

EDITORIAL / REDAKSIONEEL

Akroterion has now reached its seventieth year. When the journal first saw the light of day back in 1956, it was under the unassuming title *Nuusbrief*, a newsletter published by the University of Stellenbosch's Department of Latin and edited by the esteemed Professor Frans Smuts. Already the first issue acknowledged the need for a more catching name, which would also reflect the setting from which the Classics were being viewed: the Cape (of Good Hope or of Storms, depending on the mood). *Caput* was considered unsuitable, and so the editorial team settled on the Greek ἀκρωτήριο. The technical term for pedimental ornaments, Herodotus already used it for a promontory, but it can - happily - equally well refer to the topmost or prominent part of an object.

The first issue of the *Nuusbrief/Newsletter* coincided with the relaunch of the Classical Association of South Africa, with which Akroterion remains closely affiliated. Seventy years is a respectable age for an academic journal, even in a discipline with some of the longest-standing flagship titles (*Rheinisches Museum für Philologie* started in 1827; *Philologus* in 1846). We would nonetheless rather emphasise our relative youthfulness. Striving to reflect the enduring vitality of the Classics is part of our mission, and it is therefore entirely in character that the present issue features a youthful group of contributors, showcasing the talent and enthusiasm that Greco-Roman antiquity continues to inspire on all our campuses and beyond.

I would like to thank all our authors, and especially the anonymous reviewers whose efforts cannot, regrettably, be acknowledged by name. We have a new, smaller editorial committee, each of member of which played an important part in bringing this issue to print, in particular Louise-Mari Muller, whose patient efforts in communicating with authors and reviewers, version control, and assisting with the final preparation were indispensable. The occasion also invites us to call to mind previous editors from the founder to Professors Piet Conradie, Christoff Zietsman, Johan Thom, and their respective teams. Finally, our sincere gratitude to both Sjarlene and Johan Thom for many years of unwavering commitment and belief in the journal.