

V A R I A D I D A C T I C A

CASA WESTERN CAPE BRANCH

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1991/1992

Personalia - Several of our members gained higher degrees in the last year: Diane Jorgé was awarded the degree of Master of Studies (with distinction) from Oxford University, and Clive Chandler, Ingrid Hastings, Mark Hermans, Grant Parker and Suzanne Sharland all gained MA's from UCT. Mrs. Margaret Hewett (UCT) was promoted to Senior Lecturer. Assoc. Prof. Kathy Coleman received a further Von Humboldt award for a year's study in Germany. Grant Parker was awarded a scholarship to study at the Thesaurus Linguae Latinae in Munich.

Membership - A membership drive among audiences attending courses with a classical focus at UCT's Summer School, boosted our general membership by 18 new members. The Western Cape Branch is now the largest in the country. Student membership has not, however, increased noticeably.

Activities - A variety of functions catered for the four main groups of CASA members: teachers, school pupils, students and lectures, and the general public.

The annual Latin Teachers' Workshop, held at UCT in February, was well attended. Two talks relating to the syllabus were given, by Dr. M.R. Mezzabotta (UCT) on Virgil's view of the Underworld in the *Aeneid*, and by Assoc. Prof. J.E. Atkinson (UCT) on the legal background to Cicero's *Verrines*. A workshop on the marking of unseen translation was led by Mrs. C.A. Malan (US). Evidence for the pronunciation of Latin in the period 100 BC to AD 100 was presented by Dr. Mezzabotta, followed by a talk on the new Latin Syllabuses by Dr. J.M. Claassen (US). After lunch, Dr. Claassen and Mr. D. Bennie led a discussion of the 1991 Latin matric examination papers and projects.

Members of the Teachers' Sub-committee arranged and co-ordinated the Teachers' Workshop and all the Schools' events: Miss H. de Bruijn (Rustenburg), Miss B. Keeson (Springfield), Miss C. O'Dowd (Sans Souci) and Mr. I. Rutter (Paul Roos).

The schools' programme included the following: (i) A stimulating and useful workshop on *unseen translation* for Std. 9 and 10 Latin pupils was held at UCT on 24 February 1992. Practical sessions were run by Dr. J.M. Claassen and Mrs. C.A. Malan (both of US). (ii) The *Latin Reading Competition* (for pupils in Stds. 6-10) was held at Springfield Convent in April. (iii) The *Ludi Scaenici* (Latin plays) held at Pinelands High School in August proved to be an enjoyable evening's entertainment for both performers and audience. (iv) A *film and soup evening* for pupils in Stds. 6-9 was held in the last term. (v) The *Latin Olympiad* (Certamen Latinum), a biennial event, was not held this year. Planning for the 1993 Olympiad has, however, started. Financial sponsorship and firm offers of computers as first prizes in each standard have been received from Mr. Etienne Hucq of Computer Value in Ottery and Mr. Ernest Walker of Mustek Electronics in Cape Town. CASA is most grateful to Messrs. Hucq and Walker for their generosity. Details of the passages prescribed for the 1993 Olympiad will be sent to schools in the fourth term of 1992 and the examination will be held in May 1993.

Quarterly Seminars were held for lecturers and senior students of the three universities: Mr. Clive Chandler (UCT) spoke on *Rhetoric and Plato's Gorgias*; Dr. A.H. Griffin (Exeter University) gave a talk on *Aeneas as Camcorder - Virgil's narrative technique in Aeneid II*, and Prof. W.G. Arnott (Leeds University) spoke on *Euripides' Helen* and on *Herodas*.

General meetings - The May Meeting, held at the University of Stellenbosch, was extremely well attended and focused on art. Assoc. Prof. H.A. Shapiro (Stevens Institute of Technology, USA) gave an illustrated lecture on *The Panathenaic Festival in Athenian Art*. This was followed by Prof. M.A. Godby (History of Art, UCT) on *The Interpretation of Classical Form in Early Renaissance Italy: A Case Study of Nicola Pisano and Giotto*. This, too, was lavishly illustrated by slides. At the AGM held at UCT in August, Prof. A.V. van Stekelenburg (US) spoke on *The Origins of Western Coinage* and Dr. D. Wardle (UCT) on *The Restoration of the Capitol in AD 70*.

Review of goals - This year's committee had three principal goals: to increase membership amongst the general public; to promote contact with the Italian and Hellenic communities; and to support and strengthen the teaching of Latin at schools in the Western Cape.

While the first two aims were successfully met, it is saddening to report that, because of the financial restrictions imposed on schools opting for Model C, the teaching of Latin is in danger of being phased out at some schools. The situation, however, is still fluid and many school committees continue to offer Latin.

M.R. Mezzabotta - Chairman 1991/92

GRIEKSE ANASTASIS BY RAU

Die Departement Klassieke Tale by die Randse Afrikaanse Universiteit het met die goedkeuring van UNISA 'n korrespondensiekursus in moderne Grieks ingestel wat tans reeds groot byval vind. Daar is reeds 80 korrespondente in moderne Grieks.

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WORDS DON'T JUST MEAN WHAT STUDENTS WANT THEM TO MEAN

The Department of Classics at the University of Natal Durban is mounting a new foundation course in the Faculty of Humanities, called *Words and Ideas*. It is primarily an etymology course, presenting Greek and Latin word stems in discipline-based clusters, but also includes basic study skills such as use of dictionaries and reference works, essay-writing and citation of references. *Akroterion* wishes the UND well with its new brainchild.

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