

CAPE KAAPSE LIBRARIAN BIBLIOTEKARIS

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Cultural Affairs and Sport

FOR YOU

Fresh on the heels of the Cape's wettest winter in five decades, which brought its own share of devastation — rumours started circulating of a critical national revenue shortfall in September, which was confirmed and elucidated upon by the minister of finance in his mid-term budget speech last month.

For so-called 'soft' and 'non-essential' public services on the receiving end of this message of misery, news of life-threatening budget cuts came as a predictable shock but hardly a surprise.

Institutions like museums, archives, and libraries have long weathered the storm of reduced funding cuts, which have been motivated by the purse string holders through justifications such as dwindling foot counts brought about by the advent of the digital age, in particular.

But what if the said allocation reductions have led to lower traffic numbers instead of the other way around? Doubtlessly, in the case of libraries — if no new books are being bought there is less incentive for patrons to visit. And that argument equally holds true for digitally curated content.

To continue satisfying our paymasters, more than ever before, libraries especially will in future have to re-emphasise their social indispensability, repositioning themselves — existentially as places of imagination; and physically as value-adding community centres.

Then there's the not-insignificant matter of many libraries' contribution to social upliftment as providers of internet access. Nearly no other South African public institution offers this service — which is fundamental to academic research and job hunting — free of charge. In the same way that diminished gate counts are used to feed the funding wolves, as a counter-argument it's time to similarly start quantifying online activity in our libraries.

Finally, this editorial was written before any of the English dictionaries had declared their own now-traditional word of the year. In most cases the winning choice sprouts from the most requested online search phrase, which itself would have been conceived from popular culture or sociopolitical influences arising in the past year.

In 2022, Merriam-Webster's word of the year was *gaslighting*, though — demonstrating Wordle's influence and its relentless appetite for five-letter words — Cambridge's one was *homer*.

Considering the suffering we continue to see abroad, and in our own country, the universe needs another, but infinitely more empathetic five-letter word. Not as a parting shot to 2023, but as a mantra for 2024 that spans all nations, in crying out for, and is demanded in greater measure from all of our collective being:

Human.

Here's to a happier, healthier, and more hopeful 2024.



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ON THE COVER

Camps Bay's charm

There's nothing quite like Cape Town's beaches during the summer months. For visitors seeking relaxation nestling below the mountainous landscape, for several centuries one such seaside spot was none other than Camps Bay. In 1911, JR Finch, as the compiler of an official handbook of Cape Town noted, 'the environments of the Metropolis are proverbial for their beaches, but Camps Bay stands unrivalled for its picturesque and lovely scenery'. This was in spite of little being known about this recess since its early beginnings; other than it being inhabited by Khoi (Goringhaiqua) hunter-gatherers, who were decimated by the smallpox epidemic of 1713.

Only after the British occupation of the Cape in 1806, would Camps Bay

gain prominence with its 'Marine Villa' (later the Marine Hotel) serving as a homestead for the Cape Governors — the Earl of Caledon and Lord Charles Somerset. Small cottages and a camping ground were erected in the pine forest near the beach. The opening of Victoria Road led to the rapid development of Camps Bay into a popular holiday resort, allowing ordinary citizens direct access to the seaside. Initially, only saloon carts offered transport to travellers during summer, but a later tramway line enabled more frequent and convenient excursions.

The beach enchanted visitors with its waves and calming comforts of the Atlantic Ocean. As evident from the photograph, the Cape Malay especially enjoyed their visits, dressed in stylish outfits and women strolling with umbrellas on the beach. The Malay

historian, John Schofield Mayson, once described a scene in 1861 where, 'bands of vivacious Malay picknickers, at least fifty merrymakers with fiddles, drums and big violoncellos dispersed about the rocks to catch soles and "klipfish"'. For these inhabitants, Camps Bay became a favourite outing — and the beach itself was renowned as a site for Cape Malay dances.

The **Cape Librarian** extends its gratitude to the Western Cape Archives and Records Service (WCARS) for making available its rare collection of vintage photographs for the cover images of the magazine in 2023.

Picture credit: WCARS, R1457(a)
Camps Bay

A word of thanks from our director



My fellow librarians

As the year draws to a close, it is both a time for reflection and a moment to look ahead with hope and determination. The healthy state of public libraries in the Western Cape is a testament to the enduring value of these vital institutions in our communities. In this year-end message, let us take a moment to celebrate the significant strides and acknowledge the challenges that our public libraries have faced in the Western Cape.

First and foremost, our public libraries continue to be beacons of knowledge, diversity, inclusivity, and hope. They serve as spaces where individuals of all ages and backgrounds can access a world of information, embark on intellectual journeys, and explore the wonders of literature. From the bustling urban hubs to the tranquil libraries in smaller towns, they remain pillars of education and enlightenment. This year we celebrated the opening of the beautiful new public library for the Rosevalley community in Oudtshoorn and the upgraded Bergsig Public Library in Kannaland. These two libraries were also provided with the necessary ICT infrastructure as part of our rural library connectivity project.

In the past year, our libraries have embraced the digital age with open arms, adapting to the changing needs of our society. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the transformation of public libraries into dynamic online

resources. ebooks, audiobooks, and virtual training have become integral to the library experience. This shift has enabled libraries to continue serving the community even during lockdowns and social distancing measures.

Yet, challenges persist. Libraries still grapple with funding constraints, limited resources, and the need to reach underserved communities. Ensuring equitable access to information and educational opportunities remains a top priority. By fostering a culture of reading, providing resources, and promoting lifelong learning, public libraries empower individuals to become literate, critical thinkers, and active participants in society – ultimately enhancing their overall quality of life.

As we look forward to the coming year, let us reaffirm our commitment to the growth and development of our public libraries. By fostering partnerships with local governments, businesses, and community organisations, we can enhance the resources and services available. Through increased partnerships and a dedicated focus on the needs of our diverse population, we can build an even stronger network of libraries that serves as a cornerstone of education, empowerment, and communal cohesion.

In conclusion, the state of public libraries in the Western Cape is a testament to their enduring importance. They stand as resilient institutions that have weathered the storms of time, adapting and evolving to meet the changing needs of our society. Let us celebrate their achievements and rededicate ourselves to the mission of ensuring that these vital centres of knowledge and culture continue to thrive in the years to come. Together, we can build a brighter future, where every citizen has access to the treasures that our public libraries hold.

Wishing you all a peaceful and prosperous year ahead.

Cecilia Sani, Director: Western Cape Library Service

Bathandi, babhali, bafundi besiXhosa, sihlaba ikhwelo kuba ikhwelo lityala. Sicela nithumela amabalana, amanqaku, nako nakuphi okunokuphucula, kufundise, kwazise, kukhulise, konwabise kuphinde kukhuthaza ukubhalwa nokufundwa kolwimi lwesiXhosa. Sikhuthaza ooSozilwimi ukuba imisebenzi yabo yophando eshankathelweyo ngesiXhosa ingangeniswa nayo ukuze ipapashwe njengenqaku eliyakufundwa luninzi lwabantetho isisiXhosa nabanqwenela ukusifunda.

Diazville Biblioteek se deure oop

Lees, gebruik die internet en leer selfs om te kodeer — alles gratis en onder een dak.

Inwoners van Diazville kan nou hul splinternuwe biblioteek besoek nadat die fasiliteit onlangs heropen is. Die biblioteek was deel van die plaaslike munisipale infrastruktuur wat in die slag gebly het toe onluste in November 2018 in die buurt uitbreek het. Nou is die spoggerige biblioteek gereed vir besoekers — oud en jonk.

Shemone Bokhary van Mokala Training and Development was die seremoniemeester en het, onder meer, die Minister van Kultuursake en Sport, Anroux Marais, verwelkom.

'Biblioteke is baie keer 'n veilige hawe vir ons kinders. Dit is 'n plek waar hulle kan lees en leer om hulle verbeelding te gebruik. Werkloosheid is 'n groot uitdaging en hier kan jong mense leer hoe om 'n CV op te stel en dit, danksy die gratis internettoegang, uit te stuur,' verduidelik Marais.

Benewens die internet-toegang en boeke bied die span by die biblioteek ook 'n lees-uur vir die kleinspan aan en die Graad 0-leerders van die nabye Diazville Primêr leer hier om te kodeer. Deur eenvoudige opvoedkundige speletjies leer die leerders vaardighede wat hulle uiteindelik in staat sal stel om rekenaarprogramme te skryf en op te stel. Dit was egter nie net hul kodering wat die besoekers vermaak het nie, maar die leerders het ook poësie vir die geleentheid voorgedra.



Anroux Marais en Saldanha munisipaliteit burgemeester André Truter

Amptenare van die Saldanha-baai Munisipaliteit het die gemeenskap gemaan om goed na hul nuwe biblioteek om te sien en dit behoorlik te benut.

'Toe ek 'n kind was, was 'n biblioteek 'n skaars hulpbron, maar nou is daar een in elke een van die munisipaliteit se dorpe. Dit is regtig 'n voorreg en gewis 'n aanwinst vir elke gemeenskap,' het raadslid Michael Schaffers, onder wie se portefeulje biblioteke val, gesê.

(Yaël Malgas, *Weslander*, 23/10/2023)



Keeping the lights on after school

Lights On After School seeks to raise awareness about the vital role After School Programmes (ASPs) play in nurturing the potential of our youth and children and transforming communities. Lights On After School is an annual campaign that has been illuminating the importance of ASPs since its inception in October 2000. These programmes are instrumental in offering learners opportunities to broaden their horizons and unlock their potential, ensuring they have access to quality extended education enrichment opportunities, and highlight the need for increased investments in afterschool for the millions of children who don't have access to high-quality programmes.

Hermon Library started its own after-school programme in March 2021. One-fifth of the nation's children attend public schools in rural communities — areas that persistently have the highest poverty rates; and where children often face social isolation, a lack of positive role models, and a shortage of opportunities. After-school programmes are vital because they create opportunities that help children in rural communities realise their full potential. On 26 October, Hermon Library hosted its first Lights on After School celebration with 60 children. They would visit the library every day after school for homework and reading, followed on other days by games and fun; and merely celebrating keeping the lights on for nearly three years. The library looks forward to expanding this essential initiative in 2024.

Hildegard Adonis, Library Assistant: Hermon Library

Rosevalley Public Library turns one year old

The first anniversary of the **Rosevalley Public Library** building fell on 26 July, marking a successful year since its official opening by MEC Anroux Marais, Executive Mayor, Alderman Chris Macpherson and Pierre Blaauw from the ASLA Foundation.

Thanks to the funding from the Western Cape Provincial Library Service (R8.5 million) and the ASLA Foundation (R501,000), this library has become a valuable resource for our community. The construction, undertaken by RUWACON Pty Ltd, provided employment opportunities to over 60 individuals from Ward 6.

The investment in this library has proven to be worthwhile, as it now holds the position of the third-highest circulating library within the Greater Oudtshoorn Municipality. From 1 August 2022 to 30 June 2023, the library's average monthly statistics were as follows: 1,192 circulations; 2,110 gate entries (foot traffic) and 801 photocopies made. Currently, Rosevalley Library boasts an active membership of 401 individuals who actively engage with the library's resources and services.

Maurice Langdon was appointed as the library assistant on 1 October 2022 and Sherelda Grundlingh as the librarian on 1 December 2023. Since the opening of the library, the permanent library staff have been supported by the YearBeyond Project where young people between the ages of 18 and 25 years, can apply online to gain work experience and are paid by the Western Cape Government. This year the successful candidates at the Rosevalley library are Verodene Kammies and Abrolene Maswati. After being appointed, the



two are conducting different library and holiday programmes for children in the community. Rosevalley Library is a one-stop information and recreational hub and provides free internet access. The library hall is used regularly for library programmes and community activities.

'As we celebrate the one-year milestone of the Rosevalley Public Library, we eagerly anticipate many more years of progress and growth. We extend our heartfelt wishes for continued success and luck in shaping a bright future for the library and its community,' stated Deidre Carelse, Manager: Library Services.

(thegremlin.co.za, 26/07/2023)

miscellany | allerlei | iincwadi ezahlukeneyo

Library service showcases at LIASA

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport's (DCAS) Library service represented the department at the annual Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) conference taking place at the Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West in October. This conference was attended by hundreds of librarians and individuals in the library and information science field from across South Africa, including DCAS Library Service and Archives staff. Cecilia Sani, Director of Library Services, explained that 'participation in this conference is encouraged as it serves as an opportunity for our staff to learn about best practices in their respective fields, national and international trends, and to meet experts and network with our provincial counterparts. It also gives DCAS an opportunity to showcase the great work of the Western Cape Library Service'. In partnership with the National Library of South Africa, as well as the nine Provincial Library Services, DCAS also participated in the LIASA Village exhibition on Tuesday and Wednesday, 10-11 October. The DCAS Library Service exhibition garnered a



Lorentia Thomas, Library Manager at the Drakenstein Municipality with Neville Adonis, an exhibitor from the Library Service

lot of attention from conference attendees who were very impressed by the range of services and products offered to our public libraries and the sector as a whole.

Neville Adonis, Assistant Director: Information, Research, Publication and Promotions

Opportunities for collaboration and innovation explored at Library Service Seminar

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport's Library Service held its annual Library Service Seminar in Cape Town on 28 and 29 September.

The purpose of the seminar was to enhance intergovernmental relations between national, provincial and local government, to discuss the broader plans for the 2023/2024 financial year, the challenges that face government and municipal libraries and to explore opportunities for further collaboration and innovation.

The event was attended by representatives from the 25 municipalities within the Western Cape, representatives of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, provincial partners including Provincial Treasury, the Department of the Premier, the Department of Local Government, the South African Library for the Blind, DCAS senior management and Western Cape Library Service staff.

Key developments within the library service environment were discussed. These included, amongst others, the financial state of the country and grant funding, budget cuts, VAT implications on transfers to municipalities, municipal staffing regulations, SLIMS, the outcomes of the 2022/2023 audit, and progress on the Broadband Initiative.

Innovations in libraries were shared including how some public library services are fully integrated in the community development components of municipalities with a strong focus on early childhood development, youth development and senior citizens. Collaboration with Community Arts centres was explored and the beneficial partnership with YearBeyond corroborated.

During the cheque handover ceremony, the Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport Anroux Marais handed cheques to Drakenstein Municipality, Breede Valley Municipality, Saldanha Bay Municipality and Laingsburg Municipality.



Cheque handover to Drakenstein Municipality

Minister Marais said: 'As a responsible government, we will not manage this province onto a cliff, or onto a fiscal abyss. We will stay within budget and will do more with less. In this situation, which should be with us for time to come, collaboration will be key to success. For this seminar to be worth it I appeal to you to connect with libraries in your region and see how you can support each other. In working together lies power. We must find unity in diversity.'

Ethney Links, Assistant Director: Public Library Enhancement



Western Cape Library Seminar group photo

SA books 'stolen' to train AI bots

Books by Nobel Prize winner Nadine Gordimer, Zakes Mda, and other South African authors have allegedly been 'stolen' to help artificial intelligence bots churn out texts demanded by users. Described as the biggest-ever act of copyright violation, more than 183,000 books from around the world were allegedly pirated by 'US-based Books3 dataset' and used to train generative AI tools for corporations such as Meta. Authors and publishers are now fighting back, including the US Authors Guild and 17 bestselling authors who filed a class-action suit against OpenAI and its ChatGPT bot. The books appear to have been illegally downloaded from BitTorrent, a website containing pirated books and films. The database of the pirated books used was published by a US journalist.

Mda was shocked to learn that his book **The heart of redness** was among them. 'Oh my goodness! I knew generally and vaguely that books were being used illegally to train AI. But I had no idea that my books specifically were used. Nor Nadine's. Of course, I am quite outraged,' he said. Mda said he would take 'drastic steps' through any available platform, including the Authors Guild, to get compensation from 'these thieves of my intellectual property'. 'This is a double whammy for me because I have just returned from Sweden where I discovered one of my novels has been republished without my permission by a British publisher since 2019 and I never received a cent for it,' he said.

Webber Wentzel attorney and partner Carla Collett said under South African law, the unauthorised use, reproduction or adaptation of the authors' books in South Africa would amount to copyright infringement. 'There is also the possibility that use, reproduction, or adaptation of the authors' books outside of South Africa would amount to copyright infringement, given that the Berne Convention provides for the concept of "national treatment" for the benefit of its member states.' Collett said authors could potentially sue the person behind the creation of the dataset in the country in which that person committed copyright infringement. 'The South African Copyright Act, which is now 45 years old, certainly did not contemplate artificial intelligence technologies when it was drafted. Even though there are proposed amendments to the act which should, in theory, bring the law into the 21st century, it will be interesting to see how the legislation, courts, and organisations will balance the multitude of competing rights.'



However, forensic analyst Jason Jordaan said there is immense misunderstanding about AI, which might not be a threat to intellectual property. 'It is a very complex area of computer science and even experienced computer scientists do not also always understand it, so it has become something 'magical'. The use of books like this is actually used to train large language-learning models,' said Jordaan. 'While I do believe the use of pirated materials like this could constitute an intellectual property violation, I am not convinced that the concept of AI is a threat to intellectual property. If a human reads multiple books, learns a writing style from these, and then writes a book in a similar style, but the content and story are not the same, then it is never considered a copyright violation. But now, when a program does it, we are saying it is a copyright violation simply because it is not human.'

Jacana Media spokesperson Kelly Ann Mawa said the author's plight takes centre stage when considering the exploitation of books in training AI. 'At the outset, their struggle revolves around the loss of control over their work, their words, and the potential repercussions on their earnings and perhaps even their reputation,' she said. 'The practice of using books to educate AI systems has a dual nature, with advantages and controversies,' said Mawa. 'On the one hand, exposing AI to an extensive array of literary works facilitates a deeper comprehension of human language, resulting in more authentic and human-like responses. This, in turn, yields practical benefits such as enhancing chatbots and refining speech recognition technologies. Nevertheless, it is imperative that this process adheres to legal and authorised procedures. Respecting copyright laws serves a twofold purpose: it guarantees that authors and publishers receive equitable compensation for their creative endeavours and safeguards the well-being of the publishing industry,' she said.

Spokesperson Amanda van Rhyn said Penguin Random House was unwavering in fiercely championing and protecting the human element of creativity while examining the ways transformational AI technology can help improve publishing operations. 'We encourage regulators and lawmakers to keep front of mind the important implications of these technologies for the owners of copyrighted content and the need for transparency regarding the data and content used to train AI models,' said Van Rhyn. 'Specifically with regard to generative AI models, Penguin Random House maintains that the unauthorised ingestion of copyrighted content to train such models is a copyright infringement. We call on AI developers to guarantee the transparency of their training datasets and respect the important and legitimate interests of copyright owners, including our authors and illustrators.'

Author and media personality Makhosi Khoza, who has investigated and written about 'the dying art of writing', said AI of itself is not a bad thing. 'The problem is that the advance of technology in the publishing space comes with the potential dilemma of extinguishing more jobs than it can create — no amount of spin can fix this,' he said.

(Nivashni Nair, *Sunday Times*, 8/10/2023)



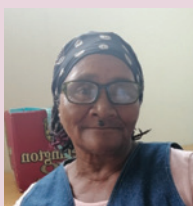
Die biblioteek was nog altyd vir my 'n lekker plek om na toe te kom, ek leer baie en ek kan my in-leef in die boeke wat ek lees. Die biblioteek spasie is altyd netjies en die boeke is goed versorg en mooi skoon. Om te lees het nog altyd vir my 'n kalmte gegee en dit laat my ook baie lekker slaap.

Soufie Fortuin, Sunnyside Biblioteek



Die biblioteek is baie behulpsaam. Dit help my seun baie met sy take en aanlyn-huiswerk. Ek geniet die geestelike leesmaterial en vind goeie materiaal wat my geestelik opvoed. Ek is versot op lees en die verskeidenheid boeke gee my ure se leesplesier.

Elmarie Mgada, Sunnyside Biblioteek



Dit is altyd lekker om na die biblioteek toe te kom, want ek kan my kennis verbreed. Die personeel is vriendelik en behulpsaam. Regtig 'n plesier! Ek is baie lief vir bak en brou. Die biblioteek het die lekkerste kookboeke. Hou aan om die beste te gee!

Dora Willemse, Happy Valley Biblioteek



Dit is altyd 'n aangename gevoel want hulle is altyd so vriendelik en die atmosfeer is so rustig! Happy Valley Biblioteek het altyd die *happiest of people!* Die rustigheid is vir my die beste. Hier kan ek kom en my boeke terdeë geniet. Hou aan om die beste diens te lewer.

Caroline Theodore, Happy Valley Biblioteek



Dit is 'n aangename gevoel om deur die boeke te kan blaai. Die lekker rustigheid maak my lees-ervaring nog meer vervullend en ek lees dan op my beste. Die biblioteek sal altyd my *safe haven* wees.

Marie van Rooy, Happy Valley Biblioteek



Dit is 'n voorreg om na die biblioteek te kom en om te sien met hoeveel blydskap die personeel hulle werk doen — dit maak my hart so bly. Hulle is vol lof en dankbaarheid! Keep up the good work guys!

Siena Swartz, Happy Valley Biblioteek



Dit is baie lekker om by die biblioteek in te kom. Die reuk van boeke trek my in en die personeel is baie vriendelik en behulpsaam en dit laat my baie goed voel. Elke week beleef ek net die beste. Die biblioteek is nou eenmaal die plek waarna ons gemeenskap kan gaan om hul kennis te verbreed en liefde vir boeke aan te kweek.

Denise George, Happy Valley Biblioteek



We are extremely grateful that we are able to use the Activity Room. This extension of the library is so peaceful and well suited to meet our group's needs. A huge thank you to Marva, Lizzie and Alida for welcoming us every week and for always making sure we are comfortable and well-cared for — you three rock and the Roxy Ladies love you!

Jean Durrell, Happy Valley Library



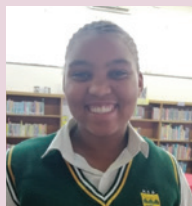
Dit is lekker om na die biblioteek toe te kom, want almal is vriendelik en dis 'n voorreg om boeke uit te neem. Hou aan met die goeie werk. Julle is tops!

Hettie Prinsloo, Happy Valley Biblioteek



Happy Valley Biblioteek is soos my tweede tuiste. Die personeel sal altyd my so spot en sê ek is deel van hulle. Hulle is altyd so vriendelik en behulpsaam. My liefde vir lees kom al van kleins af, al is my oë nie meer so goed nie, sal ek nooit ophou lees nie. Bly altyd die wonderlike mense wat julle is en die beste biblioteek.

Susanna Isaacs, Happy Valley Biblioteek



My ervaring by Happy Valley Biblioteek was en is nog altyd net goed. Dit is vir my altyd so aangenaam om in die biblioteek te wees. Die bibliotekaresse is altyd so vriendelik en behandel mens met groot liefde. Sodra 'n mens die biblioteek betree kry jy die vars reuk van boeke en die vrolike klank van sagte musiek wat jou goed laat voel.

Beulinda Ndiza, Graad 12 leerder, Happy Valley Biblioteek



Dan Sleigh: a passion for pursuing the past

by Gustav Hendrich

The greatest research attempt in the South African historiography,' remarked the late Prof Dirk J Kotze of Stellenbosch University — on one of the most monumental works ever produced on an integral historical period of South African history, namely **Die Buiteposte**.¹

As an ardent student of his promoters, professors Kotze and DJ van Zyl, Daniel (or commonly known by his nickname Dan) Sleigh rapidly proved himself as a formidable historian. The embracing of a subject matter of such a magnitude that it would eventually culminate in a lifetime of research and writing, also of fictional works — was born from an enthusiastic pursuit of history. Recognised by national and international bodies, as seen from his numerous prestigious awards and accolades, Sleigh's legacy as one of the foremost historians on the Dutch East India Company at the Cape, remains largely unparalleled.

The passing of the 84-year-old Sleigh on 28 July saddened and

shocked acquaintances and followers alike. His unwavering passion in unlocking a rather complexed, distant past, stood as a leading example to many, a passion to which Sleigh devoted much of his life.

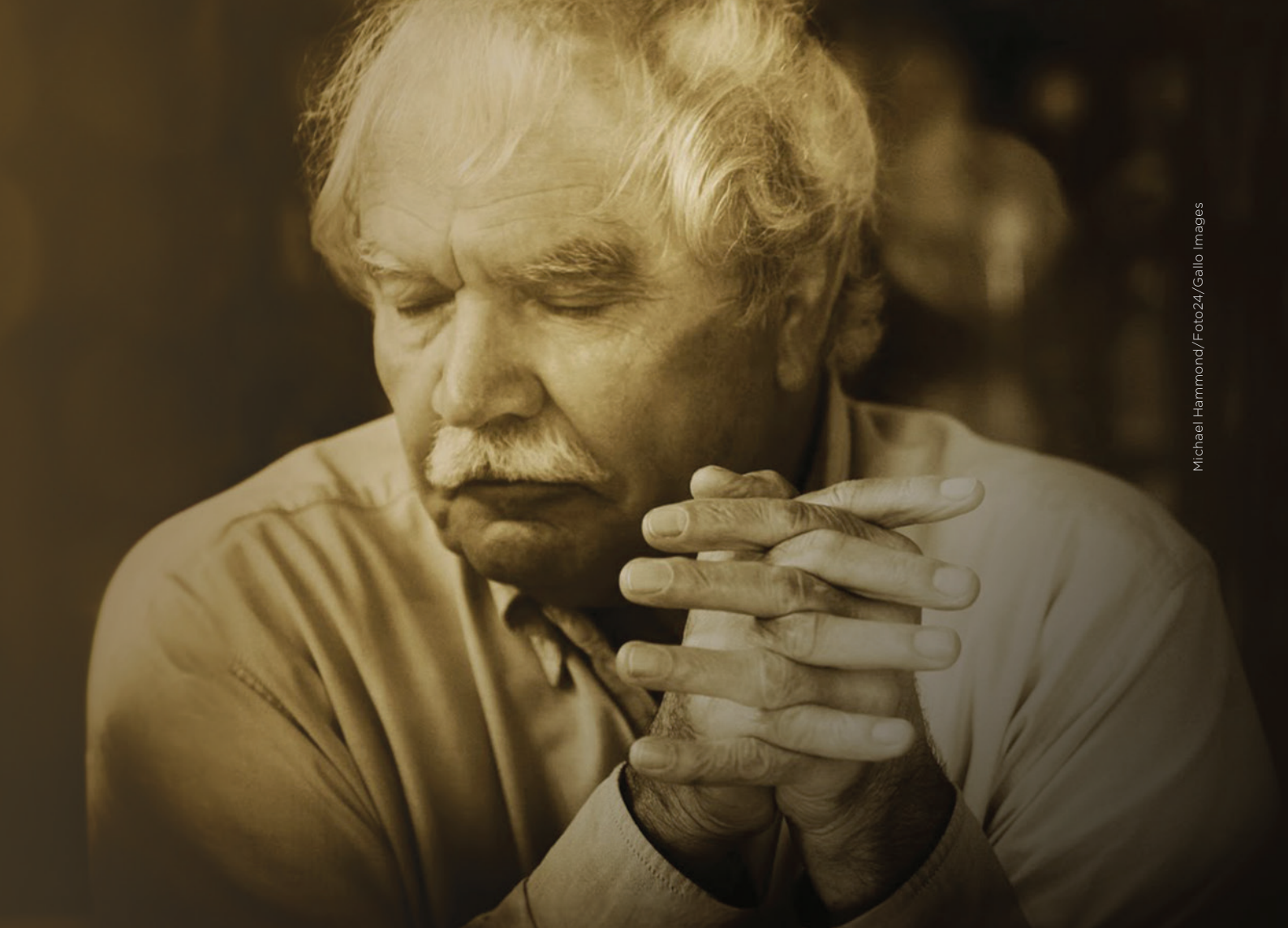
No stone unturned

What drove Sleigh was not merely the aim of obtaining his doctorate in history in 1987, but similarly his childhood interest in shipping and maritime history. His father followed from a proud lineage of Royal Navy officers, while on his mother's side there were likewise Dutch mariners; and hence the young Sleigh was from an early age intrigued about stories of the sea.² Excelling as a historian, he became one of only a few authors that could cast his fictional writings against the historical backdrop of the actual Cape history, especially as demonstrated in his outstanding fictional title **Islands**. The title provides a

more descriptive, easily understandable account of the glorious (and dark) days of the southern tip of Africa.

In delving into primary records at the Western Cape Archives and Records Service (WCARS), formerly housed at the Cape Archives Depot until 1989 when the repository was located to Queen Victoria Street — Sleigh attempted to gather the historical truth, and strove to consult a vast range of records. He gradually gained the reputation as an esteemed researcher.

In the field of paleography, Sleigh mastered reading 17th century Dutch. This proficiency became the bedrock of a lifetime of consulting original handwritten sources; and the arduous task of deciphering and transcribing texts of what the uninformed observer would consider as wholly unreadable, cursive Gothic script. Being one of only a handful of capable transcribers of these records, this rare skill served him well. Thus, Sleigh's ability to read and interpret often indiscernible texts, along with his professional academic



Michael Hammond/Foto24/Gallo Images

training as historian, empowered him to engage in the successful consultation of archival documents with an almost unrivalled aptitude.

Consulting the vast VOC records

For the purpose of Sleigh's doctorate on the *Buiteposte*, translatable as outposts or outstations, the Cape Archives Depot was, at the time of his study, in possession of the bulk of the primary sources needed for his research. The archives of the Secretary of the Council of Policy of the Dutch East India Company, or *Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie* (VOC) that ruled at the Cape from 1652 to 1795 was — and remains at present — arguably the oldest historically valuable archival group in the repository. For his in-depth study on the outposts, the mentioned group would undoubtedly become the most pivotal and scrutinised by Sleigh for its contextual information on the administration and politico-economic sphere of the Cape.

He expressed his gratitude in his dissertation to the former chief archivist, Dr GC de Wet, under whose tenure much of the archival group volumes were transferred to the former Transvaal Archives repository (today the National Archives in Pretoria) for rebinding; and for his permission to access these records despite these disruptions.³ New numbers were allocated to the bound-volumes, and therefore Sleigh often indicated both the old and new references in his footnote references.

In his observation of the Council of Policy (or C. archival group), Sleigh remarked that despite the irretrievable loss of some VOC documents of Cape origin, with the striking example of 1782, when 59 volumes of records were used for defensive purposes by the garrison to roll bullets (and speculated that these simply took up too much space in the secretary's office inside the Castle during the later British colonial period after 1806), it remains a miracle that the predominant VOC archival material remained largely intact.⁴

Used in conjunction with cartographical and supplementary sources, such as the Verbatim Copies (V.C) *Dagregisters*; and several documents relating to the VOC, which had already been extracted and transcribed by the archivists Dr George M. Theal, Rev HCV Leibbrandt and Dr Anna Boëseken, Sleigh could comprehensively study, compare and analyse the Council of Policy's original records. Yet, to many historians and researchers of the time, it was an onerous and challenging endeavor to consult and fully comprehend the actual contents, its grammar and meaning of these handwritten texts. Nonetheless, this vast archival collection would increasingly become the mainstay of the records Sleigh would consult for the next 30 years.

In researching the historical essence of the outposts, (which incidentally in no way referred to a postal service, but to manned service posts instead) that were decentralised under the direction of the VOC on the outskirts

of the Cape — Sleigh's first course of action was to consult the politico-administrative correspondences of the VOC Governors and officials then seated at the Castle. Discussions on the principle decision making, rules and regulations were to be inscribed in the *Raad van Politie* (or Council of Policy) as Resolutions. Apart from the various major subgroups, such as the *Raad van Justitie* (Court of Justice), and those of Stellenbosch and Swellendam, the elaborate correspondences of the Incoming Letters from 1649 to 1789, as well as the Letters Despatched from 1652 to 1795, were intensely consulted for detailed information on the outposts.⁵

Sleigh became an expert reader, versed in the various styles of the Dutch Gothic writing, the deciphering of almost unrecognisable, cut-off texts on the side-column pages; and obscurities caused by metal corrosion carving through some pages due to the rusting ink used in feather-pens. In his bibliography of **Die Buiteposte**, the list of consulted sources from the C. group appears as virtually endless, attesting to the enormity of the group and a study of 143 years of VOC rule at the Cape.

Outposts and the Cape as a service station

Sleigh continually engaged with his subject matter on the outposts, but also re-evaluated the terminologies of long-standing historical wordings. One such contested matter was the notion among historians of the Cape being considered a refreshment station. Yet, according to Sleigh's reasoning, the inherent meaning of the latter description refers to an incorrect impression, owed to the fact that refreshments imply the feeding and healing of fragile persons and not to the requirements of shipping and the protection of irreplaceable cargo.

With the Cape settlement being established as a strategic halfway port in 1652 by Governor Jan van Riebeeck, the VOC had only one principle purpose to secure a service station: to provide for profitable, consistent shipping.⁶ In reality, the service station was regarded as an unavoidable expense to the VOC, which was merely intended for the replenishment of food supplies and repairing of the mainly Dutch ships passing.

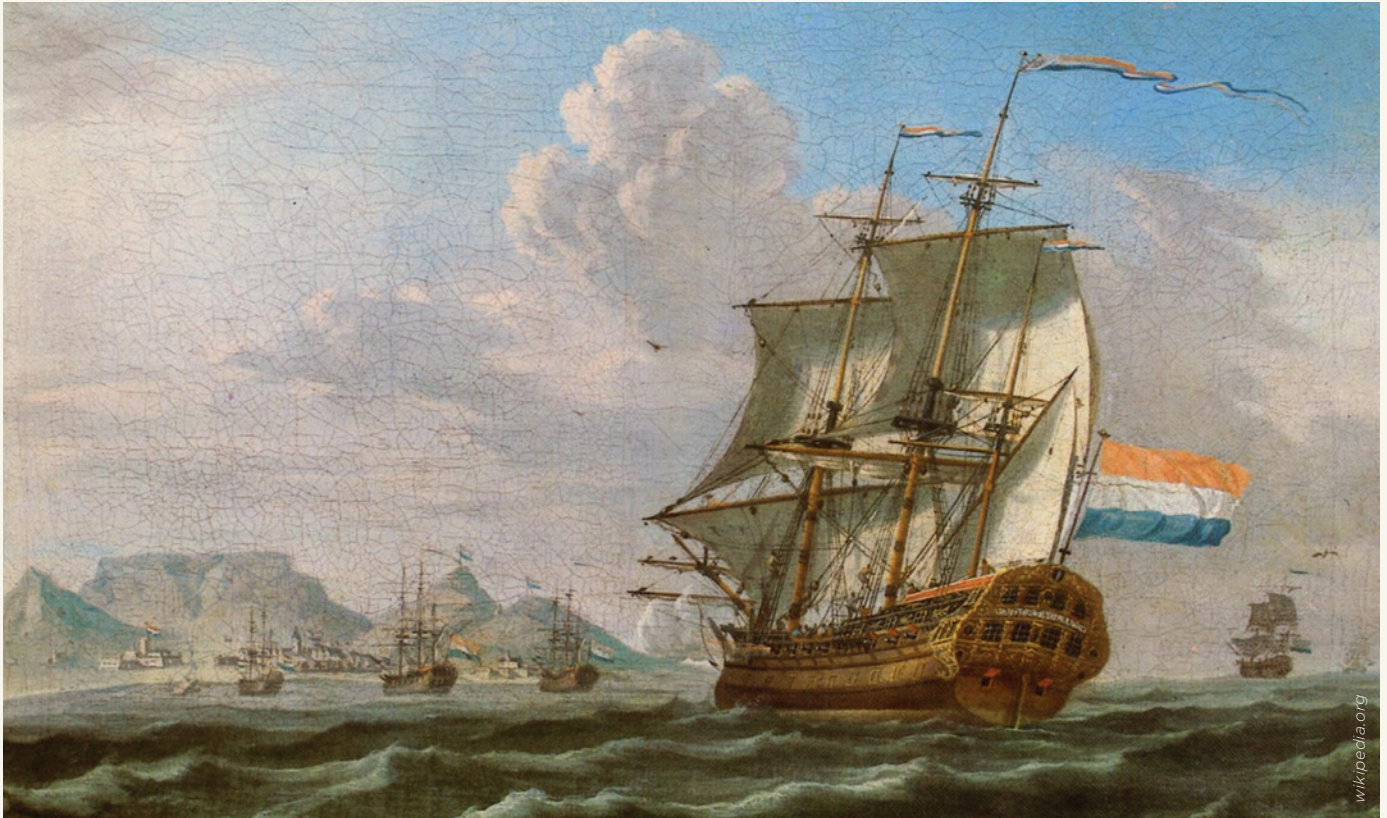
The Cape was an essential stopover on the long oceanic voyage between the Dutch Republic (today the

Netherlands) and Batavia in southeast Asia. Costs had to be kept to a minimum and as a strategic defence purpose, the Cape would be protected from other foreign maritime threats. Initially only regarded as of secondary importance, agricultural produce (with the exception of the Company's Garden) in Table Bay, the arable land was so deplorable that in some instances, ironically, production fell so far short that inbound ships often had to supply the Cape instead. In April 1654 the situation was so appalling that the returning fleet had to be recalled, because the Cape was on the verge of starvation.⁷

Only after Van Riebeeck's visits to the neighboring environs, certain locations reckoned as outposts were established in the immediate geographic proximity to the Castle, to provide a more reliable source of produce and protection from confrontation with the Khoi. The outposts were to be manned by a *posthouder* (head of post) — usually a sergeant with soldiers in a fortified guardhouse. What would evolve as the so-called *begrepen circle* (closed circle), Sleigh intended to carefully study each outpost and its viability as



Grote Atlas van de VOC, p 159



The Noord-Nieuwland in Table Bay, 1762

a supportive service station. Whilst shipping repairs and administrative functions would remain located in Table Bay, Van Riebeeck instructed for the free burghers to settle at the Liesbeeck River Valley owing to its more fertile land.

According to the *Daghregister*, a request by Admiral Rijklof van Goens to Van Riebeeck, the building of outposts was permitted after 1657, of which the latter would contain the agricultural and grazing land that the Company would own. Alongside the small fort, *Duijnhoop*, the post *Kijkkuijt* (Look out) was built at the mouth of the Salt River. To the south, a group of four posts with the names *Keert de Koe* (Turn the cow), *Coornhoop* (Pile of corn), the *Ruiterwacht* (Horseman's watch) and *Houdt den Bul* (Stop the bull) were erected; communicating with each other by means of signal flags, or by means of cannon fire for the further spaced posts.⁸ *Leeuwenkop* (Lion's head) and *Kijkkuijt* were to be

maritime observation posts: the latter would signal to the former in stormy weather of any incoming vessels.⁹

These smaller outposts closest to the city resided inside the first service station boundary, or the 'closed circle'. A grain post was built at *De Schuer* (Groote Schuur) where the most ox-cart transport would also converge; a garden post at Rustenburg and vines at Newlands.¹⁰ A post at *Groene Clooff* (Groenkloof) was set up to protect cattle. In False Bay, Fish Hoek was to be used for the provision of salt and catching of fish.

The expansion of the town and the need for ever greater produce for the VOC mercantile fleet necessitated the creation of a second border area, comprising Kuils River, Stellenbosch, Olifantshoek Valley and as far as Waveren (Tulbagh). However, persistent complaints about the insufficient food sources and their quality from both the Gentleman Seventeen (Heeren XVII) and from

Batavia in correspondence to Simon van der Stel in 1692, led to an increased demand for especially meat.¹¹ This led to a subsequent encroachment into the Khoi mileu; as a fragile barter system for trading cattle with the Dutch colonists was devised, which would be a later source of conflict as the demand inevitably created a strain on the local food source of the Khoi themselves.

Along the West Coast, outposts were created at Robben Island, Saldanha Bay, Dassen Island and St. Helena Bay; whereas on the southern coast Mossel Bay and Plettenberg Bay were established. Even further afield, outposts resorting under Cape VOC rule were erected at St. Helena Island, Mauritius and Rio de Lagoa, which were subsequently also detailed by Sleigh as essential supplementary outposts. While the Dutch government depended on the VOC as its largest seafaring company, the VOC in turn was reliant on the Cape for its trade route — and therefore for

[84]

Van Des Hoog Moggen Heere. 1707
 Van Des Heere Landen

Wij Doe Ue Weeten als Dat Wy en
 Ue Iegte Staat met De Se Boeden
 De Saaken De Mercurius bin
 als Dat De Saaken Wy
 op t ylant Madagasker bekoegt
 hebben; hebben Ue en boeden
 [redacted]
 afgehoopen en hebben wel 30 roepden
 seer schande Lijk vermoort en Wy
 met ons Lertig met bligten de
 konstapel kamier behouwen heeft en
 dat De megeral met Ue boot en schuyt
 met haer 10 na de Strant heeft gegeen
 en Dat en nog wel 50 megeral aan boort
 bin met meye en jongens; en Dat
 Wy God Almagtig Sag enragt boeden
 Dat sey Leyn genade over Wel wyt Strakke
 en wil ons verlossen wyt De Se gevangne
 weel; Daar om Loofkend Wy Ue alle
 in de Namen Des heere.

Die De sen brief maogt benden
 Die geeft en Leyn van 3 buuron
 aan Strant en kwaal ge waer schouwt
 als Dat Weertt waer schouwen
 als Dat De Swarte met De Canoo
 aan Strant tult komen met een
 vaartuygen genaemt De Canoo
 en op Strant moog oppassen als t Schip
 moogen komen te Strande want Wy hebben
 de megeral weyl gemaakt als dat
 [redacted] Madagasker weel
 W. B. Dunaar

De Heere Landen
 van Des Hoog Moggen Heere
 van Des Heere Landen
 van Des Hoog Moggen Heere
 van Des Heere Landen

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maintenance and repair of its ships. Sleigh emphasised his perception that 'the service station could not be managed without the outposts and its provisions'.¹² In addition, the commissioner general HA van Rheeede in 1685 reckoned that the entire Cape was a border area, and that the Castle and its surrounding town could not have survived without the existence of the outposts, especially in providing its shipping services. Yet, with the outpost system gradually becoming monopolistic and requiring unnecessarily prolonged and costly maintenance, it in fact delayed the development of local trade and industry.

On this point, it is noteworthy that request orders for the abolition of the outpost system were voiced as early as 1695 and 1699. As a result of the VOC's financial constraints during the mid-17th century, Governor Van de Graaff had to provide justifications for the retention of the outposts in 1788, depending on their productivity or military and strategic value.¹³ The outposts soldiered on towards the end of the 17th century, when the VOC's overall economic position became dismal. Economic stagnation caused by the conservative government back in the Netherlands, together with the devastating losses of much of the Dutch shipping during the Anglo-Dutch Wars — proved disastrous. The VOC was facing bankruptcy.

However, perseverance with outposts and refusal to reduce costs indeed showcased their value, despite a stagnating economy. Considering the pressing situation for the VOC directors in the Netherlands, the reliance on the Cape was central to the effectiveness of the Dutch trading system. Sleigh referred to the notion of the Dutch official JW Cloppenburg that 'De Caap verlooren, de Kompanie verlooren'.¹⁴ Sleigh concluded his study by stating that the outposts played a 'decisive role in the successes and eventual demise of the Cape refreshment station'.¹⁵ Apart from the resulting socio-economic crisis, their now-fragile defences would eventually contribute to the first British occupation of the Cape in 1795 after the Battle of Muizenberg, thereby heralding the end of VOC rule.

A fascination with letters in bottles

Sleigh not merely strove to grasp the history of the 57 outposts, and thereby

providing a depiction of almost the entire history of the VOC rule in a most detailed manner, but also highlighted controversial issues such as the practice of slavery at the Cape. The Cape's history of a slave society that imported labourers from Asia and the African continent, resonated in many of his writings, especially in **Islands**, in which the female slave, Krotoa (or Eva van Meerhof), was exiled to Robben Island. His detailed portrayal of the interior of the Slave Lodge is testimony to Sleight's unquestionably deep understanding of that period.

The saga of the mutiny on the Dutch slave ship, *Meermin*, was a historical event that also gripped Sleight's interest. Desperate for freedom, in February 1766 a group of male Malagasy slaves managed to wrestle control of the vessel by killing most of their captors. While the remaining survivors were contained to steer the ship, they were kept in confinement. Attempting to engineer some form of an escape, the captured crew wrote messages instructing the recipients to make three fires ashore, to intentionally mislead their slave captors into believing that the ship was just off the Madagascar coast. After waiting for the onshore current, the bottles containing the letters were dropped into the sea.

Miraculously, two bottles with the signed messages by Jan de Leeuw and

Olof Leij were discovered on the shore and handed to Johannes le Sueur and his VOC officials. The message on the cover of the letter by Olof Reij read that: '*Wie dit vind en kan lees, bring dit tereg en maak die sein wat daar staan.*' ('Whoever finds this letter, bring it back and make the signals which are written there.')

The letter had three circular burnt marks requesting for the three fires to be made. With the fires subsequently lit, the duped Malagasy slaves ordered the *Meermin* to tack towards the southern Cape shore. A confrontation with the Dutch soldiers ensued on the beach at Struisbaai and the slaves were recaptured, with most being punished by death. This incident continues as a much-debated event among historians and academics.

Along with former director of the National Library, Piet Westra, an extensive study of the *Meermin* was made by investigating the original archival letters that incredibly survived the ocean's waves.¹⁷ Sleight being fond of building ships in bottles as a pastime hobby, must have been curious about this astonishing finding. It was transcribed by painstakingly deciphering the hastily scribbled written words. Today, those letters are preserved at the Western Cape Archives and Records Service, and are accessible to researchers for the recounting of a most notorious incident in the history of slavery.

Behoue vaart!

Dr Daniel Sleight will forever be remembered as a venerable historian on the VOC period at the Cape. His determination, passion and accurate research abilities in unlocking the illegible texts, has left behind a masterful legacy.

Despite his deteriorating eyesight and health, Sleight continued unabatedly engaging in the historical discipline until his death at his residence in Pinelands. By tracing information in the enormous volumes of archival groups, especially the Council of Policy at the WCARS, Sleight not only attained exceptionally scarce knowledge, but also promoted and instilled inspiration on the historical understanding of the VOC period amongst the younger generation of scholars and researchers.

As a longstanding admirer of Sleight, the transcriber and language practitioner Dr Helena Liebenberg, shared his words after one of his lively presentations, which was to be a request to continue to fulfill the best of one's ability, namely to '*Behoue vaart!*'

Dr Gustav Hendrich is an archivist in the Western Cape Archives and Records Service



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Libraries: the lifeblood of rural SA

by Tamsin Metelerkamp and Jim Mohlala

Even in the digital age, small-town libraries provide vital services to communities, especially to rural children who consider these resources an educational lifeline.

Behind plain, unassuming walls in rural towns across the Western Cape lie rooms filled with stories and colour. Public libraries, often carefully curated by staff, offer communities access to books, computers, and learning opportunities.

It would be easy to assume libraries have lost their relevance in our increasingly digital world, but in rural regions throughout the province, they continue to serve as community hubs. For many residents, the resources to which they provide access are not available in the home, or even at school.

'[As a] rural community, it's very good having a library here because we only have one school here, with a lot of kids in one class — maybe 40, 50. So, the learners don't do well in the class [sometimes],' said Thelma Ambraal, assistant librarian at Prince Alfred's Hamlet Library.

Prince Alfred's Hamlet is a small town about two hours outside Cape Town, in the Witzenberg Municipality. Many children at the local primary school live on farms in the surrounding area, with parents who work long hours, according to Ambraal.

'The parents are working from 6am until 7pm... so there may not be enough resources at home, or your mother can't help you at home because she comes back tired and there's not a lot of attention for you. Every Wednesday, we have a [reading] programme here... and then we go to the hall to do activities, or we can go outside in the sunshine... That motivates the children to come to the library... We also have programmes during the holidays.'

Providing a library service is not without its challenges. In the town of Ceres, about 20 minutes from Prince Alfred's Hamlet, the John Steyn Library was forced to close for three years after a wall and part of the ceiling collapsed.

Soon after it reopened in October 2022, its computer equipment was stolen, according to librarian Geraldine

Warries. Residents who don't have computers at home often rely on those at the library. The equipment has since been replaced, with Warries and her team working hard to create a comfortable environment in which local children can learn.

'We put this [workspace] up for them to sit, and they can read anything they want in here, because many of them don't get that time at home,' she said. 'They're waiting for their parents to come and pick them up, [so] they sit here and they can read or do their projects.'

It is not only children who find the library a good place to get things done. Matthew Veerapen, a financial adviser at Old Mutual, often spends his workday there.

'It is a chilled environment and peaceful to work here,' he told *Daily Maverick*. 'I think it keeps children busy as well and helps keep them from doing unnecessary things on the street.'

In Gouda, a small town in the Drakenstein Municipality where many residents are reliant on seasonal farm work, staff from Gouda Library offer

reading programmes for children at local schools, crèches, and service centres, according to library assistant Andrid Pieters.

'We're in a community where everything is scarce... in this community, the people only work seasonally, so by doing outreach programmes we show love to them... We help the children with their schoolwork and with research work. From reading you get knowledge, and to sharpen your knowledge is the most important thing... [For] schoolchildren, if they cannot read they cannot go on to further education and training, university.'

Youth literacy in South Africa was identified as an area of concern, when

the release of the 2021 Progress in International Reading Literacy Study results showed that 81% of Grade 4 learners in the country were unable to read for meaning in any language.

Community hub

Staff at several different libraries reported that jobseekers in their communities often used library resources to create CVs and work on applications. Ambraal said: 'We have a lot of adults who take books... and (others) come for CVs... We have a template on the computer; you can compile your own CV. If you're

struggling, you can ask us for assistance. And so it helps you to do something for yourself.'

Simone Afrika, a user of Prince Alfred's Hamlet Library, said it had helped her in her search for work and study opportunities. '[The library] helps me... because it is a place where I come to do my CVs and applications. I want to further my studies next year and this place helps me when I am applying,' she said.

Libraries can be sites of skills development. At Mbekweni Public Library, in Mbekweni Township between Wellington and Paarl, Emihle Mwezo is working as a reading champion. This paid position forms part of the YearBeyond programme, a youth service partnership between the Western Cape government, the Community Chest of the Western Cape, and various other groups.

'I'm assisting here in the library... My focus is [on] books [and] changing the interest of children in books,' she explained. 'What I've noticed is that young people are not into books ... and they don't know the importance of the library... [When reading to children], just bring the book to life... I make sure I'm more active, so that it can [pique] their interest.'

At times, Mbekweni Library will host information-sharing sessions for the local community, according to Mwezo. These can cover subjects ranging from taxes to social issues.

'For example, yesterday the South African Revenue Service was here, just to meet the community halfway to teach them about their tax numbers, tax returns, and all that,' she said. Also in things like job opportunities, we... have websites where you can find job opportunities. The library is very important to the community.'

Across the board, the library workers who spoke to *Daily Maverick* reported satisfaction with the role they played in their areas — a role that often required the wearing of many hats.

As Ambraal put it: 'For me, it is very nice to do the things I do because I love kids; I have a heart for kids... And I love my community and I live in my community... I know my community.'

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Geraldine Warries, librarian at John Steyn Library in Ceres, Western Cape



Thelma Ambraal, assistant librarian at Prince Alfred Hamlet Library

Interpersonal relationships

by Leonard Fortuin



Humans are innately social beings, with the ability to share, develop, and sustain meaningful interpersonal relationships with others. It is this ability (besides superior mental ability) that has over time assisted us in becoming an apex species to ultimately establish incredibly complex societies. For example, it is thus not surprising that the human brain has a dedicated region for recognising faces.

Interpersonal relationships govern the functioning of our families, kinships, friendships, marriages, businesses, employment, clubs, neighbourhoods, churches, and others. Relationships are complex as they extend across several disciplines, such as communication, psychology, anthropology, social work, sociology, physics, and mathematics.

Closer scrutiny thereof would be developmentally useful, from both a personal and professional perspective.

What are interpersonal relationships?

Interpersonal relationships refer to an association between two or more individuals with (sometimes) similar tastes, aspirations, interests, and objectives. From a process perspective, interpersonal relationships pertain to the manner in which we develop and maintain effective associations with others, regardless of background or the situation in which it takes place. They can be studied through listening and observing communication (verbal and non-verbal) and behavioural actions.

Types of relationships

Relationships vary in their complexity. At their most basic level, they are an interaction between two individuals (romantic, friendship, mutually beneficial, or adversarial). On the other hand, at their most complex level, relationships are an ideological construct that governs interactions between subjects (such as socialism, communism, confucianism, and Ubuntu).

Some interpersonal relationships can also be destructive in nature; and can be characterised as being abusive, co-dependent, exploitative (which focuses on taking rather than giving), narcissistic, dominant/submissive, and others - in nature. Business and other altruistic relationships, on the other hand, focus more on achieving shared non-personal interests.

Elements critical for effective interpersonal relationships

Interpersonal relationships are fuelled by the desire for the fulfillment of social needs and expectations; as well as the satisfaction of these expectations (reward versus cost). Rewards refer to any aspects of the relationship that are positive, whilst costs are the negative or unpleasant aspects thereof.

Relationships are constantly evaluated (via relationship maintenance behaviours; and either consciously or subconsciously) through monitoring the time, energy, and emotional capital invested in the relationship.

Actions arising from such evaluations are aimed at reducing relationship uncertainty; minimising costs and increasing rewards.

Effective interpersonal relationships are underpinned by displays of understanding, courtesy, tact, patience, empathy, concern, and politeness. Any successful relationship usually reflects the following impacting elements:

- Physical proximity. Technology (such as email or instant messaging) has a moderating impact when distance becomes a factor
- Perceptions of compatibility, appearance, similarities, and interests
- Time availability
- Effective communication
- Trust, respect and transparency
- Understanding and caring
- Loyalty
- Lessons from previous relationships.

Stages of interpersonal interaction

Interpersonal relationships are organic and dynamic. The natural development stages of a relationship can be simplified as follows:

1. Acquaintance

It begins when two strangers meet and are attracted to each other. At this stage perceptions pertaining to compatibility, appearance, similarities, or shared interests take centre stage. The outcome will determine the type of relationship that will be established.

2. Build-up and continuation

Once initial compatibility has been established, people begin to trust and care about each other, based on mutual commitment. Exploration of shared interests and values results in continuous growth and development, which eventually leads to a more committed long-term relationship.

3. Deterioration

Not all relationships conclude with a satisfactory — or joyous — aftermath. Some deteriorate due to boredom, ego, jealousy, loss of



Behaviours and actions contributing towards positive work relationships

Punctuality	Appropriately dressed	Mind your language	Courtesy
Cooperative	Positivity	No ego/narcissism	No gossiping
No rumour mongering	No lobbying	Respect	Mindfulness
No judging	Precise communication	Reliable	Dependable
Flexibility	Supportive	No politics	Honesty
Patience	Tact/diplomacy	Competency	Loyalty

trust, deception, and betrayals; resulting in stunted communication and avoidance of self-disclosures. Subsequent consideration of the stakes (romantic or financial implications) of further non-continuance determines participants' desire to resolve the challenges and, if still mutually craved, re-establish the relationship. Should this fail, termination follows.

4. Termination

A relationship ends when individuals do not communicate with each other effectively (decreased interaction) and is characterised by misunderstandings and conflict that are deemed irreconcilable by either or both parties. When the costs of the relationship are finally realised to outweigh the rewards, an individual will terminate the relationship.

Interpersonal relations at the workplace

The dynamics governing interpersonal relationships in the personal domain are equally applicable within a formalised organisational context. If employees do not get along, the greater health and ambience of the workplace deteriorate, with conflict becoming the dominant feature.

Positive interpersonal relationships allow effective communication, better teamwork, and improved understanding among employees. A positive work environment increases well-being, which is critical when one considers that an individual spends around eight to nine hours at their place of employment per day.

A brief perusal of the literature provides some of the behaviours and

actions (tabled above) that contribute towards establishing and maintaining positive relationships. Constant compliance to these behaviours affords the individual a credibility profile which increases his/her ability and capacity to influence other people's perceptions and behaviours and, as a consequence, get things done.

Non-compliance with these behaviours and actions reduces individuals to people that are merely respectfully tolerated. Within a business context, such a person risks being classed as surplus to requirements.

The key for the subject to learning and assimilating the above behaviours and actions is first to learn to control their emotions. If not, there is usually an instinctive behavioural response towards self-preservation to situations (freeze, fight or flight) that are seen as threatening. Controlling/synthesising one's emotions is the first step towards attaining emotional intelligence status.

Emotional intelligence refers to the display of heightened levels of self- and other-awareness, the ability to display emphatic behaviours, and the capacity to build effective relationships. People who are less self-absorbed are more open to the emotions and feelings of others. Eye contact, facial expressions, body language, and gestures reveal a wealth of information about our own feelings, and those of others.

Conclusion

It is ironic that business, in chasing primarily non-interpersonal interests (within predominantly hierarchical structures), relies heavily on the substance and quality of interpersonal relationships. This reliance becomes

even more critical in organisations that are not only culturally and socially diverse but also operate in considerably complex hierarchies. Therefore, establishing and maintaining effective relationships is the *sine qua non* of optimal inter- (and intra-) organisational collaboration.

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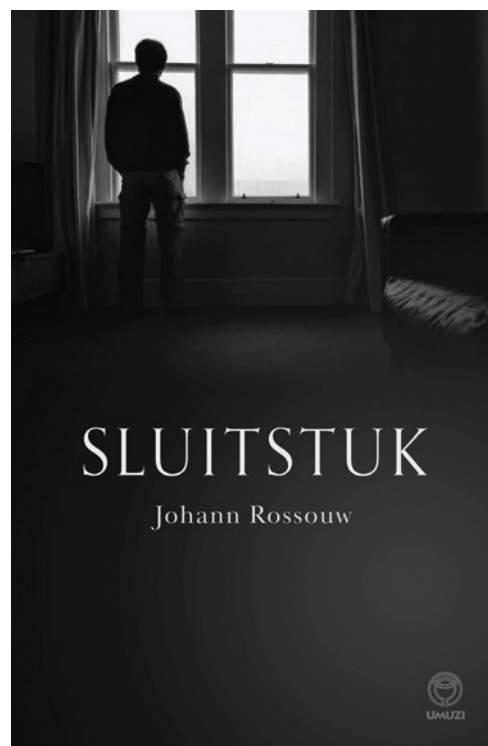
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Die *Sluitstuk* van ons Woordfees

deur Francois Verster

Die skrywer van die roman **Sluitstuk** (Umuzi, 2023), prof. Johann Rossouw, het verduidelik dat hy die titel gekies het omdat dit verwys na die laaste steen waarmee 'n gebou voltooi word, of die middelste steen (in Engels: *capstone*) wat 'n boogstruktuur voltooi. Vir hom was die skryf daarvan 'n persoonlike afsluiting en katarsis. Dit het hy aan die teoloog prof. Robert Vosloo tydens vanjaar se Woordfees in Oktober op Stellenbosch gesê, waar hulle voor 'n groep van sowat veertig luisteraars in een van die universiteit se nuutste geboue, die Victoria Hub, gesels het.

Op die oog af is **Sluitstuk** bloot die verslag van 'n onderhoud tussen 'n akademikus genaamd Markus Lourens en 'n Nederlandse biograaf, Irene Reynders — oor die skugtere afgestorwe Afrikaanse skrywer Rudolf Eksteen. Dog weet ingeligtes dat Rossouw eintlik verwys na sy eie verhouding met oorlede Karel Schoeman; dat hyself 'Markus' is, en dat die biograaf in werklikheid dr. Ria



Winters van Amersfoort in Nederland is — wat met hom oor Schoeman ('Eksteen') gepraat het. Terloops, ek wil net noem dat ek sêlf met haar oor Schoeman gekorrespondeer het: sy het my verlede jaar gekontak toe ek nog argivaris van Naspers was, oor Schoeman se korrespondensie met die uitgewer Human & Rossouw. Dit en ander ooreenkomste het my in dié boek, en die gesprek óór die boek, laat belangstel.

Elke leser sal met sekere ervarings en vooroordele na 'n boek kyk, want ons is immers die produk van ons lewens, en so het ek **Sluitstuk** met sekere verwagtinge gekoop en aandagtig deurgelees. Die omstandighede rondom Schoeman se dood is redelik bekend; ek het vantevore alles daarvoor gelees wat ek kon vind, asook 'n praatjie daarvoor bygewoon (deur die persoon wat die middel aan Schoeman verskaf het wat tot sy dood gelei het).

Ek wou dus graag lees wat Rossouw oor Schoeman kwytraak, hoewel ek besef het dat aangesien **Sluitstuk** as 'n roman aangebied word, daar 'n mate van versinsel sal wees. Ek het ook gewonder hoeveel anekdotes hy

gaan inwerk: Rossouw het voorheen in 'n koerantartikel vertel hoe die groot skrywer hul vriendskap misbruik het, maar uiteindelik aan Rossouw gesê het 'ek ken jou nie'; en die deur in sy gesig toegemaak het. Hierdie verwerpingstoneel is ook in die roman opgeneem (bladsy 143).

Soos ander mense in die gehoor, het ek toe gehoop om steeds meer te wete te kom nadat ek die boek gelees het; verdere inligting oor Schoeman as enigma wys te raak; en oor die motivering vir die skryf van **Sluitstuk**, asook in welke mate Rossouw daardeur afsluiting gevind het. Wat laasgenoemde betref, het die skrywer wêl meer berusting gevind, en hy het meer as een maal bewoê geraak tydens die onderhoud met Vosloo. Dit laat 'n mens twyfel of volle berusting bereik is, en bevraagteken hoe goed die laaste steen vasgemessel is.

Nie die onderhoud óf die boek het vir my juis nuwe insigte gebring nie, dog soos genoem, sal elke leser sy/haar eie verwagtings hê. Vosloo het waarskynlik op 'n sensitiewe benadering besluit en aangesien Rossouw, benewens 'n skrywer, vertaler en filosofie-dosent, ook

'n skrifgeletterde is, sy vrae merendeels uit 'n teologiese perspektief opgestel. Rossouw het nie juis hieraan gebyt nie, en meer van 'n filosofiese-literêre aanslag verkies, met intertekstuele verwysings na, onder andere, Plato, Dante en natuurlik etlike filosowe. In die proses, vermoed ek, het hulle bo-oor die gehoor gepraat, hoewel die paar akademië teenwoordig moontlik genoeg pitkos kon versamel. Godsdienste speel wel 'n belangrike rol in die boek, want 'daarmee word die askese en estetika verbind'.

Die vraagsteller het die roman se verhaallyn as 'bedrieglik eenvoudig beskryf' en die skryfproses is as 'n besondere 'verhouding tussen geheue en emosie' aangespreek, terwyl die skrywer van sy 'eksistensiële impuls' om die boek te skryf, gepraat het. Dit is duidelik dat die skryfproses 'n diep emosionele reis vir die skrywer was, waarmee hy reeds in 2017 begin het. Daarmee wou hy die asimmetriese verhouding tussen hom en Schoeman uitbeeld — die ongelyke status tussen meester en leerling (dalk het sy keuse van 'Markus' as karakternaam op dissipelskap gewys). Hoewel Rossouw in **Sluitstuk** van Schoeman se eienskappe as seksuele roofdier melding maak, sowel as Schoeman se poging om 'n fisiese verhouding met Rossouw te inisieer, is niks daarvoor tydens die bespreking geopper nie.

Die gesprek was vol deernis vir Schoeman en die gehoor het dit gerespekteer deur min vrae te stel, en in stede op die boek gefokus. Oor hulle verhouding het Rossouw wel genoem dat hy nie weet waarom dit plaasgevind het nie, en dit as 'n 'misterie' bestempel. Hy voel hy skuld Schoeman heelwat wat sy eie skrywerskap betref, en by die lees van **Sluitstuk** kan die atmosferiese elemente daarin beslis by die ou meester se oevre aansluiting vind.

Die bywoning van die gesprek was dan ook die sluitstuk van my en my vrou, Ilse, se Woordfees-ervaring vir 2023, die derde wat ons saam bygewoon het. Een of twee onbeantwoorde vrae ten spyte, was dit nogmaals 'n diep en verrykende ervaring.

Dr Francois Verster is 'n historikus, argivaris en skrywer



Johann Rossouw in gesprek met Robert Vosloo

Literary Awards

This 2022/23 update is compiled by Nomonde Ngqoba, Ayanda Majola and Anél Taljaard

The following is a list of recent literary awards. If you notice any errors, or if you can add to the information, please contact Stanley Jonck on (021) 483-5475 or Stanley.Jonck@westerncape.gov.za.

SOUTH AFRICA		
Academy Gold Medal for outstanding service to the English language (English Academy of Southern Africa)		
2023	Rajendra Chetty	
Alan Paton Award (see <i>Sunday Times</i> Literary Awards)		
Andrew Murray-Desmond Tutu Prize for Best Christian or theological book in any official language of South Africa		
2023	Retief Muller	The Scots Afrikaners: identity politics and intertwined religious cultures
Andrew Murrayprys vir die Beste Christelike Boek in Afrikaans		
2023	Martin Laubscher	Publieke teologie as profetiese teologie?
ATKV Woordveertjies		
Prosa		
2023	Chris Karsten	Op pad na Moormansgat
Liefdesroman		
2023	Sophia Kapp	Heimweë
Poësie		
2023	Antjie Krog	Plunder
Romanses		
2023	Corné van Rooyen	'n Ultimatum vir liefde
Spanningslektuur		
2023	Irma Venter	Die verkeerde vrou
Nie-fiksie		
2023	Eunice Visser	Die Kaapse slawe, 1652-1838

Woordwystoekening vir woordeboeke en taalgidse		
2023	Bonny Sands en Kerry Jones (hoofredakteurs)	Njuuki Namagowab, Afrikaans, English Woordeboek/Dictionary (2022)
Barry Ronge Fiction Award (see <i>Sunday Times</i> Literary Awards)		
City Press Tafelberg Non-fiction Award (biennial)		
2023	No award	
Desmond Tutu-Gerrit Brandprys vir Debuutwerk		
2023	An-Mari Do Carmo	Toe als groen was
Dinaane Debut Fiction Award (formerly the European Union Literary Award)		
2023	Martina Vidaić	
Ds Pieter van Drimmelenmedalje		
2023	Geen toekening nie	
Elizabeth Eybers Prize for Afrikaans and English Poetry (Media24 Books)		
2023	No award	
Eugène Maraisprys vir Poësie		
2023	Antjie Krog	Plunder
Eugène Maraisprys vir Prosa		
2023	Kirby van der Merwe	Eugene
European Union Literary Award for Best First Novel (see Dinaane Debut Fiction Award)		
Gustav Prellerprys		
Volgende toekening 2025		
Herman Charles Bosman Prize for English Literature (Media24 Books)		
2023	No award	
Hertogprys vir Poësie		
2023	Antjie Krog	Plunder
The Humanities and Social Sciences Book Awards (National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences - NIHSS)		
Novel		
2023 (shared)	Sue Nyathi	An angel's demise
	Veronique Tadjo	In the company of men
	Chantal Stewart	The veil of Maya
Fiction Edited Volume		
2023	No award	

Short stories		
2023	Terry-Ann Adams	White chalk
Poetry		
2023	Sarah Lubala	A history is disappearance
Non-fiction Biography		
2023	Kumi Naidoo	Letters to my mother: the making of a troublemaker
Non-fiction Monograph		
2023 (shared)	June Bam	Ausi told me: Why Cape herstorographies matter
	Isabel Hofmeyr	Dockside reading: hydrocolonialism and the custom house
	Pfunzo Sidogi	Mihloti ya Ntsako: journeys with Bongi Dhlomo collection
Non-fiction Edited Volume		
2023	Cynthia Kros, John Wright, Mbongisei Buthelezi and Helen Ludlow	Archives of times past: conversations about South Africa's deep history
Imbali Award for excellence in romance writing (Romance writers Organisation of Southern Africa - ROSA)		
2023	No award	
Imbali Toekening vir uitmuntendheid in die skryf van romanses (ROSA)		
2023	Geen toekening nie	
Ingrid Jonkerprys vir Poësie (Afrikaans)		
2023	Dominique Botha	Donkerberg
Jan H Maraisprys		
2023	Prof Louise Viljoen	
Jan Rabie en Marjorie Wallace-beurs		
2023	Brian Fredericks	
Jan Rabie/Rapportprys vir Innoverende Afrikaanse Letterkunde		
2023	Geen toekening nie	
kykNET-Rapportboekpryse		
Fiksie		
2023	Kirby van der Merwe	Eugene
Nie-fiksie		
2023	Eunice Visser	Die Kaapse slawe, 1652-1838
Debuut en tweede prosawerke		
2023	Kirby van der Merwe	Eugene
Verfilingsprys		
2023	Chris Karsten	Op pad na Moormansgat
Boekresensente van die jaar		
2023 Fiksie	Deborah Steinmair	<i>Antjie plunder met twee nuwe bundels: Die Vorstin van Vers laat ons binneste ruk deur die sublieme</i> (oor Plunder en Vetplantfeetjies deur Antjie Krog in <i>Vrye Weekblad</i> , 21 Oktober 2022)
2023 Nie-fiksie	Theodore Rossouw	Twoe lewens (deur Elise Bishop, 'n resensie, LitNet, 21 November 2022)
2023 Prys vir langer resensies	Geen toekening	
Louis Hiemstraprys vir Nie-fiksie (driejaarlik)		
2023	Eunice Visser	Die Kaapse slawe, 1652-1838
NB-Uitgewers Groot Afrikaanse Romanwedstryd		
Volgende toekening in 2024		
Nielsen Booksellers' Choice Award (see SA Book Awards)		
Olive Schreiner Prize for Poetry (English Academy of Southern Africa)		
2022/23	Jacques Coetzee	An illuminated darkness

Philida Literary Award		
2023	Nathan Trantraal	
Protea Boekhuisprys		
2023	Hetta van Deventer-Terblanche	Die koskultuur en geskiedenis van die Westpalm-reseptemanuskrip (Manuskrip SB 522), circa 1719-1888
Recht Malan Prize (Media24 Books)		
2023	No award	
SA Book Awards		
Overall winner		
2023	Riaan Manser	My first African adventure
Adult fiction category		
2023	Sally Andrew	Recipes for love and murder
Adult non-fiction category		
2023	Louisa Holst	The South African air fryer cookbook
Sol Plaatje Prize for Translation (English Academy of Southern Africa)		
2022/23	No award	
South African Literary Awards (SALAs)		
Lifetime Achievement Literary Awards		
2023	Pitika Ntuli Diana Ferrus	
Chairperson's Literary Award		
2023	Elinor Sisulu	
Posthumous Literary Award		
2023	Seetsele Modiri Molema	Solomon Tshekiso Plaatje: Morata Baabo
K Sello Duiker Memorial Literary Award		
2023	Dimakatso David Mokwena	Here comes the gay king
Literary Translator's Award		
2023	No award	
First-time Published Awards		
2023	Shevlyn Mottai	Across the Kala Pani
	Ntloro Charlotte Pebane	Lerato la Lepheko
	Ayanda Chris Mntwapi	Bohlulwe Kukusa
Creative Non-fiction Awards		
2023	Mandla J Radebe	The lost prince of the ANC: the life and times of Jabulani Nobleman 'Mzala' Nxumalo
	Siphiwo Mahala	Can Themba: the making and breaking of the intellectual tsotsi, a biography
Poetry Awards		
2023	Michèle Betty	Dark horse
	Anelisa Thengimfene	Amajingiqhiw'entlalo
	Kaka Mokakale	Tswina ya Poko
Nadine Gordimer Short Story Award		
2023	Terry-Ann Adams	White chalk
Novel Awards		
2023	Thivhusiwi G Tshindane Tshivhula	Hone Hu Tshi Tea U Maliwa Nga Vhugai?
	Kobate John Sekele	Re Hwile la Pitsana
	Sue Nyathi	An angel's demise
Strelitzia Award for unpublished romance authors (ROSA)		
2023	No award	
Sunday Times Literary Awards		
Non-fiction Prize		
2023	Bulelwa Mabasa	My land obsession: a memoir

Fiction Prize		
2023	CA Davids	How to be a revolutionary
Thomas Pringle Awards (English Academy of Southern Africa)		
Next award 2024		
UCT Book Award (University of Cape Town)		
2023	No award	
UJ Prys vir Afrikaans		
2023	Antjie Krog	Plunder
UJ Debuutprys		
2023	Carien Smith	Bot
UJ Main Prize (English)		
2023	CA Davids	How to be a revolutionary
UJ Debut Prize (English)		
2023	Pulane Mlilo Mpondo	Things my mother left me
UJ Prize for Creative Writing in isiZulu		
Main Prize		
2023	Ndabayakhe William Zulu	Emzileni KaShaka
Debut Prize		
2023	No award	
UJ Prize for Creative Writing in Sesotho sa Leboa		
Main Prize		
2023	Moses Seletisha	Eto la Mofaladi
Debut Prize		
2023	Ntloro Charlotte Pebane	Lerato la Lepheko
UJ Prize for Literary Translation		
2023	Henrietta Rose-Innes	A library to flee (Die biblioteek aan die einde van die wêreld)
WA Hofmeyrprys (Media24 Boeke)		
2023	Geen toekening nie	

GREAT BRITAIN

Arthur C Clarke Award		
2023	Ned Beaman	Venomous lumpsucker
Authors' Club Best First Novel Award		
2023	Ayanna Lloyd Banwo	When we were birds
Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction (see Women's Prize for Fiction)		
2023	Barbara Kingsolver	Demon Copperhead
Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-fiction (formerly the Samuel Johnson Prize)		
2023	John Vaillant	Fire weather: a true story from a hotter world
Betty Trask Prize (Society of Authors award for first novels, traditional or romantic, non-experimental, by writers under 35)		
2023	Daniel Wiles	Mercia's take
Betty Trask Awards (Society of Authors awards for young authors of 'outstanding literary merit')		
2023	Paddy Crewe	My name is Yip
	Imogen Crimp	A very nice girl
	Maddie Mortimer	Maps of our spectacular bodies
Boardman Tasker Award for Mountain Literature		
2023	Katie Brown	Unreveled
Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize for a Comic Novel		
2023	Bob Mortimer	The satsuma complex
Booker Prize (formerly Man Booker Prize)		
2023	Paul Lynch	Prophet song

Bookseller/Diagram Prize for Oddest Book Title of the Year		
2022	Lindsay Bryde and Tommy Mayberry	RuPedagogies of realness: essays on teaching and learning with RuPaul's drag race
British Book Industry Awards (see British Book Awards)		
British Book Awards (Nibbies)		
Book of the Year (overall winner chosen from the six category winners)		
2023	Davina McCall and Naomi Potter	Menopausal: the positive roadmap to your second spring
Fiction Book of the Year		
2023	RF Kuang	Babel: or the necessity of violence: an Arcane history of the Oxford translator
Debut Fiction Book of the Year		
2023	Louise Kennedy	Trespasses
Crime and Thriller Book of the Year		
2023	Janice Hallett	The Twyford code
Non-fiction: Narrative Book of the Year		
2023	Katherine Rundell	Super-infinite: the transformation of John Donne
Non-fiction: Lifestyle Book of the Year		
2023	Davina McCall and Naomi Potter	Menopausal: the positive roadmap to your second spring
Audiobook of the Year		
2023	Viola Davis	Finding me: a memoir
Children's Fiction Book of the Year		
2023	SF Said and Dave McKean	Tyger
Children's Illustrated and Non-Fiction Book of the Year		
2023	Alex George and Dave Pratt	A better day: your positive mental health handbook
Author of the Year		
2023	Bonnie Garmus	Lessons in chemistry
Illustrator of the Year		
2023	Harry Woodgate	Grandad's camper
British Fantasy Awards		
Robert Holdstock Award for Best Fantasy Novel		
2023	Simon Jimenez	The spear cuts through water
Best Novella		
2023	Rhiannon A Grist	The queen of the high fields
August Derleth Award for Best Horror Novel		
2023	Sarah Gailey	Just like home
Best Non-fiction		
2023	Eugen Bacon	An earnest blackness
Best Newcomer of the Year		
2023	Hiron Ennes	Leech
British SF Association Award for Best Novel		
2022	Adrian Tchaikovsky	City of last chances
Christopher Bland Prize (Royal Society of Literature Prize for debut novelists or popular non-fiction writers over 50)		
2023	Peterson Joseph	The secret diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho
Costa Awards (formerly Whitbread Awards)		
Awards discontinued in 2022		
Crime Writers' Association Awards		
CWA Goldsboro Gold Dagger for Best Crime Novel		
2023	George Dawes Green	The kingdoms of Savannah
CWA Ian Fleming Steel Dagger for Best Thriller		
2023	John Brownlow	Agent seventeen

Crime fiction in Translation (formerly CWA International Dagger)		
2023	Javier Cercas (author) and Anne McLean (translator)	Even the darkest night
CWA Historical Dagger		
2023	DV Bishop	The darkest sin
CWA John Creasey (New Blood) Dagger for Best First Crime Novel		
2023	Hayley Scrivenor	Dirt town
CWA Gold Dagger for Non-fiction		
2023	Wendy Joseph	Unlawful killing: life, love and murder: trials at the Old Bailey
Debut Dagger		
2023	John Brownlow	Agent seventeen
Dagger in the Library		
2023	Sophie Hannah	The couple at the table
CWA Diamond Dagger for Lifetime Achievement		
2023	Walter Mosley	
Desmond Elliott Prize for New Fiction		
2023	No award	
Dylan Thomas Prize for Young Writers (Swansea University, Wales)		
2023	Arinze Ifeakandu	God's children are little broken things
Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography (Society of Authors)		
2023	Ramchandra Guha	Rebels against the Raj: Western fighters for Indian's freedom
Encore Award for Best Second Novel (Royal Society of Literature)		
2023	Daisy Hildyard	Emergency
Folio Prize (see Rathbones Folio Prize)		
2023	Margo Jefferson	Constructing a nervous system
Forward Poetry Prizes		
Forward Prize for Best Collection		
2023	Jason Allen-Paisant	Self-portrait as Othello
Felix Dennis Prize for Best First Collection		
2023	Momtaza Mehri	Bad diaspora poems
Galaxy National Book Awards (see British Book Awards)		
Goldsmiths Prize (Goldsmiths College)		
2023	Benjamin Myers	Cuddy
James Tait Black Memorial Prizes		
Biography		
2023	Darryl Pinckney	Come back in September: a literary education on West Sixty-Seventeen Street, Manhattan
Fiction		
2023	Barbara Kingsolver	Demon Copperhead
Jhalak Prize (a prize for a book published in the UK by a writer of colour - BAME)		
2023	Travis Alabanza	None of the above
McKitterick Prize (Society of Authors award for a first novel by an author over 40)		
2023	Louise Kennedy	Trespasses
Man Booker Prize (see Booker Prize)		
Not the Booker Prize		
Not yet awarded		
Ondaatje Prize (Royal Society of Literature)		
2023	Anthony Anaxagorou	Heritage aesthetics
Orange Prize for Fiction (see Women's Prize for Fiction)		
Orwell Book Prize for Political Fiction		
2023	Tom Crewe	The new life

Orwell Book Prize for Political Writing		
2023	Peter Apps	Show me the bodies: how we let Grenfell happen
PEN/Ackerley Prize for Autobiography (English PEN)		
2023	Nancy Campbell	Thunderstone: a true story of losing one home and discovering another
PEN/Pinter Literary Prize (English PEN)		
2023	Michael Rosen	
The People's Book Prize (by public vote - no judges)		
Fiction		
2022/23	Philip Pavlović	For the love of Roman
Non-fiction		
2022/23	Sophie Pavelle	Forget me not: finding the forgotten species of climate-change Britain
Beryl Bainbridge Award for Best First-time Author		
2022/23	Stephen Keeler	50 words for love in Swedish: a memoir in fragments of a foreign language
Best Achievement Award		
2022/23	Claudia Hammond	The keys to kindness: how to be kinder to yourself, others and the world
Rathbones Folio Prize (formerly the Folio Prize)		
2023	Margo Jefferson	Constructing a nervous system
Romantic Novelists' Association Awards		
Historical romantic novel		
2023	Natasha Lester	The three lives of Alix St Pierre
Contemporary romantic novel		
2023	Jane Lowering	A cottage full of secrets
Debut romantic novel		
2023	Julie Haworth	Always by your side
Jackie Collins Romantic thriller award		
2023	Dani Atkins	Six days
Fantasy romantic novel		
2023	Sara Downing	I let you fall
Romantic comedy		
2023	Emily Kerr	Take a chance on Greece
Popular romantic fiction award		
2023	Heidi Swain	A Christmas celebration
Royal Society Insight Investment Science Book Prize (formerly Royal Society Winton Prize for Science Book)		
2023	Ed Young	An immense world: how animal senses reveal the hidden realms around us
Saltire Society Scottish Book of the Year		
2022	David Alston	Slaves and highlanders: silenced histories of Scotland and the Caribbean
Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-fiction (see Baillie Gifford Prize)		
Somerset Maugham Awards (Society of Authors)		
2023	Travis Alabanza	None of the above
	Sussie Anie	Fill a yellow house
	Mya-Rose Craig	Birdgirl
	Jay Gao	Imperium
	Gurnaik Johal	We move
Moses McKenzie	An olive grove in ends	
Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award		
2023	Tom Benn	Oxblood

The Telegraph Sports Book Awards

The Telegraph Sports Book of the Year (overall winner)

2023	Steve Thompson	Unforgettable: rugby, dementia and the fight of my life
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Autobiography of the Year

2023	Beth Mead	Lioness: my journey to glory
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Clays Sports Writing Award

2023	Gary Neville	The people's game: a view from a front seat in football
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The Cricket Book of the Year

2023	Nicholas Brookes	An island's eleven: the story of Sri Lankan cricket
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The Football Book of the Year

2023	Matt Dickinson	1999: Manchester United, the treble and all that
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The Rugby Book of the Year

2023	Steve Thompson	Unforgettable: rugby, dementia and the fight of my life
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Children's Sports Book of the Year

2023	James Campbell and Rob James	The funny life of football
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Pinsent Masons International Autobiography of the Year

2023	Steve Thompson	Unforgettable: rugby, dementia and the fight of my life
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Illustrated Book of the Year

2023	Grant Young	Heart of Midlothian, 51 shirts
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Sports Entertainment Book of the Year

2023	Mark Wood	The wood life
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Cycling Book of the Year

2023	Jeremy Wilson	Beryl: in search of Britain's greatest athlete
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Theakston Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year Award

2023	MW Craven	The botanist
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TS Eliot Prize for Poetry (The Poetry Book Society)

2022	Anthony Joseph	Sonnets for Albert
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Wales Book of the Year (English language)

2023	Caryl Lewis	Drift
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Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction

2023	Lucy Caldwell	These days
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Waterstones Book of the Year

2023	Not yet awarded	
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Waterstones Scottish Book of the Year

2023	SG Maclean	The bookseller of Inverness
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William Hill Sports Book of the Year Award

2022	Jeremy Wilson	Beryl: in search of Britain's greatest athlete
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Women's Prize for Fiction (formerly Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction and Orange Prize for Fiction)

2023	Barbara Kingsolver	Demon Copperhead
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UNITED STATES

Agatha Awards (Malice Domestic awards for traditional mysteries)

Best contemporary novel

2022/23	Louise Penny	A world of curiosities
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Best first novel

2022/23	Korina Moss	Cheddar off dead
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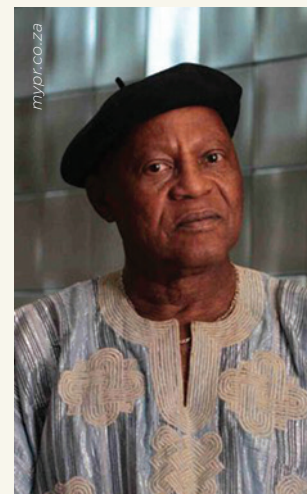
Rajendra Chetty



Antjie Krog



Kirby van der Merwe



Pitika Ntuli



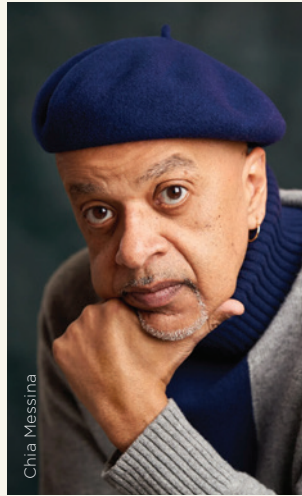
Eunice Visser



CA Davids



Barbara Kingsolver



James McBride



Beverly Gage



RF Kuang



Robtel Neajai Pailey



Kwame Alexander

Best historical novel		
2022/23	Amanda Fowler	Because I could not stop for death
Best non-fiction		
2022/23	Diane Vallere (editor)	Promophobia: taking the mystery out of promoting crime fiction
Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction		
2023	Julie Otsuka	The swimmers
Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Non-fiction		
2023	Ed Yong	An immense world: how animal senses reveal the hidden realms around us
Astounding Award for Best New Writer (formerly John W Campbell Award for Best New Writer)		
2023	Travis Baldree	
Bram Stoker Awards for Horror (Horror Writers Association)		
Novel		
2023	Gabino Iglesias	The devil takes you home
First novel		
2023	Christi Nogle	Beulah
Graphic novel		
2023	James Aquilone	Kolchak: the night stalker: 50th anniversary
Young adult		
2023	Robert P Ottone	The triangle
Non-fiction		
2023	Tim Waggoner	Writing in the dark: the workbook
Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award (Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America)		
2023	Robin McKinley	
Edgar Awards (Mystery Writers of America)		
Best novel		
2023	Danya Kukafka	Notes on an execution
Best first novel by an American author		
2023	Eli Cranor	Don't know tough
Best paperback original		
2023	Joe Hart	Or else
Hugo Award for Best Science Fiction Novel		
2023	T Kingfisher	Nettle and bone
John W Campbell Award for Best New Writer (see Astounding Award)		
Kirkus Prizes		
Fiction		
2023	James McBride	The heaven & earth grocery store
Non-fiction		
2023	Hector Tobar	Our migrant souls
Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction		
2023	George Saunders	
Locus Awards		
Science fiction novel		
2023	John Scalzi	The Kaiju preservation society
Fantasy novel		
2023	RF Kuang	Babel: or the necessity of violence: an Arcane history of the Oxford translator
Horror novel		
2023	T Kingfisher	What moves the dead
First novel		
2023	Ray Nayler	The mountain in the sea

Best YA novel		
2023	Charlie Jane Anders	Dreams bigger than heartache
Mary Higgins Clark Award (Mystery Writers of America)		
2023	BR Myers	A dreadful splendor
Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature		
2023	Sacha Lamb	When the angels left the old country
National Book Awards		
Fiction		
2023	Justin Torres	Blackouts
Non-fiction		
2023	Ned Blackhawk	The rediscovery of America: Native peoples and the unmaking of US history
Poetry		
2023	Craig Santos Perez	from unincorporated territory
Translated literature		
2023	Stênio Gardel and Bruna Dantas Lobato	The words that remain
Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters		
2023	Rita Dove	
Literarian Award for outstanding service to the American literary community		
2023	Paul Yamazaki	
Young people's literature		
2023	Dan Santat	A first time for everything
National Book Critics' Circle Awards		
Fiction		
2023	Ling Ma	Bliss Montage
Non-fiction		
2023	Isaac Butler	The method: how the twentieth century learned to act
Biography		
2023	Beverly Gage	G-Man: J Edgar Hoover and the making of the American century
John Leonard Prize for an outstanding debut book in any genre		
2022/23	Morgan Talty	Night of the living Rez
Autobiography		
2022/23	Hua Hsu	Stay true: a memoir
Criticism		
2022/23	Timothy Bewes	Free indirect: the novel in a postfictional age
Poetry		
2022/23	Cynthia Cruz	Hotel Oblivion
Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award		
2022/23	Joy Harjo	
Nebula Awards		
Novel		
2022/23	RF Kuang	Babel: or the necessity of violence: an Arcane history of the Oxford translator
Novella		
2022/23	CL Polk	Even though I knew the end
PEN/Bellwether Prize (for socially engaged fiction)		
2023	Fabienne Josaphat	Kingdom of tomorrow
PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction		
2023	Yiyun Li	The book of goose
PEN/Jean Stein Book Award		
2023	Percival Everett	Dr No

PEN/Open Book Award (for a book-length work by an author of colour)		
2023	Hafizah Augustus Geter	The black period
PEN/Robert W Bingham Prize (for a debut short story collection)		
2023	Morgan Talty	Night of the living Rez
Philip K Dick Award for Best Original Science Fiction Paperback Novel		
2023	Kimberley Unger	The extractionist
Poet Laureate		
2023 - 2025	Ada Limón (appointed for a second term)	
Pulitzer Prizes		
Fiction		
2023 (shared)	Barbara Kingsolver Hernan Diaz	Demon Copperhead Trust
General non-fiction		
2023	Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa	His name is George Floyd: One man's life and the struggle for racial justice
Poetry		
2023	Carl Phillips	Then the war: and selected poems, 2007-2020
Biography		
2023	Beverly Gage	G-Man: J Edgar Hoover and the making of the American century
Drama		
2023	Sanaz Toossi	English
History		
2023	Jefferson Cowie	Freedom's dominion: a saga of white resistance to federal power
RITA Awards (Romance Writers of America - see Vivian Award)		
The Strand Critics' Awards		
Best mystery novel		
2023	Not yet awarded	
Best debut mystery novel		
2023	Not yet awarded	
Vivian Award (replaces RITA Awards in 2022)		
2023	No award	

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

ABA Booksellers' Choice Awards (Australia)		
Booksellers' choice adult non-fiction		
2023	Niki Savva	Bulldozed: Scott Morrison's fall and Anthony Albanese's rise
Adult fiction book of the year		
2023	Robbie Arnott	Limberlost
August Prize for best fiction book of the year (Sweden)		
2022	Ia Genberg	Detaljerna
Aurealis Awards (Australia)		
Science fiction novel		
2022	Matt Ottley	The tree of ecstasy and unbearable sadness
Horror novel		
2022	Geneve Flynn	They call me mother
Fantasy novel		
2022	Aiki Flinthart	The icecutter's daughter
Aurora Award for Best Novel (Canada)		
2023	Kate Heartfield	The embroidered book

Bank Windhoek Doek Literary Awards (biennial)		
Fiction		
2023	Roxane Bayer	Letters to Chloe
Non-fiction		
2023	Nina van Zyl	Motherhood
Poetry		
2023	Veripamu Nandee Kangumine	<i>The bee sting, There isn't a word in your language for being touched and The jackal who prepares you for marriage</i>
Caine Prize for African Writing (for a short story)		
2023	Bougouma Diene and Woppa Diallo	A soul of small places
Cervantes Prize (for lifetime achievement - Spain)		
2023	Luis Mateo Díez	
Crime fiction in translation (formerly CWA International Dagger)		
2023	Javier Cercas (author) and Anne McLean (translator)	Even the darkest night
CWA International Dagger (see Crime fiction in translation)		
Franz Kafka Prize		
2023	Not yet awarded	
Gerald Kraak Award (The Other Foundation and Jacana Literary Foundation)		
2023	OluTimehin Adegbeye	Mothers and men
German Book Prize (Germany)		
2023	Tonio Schachinger	Echtzeitalter
Governor-General's Literary Award for English Fiction (Canada)		
2023	Anuja Varghese	Chrysalis
International Dublin Literary Award (formerly International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award)		
2023	Katja Oskamp (translated by Jo Heinrich)	Marzahn, mon amour
International Prize for Arabic Fiction (Abu Dhabi)		
2023	Zahran Alqasmi	The water diviner
Irish Book Awards (Ireland)		
Novel of the Year		
2023	Paul Murray	The bee sting
Best Irish-published Book of the Year		
2023	Sarah Binchy (editor)	Sunday miscellany: a selection 2018-2023
Non-fiction Book of the Year		
2023	Mark O'Connell	A thread of violence
Lifestyle Book of the Year		
2023	Roz Purcell	The hike life
Cookbook of the Year		
2023	Mark Moriarty (author) and Clíodhna Prendergast (photographer)	Flavour
Sports Book of the Year		
2023	Eimear Ryan	The grass ceiling
Biography of the Year		
2023	Katriona O'Sullivan	Poor
Children's Book of the Year: Junior		
2023	Peter Donnelly	The president's dog
Children's Book of the Year: Senior		
2023	Lucina Jacob and Sarah Webb (editors) and Ashwin Chacko (illustrator)	I am the wind: Irish poems for children everywhere
Teen and Young Adult Book of the Year		
2023	Leon Diop and Briana Fitzsimons (authors) and Jessica Louis (illustrator)	Black and Irish: legends, trailblazers and everyday heroes
Crime Fiction Book of the Year		
2023	Liz Nugent	Strange Sally Diamond

Popular Fiction Book of the Year		
2023	Sophie White	My hot friend
Newcomer of the Year		
2023	Colin Walsh	Kala
Author of the Year		
2023	Claire Keegan	
ITW Thriller Awards (International Thriller Writers)		
Best hardcover novel		
2023	Catriona Ward	Sundial
Best paperback original novel		
2023	Freida McFadden	The housemaid
Best first novel		
2023	Lauren Nossett	The resemblance
Best ebook original		
2023	Diane Jeffrey	The couple at Causeway Cottage
John W Campbell Memorial Award for Best Science Fiction Novel		
No awards in 2021/2022		
Man Booker International Prize (an annual prize, shared by author and translator, for a translation into English of a single work)		
2023	Georgi Gospodinov (author) and Angela Rodel (translator)	Time shelter
Miles Franklin Literary Award (Australia)		
2023	Shankari Chandran	Chai time at Cinnamon Gardens
Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature (an American University in Cairo Press award for the best contemporary novel written in Arabic)		
2023	Not yet awarded	
Ned Kelly Awards (Crime Writers Association of Australia)		
Best crime fiction		
2023	Jane Harper	Exiles
Best true crime		
2023	Sandi Logan	Betrayed
Best debut crime fiction		
2023	Shelley Burr	Wake
Best international crime fiction		
2023	Keith Bruton	The lemon man
Neustadt International Prize for Literature (biennial)		
Next award 2024		
Nigeria Prize for Literature (Prose fiction)		
2023	Obari Gomba	Grit
Nobel Prize for Literature		
2023	Jon Fosse	
Nommo Awards (African Speculative Fiction Society)		
2023	Not yet awarded	
Ockham New Zealand Book Awards		
Acorn Prize for Fiction		
2023	Catherine Chidgey	The axeman's carnival
Illustrated Non-fiction Award		
2023	Nick Bollinger	Jumping Sundays
General Non-fiction Award		
2023	Ned Fletcher	English text of the Treaty of Waitangi
Pius Adesanmi Memorial Prize for Excellence in African Writing (biennial award from the African Studies Association of Africa)		
2023	Robtel Neajai Pailey	
Prime Minister's Literary Award for Fiction (Australia)		
2023	Jessica Au	Cold enough for snow
Prix Femina (France)		
2023	Neige Sinno	Triste tigre

Prix Femina étranger (award for best foreign book translated into French)		
2023	Louise Erdrich	The sentence
Prix Goncourt (France)		
2023	Jean-Baptiste Andrea	Veiller sur elle
Prix Renaudot (France)		
2023	Ann Scott	Les insolents
Pushkin House Russian Book Prize		
2023	Owen Matthews	Overreach: the inside story of Putin's war against Ukraine
Scotiabank Giller Prize (Canada)		
2023	Sarah Bernstein	Study for obedience
Sharjah International Book Fair Awards		
Best International Fiction Book		
2023	Saiyada Jalali	An andalus adventure
Best International Non-Fiction Book		
2023	Huda Al-Ghushn	Unbounded: a memoir
Sir Julius Vogel Award for Best Novel (SF & Fantasy Association of New Zealand)		
2023	AJ Lancaster	A rake of his own
Stella Prize (for fiction or non-fiction books by Australian women)		
2023	Sarah Holland-Batt	The jaguar
Trillium Book Award - English (Canada)		
2023	Stuart Ross	The book of grief and hamburgers
World Fantasy Award for Best Novel		
2023	CSE Cooney	Saint Death's daughter

CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS		
SOUTH AFRICA		
Alba Bouwerprys vir Kinderliteratuur		
Volgende toekenning 2025		
ATKV Kinderboek Toekenning		
Voorleeskategorie Graad RR-1		
2023	Zuléka Smit (skrywer) Johann Strauss (illustreerder)	Ben gaan skool toe
Selfleeskategorie Graad 2-3		
2023	Cecilia Steyn (skrywer) Johann Strauss (illustreerder)	Die dodelikste donuts in die heelal
Selfleeskategorie Graad 4-5		
2023	De Wet Hugo (skrywer) Stephen Wallace (illustreerder)	Die holderstebolder hondepartytjie: Kinkels en keuses #1
Selfleeskategorie Graad 6-7		
2023	Jaco Jacobs	Tekkies
Selfleeskategorie Graad 8-10		
2023	An-Mari do Carmo	Toe als groen was
Elsabe Steenbergprys vir Vertaalde Kinder- en Jeugliteratuur in Afrikaans		
2023	Geen toekenning nie	
Exclusive Books/IBBY SA Award for Children's Literature (biennial)		
Best Writer		
2023	Lebohang Masango	Mpumi's magic beads
Best Illustrator		
2023	Nicolaas Maritz	South African Animal Portraits A-Z

Best Translator		
2023	Xolisa Guzula	linkonde eMnyango (isiXhosa translation of Maryanne and Shayle Bester's Elders at the Door)
LAPA Jeugromankompetisie		
2023	Nog nie toegeken nie	
MER Prize for Youth Novels (Media24 Boeke)		
2022/23	No award	
MER Prys vir Kinderlektuur (Media24 Boeke)		
2023	No award	
Percy Fitzpatrick Award for Youth Literature (English Academy of South Africa, biennial)		
2023 (shared)	Penny Lorimer Sally Partridge	Luntu Masiza tells the truth Sea star summer
SA Book Awards		
Children's category		
2023	Riaan Manser	My first African adventure
South African Literary Awards (the SALAs)		
Children's Literature Award		
2023	Claudette Browne Storrar	Nelly and Sam Thwala
	Molebatsi Bosilong	Montsane le Motho
	Philip de Vos	Tokkelossiebossie en ander dol gedoentes
	Sinathi Mpukwana	Unakho
Youth Literature Award		
2023	Onke Mazibuko	The Second Verse
	Mihlali Blackie	Ukuzazi Ukuzithemba Nokuzamkela
	Kobate John Sekele	Makgoma a Dihlong
	Annelie Ferreira	Dit het alles begin by 'n hond
Sanlam Prize for Youth Literature (biennial)		
2023	Not yet awarded	
Scheepersprys vir Jeugliteratuur		
Volgende toekenning in 2025		
Tienie Hollowaymedalje vir Kleuterliteratuur (driejaarliks)		
Volgende toekenning in 2024		

GREAT BRITAIN		
Blue Peter Awards (BookTrust)		
Discontinued in 2022		
The Bookbug Picture Book Award (Scottish Book Trust)		
2023	Zoe Ingram	My first book of sea creatures
The Bookseller YA Book Prize (see YA Book Prize)		
BookTrust Lifetime Achievement Award		
2023	No award	
Branford Boase Award (given annually to the author and editor of an outstanding debut novel for children)		
2023	Christine Pillainayagam (author) and Leah Thaxton (editor)	Ellie Pillai is brown
British Book Awards Children's Book of the Year		
Children's Fiction Book of the Year		
2023	SF Said and Dave McKean	Tyger
Children's Illustrated Book of the Year		
2023	Harry Woodgate	Grandad's camper

Children's Non-Fiction Book of the Year		
2023	Alex George and Dave Pratt	A better day: your positive mental health handbook
Carnegie Medal		
2023	Manon Steffan Ros	The blue book of Nebo
Children's Book Awards (formerly the Red House Children's Book Awards. These awards from The Federation of Children's Book Groups are voted for entirely by children)		
Overall winner		
2023	Louie Stonewell	Loki: a bad god's guide to being good
For younger children		
2023	Olaf Falafel	Blobfish
For younger readers		
2023	Louie Stonewell	Loki: a bad god's guide to being good
For older readers		
2023	Jennifer Killick	Dread wood
Costa Children's Book Award		
Award discontinued in 2022		
Kate Greenaway Medal for Illustration		
2023	Jeet Zdung	Saving Sorya: Chang and the sun bear
Klaus Flugge Prize (a prize for the most promising and exciting newcomer to children's book illustration)		
2023	Mariajo illustaio	Flooded
Laugh Out Loud Awards (the Lollies are awards for funny children's books voted for by children)		
2023	Helen Welsh (author) and Nicola O'Byrne (illustrator)	Wee? It wasn't me!
The People's Book Prize for a Children's Book (chosen by public vote - no judges)		
2022/23	Ursula Hurst	Drawing hope
Red House Children's Book Awards (see Children's Book Awards)		
The Royal Society Young People's Book Prize		
2022	Aaron Cushley	If the world were 100 people
Scottish Book Trust Outstanding Contribution to Children's Book Awards		
2022	No award	
Scottish Teenage Book Prize (Scottish Book Trust)		
2023	Not yet awarded	
Waterstones Children's Book Prize		
Overall winner		
2023	Nadia Mikail (author) and Nate Ng (illustrator)	The cats we meet along the way
Best illustrated book		
2023	Kim Hillyard	Gretel, the wonder mammoth
Best book for older readers		
2023	Nadia Mikail (author) and Nate Ng (illustrator)	The cats we meet along the way
YA Book Prize (<i>The Bookseller</i>)		
2023	Danielle Jawando	When our worlds collided
UNITED STATES		
Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy (Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America)		
2023	K Tempest Bradford	Ruby Finley vs. the interstellar invasion
Coretta Scott King (Author) Book Award		
2023	Amina Luqman-Dawson	Freewater

Coretta Scott King (Illustrator) Book Award		
2023	Frank Morrison	Standing in the need of prayer
Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award		
2023	Jas Hammonds	We deserve monuments
Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award		
2023	Janelle Washington	Choosing brave: how Till-Mobley and Emmett Till sparked the civil rights movement
Kirkus Prize for Young Readers' Literature		
2023	Ariel Aberg-Riger	America redux: visual stories from our dynamic history
Michael L Printz Award		
2023	Sabaa Tahir	All my rage
Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature		
2023	Sacha Lamb	When angels left the old country
National Book Award for Young People's Literature		
2023	Dan Santat	A first time for everything
Newbery Medal		
2023	Amina Luqman-Dawson	Freewater
Randolph Caldecott Medal (for the artist of a picture book for children)		
2023	Doug Salati	Hot dog
Theodor Seuss Geisel Award		
2023	Michael Emberley	I did it!
Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction		
2023	Charles Waters and Irene Latham	African town
Stonewall Children's Literature Award		
2023	Charlotte Sullivan Wild	Love, Violet
Stonewall Young Adult Literature Award		
2023	Sacha Lamb	When angels left the old country

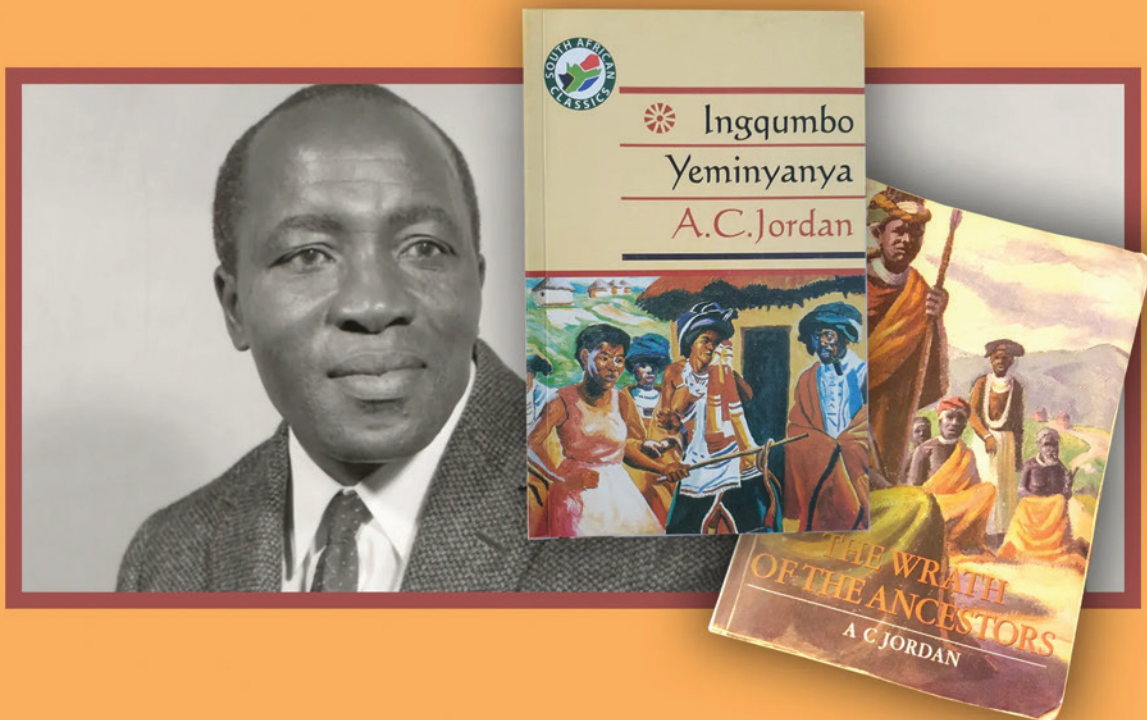
INTERNATIONAL		
Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award		
2023	Laurie Halse Anderson	
Children's Africana Book Awards (annual awards for 'authors and illustrators of the best children's and young adult books on Africa published or republished in the US')		
Best Book: Young Children		
2023	Alison Goldberg (author) and Elizabeth Zunon (illustrator)	Bottle tops: the art of El Anatsui (Ghana and Nigeria)
	Richard Turere and Shelly Pollock (authors) and Sonia Possentini (illustrator)	Lion lights: my invention that made peace with lions (Kenya)
Best Book: Older Readers		
2023	Tólá Okogwu	Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun (Nigeria)
	Kwame Alexander	The door of no return (Ghana)
Hans Christian Anderson Awards		
2023	Francesco D'Adamo	
NSK Neustadt Prize for Children's Literature (biennial)		
2023	Gene Luen Yang	

Nomonde Ngqoba, Ayanda Majola and Anél Taljaard are book selectors at the Western Cape Library Service



Weminyaka engamakhulu amabini isiXhosa sabhalwayo: imingeni namathuba!

ngeXolisa Tshongolo



isiXhosa lulwimi lwesibini oluthethwa sisininzi seli lizwe loMzantsi Afrika. Sithethwa ngumyinge 16,3% yabantu beli lizwe (Stats SA 2022). Lulwimi olusemthethweni kumaphondo iMpuma Koloni, iNtshona Koloni, KwaZulu-Natala, Mntlakoloni, Freyistata, Rhawutini, naseMntlantshona.

IsiXhosa lulwimi lokuqala ukubhalwa kwiilwimi zabantsundu (Mtuze & Tena, 1995). Imbali ithi amalinge okuqala okulubhala aqaliswa ekuzeni kuphela kweminyaka yowe1700s ngamamishinari, apho ubhalo olusesikweni lwathi lwaba ngowe1823 (Opland & Mtuze, 1994). Ubhalo olusesikweni lwapapashwa ngokuse kufike uMfundisi uJohn Ross ephethe ilitye lokushicilela, iphepha, neinki, ngonyaka 1823. Zithe zakubakho ezi nto kwaqaliswa ukushicilelwa kwemibhalo yokuqala [kwisakhiwo setyalike] eTyhume, ndawo leyo eyathi ekuhambeni kwexesha yajikwa yaba yiLovedale Press (Shepherd, 1945). Ngokuqinisekileyo, ukuqala kokubhalwa kwesiXhosa yaba kukudaleka kwemigaqo yokubhala neyokupela olu lwimi, kuthathelwa kwindlela amamishinari ayesiva ngayo isiXhosa, esebenzisa ialfabethi yawo. Ke ngoko imigaqo yokubhala neyokupela ulwimi isiXhosa singathatha ngokuba ubudala bayo bungangaleyo yokubhalwa kolwimi isiXhosa.

Njengoko ke isiXhosa sithethwa ngokwahlukileyo kwiindawo ezahlukileyo (Tshongolo, 2022), amamishinari abhala indlela yokuthetha yamaRharhabe njengesona siXhosa sifanelekileyo (Mtuze & Tena, 1995). Ayenothini ke kambe ayexharhe khona nje ngaphambi kokuba athi saa kweli lizwe loomawokhulu? Konke

akwenzayo ukuqala ukubhala olu lwimi akwenza kwelo lakwaRharhabe. Oku kudale ukuba indlela eyamkelekileyo yokubhala olu lwimi ibe yileyo yokuthetha kwamaRharhabe isiXhosa, zashiyelwa ngasemva ezinye iindlela zokuthetha olu lwimi. Kungako ke sasisaya kuva abantu abathi 'hayi ayisosiXhosa esi sisiHlubi okanye sisiMpondo,' njalonzalo; kungenxa yokuba zaye zashiywa ngaphandle ezinye iindlela zokuthetha olu lwimi xa lwalubhalwa. Kude kwangunyaka 2017 apho iBhodi yoLwimi isiXhosa yeSizwe yePanSALB yathi yamilisela ukuba zidilizwe ezo ntango zocalucalulo olungena bulungisa. Iindlela ezahlukileyo zokuthethwa olu lwimi kwathiwa mazamkelwe, zigunyaziswe ngeenkqubo zokugunyazisa. Kungokunje ke asisenalo elithi 'hayi ayisosiXhosa esi sisiMpondo' kuba iyindlela eyahlukileyo kweyakwaRharhabe yokuthetha isiXhosa. Elimiyo lellokuba 'isiXhosa sithethwa ngokwahlukileyo kwiindawo ezahlukileyo.' Ubhalo lwale mihla ke lubonisa ezo nguqu. Kambe ke oku makungaphanjaniswa ngokuthi umgaqo wokubhala nowokupela olu lwimi awumnyanga; hayi, mnye umgaqo,okwahlukileyo ziindlela zokuthetha. Ukutsho oko inye indlela yokubhala neyokupela ezo ndlela zahlukileyo zokuthethwa kolwimi isiXhosa.

Ukususela ngonyaka 1823 ibe ngamahlandinyuka kubhalwa olu lwimi isiXhosa ngeendlela ngeendlela, iphuculwa ngokuphuculwa indlela yokulubhala neyokupela. Oku kuthetha ukuba imigaqo yokubhala neyokupela ibe iguquguquka ngokuguquguquka kwendlela yokubhala neyokupela isiXhosa. Amamishinari ayekwenza odwa ke oku, ebhala iimibhalo yezobuKristu ngesiXhosa. Kambe ke ukubhala iimbalo zobuKristu yayiyeyona njongo yawo yokubhala kwawo olu lwimi (Twabu, 1992). Kwakuwakhanyele amamishinari ukuba, ukuba ufuna imfundiso ihlale unaphakade yibhale phantsi, njengoko yenzile ke ukumiliseleka imfundiso

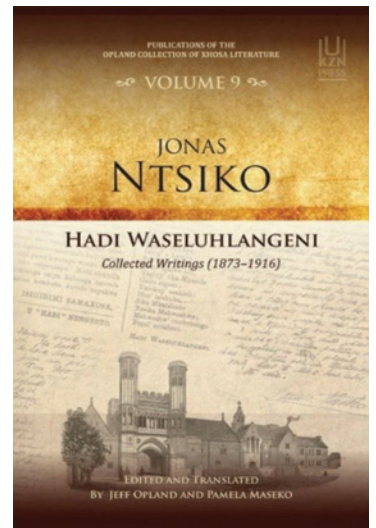
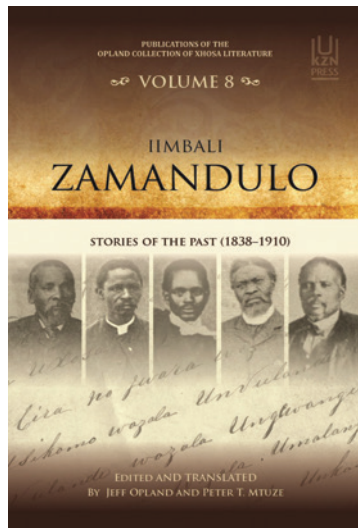
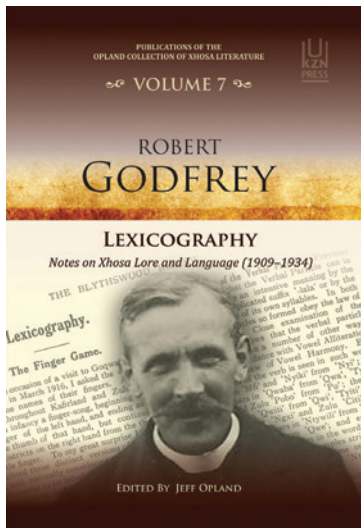
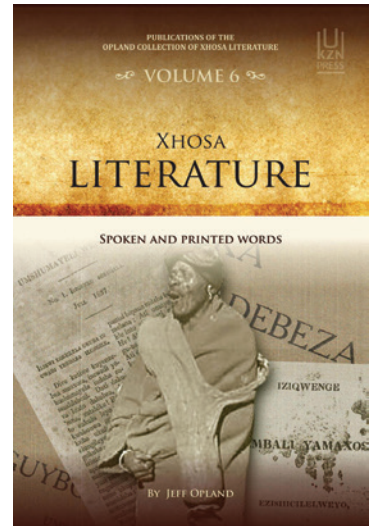
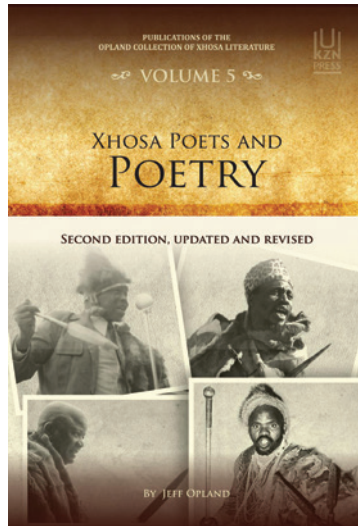
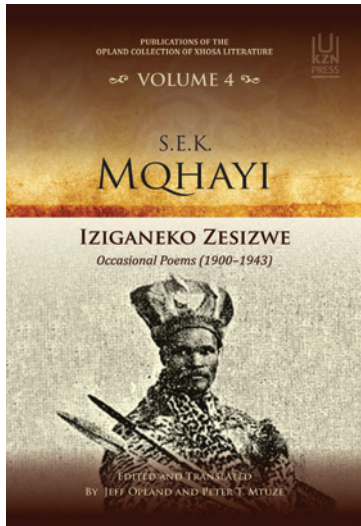
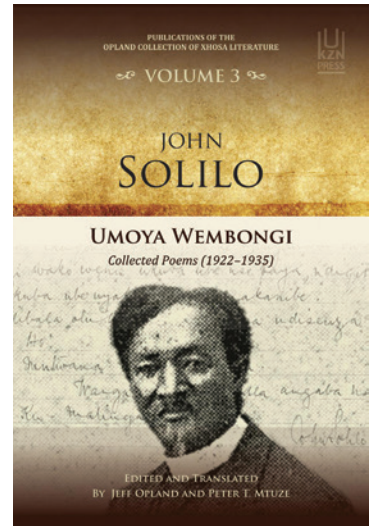
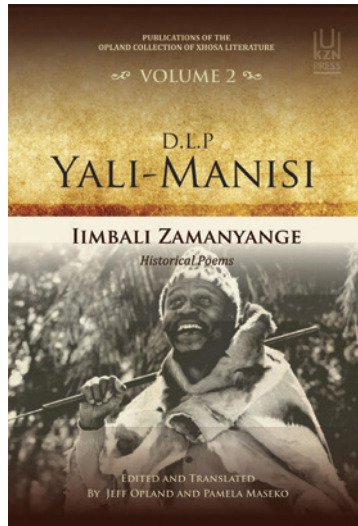
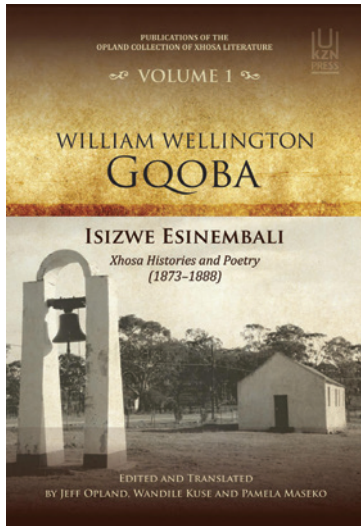
yobuKristu kumaXhosa (Tshongolo, 2015). Okubhalwe phantsi kuhlala kusisikhumbuzo enokuba izinto sele zigquke kanganani na.

Amamishinari ke ade angenelwa ngabothuthu kumsebenzi wokubhala isiXhosa, ekuguqukeni kwamaguquka okuqala afana noNtsikana kaGabha, yena owayeguquke kwakwiminyaka yowe1779 (Kaschula, 1995). Aba bothuthu nabo bafike baqhubela phambili nokusibhala ngezizathu zevangeli yobuKristu isiXhosa, bebhala amaculo (Kaschula, 1995) nezinye ke iimbalo zobuKristu. Bande ngokwanda ke abothuthu abakubhalo lwesiXhosa, kwaye oko kudale iinguqu kwimigaqo yokubhala neyokupela olu lwimi. Ubungqina obusafumanekayo bokuguquka kwemigaqo bukumagama anohahazo apho kubhalo lwamzuzu belungasetyenziswa, ze kamva lwafakwa. Kaloku kwisiNgesi, ekwakhathelwa kuso ukubhala olu lwimi, uhahazo luhlala lukhona kumagama anonoobumba abafana no[P] no[B] lungadanga luboniswe ngo[h] (Tshongolo, 2022). EsiXhoseni ke oku kufuneka kuboniswe ngo[h], kungenjalo abo nobumba bayatsoliswa — izibizo ezinohahazo nezitsolisiweyo (Pumla vs Phumla, Bhala vs Bala, njalonzalo ke). Ezi ziinguqu ezidaleke ngokungenela kwabothuthu kubhalo lwesiXhosa, belumisa ngokwakokwalo ulwimi, belususa kubume bolwimi lwasemzini.

Oku ke kusinika isizathu esomeleleyo sokuba imigaqo yokubhala neyokupela isiXhosa mayihlale iqwalaselwa



pansalb.org



ukuqinisekisa ukuba ihlalaifanelekile. Oku kungenxa yokuba kuthe gqolo ukuvela kwezinto ezintsha nezidinga ukumiswa kolwimi ngokutsha ukuze lufanele iinguqu zophuhliso. Umzekelo, kule mihla sinezandi ezitsha eziveliswa luphuhliso, izandi ezifana no[Gr] kagrabile esongeza kweso besikho kade esikwangu[Gr] kagrobhoza; u[Kr] kakrazula no[Kr] kakrama (ukubholitha), u[Mpy] kakhompyutha (xa ungathanga 'ikhompuyutha'); iziririzi kumagama afana no[irobhothi] zandi ezo besingenazo (PanSALB, 2019). EsiXhoseni u[R] edityaniswa no[H] ukuze kuphume u[Rh]. Besufudula singenazo ke iziririzi kulwimi isiXhosa, zivele ngokuvela kwamagama adalwe luphuhliso afuna kuririzwe xa kuthethwa. Mininzi ke imizekelo esinokuyenza ukubonisa isidingo sokuhlaziywa kwemigaqo yokubhala neyokupela ukuvulela ithuba iinguqu ezidalwa luphuhliso oluqhubayo.

Ukubhalwa kolu lwimi kube nemingeni yako nevide idale ungqzulwano phakathi koluntu oluntsundu ebekubhalelwa lona ngamamishinari. Olu ngqzulwano belude lukhokhelele kubundlobongela bokutshiswa kweencwadi nezixhobo zokubhala nezokuprinta ukubonisa inkcubano yabantu ngakumamishinari

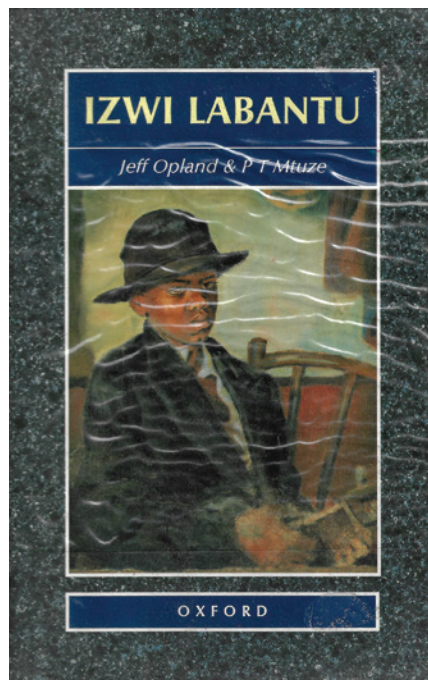
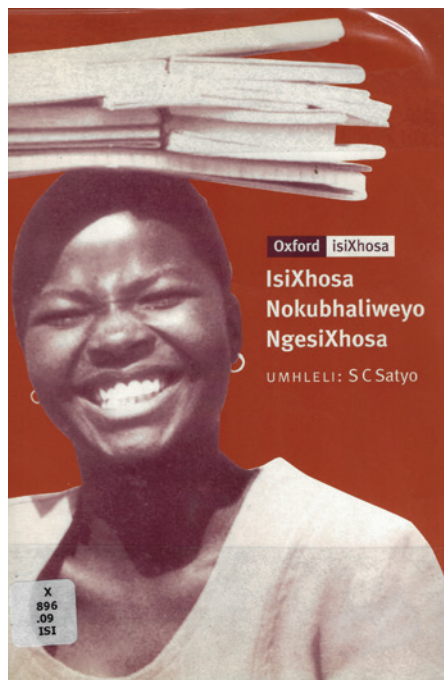
(Twabu, 1992). Njengokuba abothuthu ababhalayo babesiya besanda, amamishinari kwelawo icala ayengafuni ukuphulukana nolawulo lokubhalwa kolu lwimi. Kaloku ayefuna kubhalwe ukuthanda kwawo, ngendlela ethandwa ngawo, esayamisa nenkolo yawo. Imbali kaKaschula (2017) ithi ibingawo ebelawula imfundo. Uthi amamishinari ebengavumi ukuba ipapashwe imibhalo yabothuthu angahambisaniyo nayo; engavumi ukuba ingene ezikolweni xa sele ithe yapapashwa engakholisekanga yiyo. Oku wokufumana kumalunge okuguqula isiphelo sencwadi yodumo kaAC Jordan ethi **Ingqumbo yemiNyanya**, apho kwakusithiwa mayingapheli ngokuzibulala komlinganiswa ophambili kuba ukuzibulala akulunganga kubuKristu nakuThixo (Kaschula, 2017). Kuthiwa ke okaJordan wala kwama ngaye, engavumi ukusiguqula isiphelo sencwadi yakhe, de yapapashwa ke injalo.

Kuthiwa yathi sele ipapashiwe bala abalawuli bezikolo ukuba ingene ezikolweni, besithi inesiphelo esibi esingahambisaniyo nentlalo yoluntu. Ukusuka apho ke kuthiwa wasokola uJordan ukukhupha incwadi yakhe yesibini, emxhibile amamishinari ngoqhankqalazo lwakhe. Kubo bonke ke obo bungendawo, uAC Jordan

waba ngumbhali ophume izandla kwangezo ncwadi zakhe kwakusithiwa azilunganga (Oplant, 1983).

Ababhali bokuqala ke ngoko kwakufuneka ukuba babhale ukuthanda kwamamishinari (Kaschula, 2017). Amaguquka okuqala afana noNtsikana kaGabha ayesebenzisa kwaimvelo ukuvakalisa inguquko, embonga uMdali ngendlela ange ebonge ngayo iinkosi zemveli kwizici (Kaschula, 1995). Ababhali babeguqulwe ukuba bathathe oko kukukuthanda kwamamishinari bakuguqulele esiXhoseni de ibe ngathi kusisiXhosa xa kuvela ezincwadi zabo (Satyo, 1995).

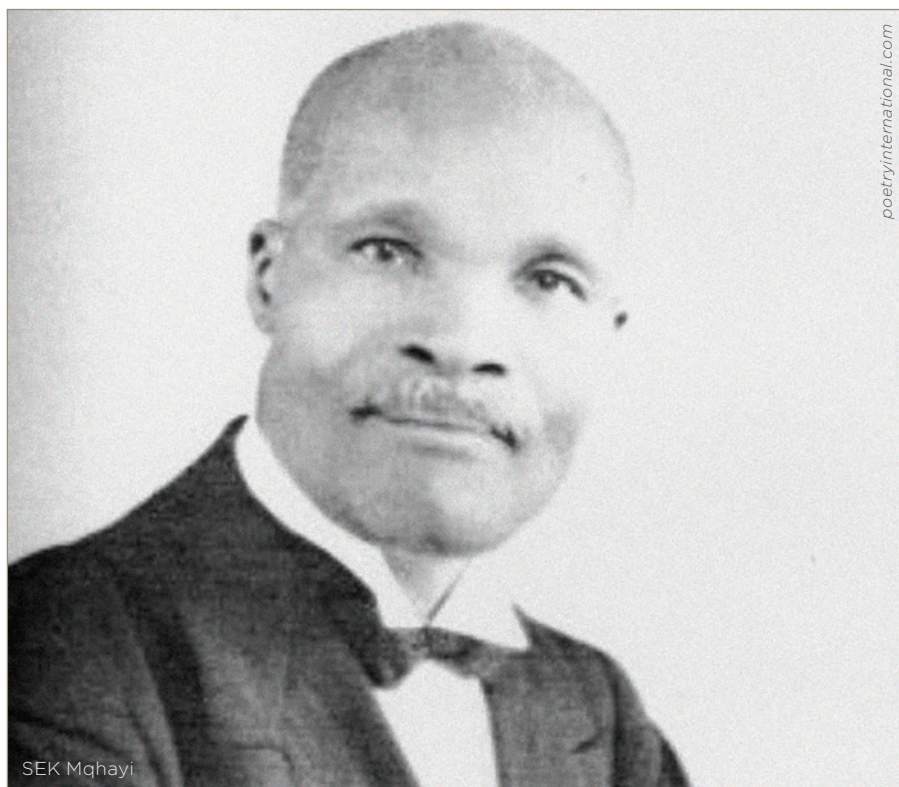
Imbali ke isibonisa ukuba baninzi ababhali ezazisaliwa iincwadi zabo ukuba zipapashwe ngenxa yolawulo lwabantu basemzini. Oku kwenzeka de kwesa kwixa lokucinezelwa kwabantsundu ngokobuhlanga, apho imibhalo yooSEK Mqhayi yathi yakhatywa nangani babengqinwa kubuchule bokubhala nokwazi izinto zesizwe ababezibhala ngobunjalo bazo. U-SEK Mqhayi wamkelwa njengomnye wababhali besiXhosa abaphambili, ingakumbi ngencwadi yakhe ethi **Samson** yonyaka 1907 nethi **Ityala lamawe**le yonyaka 1914 (Kaschula, 2017).



Ngemihla yombuso wamaBhulu engcinezelo ngokobuhlanga bekusele kubekwe kwa-abantu abantsundu kwimizi yopapasho ukuba bahluze ukwamkeleka nokungamkeleki kweencwadi zabantsundu. Le mpi yayityhefwe ngempumelelo ngamaBhulu engcinezelo. Yiyo eyakhokhelela ekuguqulweni kolwimi ukuba lume ngendlela ebonisa ingqobhoko nkalwana zonke. Oku wokubona ekucekisweni kwamagama entsusa ukuba endaweni yawo kufakwe awasemzini okanye ahlonipha lawo entsusa. Uluchwe lomsebenzi wale mpi lolu sixakene nalo kule mihla apho kukho amagama ekuthiwa ayathuka okanye ayanyelisa nangani ingamagama entsusa. UmXhosa endinguye kule mihla akasenamqundu uneempundu, azisaziwa ezona mpundu ukuba yindawoni; akanyi umntu wanamhlanje uyathoyiletha kuba ukunya kuthiwa kukrwada; indoda endala ayinamthondo inencanca le yabantwana.

Bubhanxandini! Zonke ke izinto ezibhanxekileyo zifonjwe kolu lwimi lwethu ngenxa yale mpi yengqobhoko yayithiwe lwalwe luluchwe lwabacinezeli nabachithachithi bezizwe nezinto zazo. Iincwadi ezinentsomi efanane yayisithi **Intak' enyamasi** neyayisithi **Mbambe mnqundu wendod** endala, nezinamaqashiso athi 'Ndinasana lwam luthi mama ndibambe ndinye,' zaliwa ukuba zipapashwe ngexesha lale mpi.

Umnqa ke kwinqwaleqhu yale mpi ingasentla kukuba la magama neentsomi



SEK Mqhayi

poetryinternational.com

namaqashiso ayesetyenziswa luluntu ekwakubhalwelwa lona, lungaboni sibhidi lona kwezo nto. Babengaboni bugwenxa kwezo ntsomi naloo magama kuba yayiyimpilo yabo leyo. Xa ke imibhalo enawo yayingamkeleki makube kwakubhalelwa bani, ntoni? Elam lithi kwakubhalwa ukuthanda kwabacinezeli okwakuhlolwa kuthi okondonci uphendulelwa yinkwenkwe ukuze sibe yiloo nto babefuna sibe yiyo abathimbi nabacinezeli bethu. Yaphumelela ke loo migudu, kangangoko; yalifeza idinga eyayidingwe ngalo. Unangoku ke sithi aba sisitsho ngokwethu ukuba ulwimi lwethu luyathuka, luyenyelisa; olulungileyo lolwasemzini ukuze nezinto ezibizwa ngamagama esiXhosa zifaneleke xa zibizwa ngesiNgesi. Bubuphukuphuku ke ukucinga ukuba indutsu iyayeka ukuba yindutsu kuba

kusithiwa ziimpundu okanye kusithiwa yieyinas.

Kambe kwathi kanti akabuzanga elangeni! Namhlanje ulwimi lwethu luyabuya. Amagama ebekusithiwa mabi ayabuyiswa. Siyababona ababhali bale mihla bewasebenzisa kwiincwadi zabo, akunakuba kukwisihobe okanye kukumabali na. Aba ngababhali nabapapashi abadikwe yeyokosa, abaseze ngobuso elizweni, abangoovuk' ayibambe, abangacengi bani ngolwimi lwabo. Kunjalo nje sibona nabezosasazo bekuvumela ngoku ukusetyenziswa kwala magama, lwehlile uvalo lokuba baza kumangalelwa ezinkundleni zamatyala. Loo mixhadana kanomathambelezantsi intshwencile. Nangani kunjalo ke, isekho imbinana yabasaqhankqalazayo besithi makungenziwa njalo, ithi ulwimi



isiXhosa lulwimi oluhloniphayo, betsho bewuphosile umhlola ngokuhlonipha kwesiXhosa. Le mpi ke ndiyayivundlisa, ndithi iya kuqabuka sele kophulwe ilibele bubuthongo emini; isiXhosa siyagoduswa kuba siyafunwa kokwaso!

Asinakuyivala ke ingxoxo engokubhalwa kwesiXhosa singathanga sichaphazele indima yamaphephandaba (Kaschula, 2017). Bekusetyenziswa amaphephandaba ukwazisa uluntu oluntsundu ngokuqhubekayo esizweni. Nangani ekuqaleni yaye izindaba zevangeli yobuKristu, iindaba zobuzwe ziye zangena ngamandla kumaphephandaba. Oku kwandise amathuba okubhala ngezinto zamaXhosa, kubandakanya ukubhaleka kwamagama ezinto ngesiXhosa. Ibe nkulu kakhulu ke indima yamaphephandama ekuphuhliseni ukubhalwa kolwimi isiXhosa, esongeza ekupapashweni kweencwadi. Njengokuba iincwadi zazisezikolweni ubukhulu becala, amaphephandaba wona ayefika kuluntu ngokubanzi, ephethe ezentlalo.

Xa ndiqwela ingqokoqho. Isixhosa masibhalwe, kunjalo nje masibhalwe ngocoselelo nangenyameko. Ulwimi malusetyenziswe ngokufanelekileyo ukuze ababhali balucholachole

lusulungekile, balufake ezincwadini ukuze lugcinakale. Njengokuba sibala amakhulu amabini eminyaka sabhalwayo isiXhosa kungenxa yababhali abathe benza ukuba olu lwimi lube kule ndawo lukuyo. Abathimbi basinceda ngokubhala olu lwimi nangokusifundisa ukubhala, kodwa asingenyali ukubayamanisa nengcinezelo yokuqala kubhalo lolwimi isiXhosa (Kaschula, 2017). Kambe ke eMaMpondomseni sithi 'akukho nto imbi kwaphela kuba umsonto uyawutsala naselindleni lenja uphume ungumsonto' (Tshongolo, 2013). Sitsala loo msonto ke ngokubhalwa kwesiXhosa ngamamishinari. Nabo bathengisa ngolwimi ngethuba bekwimizi yopapasho siyababulela, kuba ke basigcine sikhanya isibane nokuba besingakhanyi ngokoko besifuna ngako. Imigaqo yokubhala nokupela mayihlale iphuhliswa ukuze imelane nezanzulu zexesha. Ababhali mabathi gqolo bebhala, iincutshe namaqungqutha, kuba ke sele nditshilo ukuba akukho nto imbi kwaphela!

Goba msenge iibhokhwe zikutye!
Ijangqela lenu.

UGq Xolisa Tshongolo nguManejala oPhezulu wePhondo leMpuma Koloni kwiBhodi yeeLwimi zonke zoMzantsi Afrika (PanSALB)

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Book reviews

compiled by book selectors

ADULT FICTION

BAILEY, James

The flip side. - Penguin Books, 2020.
'Josh planned the perfect proposal. He just didn't plan on his longtime girlfriend, Jade, saying "No". Now Josh has no girlfriend, no place to live (Jade's father owns the flat in which the couple currently resides), and no job (Jade's father owns the hotel in which Josh used to work). Obviously, Josh is currently not making the best decisions for himself, so why not let someone or something else decide what Josh should do? After finding a 50-pence coin, he decides to flip it each time he needs to make a decision and let the outcome determine the choice he makes. At first, Josh figures he doesn't have anything to lose, but then he meets someone new. Now Josh's romantic future rests on the flip of a coin. Romcom fans will fall in love with the cheeky charm and wry wit of Bailey's infectiously fun debut, which offers readers a delightfully bloke-centered counterpart to Bridget Jones and her diary.' (*booklistonline.com*)

BEUKES, Lauren

Bridge. - Penguin Random House South Africa, 2023.
'What if it were possible to inhabit different versions of yourself in different realities? Beukes explores

the scientific and ethical ramifications with a healthy dose of speculative horror. Cleaning out her estranged mother's house after she dies, Bridget Kittinger-Harris finds a horrifying husk she recognises as the dreamworm, sparking memories from her childhood of strange adventures and her neuroscientist mother's odd, sometimes dangerously neglectful behavior. She immediately swallows a strand and soon finds herself inside another Bridget in another universe. Meanwhile, that alternative Bridget

wakes up inside the original Bridget's body, and chaos and near violence ensue. Once order has been restored, it's clear that her mother, Jo, was up to something, probably the permanent relocation of her own consciousness into some other worlds' version of herself, so Bridget will be able to find her and they will be reunited. Thus begins a weird treasure hunt as the protagonist uses strands of the dreamworm to travel from body to body while her friend Dom reads Jo's journals, reaches out to a musician



and a neuroscientist for help, and babysits all the other Bridgets as they turn up, confused, out of their own realities. The world building here is skillful, as is the pacing. Beukes avoids dropping anvil-like plot points or world details, trusting the reader to unpack clues and read between the lines... We can believe there really might be an infinite number of universes, and selves, out there somewhere... Effective as metaphor but mostly ass-kicking, mind-bending entertainment.' (*kirkusreviews.com*)

KROG, Willem

Alleen onder die maan: 'n roman.

- Jonathan Ball Uitgewers, 2020.
'Nadat die ekonomie amper in duie stort, word die Suid-Afrikaanse regering gedwing om die land met 'n buitelandse rekenaarsstelsel te regeer. In hierdie distopiese wêreld is alles afhanklik van jou SOMSS-telling (*System of moral and social suitability*). Dit bepaal waar jy mag woon, watter kos jy by People Eats mag bestel en hoe gereeld jy met People Move mag ry. **Alleen onder die maan** vertel die verhaal van Jaco, 'n 80-jarige individualis wat krities is oor hierdie totalitêre bestel, en sy seun, Pieter, wat as sy beroep rekenaarspeletjies toets en nie beseft hoe die stelsel persoonlike vryheid bedreig nie. Die boek het twee verhaallyne: Jaco se aangrypende herinneringe aan sy grootwordjare op 'n Vrystaatse plaas. Die tweede

verhaallyn volg pa en seun op 'n laaste besoek aan die plaas buite Kroonstad in die huidige era waar alle plase gekonfiskeer en in megaplase omskep is en robotte en geoutomatiseerde voertuie al die werk doen. In 'n roerende beskrywing, vertel Jaco hoe sy broers die maanlanding van 1969 op die plaas nagemaak het. Hy glo egter die tegnologiese ontwikkelinge wat op die maanlanding gevolg het, het die mens laat glo hy is God en het hierdie nuwe wêreld geskep. Pieter is weer krities oor sy pa se generasie omdat hulle nooit opgestaan het teen apartheid nie, maar die ironie is dat hy nie beseft hy leef in 'n ewe totalitêre wêreld nie. Die verhaal tree nie net in gesprek met die Suid-Afrikaanse politiek nie, maar ook met die politiek van Afrikaans-wees.' (Uitgewersprikkel)

MAKUMBI, Jennifer Nansubuga

The first woman.- Oneworld, 2021.

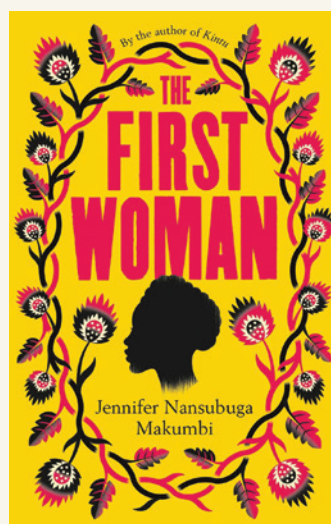
'Kirabo is an inquisitive child. She has even more unanswered questions than other girls in the run-up to puberty, the greatest and most mysterious of which is: "Who is my mother?" In the small Ugandan village of Nattetta, nobody seems to want to tell her, least of all the grandparents who have loved and protected her throughout her life; fleeting visits from her father, Tom, who is busy making his mark in Kampala, yield no further insight. So Kirabo, already unsettled by her ability to depart her body and soar above

her neighbourhood, decides to consult the village witch, Nsuuta. Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi's first novel, **Kintu**, explored the complex effects of masculinity and its limitations on the relationship between fathers and sons; its canvas took in both the pre-colonial period and its long-lasting legacy. Vivid and ambitious, it suggested a writer unafraid to juxtapose past and present, the mythological and the modern — a scope that Makumbi reprises in her second novel. Here, she focuses on the origin myths of motherhood, the contested ground of women's sexuality and the intersection between personal, public and political power, in a style that is frank, funny and direct... a lively, engaging read, and Makumbi cleverly braids the immensely personal — Kirabo's yearning for a mother who appears to want nothing to do with her — with far larger scale social and political shifts. It is a novel that deliberately meanders, and veers between delivering condensed bouts of information with more leisurely set pieces; but its energy derives from its considerable wit and the charm of its central character.' (*theguardian.com*, Lex Clark)

MALAN, Morné

Wildekus.- LAPA, 2021.

'Adam Swart se enigste dogter, Lea, verdwyn saam met 'n vreemde godsdienstige groep tydens 'n vakansie aan die Wildekus. Sy los 'n



briefie met 'n versoek dat hy haar nie moet probeer opspoor nie, maar, meer as drie jaar later, keer hy terug in 'n laaste, desperate poging om haar op te spoor. Sy pad kruis met die bejaarde hippie, Matthias, en *Die Lewende Vlees*-sekte wat in stokoue karavane op 'n afgeleë plaas woon. As hy enigins vir Lea wil opspoor, moet hy hierdie leeus in hulle kuil gaan aandurf. Die hoofkarakters word deur middel van tydspronge na die verlede, wat baie suksesvol aangewend word, aan die leser bekendgestel. Twee uitsprake van Oom Job was vir my besonder treffend en uiters relevant in die ontknoping van die roman: "Partykeer is 'n sonde wat ongestraf bly, die ergste straf" (p.67) en: "Jy kyk net van buite af en jy dink wat jy sien, is die waarheid." (p. 316). Die roman is deurspek met fyn intriges en nuanses, treffend ingekleur deur ironie en satire. Maar die roman is geensins 'n komedie nie; die spanning neem baie subtiel toe en die laaste paar hoofstukke bou op na 'n dawerende crescendo. Lesers wat op soek is na aksie en vinnige, dramatiese tonele, gaan waarskynlik teleurgesteld wees. Maar vir diegene wat meer geduldig lees, wag daar 'n wonderlike leeservaring.' (*goodreads.com*, Anschen Conradie)

VAN RENSBURG, Rudie
Hartedief.- Queillierie, 2021.
 'Die bekende speurder, Kassie Kasselman, is terug in die skrywer se nuutste roman. Hy en Rooi is steeds

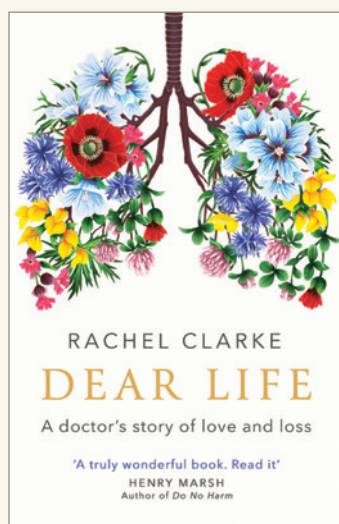
by die Spookeenheid, maar hierdie keer jaag hulle alles behalwe — of dalk juis — 'n spook. Hulle weet wie die vrou in Kaapstad vermoor; het selfs sy vingerafdrucke en volle naam, maar hy is, te danke aan vele voorafopgestelde vals identiteite en die afwesigheid van 'n digitale voetspoor, as't ware onsigbaar. Om sake verder te bemoeilik, is Kassie erg verlief en korrupte amptenare probeer hulle ondersoek telkens ontpoor. Soos met die skrywer se vorige romans in dié reeks, lees hierdie roman gemaklik en vloeiend. Spanning bou soms baie oortuigend op en Kassie se eksentriek karakter bly 'n deurlopende bron van vermaak. Ek het die roman as 'n ontspannende, gemaklike leeservaring, maar as spanningsroman het dit nie regtig vir my gewerk nie. Dis nietemin 'n roman wat deur Kassie se aanhangers geniet sal word. Ek moet die skrywer egter met die einde komplimenteer; dit was uiters knap gedaan.' (*goodreads.com*, Anschen Conradie)

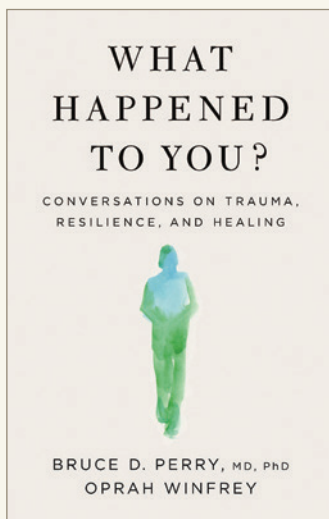
ADULT NON-FICTION

CLARKE, Rachel
Dear life: a doctor's story of love and loss.- Abacus, 2020.
 'Clarke, a UK-based palliative care physician, looks at her life and career thus far in this intensely moving and personal memoir. From childhood accidents to feeling helpless while

covering a terrorist bombing of a London nail salon as a TV journalist, to assisting injured people in the midst of her decision to become a doctor, the author also reflects on her medical education and calling to help people with a terminal illness live the remainder of their lives as fully as possible and to die with dignity and comfort. Along the way, she shares insight into her own story and comes to terms with the realities of facing grief on a daily basis. Through it all, Clarke remains empathetic and personable. Toward the end, she describes how her father, also a physician, is diagnosed with terminal cancer, and how she takes leave from her job to assist him, and her mother, in his final journey. Clarke is a clear-eyed, compassionate storyteller, and the stories of her patients' suffering and final moments along with her father demonstrate how human connections are the terminally ill's most vital medicine. A gripping read.' (*libraryjournal.com*, Marcia G Welsh)

DOOMS, Tessa and CHUTEL, Lynsey
Ebony
Coloured: how classification became culture.- Jonathan Ball Publishers, 2023.
 This is a locally published book written in English and a bit of Afrikaans by Tessa Dooms, who is a sociologist, political analyst and development practitioner. Lynsey Ebony Chutel is a multimedia journalist and writer. This title insightfully challenges the notion of coloured communities in





South Africa as people without clear heritage or culture. It explores the history of coloured people, their culture and their experiences of oppression. The book also discusses the death of Nathaniel Julies, a coloured boy shot by police, and the subsequent protests and social media movement #ColouredLivesMatter. The authors, both coloured women from Eldorado Park, use their personal and professional experiences to shed light on the complexities of coloured identity. The book aims to educate, inspire and spark conversations about the experiences of coloured people in South Africa and their place in the country's history and future. **AM**

PERRY, Bruce D and WINFREY, Oprah
What happened to you?: conversations on trauma, resilience, and healing.

- Bluebird, 2022.

'A collaborative look at brain trauma and methods to alleviate the potentially lifelong effects. Child psychiatrist and neuroscientist Perry teams with Winfrey to examine traumatic injury caused by an abusive childhood. Using medical models, Winfrey's personal experience, and Perry's years of research, the authors demonstrate the brain's resilience and ability to adapt to traumatic situations, particularly when paired with psychopharmacological remedies, natural interventions, and behavioral treatments. This process of neural recalibration works wonders in

instances of deeply embedded trauma and abuse, allowing people to live better lives through newly invigorated self-worth. Winfrey candidly shares difficult memories of a childhood where regular whippings (as early as age 3) were "accepted practice" and there were expectations of silence and a smile in their aftermath. She admits that while collectively these events manifested into her adult relationships and behavior, she eventually processed and embraced the trauma as an opportunity for healing and a way to move forward. With proactive conviction, the authors help readers to recognise their own internalised trauma and encourage the reshaping of personal paths toward wellness and "to excavate the roots that were put down long before we had the words to articulate what was happening to us". Through therapeutic frameworks and the curative power of community, belonging, human connection, and mindfulness, the authors show how renewal of mind and spirit is attainable. A candid guidebook to exorcising mental trauma.' (*kirkusreviews.com*)

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

ĀBÍKÉ-ÍYÍMÍDÉ, Faridah

Ace of spades.- Usborne Publishing, 2022.

'Chiamaka Adebayo and Devon Richards are selected Senior Prefects during their final year at the elite

Niveus Academy. Chiamaka is ambitious, unapologetic and social climbing. She sets her sights on the Snowflake Ball, a Yale acceptance letter and legacy rich boy Jamie Fitsjohn. Devon is low-key, inhibited, and reserved. He does not want to make waves with his music, Juilliard aspirations and homosexuality. Chiamaka and Devon are surprisingly linked when a shady figure known as Aces exposes their secrets and lies to Niveus and Devon's impoverished neighborhood through harassing texts. They slowly discover their friends, classmates, and faculty as fair weather and realise they are not only targeted because of the secrets and lies: their status as the only black students poses a threat to a secret white supremacist network at Niveus. Chiamaka and Devon must work together to ensure they make history as the first black graduates or die trying at the hands of Aces, who will do anything and everything to prevent their upward mobility. Readers will love this thriller-mystery [with a] plot [that] keeps readers guessing. Themes of systemic racism, structural white supremacy, microaggressions, class distinctions, and LGBTQIA+ identities will also resonate with readers. A revelatory, buzzworthy debut.' (*slj.com*, Donald Peebles)

GOMES, Natalia

After the rain.- HQ, 2021.

'US-born Alice is a dedicated bookworm



who believes “there’s nothing like the smell of a library”, and considers running to be a form of “voluntary torture”. In contrast, Jack lives to run — it’s freeing, exhilarating, a means of “creating your own music”. Unsurprisingly then, despite attending the same school, Alice and Jack’s paths have barely crossed, until their chance encounter on Leicester Square [when] a bomb that kills 22 people leaves them forever changed. Their initial feelings are powerfully evoked in all their heart-stopping intensity, especially as Jack runs through all the imminent athletic adventures he had planned and realises, “My legs are gone. There’s nothing from my thighs. It’s all gone.” As his “thoughts are heavy, and they hurt. My memories hurt. My past hurts”, Alice is gripped by anger and also feels driven to find Jack, while he dreams of her, “the girl with the yellow polka dot umbrella”. The ebbs and flows of their struggles and friendship are stirringly evoked. As Jack begins to feel hope when he’s fitted with prostheses (“I’m finally starting to feel like the old Jack. Maybe it’s time to start putting my old life back together again”), Alice struggles with PTSD, with survivor’s guilt, and with debilitating panic attacks. Then they switch roles again, with Jack slipping into depression as Alice finds solace in a therapy group... Herein lies the heart of this novel — the power of friendship to heal and keep a person going when all feels lost.’ (lovereading4kids.co.uk, Joanne Owen)

JUVENILE FICTION

LYNAS, Em

The cat and the rat and the hat.

- Nosy Crow, 2021.

‘A happy cat has a yellow mat where it likes to play, rest, and dream about fish. The cat is content until it sees a rat wearing an enormous pink hat and wants it. The cat chases the rat and, ultimately, takes the hat. But the rat is not willing to give up so easily. What ensues is a true game of cat and mouse, with the rat and the cat chasing each other and vying for ownership of the precious, gigantic pink hat. Things get even more complicated when the dueling pair is noticed by a bat who happens to be wearing a fancy cravat. Then the bat decides that it, too, wants the hat, and the cat and the rat lose interest in the hat and instead decide that they want the bat’s fancy cravat. The chase is on as each animal tries to get a hold of the item of clothing it desires, all the while trying to outsmart its peers. This charming rhyming book’s ridiculously humorous premise will appeal to children and adults alike. The colorful pictures are delightfully absurd and enhanced by clever textual design. (Most notably, when the bat speaks, its words appear upside down.) Lynas turns the primer-level language into a deliciously clever, rhythmic text; paired with the vibrant illustrations it makes for an ideal read-aloud. A delightfully silly rhyming picture book about cats, rats, bats, and high fashion.’ (kirkusreviews.com)

MCKAIN, Kelly

Smash Your Worries, Bella/illustrated by

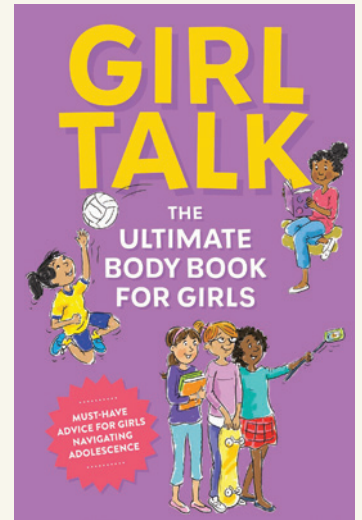
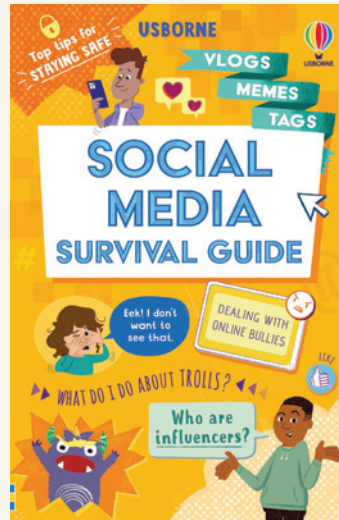
Jenny Latham.- Stripes Publishing, 2022.

This title is the first in a new series called *The feeling good club*. It’s a coming-of-age story written in a diary format about a girl named Bella who is dealing with changes in her life, including losing her best friend and having to give a speech at school. She feels anxious and alone, but eventually finds new friends with the help of her teacher. It’s the perfect book for young readers to learn all about expressing their feelings and learning how to become more confident; exploring fun techniques to help understand their feelings and how to deal with them. The book ends with some mindfulness activities for children. **AM**

PARSONS, Karyn

How high the moon.- Puffin Books, 2019.

‘Eleven-year-old Ella Hankerson yearns to know her absent father, but her mother, Lucy, and grandparents constantly evade her questions. Teased by other black kids for her light skin and white-seeming features, Ella indulges in wild speculation... Lucy has left Ella in Alcolu, South Carolina, for work and a jazz career in Boston, and although Granny and Poppy provide a loving home for Ella and two of her cousins, 14-year-old orphan Myrna and Ella’s best friend, 12-year-old Henry,



the rural South in the 1940s can be dangerous for black folks. Although Ella eagerly leaves the farm to stay with her mother, she finds Boston also imperfect, as she must spend hours alone in the tiny apartment while Lucy and her roommate, Helen, work as shipfitters. A riveting read, this novel masterfully presents Southern and Northern conflicts through the perspective of a no-nonsense kid who is trying to find her place in the world. Ella's realistic voice and passionate responses to injustices make her a credible, flawed, and likable character who sees the truth in front of her but often doesn't recognize it. A captivating novel that sheds new light on black childhood.' (*kirkusreviews.com*)

JUVENILE NON-FICTION

BATHIE, Holly

Social media survival guide/illustrated by Kate Sutton, Richard Merritt, The Boy Fitz Hammond.- Usborne Publishing, 2022. 'Benefitting from very clear and attractively designed pages to highlight information and with quirky appealing illustrations and a friendly, informative, but non-patronising and non-lecturing tone, this is a book which will attract readers to pick it up and engage with it. The tone of voice is particularly important to the sensitive pre-teen age group it is aimed at. They are growing up fast and want to be

treated with respect and not just given stern warnings and rules they should stick to. In this case while dealing comprehensively with topics such as privacy settings, direct messaging, bullying, appearance-enhancing filters, influencers, and fake news, it is taken for granted that the reader will make up their own minds and have their own choices. By using open-ended questioning, literal screen shots of conversations and interactions and explaining how things work and what impact and consequences your actions can have, the reader feels respected. A popular additional feature of Usborne books has been the Usborne.com/Quick links facility where useful websites and other resources linked to books can be found. Throughout the book you are pointed towards additional information and support around topics such as body image, bullying and mental health, as well as direct links to the tools for reporting inappropriate behaviour and images. A must for school libraries and one that parents will want to have available in the home for their own information too — the excellent glossary will be very helpful to the less media savvy amongst us!' (*lovereading.co.uk*, Joy Court)

VALLO, Chris

Girl talk: the ultimate body book for girls.- Cider Mill Press Book Publishers, 2021. This is an informative and easy-to-read beginners' guide to puberty for

pre-teens that covers a diverse range of essential topics. It is illustrated for better understanding and includes references to bodies of all shapes, abilities and sizes. Pre-teen girls will get answers to the questions they don't know who to ask or are too embarrassed to — from body changes, personal hygiene, healthy eating — and provides tips on sensitive topics such as divorce, bullying, cyber bullying, stress, drugs, and alcohol and moving to a new place. **AM**

Most of these titles are available in e-format on the Western Cape OverDrive webpage and Libby app.

Die meeste van hierdie titels is ook beskikbaar in e-formaat op die Wes-Kaap Biblioteekdiens se OverDrive webblad en Libby-toepassing.

Note: At the time of going to press some of these titles are not yet available at the libraries.

AM Ayanda Majola
AT Anél Taljaard

Design thinking for public libraries: the project at Wellington Library

by Ronel Mouton



Public libraries play a vital role in communities. They serve as hubs of knowledge, education, and social interaction. Yet in today's rapidly changing world, libraries face the challenge of remaining relevant and meeting the evolving needs of their diverse patrons. One approach that has gained popularity in recent years is design thinking. In this article, we will explore how design thinking can revolutionise public libraries — making them more adaptable, user-centric, and innovative.

In the quest to enhance services and meet the evolving needs of patrons, the University of Cape Town: D-School and the Western Cape Library Service (WCLS) agreed to collaborate on this innovative problem-solving approach: design thinking. Wellington Library in the Drakenstein Municipality agreed to collaborate with students to use this user-centered methodology that encourages experimentation, creative confidence, and optimism about outcomes — in searching for solutions for the challenge at hand.

Libraries embracing design thinking: a global trend

Libraries around the world are embracing design thinking as a powerful methodology for redefining their purpose and offerings. By adopting a user-centered approach, libraries can transform themselves into dynamic hubs of citizen-centered services, co-working spaces, and platforms for experimentation. Design thinking is driving libraries to re-imagine their role and cater to the evolving needs of their patrons. Let's explore some inspiring examples from different countries:

Chicago Public Libraries

Challenge: How might we support English second language learners to become fluent speakers and readers?

Output: The library launched a 'culture of yes' campaign, empowering librarians to propose and implement language interventions. This approach fosters innovation and a willingness to embrace new ideas.

Shanghai Public Library

Challenge: How might we redesign the user experience for young people using the Shanghai Library Innovation Space?

Output: The library introduced a series of monthly youth activities in the Innovation Space. Community members were encouraged to co-host events focused on literacy, technology, and experimentation. Activities included a parent-child 3D book printing workshop, a First Readers expo, and a community transformation box.

City of Aarhus Public Libraries

Challenge: How might we expand technology skills for people with varying levels of knowledge and experience?

Output: The library organised an event, *4 Good Apps*, where patrons could learn technology skills using on-site computers. The event provided a learning space and selected apps with a lower literacy barrier, combining skills training with technology learning.

Kenya National Library Service, Narok Public Library

Challenge: How might we create a youth-centered space for fun in the library?

Output: The library established a youth marker space where animated games were used for practical skills training, improving literacy, numeracy, talents, problem-solving, and decision-making skills.

Ghana Library Authority

Challenge: How might we make libraries a dynamic, youthful, attractive, and interconnected space for learning?

Output: The library introduced the Glass Room; a shared physical space equipped with desktop computers to encourage positive technology use and improve reading and writing skills. Older peers on site assisted with the technology learning process.

Understanding design thinking

Design thinking is a problem-solving methodology that prioritises human needs and experiences. It focuses on empathy, ideation, prototyping, and testing to arrive at innovative and practical solutions. The process involves **five key stages**: empathise, define, ideate, prototype, and test.

1. Empathising with library patrons

At the core of design thinking is empathy, the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. To apply this to public libraries, librarians and staff must actively engage with patrons, observing their behaviours and listening to their feedback. By understanding the challenges and preferences of library users, the library can better tailor its services and resources to meet their needs.

2. Defining library challenges and opportunities

Once the library has gathered insights through empathy, the next step is to define the challenges and opportunities based on the identified user needs. This involves framing the problem statement and setting clear objectives for the library's improvement efforts. Defining the challenges provides a focused direction for the design thinking process.

3. Ideating innovative solutions

With a clear understanding of library patrons' needs and the challenges faced, the library team can move on to brainstorming and ideation. In this stage, all ideas are welcome and creativity is encouraged. From the seemingly outlandish to the practical, the goal is to generate as many diverse ideas as possible. Through collaborative workshops and brainstorming sessions, the library can unlock innovative solutions to the defined challenges.

4. Prototyping library services and spaces

Design thinking advocates for rapid prototyping to test ideas before fully implementing them. In the context of public libraries, this means creating low-cost and scaled-down versions of proposed changes



to observe how patrons interact with them. Prototyping allows for gathering valuable feedback and making improvements before investing significant resources in full-scale changes.

5. Testing and iterating

After prototyping, the library team gathers feedback from users and stakeholders. Based on this feedback, adjustments can be made to the proposed solutions to better align with the actual needs of library patrons. Testing and iterating are essential steps in the design thinking process to ensure that the final solutions are effective and well-received.

The challenge statement for this project: redesigning the multi-use experience for young adults in libraries

A pressing challenge for libraries is to redesign the multi-use experience for young adults (aged 18–35) in under-resourced communities. In many cases, libraries are viewed as facilities exclusively for school-going youth, leaving young adults feeling excluded from the resources and community engagement libraries can offer. The underlying problem is limited access to positive spaces for young adults, particularly those who are neither employed, in education, nor in training (NEETs).

Innovation 1: Event-planning cellphone application

One team's solution, To D-Day (TD-D), is an event-planning mobile app designed to semi-automate the process for library staff to organise social gatherings. Through guided step-by-step event planning, TD-D simplifies the process, making it efficient and accessible on various digital devices. The platform offers features like calendar invitations, GPS-based location suggestions, checklists, and invitation posters to enhance event organisation.

The team conducted in-depth interviews and observation of potential users, including library volunteers, university students, and elderly community members; to gather insights for refining their solution, and the team

gained a better understanding of the interviewees' experiences with the library and their opinions. It was found that the elderly of Wellington also needed to feel a sense of belonging to a community through more social interactions which was the objective of the easy-to-use app.

Innovation 2: Career, employment and personal development services

The Youth Development Initiative is a programme aimed at fostering engagement among young adults within the Wellington Library community. The primary focus is to provide early career, employment, and personal development services to address the challenges faced by the target demographic.

The programme consists of a mobile (moving stations) system that assists in CV writing, cover letters, and interview skills. The initiative seeks to address barriers between employment opportunities in underserved areas, providing a marketable offering that improves the quality of job applications. To implement this programme, the library

needs to acquire desktop computers and laptops, utilise existing library computers and invest in portable furniture or stations for flexible event locations. Hiring a designated person to manage the service, train library staff or volunteers further strengthens the programme. Youth interviewed about the viability of this idea were very keen to see it implemented.

Innovation 3: Registering volunteers with specific skills

The design thinking process involved understanding the context and needs of various users and stakeholders. Initial interviews with, for example, the librarian, Tanya; Karel, a member of Friends of the Library; and the contracted gardener, Reggie; shed light on the challenges faced by the librarians, and the lack of resources and staff.

To address these challenges, the solution enables the librarian to access and source additional volunteers to assist with library activities and programmes. It simplifies the process of pairing volunteers with users and creates a database to track programmes, activities, and

success. The initiative also opens the possibility of collaborating with non-profit organisations to leverage their volunteer bases for additional services.

By connecting the community to library services and identifying specific community needs, the initiative aims to improve engagement and awareness of library services. Regular group sessions, literacy programmes and other activities can be organised with sufficient demand and availability of trained volunteers, providing further support to the librarians in delivering quality services.

Conclusion

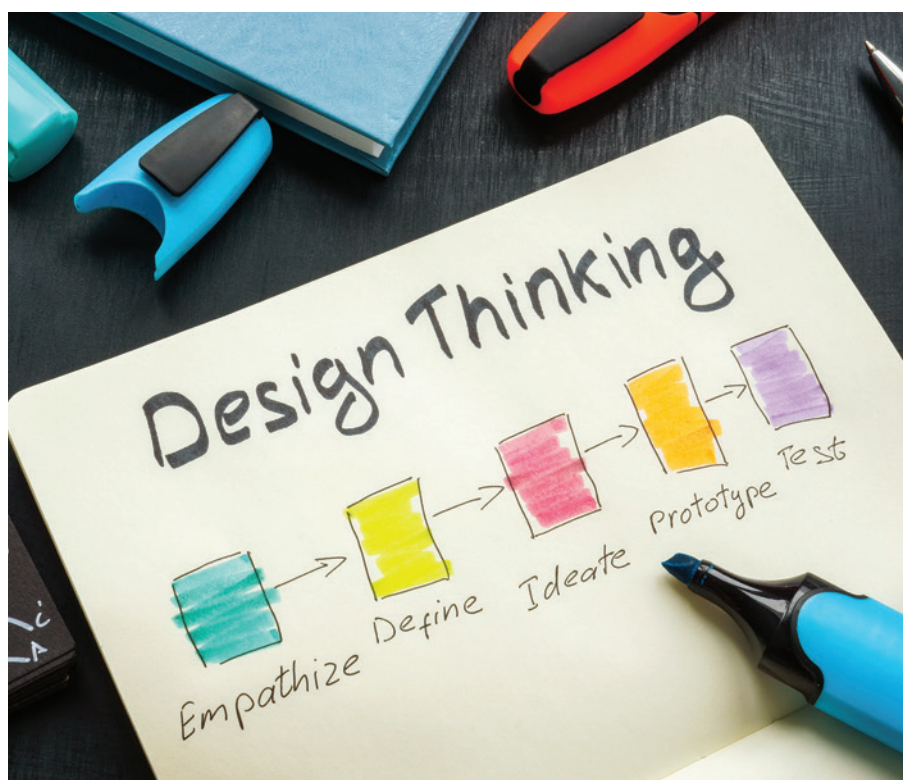
The implementation of design thinking can create practical and impactful solutions to address the needs of library users. By focusing on the needs of young adults and providing tailored services, Wellington Library can foster a stronger sense of community and engagement among its young adult patrons. The feedback received during the testing phase by the UCT students has allowed for improvements and refinements to ensure the programme's effectiveness in meeting the desired outcomes. Design thinking has proven to be a valuable tool for libraries to adapt and evolve, delivering services that are relevant, engaging, and responsive to the needs of their communities.

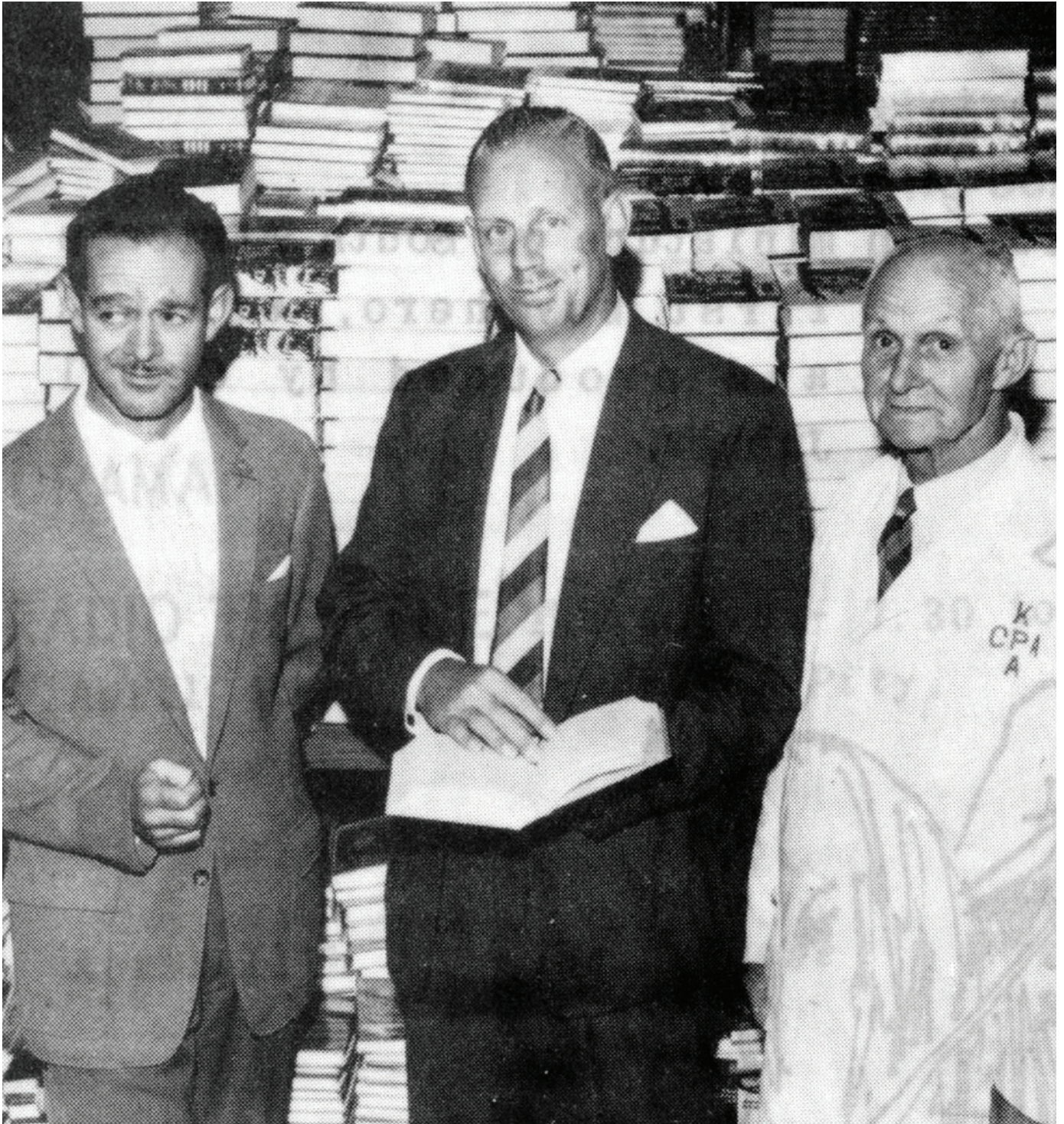
Library staff were unable to choose between the three innovations to indicate the most optimal, but we will nonetheless see how these will be implemented and present them as ideas to other libraries in the Western Cape as inspiration and possible solutions for similar challenges.

Resources used

PowerPoint presentations from the UCT: D-School student teams

Ronel Mouton is the Deputy Director: Regional Organisation at the Western Cape Library Service





A milestone was reached when the Library Service acquired its three millionth book in 1963. Here are (ltr): Mr Viljoen; Dr Theo Friis, Director; and Mr Smuts, who all played a part in accessioning the three millionth book

www.westerncape.gov.za/library



**Western Cape
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