderson, 10 February 1972; 30 November 1976; Smuts to Henderson, 1 December 1976.

<sup>21</sup> Smuts to Henderson, 1 December 1976; e.g. the volumes of *Akroterion* devoted to Ovid (19.1/2, 1974) and Vergil (20.4, 1975).

<sup>22</sup> Director to Henderson, 29 May 1974.

<sup>23</sup> Director to Henderson, 15 November 1974.

<sup>24</sup> Minutes of Meeting, 8 August 1974.

<sup>25</sup> C to Henderson, 24 March 1976.

<sup>26</sup> S to Henderson, 21 August 1976.

### 1.3. The Regional Branches

#### 1.3.1 Transvaal Branch

The annual Latin Teachers' Conference was held on Friday 19 and Saturday 20 March 1976. On the Friday evening, attended by about 150 pupils, the film "Three Hundred Spartans" was shown. On show was an exhibition of models made by the Latin pupils of Pretoria Boys' High School, including weapons, war-machines, winter and summer camps, and uniforms. The programme on the following morning was aimed at the teachers. Mrs Shillington spoke on "The wanderings of Aeneas"<sup>27</sup> and Mr Le Grange on "Die Romeinse feesmaal", both themes set as background in the Transvaal Matriculation Examination. Notes on these two talks were sent to all Latin teachers. Mr De Villiers, Inspector of Education, ended the meeting with a talk on "The Matriculation Examination of 1975", in which he gave advice and guidance to teachers and pupils.

The Annual Latin Reading Competition was held on 5 June 1976. During the adjudication, the audience was treated to a performance of the *Mostellaria* by pupils of Saxonwold Primary School and a slide-show on Italy and Rome presented by Mr Barnicoat. In accordance with a national conference request, a letter addressed to pupils in Std 5 (Grade 7), entitled "The importance of Latin as an optional subject", was distributed to 635 primary schools.<sup>28</sup>

At the AGM on 11 September 1976, Proff Petrie (aged 95) and Gonin (aged 70) were among those present. Prof Arnheim gave a talk on "A new approach to the teaching of Latin", and Dr Barkhuizen delivered a paper on Sappho.<sup>29</sup> The following committee was elected: Mr De Villiers (C), Prof Henderson (VC), Mr Barnicoat (ST), Mr Mans, Ms Rockas, Mrs Shillington, Mr Simpson, Ms Möller, Mrs Nel, Mrs Lonstein and Ms Broderick (representatives of universities and schools).<sup>30</sup>

#### 1.3.2 Western Cape Branch

At a meeting of this branch on 6 September 1975 two third-year Latin students delivered papers which were subsequently published in *Akroterion*. The first was Mr G Mader, who spoke on "The library of Alexandria", the second was Mr R B Smith, whose talk dealt with "The Alexandrian scientific tradition."<sup>31</sup>

#### 1.3.3 Orange Free State Branch

The first meeting of the branch in 1976 opened with a ceremony in which Dr Benadé handed a copy of his Afrikaans translation of Vergil's *Aeneid* (*Vergilius. Die Aeneïs*, Pretoria 1975) to the Rector of the University of the Orange Free State, Prof B Kok.

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<sup>27</sup> See Shillington 1975.

<sup>28</sup> See under 1.1 above.

<sup>29</sup> See Barkhuizen 1977.

<sup>30</sup> Reports in *Akroterion* 21.4 (1976)39 and 22.1 (1977) 37-41.

<sup>31</sup> Mader 1976; Smith 1976.

Both Prof Kok and Prof Richards congratulated Dr Benadé on this important achievement. After this, the Conlin Prize for the best students in the Latin courses of the previous year was awarded.<sup>32</sup> The Chairperson of the regional branch, Mr D P van den Berg, and the Advisor and also Examiner for Latin at the Department of Education, Mr H P Jordaan, then paid tribute to Mr C P Venter, who was retiring after a long career of service to Latin in Free State schools. The rest of the meeting was devoted to elucidation of aspects of the syllabus by Mr Jordaan. The co-operation and good relations between the university, schools and the Department of Education gave cause for an optimistic outlook for the future of Latin in the area.<sup>33</sup>

#### 1.4 Classicists honoured

Four senior members of CASA reached significant milestones. Prof Gonin celebrated his 70th birthday;<sup>34</sup> Prof Naudé received the accolades of colleagues on the occasion of his 65th birthday;<sup>35</sup> tribute was paid to Prof Smuts on his 60th birthday;<sup>36</sup> and Vol. 21.4 of *Akroterion* was dedicated to Prof Van Rensburg on his retirement at the end of 1976.<sup>37</sup>

### 2. *Twelfth CASA conference, 25-28 January 1977, Port Elizabeth*

#### 2.1 Conference proceedings

At the Opening Meeting, on 25 January 1977, the Chairperson, Prof Conradie welcomed the large number of delegates (31). Delegates observed a minute of silence in remembrance of the late Prof K Jacobs and Ms C M F de Villiers, a promising young classicist.<sup>38</sup> The Chairperson reported that only the Transvaal Branch had ordered and distributed the pamphlet to primary schools. As a result, no further copies were printed.<sup>39</sup> In his report he mentioned that the Association had been in existence for 21 years, that regional branches were active, and that membership had increased by 25.

The financial report of the Treasurer, Dr Snyman, reflected an accumulated fund of R2780.27, of which R1807 was invested in paid-up indefinite period shares, R926.16 in the savings account, and the rest in cash on hand. The main sources of income were subscriptions (R2200), interest and dividends (R408.60), and a donation from the Patron (R250). The main items of expenditure were administration

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<sup>32</sup> Prof Conlin was the first professor in Latin at the Grey College, which later developed into the UOFS.

<sup>33</sup> See Drijepondt 1976.

<sup>34</sup> See Meiring 1977.

<sup>35</sup> Gonin 1977; Kollegas & Vriende 1977; Rosen 1977.

<sup>36</sup> See Van Rensburg 1976.

<sup>37</sup> See Smuts 1976.

<sup>38</sup> See Ms De Villiers's obituary in *Akroterion* 21.3 (1976) 40.

<sup>39</sup> Minutes of Meeting, 25 January 1977, 5.

(R332.72), FIEC (R27.35), *Acta Classica* (R1250), *Akroterion* (R450), payments to the branches (R303.50), and reinvested dividends (R306.29).<sup>40</sup>

Prof Naudé presented the *Acta Classica* report on behalf of the Editorial Committee. Vol. XIX (1976) had appeared in December – the first time the journal had appeared in the year stated on its cover. The Editorial Committee recommended that the Association convey its appreciation to the publisher, Mr A A Balkema, for the timely appearance and for the professional standard generally. Vol. XVII (1974) of 162 pages had cost R2 499; Vol. XVIII (1975) of 163 pages R2 509; Vol. XIX (1976) of 149 pages R2 479. Cheaper methods of publication were being investigated. The IBM Composer system or the AKI system would entail lower production costs, but perhaps mean a change in format, which the Executive Committee was reluctant to accept. A memorandum concerning the ownership of the exchange periodicals housed and administered by the library of Unisa was tabled for delegates to consider (Annexure C). The new Executive Committee was tasked to pursue the matter and act in the interests of the Association. Prof Naudé thanked the Association for the increased grant of R750. The early appearance of Vol. XIX meant that two accounts would be received in the same year. To meet this exigency the meeting approved a grant of R1 000. The grant from the Human Sciences Research Council had been increased to R1 200. Finally, the subscription fee for non-members and organisations was raised to R7.50.<sup>41</sup> Prof Gonin and Naudé were thanked for their dedicated work in the interests of *Acta Classica*.

Prof Smuts, Editor of *Akroterion*, reported that the journal now also received other periodicals in exchange and that there had been a great demand from the schools for the special editions devoted to Ovid and Vergil. He also noted the increasing printing-costs and appealed for greater efforts in recruiting schools to subscribe to *Akroterion*, and for departments to submit news items for publication.<sup>42</sup> Appreciation was expressed for *Akroterion* and its editor.

Prof. Gonin, convener of the subcommittee for the spelling of proper nouns in Afrikaans, informed the meeting that the committee had studied, systemised and returned the “Hiemstra Report” (containing 1500 proper nouns) to the Taalkommissie for its consideration.<sup>43</sup>

The convener of the subcommittee for publications, Prof Henderson, reiterated the importance of new annotated texts, language courses, translations and general works on culture and history. From a survey of departments and the school curricula, it was apparent that the greatest need was for Greek tragedy, epic and lyric; and Caesar, Vergil, Cicero and Plautus. The general feeling was that commentaries could be based on a particular text (e.g. OCT) and should deal with content, background, language, and literary aspects, and offer a select bibliography; that texts should be graded and interesting, with sufficient passages to offer variety over a period of four years; that cheaper forms of publication (e.g. xerox) should be used; and that two or more neighbouring universities co-operate on and share such a work.

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<sup>40</sup> Tabled report; Minutes of Meeting, 25 January 1977, 6.2.

<sup>41</sup> Tabled report; Minutes of Meeting, 25 January 1977, 6.3.

<sup>42</sup> Tabled report; Minutes of Meeting, 25 January 1977, 6.4.

<sup>43</sup> Minutes of Meeting, 25 January 1977, 6.5.

The committee was there to co-ordinate the project, approach publishers and education departments, encourage authors, and inform lecturers and teachers of available material. However, authors were to take the initiative in finding funding, publishers and sponsors. The following works were already available: Benadé's Afrikaans prose translation of Vergil's *Aeneid*;<sup>44</sup> N A Blanckenberg's Afrikaans verse translation of Vergil's *Eclogues* and *Georgics* (*Vergilius. Landelike Poësie: Bucolica, Georgica*, Kaapstad 1975), and K O Matier's, *Horace. Selected Odes. A Commentary* (Grahamstown 1971). Further works were in preparation: (a) background studies, commissioned by the Transvaal Regional Branch; (b) Afrikaans translations of Cicero, *In Verr.* 4 and 5; Horace, *Ars Poetica*; Livy, Books 1, 21 and 30; Terence, *Phormio*; Seneca, *Phaedra*; Juvenal; Greek lyric poetry; and (c) commentaries on Greek lyric poetry, Patristic authors, Lucan, Vergil, Cicero, legal texts, Pliny, Ovid, *Met.*, Xenophon, Apuleius, Latin lyric and elegy.<sup>45</sup> It was decided that the committee should compile a list of available material for annual publication in *Akroterion*.

Prof Henderson also reported back on behalf of Prof Hendrickx that Mr J Cilliers was to have represented the Association at the Assemblée Générale of the FIEC in Brussels in 1976,<sup>46</sup> but that the required documents had reached him too late for him to do so. The meeting requested that information concerning congresses of FIEC and other organisations be published in *Akroterion* in time for a representative to make the necessary arrangements.<sup>47</sup>

At the end of the meeting, Dr Bruwer expressed her concern over the position of Latin at schools and stated that the time had come for CASA to act. She proposed that someone be appointed on a permanent basis with the task of co-ordinating the teaching methods of Latin, determining the needs of the schools, counter-acting the erosion of the subject, and handling publicity. Financing such a project was, however, a problem. After some discussion, a committee was appointed, consisting of Dr Bruwer (convener), Dr Griessel, Proff Smuts and Kriel, to report back on the matter at the Closing Meeting.<sup>48</sup>

The Closing Meeting, on 27 January 1977, was attended by 34 delegates. Matters arising from the Opening Meeting were first dealt with. The subcommittee for publications was to remain unchanged. After Dr Bruwer had delivered her report on the situation in the schools, it was decided that a special edition of *Akroterion* should be devoted to the topic; that one member of the Executive Committee should be nominated to handle publicity (including TV); that the possibility of a register of Latin teachers be considered in order to facilitate the spread of available teachers in the country; that application be made on behalf of CASA to the Human Sciences Research Council for a grant to a nominated person who would undertake an extensive investigation; that an attempt should be made for a deputation to meet with the Minister of Education; and that final arrangements be left in the hands of the subcommittee under the direction of Dr Bruwer.

<sup>44</sup> Reviewed in *Akroterion* 24.1 (1979) 15-19, 22 (Henderson).

<sup>45</sup> Tabled report; Minutes of Meeting, 25 January 1977, 6.6.

<sup>46</sup> S to Henderson, 21 August 1976.

<sup>47</sup> Minutes of Meeting, 25 January 1977, 6.7.

<sup>48</sup> Minutes of Meeting, 25 January 1977, 9.

The following motions were accepted:

1. that only publications of authors living in South Africa were to be reviewed in *Acta Classica*;
2. that the Association should approach the Board for the Recognition of Examinations in Law for the precise requirements of the Advocate's Act regarding Latin for the degree of LL.B and that the Association should, in the light of these requirements, urge all universities to have uniform regulations for Beginners' courses in Latin for students without Matriculation Latin.

The meeting requested that the matter be put before the Committee of University Principals. There was also a request by Prof Gonin for contributions to *Acta Classica* to be submitted before 15 March each year.

The theme of the next conference, which would be hosted by the Rand Afrikaans University, would be Epic Poetry. Also discussed was the pressure put on the program by the increasing number of papers. For the time being, the present structure would be maintained, while the Executive Committee watched developments. The new Executive Committee was elected: Prof Dietrich (C), Prof Conradie (VC), Prof Kriel (S), Dr Basson (T), Dr Bruwer (AM). Thanks were then expressed to the Principal and University of Port Elizabeth for their hospitality, and the members of the Departments of Greek and Latin for their helpfulness and assistance. The following matters arose under "General":

1. Prof Conradie was to replace Prof Smuts on the Editorial Board of *Acta Classica*.
2. Prof Arnheim was nominated as FIEC representative.
3. Prof Gonin and Van Rensburg were made Honorary Presidents of the Association.
4. Members were invited to attend the Greek Festival, to be held at the Rand Afrikaans University in October 1977 with the co-operation of the Department of National Education and the local Greek communities.
5. A proposal by Prof Arnheim for a subcommittee to investigate the possibility of Classical Civilisation as a school subject was approved. The subcommittee would consist of Prof Arnheim (convener), Dr Saddington, Mr Henderson and Prof Hewitt.<sup>49</sup>

Fourteen papers were read during the conference.

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<sup>49</sup> Minutes of Meeting, 27 January 1977.

## 2.2 Administration 1977-1979

### 2.2.1 *Acta Classica*

The number of foreign journals received in exchange for *Acta Classica* remained stable at between 41 and 57.<sup>50</sup>

### 2.2.2 School and university texts

A circular went out to all departments inviting titles of available material. There was an enthusiastic response. At Stellenbosch planning and preliminary work were being done on *Tria Saecula*, Latin texts with bilingual commentaries and Teacher's Handbook. The Latin texts included those prescribed for the 1980 Senior Certificate Examination: Catullus, Cicero, Vergil, Ovid and Pliny.<sup>51</sup> Other titles, published, in preparation or suggested, were Arnheim, *The Senatorial Aristocracy in the Later Roman Empire* (Oxford 1972); *Aristocracy in Greek Society* (Oxford 1977); Arnheim and S G Farron, *Vergil's Aeneid: Protest or Propaganda?*;<sup>52</sup> J M Grové, Afrikaans translation of and commentary on Euripides, *Phoenissae*;<sup>53</sup> Benadé, Afrikaans translation of Vergil's *Eclogues* and *Georgics*, and of Caesar's *Bellum Gallicum*;<sup>54</sup> P Murgatroyd, selections from Ovid, *Ars Amatoria*;<sup>55</sup> Dr P A L Greenhalgh, *Early Greek Warfare* (Cambridge 1973); *The Year of the Four Emperors* (Weidenfeld 1975) and, by teachers, Cicero, *In Catilinam* 1.29-33; *Ad Quintum Fratrem* 1.1.15-17; *In Verrem* 2.4.94ff.; *Pro Cluentio* (prescribed sections).<sup>56</sup> Still available for the Afrikaans pupil and student were Van Rensburg, *'n Eerste Griekse Grammatika* (Stellenbosch 1954, 1968); *'n Oorsig van die Oud-Griekse Letterkunde* (Stellenbosch 1960);<sup>57</sup> Gonin's *Latynse Grammatika en Leesboek* in seven volumes (Pretoria 1944-1971);<sup>58</sup> and Blanckenberg's Afrikaans translation of Vergil's *Aeneid* was due to appear.<sup>59</sup>

Correspondence was continued with publishers and some positive response received and personal contact made.<sup>60</sup> Another circular in English and Afrikaans was

<sup>50</sup> See Hasse 1979 and 1980.

<sup>51</sup> Smuts to Henderson, 18 January 1978; 17 March 1978; Conradie to Henderson, 21 September 1978; Notice in *Akroterion* 23.4 (1978) 39.

<sup>52</sup> Arnheim to Henderson, 25 August 1978.

<sup>53</sup> Grové to Henderson, 25 August.

<sup>54</sup> Benadé to Henderson, 28 August 1978.

<sup>55</sup> Murgatroyd to Henderson, 28 August 1978.

<sup>56</sup> Atkinson to Henderson, 10 September 1978; Atkinson 1978; see also Cartwright and Robins 1978; Catacousinos and Thompson 1979; Matier 1978.

<sup>57</sup> Conradie to Henderson, 21 September 1978.

<sup>58</sup> J L van Schaik to Henderson, 26 September 1978.

<sup>59</sup> HAUM to Henderson, 12 October 1978.

<sup>60</sup> A D Cluver (Butterworth) to Henderson; Henderson to Cluver, 30 January 1978; Cluver to Henderson, 13 February 1978.

sent to various publishers requesting their co-operation in the project.<sup>61</sup> Publishers expressed interest, but nearly always with the proviso of a viable market.<sup>62</sup>

### 2.2.3 The position of Latin in schools

Mr De Villiers supplied the following statistics to the Education Bureau of the TED. The number of Transvaal schools teaching Latin was 54 provincial and 17 private schools. In some of these schools the numbers in Stds 6 and 8 were below the required 20 and 15 respectively and permission had to be obtained for Latin to be taught. The required number for Std 8 was one of the causes of the subject's demise in many schools. The number of pupils taking the Std 10 examination in 1977 amounted to 493, and the expected number for 1978 was less than 500, and for 1980 about 400. In the previous six years Latin had been phased out in at least 45 schools. A nation-wide investigation was needed.<sup>63</sup> The situation worsened: 479 candidates (2,1 % of all candidates) wrote the Std 10 examination, obtaining an average of 61%, and the number of TED schools offering Latin dropped to 52. The factors contributing to the decline of Latin were the new system of differentiation and the introduction of fields of study with specific subject sets, few of which included Latin; the minimum numbers for a subject to be retained; and inadequate guidance to pupils and parents by Primary School principals.<sup>64</sup>

### 2.2.4 Next conference

Arrangements for the forthcoming conference included an invitation to Prof Viljoen, one of the Association's Honorary Presidents and Rector of the Rand Afrikaans University, to deliver a Presidential Address.<sup>65</sup> A circular was sent to members of the Executive for comments on the provisional programme (16 papers and 3 on a waiting-list), on matters raised at the previous conference, and whether the delegates should be accommodated in university residences or hotels.<sup>66</sup> Other arrangements were finalised: a circular to all members sent out with the programme and details about hotel accommodation;<sup>67</sup> lunches and publicity in the media.<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> Circular, 11 August 1978.

<sup>62</sup> J L van Schaik to Henderson, 26 September 1978; Nasou Beperk to Henderson, 2 October 1978; 13 December 1978; HAUM to Henderson, 12 October 1978; Maskew Miller to Henderson, 6 November 1978.

<sup>63</sup> De Villiers to Prof N J Mentz (TED representative on the HSRC), 6 March 1978.

<sup>64</sup> De Villiers to Henderson, Addendum to previous communiqué.

<sup>65</sup> S to Viljoen, 7 June 1978; see Viljoen 1980.

<sup>66</sup> Circular, 13 June 1978.

<sup>67</sup> Circular, 18 November 1978.

<sup>68</sup> S to Henderson, 12 January 1979.

### 2.3. The Regional Branches

#### 2.3.1 Transvaal Branch

At the Teachers' Conference on 26 March 1977, attended by 45 teachers, Ms B Thompson spoke on "The Roman dinner party" and, as member of the TED Latin Examination Panel, on the requirements relating to the set poems of Ovid. This was followed by a talk (with slides) on the *domus urbana* by Mrs Shillington. At the end, Mr De Villiers commented on the 1976 examination.

The Annual Latin Reading competition took place on 4 June 1977. Prof Kriel presented an Afrikaans version and commentary of the prescribed parts of *A millionaire's dinner party*, a copy of which was sent to all schools offering Latin.

At the AGM, held on 17 September 1977, Prof Naudé read a paper on "Die mite in die antieke geskiedskrywing". During the business meeting it was decided to repeat the distribution of the letter to parents each year. Then Prof Van Rooy gave an illustrated talk on "The Minoan and Mycenaean civilisation", which was also attended by His Excellency Mr Euripides P Kerkinos, Ambassador of Greece, and Mr J Callinicos, President of the Hellenic Community in Pretoria.<sup>69</sup>

A Latin evening was held on 29 September 1977, organised by the TED Study Committee for Latin and aimed at the Std 5 pupils and their parents. The inspector and four senior pupils spoke on the value of Latin as a school subject.

This branch had another successful year in 1978, characterised by keen interest, enthusiastic participation and varied and informative talks. At the Teachers' Conference on 18 March, Dr D B Gain read a paper on the poems of Propertius prescribed for 1978. The pupils of Rivonia Primary School, under the direction of Mrs Marcelle Pincus, performed choral versions of "The rider at the gate" and an English translation of Propertius 2.12. Mr De Villiers spoke on the background topic for 1978 (Ovid's *Metamorphoses*), the previous year's examination paper, and the usefulness of the *Ecce Romani* series.

On 12 May 1978 a Latin evening was held for teachers and pupils. On this occasion, Mrs M Schoeman spoke on Catullus, *c.* 5, Mr J Swanepoel on aspects of Roman slavery, and Prof Henderson on the excavations at Pompeii and Herculaneum (with slides).<sup>70</sup> A week later Prof Henderson conducted a workshop on scansion for teachers.

The Annual Reading Competition was held on 10 June 1978, preceded by the screening of the film *Spartacus* on the previous evening. This time there were three instead of two sections: Senior (Std 10), Intermediate (Stds 8-9) and Junior (Stds 6-7). The result was a larger number of participants and a clear indication of more oral reading of Latin being done in the classroom.

At the AGM on 16 September 1978, two papers were read: "Housing in Classical times" by Mr E Eftychis, and "Die Romeinse begrip 'onsterflikheid'" by Prof Coetzee. During the business meeting the Chairperson expressed concern at the

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<sup>69</sup> Report in *Akroterion* 23.3:41-44.

<sup>70</sup> See Henderson 1979.

declining numbers of Latin pupils. The in-coming committee was asked to provide information on the situation to the Executive Committee.<sup>71</sup>

### 2.3.2 Western Cape Branch

On 10 March 1977, at a Teachers' Meeting, Dr S. Bruwer gave a talk on Catullan poems set for the Senior Certificate in 1977 and 1978.<sup>72</sup> An "Asterix" program was begun in 1977 as a continuing project. The Reading Competition was again held and in July a Roman quiz proved to be popular. On 11 December 1978, the three universities of the Cape took part in a seminar on Catullus, c. 79 and 68, introduced by Prof Gain. At the AGM Prof N Dubow gave a lecture on images of Jerusalem. The committee consisted of Dr Atkinson (C), Mr B de Kock (VC), Mr J Sang (ST), Ms S Armstrong (AM for schools), Dr Van Stekelenburg, Miss M Catacousinos, Messrs J Thom and C Zietsman, Mrs D van Zyl, and Miss J Frater (AM).<sup>73</sup>

### 2.3.3 Orange Free State Branch

Attempts to engage the general public failed. In 1977 the attendance at a Parents' Evening, at which the criteria for subject choices were to be discussed by the Deputy Director of Education and members of the Departments of Latin, Greek and French, and to which all the Primary Schools in Bloemfontein were invited, was dismal. Slide and film shows were presented regularly in the auditorium of the National Museum until 1978, when the poor turn-out brought the project to an end. Despite this, there were some positive outcomes: the chairperson of the regional branch promoted the cause of Latin on the local radio station, and a reporter wrote an article on the meeting and especially on the Deputy Director's efforts to promote Latin.<sup>74</sup>

In September 1977 a course for Latin pupils was well attended. A more ambitious orientation course was organised on 24 April 1978 in collaboration with the Education Department. An unexpected 400 children attended. They were treated to a film on Ancient Greece, slide shows on the Roman house, the Roman army, and Troy; and after lunch everyone was bussed to see *Carry on Cleo*, while the teachers conferred with the subject advisor, Mr D M Morrell, and Examiner, Mr C P Venter, on the matriculation paper.

On 24 October 1978 a dinner was held – without any lectures – for teachers and lecturers to get together and talk on an informal basis. The guest of honour was Mr D J Coetzee (retiring Deputy Director of Education), who received a present for his work in maintaining Latin in Free State schools. The success of the occasion inspired the hope to repeat it in future.

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<sup>71</sup> Report in *Akroterion* 24.1 (1979) 23-26.

<sup>72</sup> See Bruwer 1977.

<sup>73</sup> Report in *Akroterion* 24.4 (1979) 35-36.

<sup>74</sup> Report in *Akroterion* 24.1 (1979) 20-22.

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