VARIA DIDACTICA

APIS VERBORUM

Examiners and moderators of Latin annually note that the biggest bane of Latin matriculants is inadequate command of vocabulary. The common core syllabus prescribes active command of the 1500 words contained in Smuts *et al.*, *Lexis Latina* (Pretoria, Academica 1987), but matriculants have in the past seldom attained this goal. CASA-WP teachers have at last found a cure: for the second year running the WP-Branch teachers' sub-committee late in 1994 ran an *Apis Verborum* ("Word Bee"). Schools enter per standard. For each class a number of words from *Lexis Latina* is prescribed. Standardised texts are circulated to be taken at each school on a set date, and are marked by the local teacher. These are then submitted to the committee for moderation. Prizes are awarded not for individual achievement but for the *average mark* attained by the class as a whole. In 1994 the standard was exceptional: Jan van Riebeeck went off with first prize in Std. 10 with 98%, and also achieved two second places and two third places. The standard in the other classes was consistantly excellent: Herschel (std 9 winner) also achieved 98%, and this school's std 8 and 7 classes could not be bettered, with a 100% and 99% average mark respectively. In std 6 the overall winners were Wynberg Girls' High, whose std 8 and 9 pupils were placed second in their respective standards.

CERTAMEN LATINUM

THE LATIN OLYMPIAD - DIE LATYNOLIMPIADE

The third biennial Latin Olympiad is due to take place on 11 May 1995. As before, entrants from Stds nine and ten compete separately, for two separate sets of prizes. Sponsors this year are messrs Compucomp of Cape Town and Xcel computers of Pretoria.

'n Innovasie is dat die prysuitdeling vanjaar sal saamval met die Universiteit Pretoria se SPQR dag - sodat die organiseerders verwag dat oor 'n duisend Latynleerlinge teenwoordig sal wees as die rekenaars en beurse oorhandig word. Leerlinge berei vanjaar Ovidius se verhaal van Philemon en Baucis vir die eksamen voor. Inskrywings reflekteer die volle omvang van Suid-Afrika se reënboogtaalspektrum, met huistale van Afrikaans tot Zulu.

Akroterion welcomes contributions on all aspects of Greek and Roman civilization. Contributors are requested to use clear language and avoid unnecessary specialist terminology. Articles should not be more than 6 000 words in length. Where possible quotations from other languages than English and Afrikaans should be followed by a translation. All articles will be judged by a panel on scholarly merit, originality and appeal to a broad reading public. **Two** copies should be sent to *Akroterion*, Dept of Latin, University of Stellenbosch.

Guidelines for contributors

1. *Akroterion* uses a simplified version of the Harvard system. A publication is cited fully only once, namely in the bibliography which appears at the end of the text. All references to literature are made in the text itself. Footnotes are used only to provide additional information or arguments.

2. *Bibliography*: The following sequence is used: surname, initials, date, title, volume, edition, city, publisher, series title.

   Examples:

   (a) Schmid, W. & Stählin, O. 1929. *Geschichte der griechischen Literatur* 1.1. München: Beck. (Handbuch der Altertumswissenschaft 7.1.1.)

   (b) Grant, R.M. 1981. "Charges of 'immorality' against various religious groups in Antiquity", in: Van den Broek, R. & Vermaseren, M.J. (eds.), *Studies in Gnosticism and Hellenistic religions*. Leiden: Brill, 161-170. (Etudes preliminaires aux religions orientales dans l'empire romain 91.)

   (c) Nock, A.D. 1952a. "Hellenistic mysteries and Christian sacraments." *Mnemosyne* 5:177-213.

   (d) Nock, A.D. 1952b. "The Roman army and the Roman religious year." *Harvard Theological Review* 45:186-252.

3. References in the text are made by citing the author's surname and the date of publication and, where necessary, page references. When reference is made to classical literature, the abbreviations listed in the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (2nd ed., 1970) ix-xxii may be used; other references are to be left unabbreviated.

   Examples:

   (a) Gnomic poetry is sometimes considered a subgenre of didactic poetry (Schmid & Stählin 1929:174).

   (b) Nock (1952a) gives a well-balanced survey of the relation between mystery religions and early Christianity.

   (c) According to Plutarch (*Mor.* 415b), Hesiod was responsible for the distinction between gods, *daimones*, heroes and men.