

EDITORIAL

The University of Stellenbosch hosted the twenty fifth biennial conference of the Classical Association of South Africa at the end of June last year. To mark this jubilee event and to highlight the classical tradition in South Africa over the past fifty years, prof B van Zyl Smit addressed a plenary session on the reception of Greek tragedy in the “old” and the “new” South Africa. An expanded version of her paper is published in this edition of *Akroterion*.

Also published in this edition is a posthumous article by prof A V van Stekelenburg to whose memory *Akroterion* 47:2002 was dedicated. The editorial committee wishes to express their sincere gratitude to prof J M Claassen who, with the help of dr M Schneider, ensured that this final article by a gifted scholar and classicist was edited for publication.

The *In the Museum* section again features news about the Museum of Classical Archaeology, University of Natal. Information about Classical exhibitions and artefacts in other museums in Africa is welcome and should reach the editor by 30 September.

Thirteen essays were submitted for the *B X de Wet Essay* competition. The entries covered a wide range of topics and demonstrated the imaginative way in which students respond to aspects of Greek and Roman literature and civilisation. In quite a few cases students linked the classical past to aspects of modern life, even life in South Africa. The winning essay for the 2003 competition was “IsiXhosa Nostra - A comparison of Roman and Xhosa law of marriage” by Benjamin Green of the University of Stellenbosch. A further three essays were awarded an honourable mention: (in alphabetical order) Pieter Smit, “Vergilius se karakterisering van Camilla”, Eckard Smuts, “Toegepaste Seneca” and Bronwen Wheeler, “A comparison of Irish passage-tombs and Mycenaean tholos tombs”.

J C ZIETSMAN

Editor

