

## REDAKSIONEEL EDITORIAL

It has been a great honour for me as outgoing editor to be able to see this specific volume of *Akroterion* through to its final stages. Writing the editorial column gave me the opportunity to reflect on what the journal has accomplished since 2001. It is gratifying to note that with the constant support of the editorial board, the continued submissions by authors (of which only about 60% are finally published), the selfless work of reviewers, the diligence of the editorial assistants (dr. Maridien Schneider and mrs. Carien Punt), and above all the positive feedback from readers, we have succeeded in what we set out to do eight years ago: “that efforts should be made to promote an awareness of Classics among the general public” and “that *Akroterion* should cater for a broader reading public by publishing articles that have a general appeal without sacrificing their academic value” (Editorial, *Akroterion* 46:2001).

Of special interest in this volume are contributions by young and upcoming academics whose names appear in the journal for the first time. *Akroterion* is gratified to place an article from Zimbabwe, where to all accounts academia has almost ground to a halt. This contribution indicates the continued vibrancy of scholarship against severe constraints in our much-beleaguered neighbouring country.

Alhoewel *Akroterion* normaalweg nie boekresensies plaas nie, word ’n uitsondering gemaak in die geval van boeke deur Suid-Afrikaanse outeurs of outeurs wat ’n besondere band het met die Klassieke Vereniging van Suid-Afrika. Daarom is dit ’n voorreg om die resensies te plaas van twee boeke waarby Lorna Hardwick betrokke was – sy was in 2005 ’n geleentheidspreker by die KVSA-kongres in Pietermaritzburg en het ’n groot vriend en ondersteuner van die Vereniging geword.

Geïllustreerde artikels raak al meer gewild onder lesers; hierdie volume bied benewens die gebruiklike artikel oor ’n museum-artefak ook artikels so uiteenlopend as ’n studie van die manlike anatomie en Harry Potter! Oud-kollega Nick Cowley het die baie wetenskaplike bydrae gestuur oor die datering van Odusseus se terugkeer na Ithaca (en daarmee saam die datering van die Trojaanse oorlog).

The essay competition was a great success with eight entries of which three were from Honours students. Congratulations to the colleagues who succeeded in inspiring their students to write essays of such high standard. Entries included several imaginative and well-argued essays ranging from topics such as “Designing for the Greeks” to “Die vrou wat *imperator* wou wees”. Important criteria apart from correct language and style were the “sustained interest” factor, clarity of argument and a logical conclusion. Congratulations to the winner, Donatella du Plessis (University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, with her essay “A comparative study of the Dido-Aeneas episode in Virgil’s *Aeneid* and Christopher Marlowe’s *Dido, Queene of Carthage*.” Runner-up is Emily Ogram (University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg) with her essay “From tragedy to triumph: the flight and fall of Icarus”.

I have to end on a sad but grateful note by dedicating this volume of *Akroterion* to the memory of Anne Gosling. Her obituary appears on page 3. She was an outstanding classicist and a true friend to all who knew her, among whom I am honoured to include myself. Her contribution to the Classics in this country will never die. *Requiescat in pace!*

*Vobis omnibus maximas gratias ago. Valete!*

J C ZIETSMAN

*Redakteur / Editor*

**DURBAN AND PIETERMARITZBURG CLASSICS DEPARTMENTS (1968)**



*From left to right: Sim Whiteley (Rhodes, Ceylon, and Durban, retired); Barbara Bristowe (Durban); Magnus Henderson (Pietermaritzburg, later Professor at Pietermaritzburg); W. J. (Bill) Henderson (later Professor at RAU); Elbert de Kock (Professor at Pietermaritzburg, later Professor at RAU); Geoffrey Chapman (later Professor at Pietermaritzburg); Anne Gosling (Durban); Coos Cornelissen (Durban).*