

POSTBAG

POSSAK ISINGXOBO SEPOSI

Services to the GLBT community

Readers of Genevieve Hart's article, *A study of public library services to gays and lesbians*, in the March/April 2011 issue of **CL** may have been left with the impression that the Western Cape Provincial Library Service's Selection Section does not cater to the needs of the GLBT community in the range of reviewed titles that are made available for public librarians to select from at our book selection meetings. This is most definitely not the case.

We regularly review and select titles aimed at our GLBT community. As can be expected, attention is paid to local titles. Some that have been purchased in recent years include the following titles that illustrate the range of our coverage:

- The au pair** by Michelle Macfarlane (2010).
 - Black bull, ancestors and me: my life as a lesbian sangoma** by Nkunzi Zandile Nkabinde (2008).
 - Daar's 'n gay pastoor in my kop** deur Philip Liebenberg (2008).
 - Footnotes to sex** by Mia Farlane (2009).
 - Hijab: unveiling queer Muslim lives** (2009).
 - Miriam dans: vroue wat vroue liefhet** deur Elise van Wyk (2009).
 - Out at the movies: a history of gay cinema** by Steven Paul Davies (2008).
 - Reclaiming the L-word: Sappho's daughters out in Africa** edited by Alleyn Diesel (2011).
 - Soeker** deur Pieter Cilliers (2011).
 - Trans: transgender life stories from South Africa** (2009).
 - Yes, I am! Writing by South African gay men** edited by Robin Malan and Ashraf Johardien (2010).
- Also, the non-fiction series aimed at teenagers, *Teens: being gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgender* (2010).

These, as all other titles in our stock, may be borrowed through interlibrary loan, should they not be available on the shelves of a user's local public library.

Johanna de Beer

Assistant Director: Selection and Acquisitions

Please see page XX for Book Selector Theresa Sass's article on gay literature for teens. ED

Thanks

Just a brief, personal appreciation for the amount of information you have included in the March/April 2011 issue of **CL** relevant to IBBY. I remember well the time that nobody in South Africa had ever heard of IBBY (including myself). Also thanks for giving prominence to The Golden Baobab Prize for which I am one of the judges, and which also deserves to be better known.

Jay Heale

Hallo biblioteekvriende

Ek het op die ingewing van die oomblik nou die dag 'n stuk geskryf oor Pieter Hugo se netjies-uiteengesette artikel in die **KB** oor die 100 beste boeke. Omdat Litnet so min Engelse stukke op het – sommige dateer uit die 1990's – het ek gedog ek stuur dit sommer na Naomi Bruwer, wat ek daar ken. Sy het dit opgesit en ek sien as mens kliek op *Nuut op Litnet* links bo op die tuisblad, is dit daar. Gaan net bietjie af tot jy iets oor *Best books* sien. Ek word nie hiervoor betaal nie, so ek maak nie geld uit julle arbeid nie; ek dink net dis goed om 'die woord te versprei' aan geïnteresseerde lesers.

Francois Verster

Ons waardeer jou belangstelling en dankie vir die wenk.
RED

MENSE

PEOPLE ABANTU

SN verloor 'n fee

As 'n mens dink aan Adri (A3) Bester, dink jy aan 'n sprankelende sprokie – 'n feëverhaal. Miskien moet ek dan so begin:

Eendag was daar 'n goeie fee wat in 'n groen bos in Goodwood gewoon het. In SN was sy die Fee van Uitreikings en Aanmannings, maar tuis was sy Wally se feëvroutjie, mammafee van Colette, Tania en Alec, en Oumafee van al haar geliefde kleinkinders, wie se foto's in haar kantoortuon opgeplak was en waarmee sy gespog het by almal wat daar ingekom het.

A3 stap by die Biblioteekdiens in op 1 Februarie 1984. Dit was toevallig ook die begin van 'n werkstudie-onderzoek – 'n aaklige tyd om te begin, soos almal wat al daarmee te doen gehad het, kan getuig. Aanvanklik wou sy net vir drie jaar werk (net totdat haar jongste, Alec, skooltoe gaan),

maar uiteindelik kon sy haarself eers ná 27 jaar wegskeur van haar geliefde biblioteekdiens.

Sy was baie hardwerkend en die Diens kan opreg trots wees dat sy deel van die werkerskorps was. A3 was baie gesteld daarop om SN se boeke en ander materiaal wat aan gebruikers geleen is, terug te kry. Daarom is sy deur kollegas SN se bloedhond- en polisiefee genoem, en sy het nie geskroom om probleemgebruikers, selfs in haar eie tyd en met haar eie foon, op te spoor en te bel nie. Sy was meedoënloos en het aangehou totdat die boeke terug was op SN se rakke.

Haar kollegas beskryf haar as spontaan, geliefd, en lief vir mense. Sy het werklik omgee vir haar medemens en haar Christelike waardes uitgeleef. Met haar sprankelende geaardheid het sy opwindende stories vertel wat almal om haar laat skaterlag het. Daarom was die vrolike atmosfeer in SN se kantoor ook altyd die rede waarom besoekers graag daar gekom het. Sy was 'n goeie, simpatieke luisteraar en baie mense het haar om raad kom vra. Sy was altyd reg met trooswoorde en drukkie om die las te help dra. Vir haar kollegas het sy altyd die Ekstra Myl geloop.

A3, mag jou towerfeëttjestaaf nog lank vreugde en voorspoed in jou mense se lewens bring. Ons sal nooit weer so'n goeie fee in ons midde hê nie, maar ons gun die inwoners van Franskraal die vreugde van jou nabyheid – ons verlies is Franskraal en die Bester-gesin se wins!

Stefan Wehmeyer

Adjunkdirekteur, Streekorganisasie

Adri, jy was die beste boek-polisiehond wat ek ken. Maar ook die mees verdraagsame! Om te sê ons mis jou geweldig is maar 'n flou beskrywing van hoe ons werklik voel! RED



▲ 'n Tipiese Adri glimlaggie...

BIBLIOTEKE

LIBRARIES
AMATHALA EENCWADI

Wesfleur word mondig



Baie geluk - 21 jaar is 'n merkwaardige ouderdom!

Ethney Waters
Streekbibliotekaris, Blaauwbergstreek

Swellendam Leeskring – 40 jaar later

Êrens in September 1970, op 'n lente-Maandag, is 'n mooi dogtertjie met groot toekomsverwagtinge gebore. Sy was gene-
nome: Swellendam Leeskring. Haar ma was Brenda Kelly by wie die briljante idee van 'n leeskring ontstaan het, en sommer met die geboorte was daar tien lede teenwoordig. Van Dag Een af was hierdie nuwe baba 'n voorslag. Ledegeld was maar R1. Die ledetal was beperk en is volgens die grondwet gekeur; tog was daar nooit 'n tekort aan lede nie.

Hierdie baba het gou-gou haar kinder-
skoene ontgroe en in 'n dame ontpop. Sy het elke geleentheid aangegryp om te lees en te ontwikkel. Vanjaar is Swellendam Leeskring 40 jaar oud en so sprankelend en op-en-wakker soos altyd. In die veertig jaar is:

443	vergaderings gehou
296	Afrikaanse boeke gelees
85	Engelse boeke gelees, en het
34	sprekers opgetree.

Vier getroue lede het erelede geword, naamlik Hanna Streicher, Ydelene de Bruyn, Rykie de Wet en Juffrou Anna Rothman (ook bekend as MER). Daar het baie lede gekom en gegaan. Sommige het bedank en weer aangesluit na gelang van hulle

omstandighede. Ander is ongelukkig oorlede en sommiges wat verhuis het, glo ons, het by ander leeskringe aangesluit.

Ons dame is vandag belese en berese. Sy het baie belangstellings. Sy ken haar omgewing – ons dorp, sy museum, Mayville, oorsprong van die dorp se straatname, ou families en die Ou Kaapse Wapad.

Sy het ook haar kennis oor Afrika en selfs die Xhosas se bygelowe verbreed. Sy her ver en wyd gereis – in Europa, Nepal, die Verre Ooste, tot by Argentinië en selfs Namibië.

Alle genres is bestudeer: die roman, kort-verhaal, digkuns, drama en komedie. Daar is getreur saam met oorlogslagoffers, moed geskep by Frankl en saam gelag met PH Nortjé en Philip de Vos.

Opregte vrou wat sy is, was koskook en resepteboeke ook op die spyskaart. Sy het haar selfs gewaag aan die **Dr Atkins Diet Revolution**. Daar is voorgelees, saam geëet en geluister: Heerlike aande van samesyn met boeke!

Skrywers en digters van alle tye en tale is gelees: Dickenson, Oscar Wilde, Langenhoven, Boerneef, Eugène Marais, Mikro, tot by ons jongste skrywers, digters en dramaturge. Moderne skrywers is baie gewild. Omtrent al die boeke van Dalene Matthee, Marlene van Niekerk, André P Brink, Annelie Botes en vele meer is gelees.

Godsdien is nie uitgelaat nie. So ook nie politiek nie, maar nooit het ons dame se politieke onderrok een sentimeter uitgehang nie!

Sy het hande gevat met omliggende dorpe soos Bonnievale, Montagu, Heidelberg en Stilbaai, en hul belangrike funksies bygewoon. Debatte is gehou en dikwels is voorgelees uit geliefde boeke.

Maar sy misken ook nie haar eie profete nie. Skrywers uit eie omgewing soos Petra Müller, Pieter Bloem, Mariëtte Uys, MER, Merena van Heemert, Audrey Bignault en Alba Boucher is almal ingesluit in die leesprogram en het as sprekers opgetree.

Sy ken die geskiedenis van musiek. Sy dans fyntjies saam met Louis Armstrong, met 'n 'stringetjie blou krale' van Dido om haar nek. Sy is jonk en glo (soos wyslik in 'n notule gestaan het), dat honderd jaar net oud is vir 'n skilpad en 'n boom!

Winter holidays at Somerset West

Many people contributed to making a success of the library's holiday programme such as David Crichton, Bubblegum Productions, Drumkidz and Calincka Mobile Puppet Theatre.

Talita de Klerk
Principal Librarian, Somerset West Library



Sy glo ook saam met Mariëtte Uys wat gesê het: 'Ons ontdek ons medemens deur te lees.' Dit moet 'n ontdekkingsreis wees. Ons moet lees om dieper te delf. So ontmoet ons baie mense, dromers, denkers, en filosofe. En ons kan deel in hierdie drome. Ons moet ook kritiek en resensies lees. Ons moet lees om te bedink en die vertroue ontwikkel om onself te wees.

Ons groet elkeen met die ou Ierse gebed waarvoor Audrey Blignault so lief was:

Mag die pad saam met julle styg

Mag die wind agter julle rug wees

Mag die son sag op julle skyn

Mag die reën seënnend op julle veld val

Mag die Here God julle in die holte van Sy hand hou.

*Myrtle van Deventer
Erelidmaat, Swellendam Leeskring*

*Baie geluk met julle dogter se verjaardag – sy klink
voorwaar na 'n modelkind! RED*

Rekenaars nou in Prince Albert en Leeu-Gamka

Rekenaars is so pas in die biblioteke van Prince Albert en Leeu-Gamka deur die Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens geïnstalleer en kan sedert April deur die publiek gebruik word.

Dit is 'n gratis diens en kos slegs 50c per bladsy vir uitdrukke.

Daar is ook Internettoegang beskikbaar wat gereeld deur leerlinge benut word.

Provinsie is tans besig met onderhandelinge met die munisipaliteit om ook Klarstroom Biblioteek binne die volgende paar maande van rekenaars te voorsien.

Prince Albert Vriend



▲ Groot opwinding heers onder gebruikers sedert die installering van rekenaars

Valiant Swart visits Wellington Library

Valiant Swart recently visited our library. He grew up in Wellington and the SABC decided to make a documentary about him and his birthplace. On his request a part of it was filmed in the library. The programme was featured on SABC 2 as part of **Pasella**.

*Elsabé du Toit
Librarian, Wellington Library*



▲ Valiant with some of the staff in Wellington's Children's Library

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

SKRYWERS EN BOEKE IINCWADI NABABHALI

Novels that keep you in the picture

The graphic novel made its debut at this year's Franschhoek Festival, and fans could discover the fine line between comics and the graphic novel.

Andy Mason, veteran cartoonist, said that South Africa has produced some good graphic novelists. He singled out Joe Daly, a young Capetonian whose off-beat surreal tales have done well in the USA and in France, where the form is revered by comic fans.

Mason facilitated a session at the festival, and his panel also included Leonora van Staden, an Afrikaans artist who emerged from the **Bitterkomix** stable, and political cartoonist Jeremy Nell.

Van Staden welcomed the festival's recognition of graphic novels, though she said there is still some way to go before the form is accorded the reverence and respect that it enjoys in Europe. 'We need to up our game as artists. There's a lot of trash out there.'

Nell is a cartoonist with *New Age*, the recently launched, controversial daily newspaper. He is a cartoonist with a difference – he doesn't use pen and paper:



▲ Joe Daly

'I'm probably the only cartoonist who works digitally,' he says. Nell has a keen eye for the absurd, and his recent political cartoons can be seen at <http://jeremynell.com>

The Times

LITERARY AWARDS

LITERÊRE TOEKENNINGS AMABHASO WONCWADI

Top SA author's no sloth...

Lauren Beukes has written an animated teen television show, campaigned against crime, collects gargoyles and wears a pink wedding ring with skulls and Venus Flytraps.

Now this Cape Town mother is the country's latest literary sensation. Her novel, **Zoo City**, scooped Britain's top science fiction award, the Arthur C Clarke Award, beating bestselling writers Ian McDonald and Patrick Ness. Beukes received the award on Freedom Day, April 27. She praised her 'incredible' country and wore a fake sloth creature on her shoulder – like her main character, Zinzi December.

Zoo City is a murder mystery set in an alternative-reality slum in Hillbrow, Johannesburg, where criminals can be identified by the animals that follow them.

Her South African publisher, Jacana, said winning the 'Oscar of the sci-fi world' had prompted not only a reprint of **Zoo City**, but also a reprint of her earlier novel, **Moxylant**.

The cover designer, Joey Hifi (aka Dale Halvorsen) won the best art prize at the British Science Fiction Awards a week before Beukes' achievement.

Sunday Times

MISCELLANY

ALLERLEI IINCWADI EZAHLUKENEYO

A book fair and donkeys ...

After a rather unusual press release landed on my desk, we decided to follow up on this book fair with a difference ...

The Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary in the delightful village of McGregor was established in 2007, the year when the McGregor Book Fair was also inaugurated.

The Sanctuary is a registered welfare organisation and believes in giving value to its supporters, hence the idea of a Book Fair was born. The Fair is now an annual event and our only major fund-raising opportunity. This year we had over 6,000 books, and more than half were brand new. This is not your average 'second-hand book sale'. We kept the prices low so as to encourage people to buy more, and to read more!

There is a special collection section at the Book Fair, where particularly old and unique books are available.

The Book Fair raises enough money to cover the costs of feed for the donkeys. Currently the Sanctuary is directly responsible for the care of 38 donkeys: there are 20 donkeys resident at the Sanctuary, with the

others in foster homes. We also act as an information centre for owners of donkeys who have any queries regarding care, and for people wanting to acquire donkeys as companion animals. The Sanctuary also has an education programme for schools, and has produced a substantial teacher's pack of classroom material for primary schools.

Our mission is to provide permanent homes and loving care for rescued, aged and destitute donkeys, and to spread our motto, *A culture of caring.*

Our full mission statement is available on our web site www.donkeysanctuary.co.za, as well as other information about our work. We feel strongly that the status of donkeys in the eyes of the public needs to be elevated: they are charming animals, as worthy of informed, loving care as any other animal.

Visitors are welcomed at the Sanctuary, and on Saturdays and Sundays a guide may be available to take you in to meet the donkeys and experience the magic of gazing deep into a wise old donkey's eyes.

Annemarie van Zijl

Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary, McGregor

Serious book collectors – take note! ED

Twintig jaar later

'n Vorige sub-redakteur, Janine de Villiers (tans in beheer van die biblioteek by Welgemoed Primêre Skool), stuur onlangs

vir ons hierdie foto van 'n uitstalling waarin sy gebruik gemaak het van sjablone gemaak deur 'n voormalige kunstenaar van die Publikasie- en Reklame-afdeling, Meta Zöllner. Soos sy sê: '... dit wys net weer hoe oulik Meta was – na 20 jaar werk haar vissie-templates nog!'

Janine de Villiers

Dankie dat jy hierdie lekker herinnering met ons gedeel het. Jou uitstalling lyk pragtig. Red

No support for zero-rated VAT on books

The South African National Treasury does not support a proposal for the zero-rating of value-added tax (VAT) on books, its chief director for tax policy, Cecil Morden, said recently. He said this was because suppliers and the middle and upper income groups would benefit instead of the poor.

'The proposal to zero-rate books is not supported. Who is actually going to benefit? It will go to the supplier and the consumer will only get a small percentage.

'Many analysts have demonstrated that in absolute monetary terms the middle and higher income earners benefit more from zero-rating than the poor. One would hope most of the benefit will be passed to the consumer. In reality it won't happen,' said Morden, addressing the Standing Committee on Finance in Parliament.

▼ Proceeds from the annual book fair raise enough money to feed the 38 donkeys in the sanctuary



▲ Welgemoed Primêre se see-uitstalling

The rich would, in fact, benefit about six times more than the poor.

He said a VAT concession was the weakest mechanism to use to achieve an objective such as making books cheaper and more accessible to schools as well as the public.

The idea stemmed from a proposal that stated that the current 14 percent VAT on books was, in effect, a tax on learning and on knowledge. But Morden told the committee that it would be better to keep the concessions and to rather increase spending on literacy programmes, libraries and grants. He said redistribution should be done through the income tax system, rather than the VAT system.

Morden quoted extensively from research and commissions to add weight to his point.

He said the Katz Commission found in 1994 that 'providing relief to the poor through exemptions and VAT zero-rating is likely to be both unsound tax policy and ineffective social policy'.

He said VAT impact studies in other countries also confirmed the conclusions of the Katz Commission. In Ireland, for example, it was found that the poor spend relatively more of their income on food than the rich. 'However, in absolute amounts the rich spend twice as much on food as the poor. Consequently, Ireland's zero-rating of food gives twice as much tax relief to high-income groups than to low-income groups.'

Morden said the definition of books was broad and that the committee needed to define what it meant by 'books'. He said a book could be anything from a pornographic magazine to a glossy magazine. Some books were used for both pleasure and literature.

'We are sitting with a real definition problem ... It creates a lot of problems.'

Meryl Federl

Librarian, Legal Resources Centre, Johannesburg

Announcing the new BOOK device

The BOOK is a revolutionary breakthrough in technology: no wires, no electric circuits, no batteries, nothing to be connected or switched on. It's so easy to use even a child can operate it. Just lift



its cover! Compact and portable, it can be used anywhere – even sitting in an armchair by the fire – yet it is powerful enough to hold as much information as a CD-ROM disc.

Here's how it works ...

Each BOOK is constructed of sequentially numbered sheets of paper (recyclable), each capable of holding thousands of bits of information. These pages are locked together with a custom-fit device called a binder which keeps the sheets in their correct sequence. Opaque Paper Technology (OPT) allows manufacturers to use both sides of the sheet, doubling the information density and cutting costs in half. Experts are divided on the prospects for further increases in information density; for now BOOKs with more information simply use more pages. This makes them thicker and harder to carry, and has drawn some criticism from the mobile computing crowd. Each sheet is scanned optically, registering information directly into your brain. A flick of the finger takes you to the next sheet. The BOOK may be taken up at any time and used by merely opening it. The BOOK never crashes and never needs rebooting, though like other display devices it can become unusable if dropped overboard. The 'browse' feature allows you to move instantly to any sheet, and move forward or backward as you wish. Many come with an 'index' feature, which pinpoints the exact location of any selected information for instant retrieval.

An optional 'BOOKmark' accessory allows you to open the BOOK to the exact place you left it in a previous session – even if the BOOK has been closed. BOOKmarks fit universal design standards; thus, a single BOOKmark can be used in BOOKs by various manufacturers.

Conversely, numerous BOOKmarkers can be used in a single BOOK if the user wants to store numerous views at once. The number is limited only by the number of pages in the BOOK.

The medium is ideal for long-term archive use. Several field trials have proven that the medium will still be readable in several centuries, and because of its simple user interface it will be compatible with future reading devices.

You can also make personal notes next to BOOK text entries with an optional programming tool, the Portable Erasable Nib Cryptic Intercommunication Language

Stylus (Pencils). Portable, durable, and affordable, the BOOK is being hailed as the entertainment wave of the future. The BOOK's appeal seems so certain that thousands of content creators have committed to the platform. Look for a flood of new titles soon ...

<http://cool.conservation-us.org/byorg/abbey/an/an21/an21-8/an21-807.html>

Team DCAS celebrates Public Service Week



▲ Assistant Director Annerie Pruis from the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS) was all smiles whilst spoiling staff with cupcakes



▲ Great fun was had in DCAS, with the handing out of hundreds of cupcakes. Even the Library Service was visited and it was big smiles all round when Deputy Directors Tessa Caroline and Stefan Wehmeyer also received theirs. Stefan's sweet tooth is no secret ...

ON WRITING

SKRYFGEDAGTES EZABABHALI

Waar lê hul spore vandag: 'n huldeblyk aan SA uitgewers, klein en groot, oorlede en (oor)lewend.

Vandag wonder baie mense oor die toekoms van die boek, veral in papierformaat. As 'n forum soos die Klein-Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees (KKNK) minder reklame maak vir boeke as vir musiek of drama, rys die jeremiades soos onkruid uit die kultuurgrasperke op. As die Kaapse Boekebeurs skielik al om die tweede jaar gehou word, dreun 'n gebrom teen Tafelberg se hange uit, pak die beskuldigings saam en verduister die son vir elke bibliofiel van Richmond tot Darling en van Windhoek tot Noordhoek...

Tóg is daar diegene wat beweer dat die boekbedryf gedy; 'n bloeiende internasionale industrie', skryf Basil van Rooyen in die toonaangewende **How to get your book published in 30 (relatively) easy steps** (2010). Volgens hom was Suid-Afrika 35ste op die lys van boekelande, met China loshande die voorloper (200 000 nuwe boeke per jaar, markwaarde ongeveer R60 biljoen). 'n Mens moet egter versigtig wees om summier vergelykings te tref, want binne China se grense woon immers 'n kwart van die planeet se mense, met miljoene van hulle wat relatief geletterd en belese is, of wil wees. Plaaslik tref ons 'n jammerlik teenstellende scenario aan. Ons geletterdheidsvlakke is laag en die etlike moedige pogings (dink maar aan die Centre for the Book en ons provinsiale biblioteekdienste se talle inisiatiewe), asook die verskillende tale en kulture, help ook nie.

Gesels 'n mens met professionele mense in die bedryf hoor jy uitsprake wat jou hare laat rys (nes daai onkruid waarvan ek gepraat het) – so word gesê dat skrywers

al meer geld eis en elektroniese opsies as afdreigmiddel gebruik teen uitgewers wat nog die tradisionele weg volg. Die verkope van baie nuwe boeke is swak en die uitgewers kan eenvoudig nie altyd bepaal of 'n nuwe boek gaan vlieg of duik nie. En as hy duik, kan hulle saam afgetrek word, wég in die duistere dieptes van vergetelheid. Sommiges het reddingsboeie gegryp deur saam te smelt met groter maatskappye, soos Struik wat by Johnnic en Exclusive Books aangesluit het en nou bekend staan as Random House Struik. Ander is bloot geabsorbeer binne 'n groter geheel, soos Die Burger-Boekhandel (wat wel 610 boeke uitgegee het) binne Nasionale Pers (Naspers sedert 1998) self.

Maar waar het alles begin?

In die 1800's is eers Bybels en godsdiens-tige geskrifte gepubliseer, meesal uit Engels vertaal, soos **The pilgrim's progress** deur John Bunyan (in 80 Afrikatale). Die eerste Afrikaanse boeke het verskyn as gevolg van die Eerste Taalbeweging – DF du Toit en Kie, Paarl, het binne 20 jaar sowat 80 000 boeke gedruk. Toe, soos nou, het dreigende ondergang as stimulus gedien om die bedryf robuus te hou. 'n Mens vermoed dat die periodieke klaagliedere deesdae die grootste bolwerk is teen die vloed van apatie wat ons literêre dyke bedreig. Godsdiens-tige boeke doen steeds beslis ook hulle deel (nes kookboeke – dus voedsel vir liggaam en siel!), soos ook die sendelinge ruim 200 jaar gelede die eerste swart outeurs ondersteun het – Sol Plaatje en Toyo Soqa sou andersins nie hulle plekke in ons geskiedenis kon inneem nie. Inderdaad het ons uitgewerye goed weggespring: in 1917, skryf prof CFJ Muller in **Sonop in die Suide: geboorte en groei van die Nasionale Pers (1915-1948)**, het 59 Hollandse en Afrikaanse boeke plaaslik verskyn, met 14 daarvan wat deur Nasionale Pers uitgegee is.

Maar waar het die eerste uitgewers vandaan gekom? Uit twee 'moederlande' veral, naamlik Nederland en Brittanje. Eers was daar klein familiebedrywe soos Van Schaik, Juta en Maskew Miller, wat steeds met ons is, hoewel die families wat die

uitgewerye begin het nie meer in beheer daarvan is nie. Baie klein uitgewerye het geheel en al verdwyn, soos Taurus, met sy trotse geskiedenis van verset teen sensuur. Ook groter maatskappye soos Perskor het die stryd teen sterker mededingers soos Naspers verloor. Self-publiseerders en baie klein uitgewers kom en gaan gedurig, soms sonder om 'n rimpeling na te laat in dié onpeilbare stroom. Nogtans het elkeen van hulle 'n bydrae gemaak – ongeveer 80% van Publishers' Association of South Africa (PASA) is klein instansies, terwyl baie van diesulkes nie eens lede is nie, wat 'n aanduiding is van die diepte van die spoor wat hulle gesamentlik trap.

Uitgewers het nie heldegalerye soos country-sangers in die *Grand Ole Opry* of 'n *Walk of Fame Hollywood Boulevard* soos filmsterre nie. En omdat so baie eerder Onbekende Soldate was wat niemand onthou nie, sal geen ererol ooit volledig wees nie. Ek noem dus 'n paar wat ek onthou, en hulle verteenwoordig ook die res:

AA Donker en AA Balkema (albei nog lewendig in Nederland), Drommedaris-Uitgewers, Die Sondagskool-Boekhandel, HAUM, Stellenbosch Museum, Taurus, Uitgewery Bezuidenhout, UUB...

Mag dit lank neem voor die lys nog aangroei. Want sonder julle, die uitgewers, sal skares skrywers reddeloos verlore wees.

Een ligpunt is dat sommige uitgewers wat op my lang lys van gesneuweldes was, toe soos die (intussen wel gestorwe) digter kan sê hulle doodsberigte was voortydig – minstens die helfte is nog mét ons, aldus die Internet. Ons sê maar nie wie hulle is nie: sleg vir besigheid – en as dit nie 'n voetskoot sal wees nie, weet ek nie wat is nie!

Die boek is dood, lank lewe die boek!

Dr Francois Verster
Korrespondent



'Special' Cape Librarian 40 YEARS AGO ...

Stefan Wehmeyer Deputy Director: Regions



Guess who moved to Cape Town 40 years ago?

To quote from the CL of May 1971: 'Newly appointed in the Central Collection Department is Mrs P.J. Joering, where she will be concerned with issuing special requests.'

After 40 years, our beloved librarian of the Hospital Street Depot/Social Library is still here, saying 'Lovey' and 'Sweeties' to all her patrons at the library . . . and, every day, punctually at 13:00, when the library closes after lunch time she still says, 'Time, gentlemen!'



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