

# CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

## WESTERN CAPE BRANCH

### ANNUAL REPORT 1992/1993

**Personalia:** The congratulations, gratitude and good wishes of all members accompany Assoc. Prof. *Kathy Coleman* as she departs to take up the Chair of Latin at Trinity College, Dublin. Professor Coleman has given the local branch years of willing service, as committee member, Olympiad moderator, adjudicator at schools' events and speaker at meetings of pupils, teachers, lecturers and general members. Mrs. *Carina Malan* (US) was awarded her M.A. from Stellenbosch University. *Grant Parker* has won a scholarship to Princeton for doctoral studies.

**Membership:** Western Cape general membership is the largest in the country.

A variety of events took place, to suit the four main groups of CASA members: teachers, school pupils, university students and their lecturers, and the general public.

#### Teachers

- (i) The annual *Latin Teachers' Workshop* was held at UCT on Monday 1 February, 1993. As always its aim was to update the skills and knowledge of Latin teachers through lectures and group discussions. Mr. C.E. Chandler (UCT) spoke on Livia and her rôle in the imperial family, and Mrs. C.A. Malan (US) and Ms. D.P. Jorgé (UWC) compared Homer's view of war with Virgil's treatment of war in the *Aeneid*. Mrs. M. Hewett (UCT) gave an update on Latin requirements for intending Law students. A two-part session on setting setwork examination questions was co-ordinated by Dr. J.M. Claassen (US). After lunch Dr. Garbers (the new Examiner for the Cape Education Department, specially flown by CASA from Port Elizabeth to attend the Workshop) led a useful discussion of the 1992 Latin Matric examinations. The schools' events for 1993 were planned.

The *Teachers' Sub-Committee* arranged not only the Teachers' Workshop but also all the Schools' events: Miss H. de Bruijn (Rustenburg), Miss B. Keeson (Springfield), Mrs. J. Slater (Pinelands) and Mr. I. Rutter (Paul Roos).

Appreciative thanks are offered also to Mrs. C.M. Meinert of the Education Library for displaying new books and to Mr. I. James of the Teachers' Centre in Claremont for his help and support.

- (ii) **Professional Development Afternoon**

9 August 1993: Although not a CASA-organised event, this afternoon concerned the teaching of Latin. The Cape Education Department facilitated the holding of some 20 subject seminars, including the Latin Seminar which took place at Pinelands High School. Latin teachers discussed strategies for promoting Latin, and were informed about the *UWCLOSE (University of the Western Cape Latin Outreach for Student Empowerment)* project. This programme, designed to improve pupils' command of English, by teaching them Latin and introducing them to aspects of classical

civilization, will be implemented in Std. 4 classes at two DET schools in the Cape Peninsula in 1994.

### Schools' Programme

- (i) A stimulating and useful *workshop for unseen translation* for Std. 9 and 10 Latin pupils was held at UCT on 11 March. Practical sessions were run by Mrs. C.A. Malan and Dr. J-M. Claassen of Stellenbosch University.
- (ii) A keenly contested *general classical background quiz* for pupils in Stds. 6-8 took place at Rustenburg Girls' High School on 21 April.
- (iii) The *Latin Olympiad* examination, organised by the Western Cape-based *Certamen Latinum* team, took place at several centres throughout the Republic and in Zimbabwe on 4 May. The prize-winners' function was held at the Michaelis Gallery in Cape Town on 13 August. Mr. Etienne Hucq of ComputerValue and Mr. Ernest Walker of Mustek are warmly thanked for their generosity in donating computers as first prizes. CASA is most grateful to the Olympiad facilitator for her hard work in planning and realising the 1993 Olympiad.
- (iv) The *Apis Verborum* vocabulary competition for pupils in all standards took place on 24 August.
- (v) The first ever *Ludi Veris* (Spring School) for matrics is planned for September 27 and 28, to help matric pupils revise setwork.
- (vi) The *Ludi Hilares* will round off the year's events on 12 October at SACS. Pupils from different schools will produce a "Roman" playlet together, with the emphasis being on socialising, fun and enjoyment.

**Quarterly Seminars** (for lecturers and senior students at the three universities): In October 1992 Prof. W.G. Arnott (Leeds University, UK) spoke on *Euripides' Helen* and on *Herodas*. In April 1993 Mr. C.E. Chandler (UCT) gave a seminar on *Philodemus*. In May 1993 Ms. D.P. Jorgé (UWC) discussed *principles of textual criticism with specific reference to the Catullan corpus*.

### General meetings

- (i) The well attended Autumn General Meeting, held at UCT on 24 April, focused on some art works of antiquity. Professor R.A. Whitaker (UCT) gave an illustrated lecture on *The Great Altar of Pergamum* and its frieze. This was followed by Assoc.-Prof. Kathy Coleman (UCT) on the archaeological theme park at Xanten on the Rhine, the title of her lavishly illustrated talk being *Recreation and Preservation: Rome on the Rhine and in Berlin*.
- (ii) On 11 September 1993 at the AGM held at Stellenbosch, Dr. T.T. Rapke (Wits) spoke on *The Bonfire of the Vanities: Cicero and Catiline's alleged Conspiracy* and Dr. Barbara Levick (St. Hilda's College, Oxford) lectured on *Town and Country in Central Asia Minor: A landscape with figures*.

The 1993 UCT Summer School offered a course of interest to general members, *Comedy in Greece and Rome*, given by Dr. M.R. Mezzabotta. The Department of Adult Education and Extra-Mural Studies gave generous financial support towards mounting an exhibition on Greek and Roman Comedy.

### **Review of goals**

A major concern of the committee has been to support and promote the teaching of Latin at school level, which is threatened by the financial restrictions and reduction in teaching posts facing schools. Unfortunately, CASA has no access to funds which would stem the closure of Latin Departments in affected schools. We are, however, encouraged by the UWCLOSE project which will bring Latin to pupils to whom it was previously inaccessible.

### **Conclusion**

I should like to thank the hard-working Committee for its initiative and enthusiasm. It has been a pleasure working with such a motivated team.

M.R. Mezzabotta - Chairman 1992/1993

## **V A R I A   E L E C T R O N I C A**

### **E-CLASSICS**

The age of electronic telecommunications has been with us for some time and an increasing number of Classicists from all over the world are now using, or thinking of using, electronic means of communication. The potential of this technology for the exchange of information is being realised more and more fully as greater numbers of researchers and teachers make use of what it offers. A few Luddites remain. But what does this new medium offer people engaged in research and teaching in the Classics? What financial commitment is involved? How easy is it to become a proficient user?

### **Information retrieval**

Every South African academic who is involved in ordering books must be aware of the fact that publishing costs have increased enormously, while funds for buying books have decreased substantially because of budgetary cuts and the depreciation of the value of the rand. Research libraries in South Africa are rapidly becoming more and more impoverished. It is therefore essential that South African Classicists should avail themselves of all available sources of information in their discipline. Electronic publishing is one such source. While this medium is not by any means free, it can make information