

MENSE

PEOPLE ABANTU

Delia O'Meara ...colleagues share their memories

Tessa Caroline ... It is with great sadness that I learnt about the passing away of our ex-colleague, Delia O'Meara.

As the secretary of the late Miss Steele Delia was one of the first persons one would meet when starting at the Library



Service. Delia was friendly and pleasant, that is until she started in the computer section and became this very scary PALS person! Everyone had to toe the line and adhere to her rules and regulations or else ...

I had her number, though. Whenever I wanted something computer-related, I would bide my time until the start of a new season of *The amazing race* and then make my way to her office to talk about our favourite reality show. The fact that we both looked up the winner on the Internet before the season even started, did not bother us at all. We both hated and liked the same contestants and Delia used to scheme that the two of us should take our chances and take part in the show. She used to say that even if we were eliminated after the first episode, we would have made an unforgettable pair. Needless to say, after that I got anything I asked for.

So Delia, colleague and PALS expert, wherever you are today, I hope that you truly have an amazing race.

Pendy Joerning ... I realised when I received the editor's e-mail that I was the only 'oldie' left who had known Delia for 39 years. Dee started in 1970 and I in 1971. What a long road we travelled as colleagues - full of laughter, gossip, friendship and some sorrow. She worked for Miss Steele when I first started and we often wondered how she managed as Annie B could be a very difficult customer. Well-stocked with antihistamines, as she was allergic to them, she babysat my three cats, who adored her; for many years, when Madaleine and I were away on holiday. However, she did not 'do gardens'. We had a similar sense of humour; were both voracious readers and loved the cinema. Who could ever forget that laugh when something really amused her. I know many people felt the sharp edge of her tongue but to me she was kindness itself and oh, so patient with my complete lack of ability to grasp the first thing about the infernal new machines. I think that there are a great number of us who would like to raise her from the dead to help with the SLIMS merger. We cannot do that, more's the pity, but we can wish her peace in hopefully a much happier place.

Liesel de Villiers ... I first started working with Delia in 1991 when the Library Service was in the throes of computerisation. Delia was a hard worker and we spent hours working together to get the system up and running. It was a wonderful and very exiting time. This does not mean that we did not have some rather dramatic arguments through the years. I remember on one occasion I threw the phone down in her ear and the next moment she came storming into my office. I decided that the only thing that was going to save me, was to make some silly joke. Luckily it worked and we were soon laughing like the best of friends. We all know that Delia was a control freak and she used to drive the staff crazy when she refused to give them new PCs. Most of the time this was just a show and she would deliver the new PCs as sweet as can be - after all, she had made her point!

Delia was well read and very intelligent. We sometimes spent hours chatting, hopping from one subject to another. Even after we both retired I had huge phone bills when I called her, because we had so much to talk about.

The Library Service was privileged to have someone of Delia's dedication and work ethic as a staff member and she will always be remembered fondly by everyone who worked with her.

Ben Cerff ... Delia was a friend I often talked to. She was a loving, warm person

and I was very sad when she passed away. I'm going to miss her friendship. She is now in God's hands.

Shirley Dubois: I first met Delia about two weeks before I started work in the Library Service in June 1988.

We had arranged to meet at a restaurant in Sea Point and a mutual friend had told me that Delia would have me in stitches for most of the night as she had such a good sense of humour.

On reminiscing about her younger days she told me a delightful story of how she and our friend had polished off a couple of bottles of wine and couldn't remember how they got through a police road block. She said that the policeman was too scared to ask her to get out of the car ... (Dee was a big lady.)

Delia had a feisty temper and when we could not understand the computer system, we would often get a raised voice that said 'read the manual!' She would shout at us but then later that day she would come into the offices and have a casual chat with us as if no harsh words were spoken earlier on. She was always quick to speak her mind yet she had a kind heart.

When she was the shop steward for the union one could always ask her for advice and she would put things in perspective.

Towards the end of her career in the Library Service Delia's health began to decline and she took early retirement. However, she always made an effort to keep in contact with her friends at work.

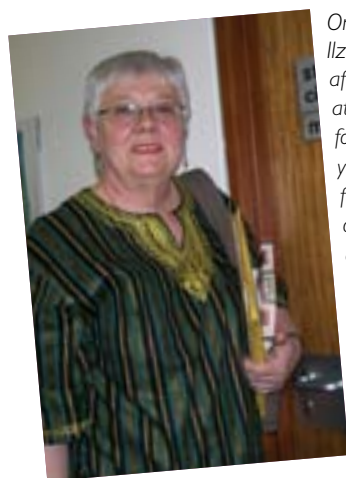
I will miss all the chats and laughter but I know that Dee is finally happy now.

Go in peace, D.

Cataloguers ... Our fondest memory of Delia was when she would walk into the cataloguing section and announce that 'Dame Delia, the Honorary Cataloguer' was there. In 1998 Riana Fourie (cataloguer) had to create a couple of test records for a new version of PALS. Delia was very chuffed to be featured as a performer on the dummy CD record, and forever after referred to herself as 'Dame Delia and Honorary Cataloguer'.

Despite an initial grand flare-up between Delia and myself shortly after I had started in the Service, my memories of her are filled with warmth and appreciation - warmth for the immense kindness she always showed me when I didn't have a clue what to do with a program on my PC, and great appreciation for her sharp and tremendous wit! I miss the many discussions we had on books, authors and the like. She also wrote many an article for the CL - the topics of which were always interesting - a talented lady who made a great impact on the Library Service! ED

Library legend retires



On 30 September Ilze Swart retired after having worked at Bellville Library for more than 40 years. We asked for an account of her illustrious career and publish her contribution with thanks.

'Today, people look at one askance when they hear you have spent

virtually all your working life in one workplace. I wanted to work in public libraries. Bellville was and (dare I say it?) still is, the best public library in Cape Town, which is where I wanted to live.

'After qualifying at UCT, I started work on 1 December 1965 at the Cape Provincial Library Service (CPLS), in the Central Reference Department. I met my first mentor, Bon Gertz, from whom I learnt how to ask the right questions and deal with problems.

*'Bea Coetzee was the head of the audio-visual department at CPLS. She became chief of the Bellville Public Library in 1967 and she recruited me to join the staff at Bellville in April 1968. I loved the building, which had been designed by Tribelhorn & Doveton, and which was beautifully furnished and fitted, the quality of which one would never see in a library today. Bea was my second mentor who taught me about so many things: dealing with municipal affairs and constraints, budgeting, handling difficult people and how to be a *mensh*. She was scrupulously honest and fair; and she had a wonderful sense of humour.*

'In May 1969 I resigned to travel in Europe and the United States until January 1970. On my return I worked for the Library Service again for two months, before being appointed at Bellville on 1 April 1970. I have been here ever since. Felicity du Plessis had joined the staff in my absence and she, Bea and I worked happily together until Bea retired and I became city librarian in September 1984. Charlene Malan joined our team as reference librarian in 1981 and Lona Gericke as children's librarian in 1988. This team was responsible for the planning of the branch library in Tygervally Centre, which opened on 1 July 1988.

'It was during this time that I worked with my third mentor, Johan Rauch, an engineer at Bellville Municipality. He helped me with the choice of location for the branch and without

his assistance with the motivation to Council for the library, it would not have opened. We worked together again when the building of the new library in Elizabeth Park was approved, and once again, his guidance and advice were invaluable.

'Being involved in such a huge project was the highlight of my career. It was a real team effort and once again Felicity, Charlene, Lona and I spent many hours with a slide rule, planning the layout and furnishing of the interior of the building. The big day arrived on 20 November 1989, when the building was opened to the public. Mayor Willie van Schoor cut the ribbon to admit the first person to the library. Together with the new library came additional staff, and librarians Marietjie Bessinger joined us in 1989 and Alta Oosthuizen in 1995, after Felicity retired. One of the joys of my life has been my library family, without whose co-operation and enthusiastic support, our library would not have its reputation for quality service.

'I like to think of the pamphlet and clippings collection housed in nine four-drawer filing cabinets in Reference as something of a legacy. It started in the early 1980s, when, one Sunday, Charlene and I sorted a selection of clippings I had collected into broad subject headings. From small beginnings big things grow. Today the collection covers more than 1600 subjects. I'm not sure I will be able to read the 22 newspapers I currently go through every week without cutting them up.

'My career and Bellville Library would have been so much the poorer had it not been for the Friends of the Library Association, launched by Bea Coetzee in May 1970. We were able to undertake so many programmes and events that put Bellville Library on the map with the assistance and funding of the Friends. I think of the annual 'Ontmoet ons skrywers' evenings which ran for 18 years.

'I must pay tribute to the two chairmen who supported me so capably over the years - Pieter Venter and currently Frans van der Merwe (a former director of the Western Cape Provincial Library Service).

'The days when we were part of Bellville Municipality I always think of as Camelot. The close relationships one had with municipal colleagues across disciplines, the willingness to help each other out, the team spirit of which one felt part - this all dissipated somewhat as Bellville became part of the City of Tygerberg and now the even larger City of Cape Town. Fortunately all the libraries in the City are now part of one directorate and we are able to develop relationships with a larger group of library colleagues.

'Thank you to all the Friends and borrowers who have made working at Bellville Library a joy. Charlene and I love quotations. If there is one which describes my career; it is:

Do what you love and love what you do, and you'll never work another day in your life.

'After retirement I will still be involved with libraries as a borrower and a Friend of both Bellville and Durbanville libraries.'

Ilze Swart and my 'rookie days' are synonymous.

When I needed an expert to comment or write a professional article, who did I contact? Ilze Swart!

Without fail I could always count on her support. Not only in a professional capacity, but also personal.

Thank you for the many times (especially in earlier years) that I could 'bend your ear', Ilze. And a great big thank you for the many times that you provided the necessary professional input required. Your retirement is indeed a great loss to the library world.

ED

Johnny Jacobs retired

Johnny Jacobs retired on 31 August 2010, after 21 years with Library Services in the City of Cape Town.



He started as senior librarian at Bellville South Library in 1989, and was appointed as manager of libraries in the Tygerberg substructure in 1997.

He also worked at Castle Town, Hanover Park, Bishop Lavis, and

Pacaltsdorp libraries, as well as SACHED.

Johnny always was, and still is, very passionate about libraries and the promotion of library services to all the residents of the City of Cape Town. As manager of the then Tygerberg libraries, one of his goals was *One library service for all*. He was also involved with the literacy project at Bellville South Library.

He is truly a people's person - he not only showed an interest in the staff, but in the library community as well. He will be fondly remembered by library patrons from Bellville South to Khayelitsha, Valhalla Park to Elsies River.

[[is also a champion of the 'underdog' - and it is only fitting that he spent the past year as a full time shop steward at the South African Municipal Worker's Union (SAMWU). He will carry on assisting SAMWU as a retired member. He is also involved with a land claims project - he is the secretary of the New Acres

Community Property Association ... and he also hopes to have some fun when retired.
We wish him well with his retirement.

Fatima Daniels
Senior Librarian, Bellville South Library

All the best with your retirement. With so many stalwarts leaving, it feels like the end of an era. ED

SKRYWERS EN BOEKE

BOOKS AND AUTHORS IINCWADI NABABHALI

Gideon Joubert op 68 oorlede

Gideon Joubert, 'n oudjoernalis van *Die Burger* en skrywer van die blitsverkoop **Die groot gedagte**, (86), is onlangs oorlede.

In 1952 het hy by die SA Vloot aangesluit en tot die rang van kommandeur gevorder. Hy was, onder meer, die stigter van die SA Vloot-taalraad en het handleidings en 'n seemans-woordeboek in Afrikaans opgestel.

As eerste bevelvoerder van die vloot se duikskool in Simonstad was hy die eerste gekwalifiseerde duiker en instrukteur. Hy het die eerste drukkamer ter wêreld vir die vloot ontwerp en laat bou.

Hy het op 1 September 1974 teruggekeer na *Die Burger* as weermagverslaggewer gedurende die Grensoorlog.

As wetenskapskrywer en eerste wynskrywer van *Die Burger* het hy uitgeblink. In sy senior jare was hy direkteur van die *Burger*-Kersfonds en -Strandhuis.

Hy was ook 'n bydraer tot die tydskrif *Veld & Flora*. As skrywer het sy artikels in die *Tydskrif vir Letterkunde* van die SA Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, *Huisgenoot* en *Insig* verskyn. Sy jeugroman, **Spioenduiker Frans Alberts**, is lank vir skole voorgeskryf.

Hy was medeskrywer saam met doktor Johan de Klerk van die **Sterrekunde-woordeboek**.

Sy belangstelling in die sterrekunde het gelei tot die skryf van **Die groot gedagte**, 'n eerste in sy soort in Afrikaans, wat in 1997 by Tafelberg verskyn het. Nagenoeg 32 000 eksemplare daarvan is reeds verkoop.

Die Burger

Alba Bouwer sterf ná 'n lang siekte

Alba Bouwer (90), *doyenne* van die Afrikaanse jeugliteratuur, is onlangs oorlede.

Haar kinderboeke, veral **Stories van Rivierplaas** en **Stories van Bergplaas**, word wyd as

geliefde bydraes tot die Afrikaanse letterkunde beskou.

Sy het die gesogte Scheepers Prys vir Jeugliteratuur twee keer met dié boeke gewen en het die CP Hoogenhout Toekenning vir die Beste Kinderboek drie keer ontvang.

Sy was sedert 1950 vir 13 jaar adjunkredakteur van die vrouetydskrif *Sarie Marais*.

In 1987 is sy deur die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns vereer met die skepping van die driejaarlikse Alba Bouwer Prys vir Kinderliteratuur.

Die Burger

LITERÊRE TOEKENINGS

LITERARY AWARDS AMABHASO WONCWADI

Houellebecq wen voorste letterkundeprys in Frankryk

Die bekendste skrywer van Frankryk, Michel Houellebecq, is bekroon met die Goncourt Prys vir sy topverkopende satiriese roman, **La carte et le territoire (Die kaart en die gebied)**.

Hy is buite Frankryk bekend vir romans soos **Atomised** en **Platform**.

In 1998 en 2005 het hy die prys amper ontvang, maar sy skerp, seksgevolde satires had aantygings van obseniteit en rasseprovokasie tot gevolg.

(Die Renaudot Prys, die 'troosprys', het aan 'n sogenaamde punk-skrywer Virginie Despentes gegaan met **Apocalypse Bébé**).

Die Burger

Westra bekroon

Piet Westra is die eerste ontvanger van die Albie Sachs Toekenning vir Vryheid van die Biblioteek- en Inligtingvereniging van Suid-Afrika.

Hy was bykans 17 jaar lank direkteur van die SA Biblioteek (nou die Nasionale Biblioteek van SA) in Koningin Victoriastraat en is vir sy bydrae tot die bevordering van die vrye vloei van inligting vereer.

Die Sentrum vir die Boek is in sy termyn tot stand gebring.

Sachs het sy toespraak opgedra aan die onbekende bibliotekaris wat hom van die boeke voorsien het toe hy opgesluit was. 'Dit is iets baie wonderliks, iets baie waardevol, iets magies wat jul beroep doen.'

Westra het vanjaar uitgetree as voorsitter van die Nederlandse Biblioteek in Pinelands (die grootste Nederlandse biblioteek in die suidelike halfgrond).

Piet Westra publiseer van tyd tot tyd geskiedkundige boeke onder die uitgewersnaam Africana Uitgewers. Die volgende titels is nog beskikbaar:

Hierdie land van leuens. Briewe uit die Kaap Kolonie oor die Anglo-Boereoorlog deur Louis Leipoldt; **Tonele uit ons dorp: Suid-Afrikaanse verhale** deur Thomas Francois Burgers (ingelei en vertaal deur Wium van Zyl); en **Slawehandel met Madagascar: Die joernale van die Kaapse slaweskipp Leijdsman, 1715**, (geredigeer deur Piet Westra en James Armstrong).

'n Boek oor die slaweskipp die Meermin (deur Dan Sleight en Piet Westra) en 'n verdere publikasie oor die avonture van die Sweed Schröder-Nielsen tydens die Boere-oorlog (geredigeer deur Ione Rudner) is tans in voorbereiding.

Die Burger

The Finkler question

The 2010 Man Booker Prize was won by Howard Jacobson for his **The Finkler question** (Bloomsbury). Jacobson was brought up in Prestwich and was educated at Stand Grammar School in Whitefield and Downing College, Cambridge, where he studied under FR Leavis.

He lectured for three years at the University of Sydney before returning to teach at Selwyn College, Cambridge. His novels include **The mighty walzer** (winner of the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize), **Kalooki nights** (longlisted for the Man Booker Prize) and, most recently, the highly acclaimed **The act of love**. He lives in London.

The Man Booker Prize promotes the finest in fiction by rewarding the very best book of the year. The prize is the world's most important literary award and has the power to transform the fortunes of authors and even publishers.

This year's short list of six were:

Parrot and Olivier in America, Peter Carey (Faber and Faber)

Room, Emma Donoghue (Picador - Pan Macmillan)

In a strange room, Damon Galgut (Atlantic Books - Grove Atlantic)

The Finkler question, Howard Jacobson (Bloomsbury)

The long song, Andrea Levy (Headline Review - Headline Publishing Group)

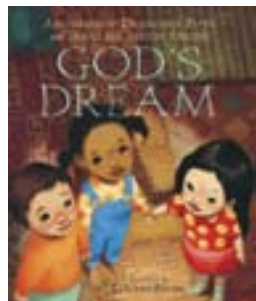
C, Tom McCarthy (Jonathan Cape - Random House).

The prize, which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2008, aims to reward the best novel of the year written by a citizen of the Commonwealth or the Republic of Ireland. The Man Booker judges are selected from the country's finest critics, writers and academics to

maintain the consistent excellence of the prize. The winner of the prize receives £50,000 and both the winner and the shortlisted authors are guaranteed a worldwide readership plus a dramatic increase in book sales.

The winner of the Man Booker Prize 2009 was Hilary Mantel's **Wolf Hall**.
www.themanbookerprize.com/prize/about
www.themanbookerprize.com/news/stories/1451
www.themanbookerprize.com/prize/books/426

God's dream



God's Dream, published by Jacana Media has won the South African Early Childhood Development (ECD) Award for best publication. Jacana will be using the

R50 000 prize money to encourage reading and to promote indigenous literature.

The annual award promotes and recognises excellence, hard work, dedication and investment in the future of children; by individual practitioners, community centres and organisations involved in early childhood development.

MISCELLANY

ALLERLEI

IINCWADI EZAHLUKENEYO

International school library

As part of our library outreach programme Christine Fransman and Fadeela Davids did a story-telling and library orientation at Mary Khin Primary School for the hearing-impaired in Observatory seven years ago. They were then still employed by City of Cape Town Library and Information Service. This year they were again approached to visit the school for a special School Library Day programme on 29 October 2010 and were very keen to participate.

'We were welcomed with great enthusiasm by some learners who could hear with the help of hearing aids, and others who communicated through sign language. The Grade 5's dramatised a poem about Nelson Mandela for the event. They looked quite snazzy in their 3D glasses, and were received with great excitement.

'It is truly amazing to see how the children just take things in their stride, and if we did not



see the teacher signing to them, we would not even be aware that some of them could not hear anything. They participated in the interactive stories with great enthusiasm. We left the school on an emotional high, knowing that we have made a difference by transporting them to the world of stories and books.'

*Fadeela Davids and Christine Fransman
 Kaleido Educational Services; Members of: SLYSIG
 Working Group and Biblioref volunteers*

Some more lists

Lists are always popular and to add to our *Best Reads 2010* on page 8, we share the well-known Book Lounge's best list for 2010 with our readers.

*The hand of the designer	Moleskine ®
*Information is beautiful	McCandless, David
#Room: a novel	Donoghue, Emma
In a strange room: three journeys	Galgut, Damon
*Tooth and nailed	Lotz, Sarah
*Zoo City	Beukes, Lauren
Spilt milk	Matlwa, Kopano
*Wall of days	Bruce, Alastair
*Homing	Rose-Innes, Henrietta
#Young blood	Mzobe, Sifiso
*Alone in Berlin	Fallada, Hans
*How to live safely in a science fictional universe	Yu, Charles
*Die sneeuslaper: verhale	Van Niekerk, Marlene
How 2 help: a guide to worthwhile causes - Cape Town	Hickman, Rebecca
*The marginal safari	Fox, Justin
*Pale native	Du Preez, Max
The Kaiser's holocaust: Germany's forgotten genocide and the colonial roots of Nazism	Olusoga, David
*The unlikely secret agent	Kasrils, Ronnie
Birth: the conspiracy to stop the '94 election	Harris, Peter

*Brideshead abbreviated	Crace, John
*Jane's delicious kitchen	Griffiths, Jane
*India cookbook	Pant, Pushpesh
*How to keep a pet squirrel	Scheffler, Axel
*Children make terrible pets	Brown, Peter
*Otto	Ungerer, Tomi
*13 words	Snicket, Lemony

Note *Not in CPLS stock. #Titles on order.

26 years of navel gazing rewarded with world record

A librarian has won a place in the **Guinness [Book of] world records** after collecting fluff from his belly button every day for 26 years.

Graham Barker has amassed 22.1 grams of lint since embarking upon his unusual hobby.

'One evening, when a little under-occupied, I noticed the lint in my navel and started wondering about it,' he said. 'I became curious as to how much of it one person can produce, and decided the only way to find out was to collect it for a while and see.'

Barker, who colour-codes his collection in jars, says thermal underwear produces the most lint. The 45-year-old from Perth, Australia, has sold three jars to a museum for an undisclosed sum.

'The raw material is worthless but as a unique world record collection and a piece of cultural heritage, of debatable merit, it has some curiosity value,' he said.

While most people have a positive reaction to his collection there is 'a small minority - usually women' who find it unappealing.

Cape Times

SKRYFGEDAGTES

ON WRITING EZABABHALI

Oor resensies en kritiek – enkele aweregse hondse gedagtes

Ek skryf enige dag eerder 'n essay as 'n resensie. Hoe so? Omdat 'resensie' vreeslik formeel klink. En dan is jy hoeka in die visier van omstredenheid en op die terrein van onheiligheid. Hiermee bedoel ek dat daar skerpskutters in digte boskies lê om jou af te maai - jy is in die oopte, so kaal in die wind soos daai keiser, met rolbossies wat jou laat rondskuifel en sand in jou hare (sand in jou

hare ... klink soos iets wat Anton Goosen sal sing). En later tussen jou tande en uiteindelik in jou oë - wanneer jy kners en so bedinges in raak vir die nonsens wat jou tref dat jy nie meer so lekker sien wat jy self begin kwytraak en dalk onverdiend mag uitdeel nie.

En dit net omdat sekere mense territoriaal/jaloers/egoïsties/simpel is. Mense wat een oomblik verklaar dat daar nog braak areas is, plek vir nóg (kritici?), en dit betreur dat so min mense lees (is dit nie die resensent se doel om lesers aan te moedig om te lees, eerder as om skrywers af te ransel nie?). Ja, 'n mens moenie rose uitdeel as kaktusse meer gepas is nie, maar nes rose dorings het, het kaktusse ook mooi blomme. Die ideaal sou wees om self die boeke te kies wat jy wil resenseer. Dan kan jy meestal blomme (is 'n blom is 'n blom) uitdeel, met waarskuwende verwysings na die dorings, eerder as om met verpligte leeswerk (toe)gegooi te word. Dan raak jy keelvol en selfs bitterbek (ek werk hom nou van onder af op), sodat jou sooibrand (minstens) ontaard in subjeksies (o wee, net nie dít nie) en die arme sukkelende skrywer, ook dalk nou al kaalbas, en met geen *daisy* of eens 'n vyebelaar in sig nie, gebrandmerk word deur jou drakoniese offensiewe. Misken so erg dat hy/sy dit nie weer waag om oor die vlaktes te dans nie - nie eens saam met die kleinvolk nie en beslis nie in die swaar donderweer-skadu's wat van *Olimpus Literêrus* uitgestoot word nie.

Daarom knars ek eerder bokspringend oor die dun ys van my eie maaksel as om ander s'n met ketties vol suurdeeg te beskiet (amper seg ek anders, maar kom ons bly by die ongerysde deeg). Daar is soveel broodjies om te bak oor ander sterflinge se onvolmaakte skeppings as wat daar tyd is om ander bolle ook te rol. En nie altyd is dit *savorites* nie. Eie agendas is daar ongelukkig ook - my joernalistiekdosent het eendag vertel hoe hy daarna uitsien om sy aartsvyand se debuut-boek te resenseer. Komende van 'n man van sy statuut was dit vir my 'n skok - die handewringende, kekkellaggende pose, ongebreidelde sadisme oor sy hele gelaat versprei ... die hemel weet, ek het self al onder enkele nydige mense deurgeloop, ook my nederige boekies, maar ek wil nie in so 'n mensvreter se penne beland nie. Praat van *Vlad the Impaler*!

Toe ek aan 'n vriendin bekend maak (met trots en opgewondenheid) dat 'n koerantredakteur my gevra het om 'n plaaslike skrywer se werk te resenseer het sy my probeer ontmoedig deur, onder ander, na ene Joan Hambidge se moontlike aanvalle te verwys. Ek het gesê ek skrik nie vir enigiemand wat my nie fisies kan verdelg nie - ek is darem nie van die kleinste nie - maar wat ek eintlik bedoel het was dat ek nie van plan was om nonsens te skryf en sodoende 'n wettige teiken vir die Hambidge'e en enige ander soortnamige karakters te wees nie. Ek meen, ek lees

graag wat my meerderes skryf en hoop om daaruit te leer; die ene respek en onderdanigheid! Gelukkig - dink ek - lees die Groot Geeste nie die koerantjie waarvoor ek skribbel nie, want hier gaat ek steeds voort, so sit-sit-so voor my ou rekenaartjie. Buitendien, ek het Tannie Joan al vlugtig ontmoet en ek skat sy word onregverdig hoog- en laaggevat deur haar minderes, as ek met permissie rugbyterme mag misbruik.

Al wat ek graag wil doen is om te help dat meer mense lees. As ek kan help dat hulle goeie werke lees (sommige mense beweer dis beter om niks te lees as om b(r)olloks te lees, maar ek dink hulle braak net bitter gal), soveel beter vir almal. En mag 'n mens selfs ook hoop dat mense hulle (boonop) mag geniet in die proses? Sonder om flatulensie onder druk te pleeg of met sware tred voort te plof? Dis my wens dat die geskrewe woord altyd, aan almal wat dit hoegenaamd kan verstaan, net soveel plesier en kennis bied as wat diegene wat te vernooslik is (oortreffende trap van onnosel) om dit eens te besef en eerder asof gehipnotiseer na 'n flikkerende skerm pie sit en staar: Viva bibliofilia, viva! Bennie Boekwurm vir president ...!

Dr Francois Verster
Korrespondent

Kaapse Bibliotekaris 40 JAAR GELEDE ...

Stefan Wehmeyer Adjunkdirekteur: Streke

- ▶ Tafelberg Uitgewers bekroon vyf boeke in 'n letterkundige wedstryd: Hennie Aucamp se **'n Bruidsbed vir Tant Nonnie**. Met dié boek het Aucamp bewys dat hy ontwikkel het as een van ons belangrikste hedendaagse prosaskrywers. Deur sy oorspronklike hantering van styl en uitbeelding het hy die kortkunsgenre verryk. Hester Heese, **Ek en jy, grootbroer** ('n kinderverhaal), Anna Heiberg, **Dambord**. (Die resensent skryf: 'Met dié werk het Heiberg die Sestigers vooruitgegaan. Die weg is nou gebaan vir die uitbouing hierop in die toekoms.') Ek het op PALS en die Internet gaan kyk watter boeke die outeur nog geskryf het, maar hierdie was haar tweede en laaste boek! JD Kotze, **Nasionalisme** (wetenskaplike prosa) en FA Venter, **Die rentmeesters** ('n landelike roman).
- ▶ Mnr NF Van der Merwe (voormalige direkteur) skryf 'n baie interessante artikel oor die Oranjerivierskema. Vier dorpe is destyds gestig om al die werknemers aan die skema te huisves, naamlik, Oviston, Midshaft, Teebus en Orania. Biblioteke is in al

hierdie dorpe gevestig. Werkers aan die projek het van verskeie lande gekom en in Teebus was daar so baie Italianers dat die biblioteekkennissgewings ook in Italiaans aangebring is. Daar is geskat dat al die werkers en hulle gesinne sowat 30 000 boeke in 1970 gelees het.

- ▶ Mary Musson from Kimberly wrote about a Father Christmas postbox she put up in the library. One of the kids put the following address on an envelope: Igloo No. 4, Iceland, North Pole, Archie Circle.
- ▶ In the spirit of Christmas the CL featured cut-out displays of the Three Wise Men. The art print of the month was Georges De La Tour's **Adoration of the shepherds**. Records ordered were **Welcome child of Mary**, **Frosty winds** and **Fantasia on Christmas carols**.

