

EDITORIAL / REDAKSIONEEL

The present volume has a few features that may benefit from more specific elucidation. The articles included in the volume reflect the diversity of interests represented by Classics as an area of investigation. They cover a broad spectrum of topics: the requirements for artifacts represented in museum collections; historiography of late antique Africa and the Greek novel; the philosophical and historical background of Paul's speech in Acts; the pedagogy involved in the teaching of Latin; and a further contribution on the history of the Classical Association of South Africa.

These articles also represent contributions from five different South African universities. Given the Department of Higher Education and Training's requirement that no department should be represented by more than 25% of the total contributions, the restrictions on accredited publications have increased considerably. This requirement takes absolutely no account of the size of the university, the number of staff in a specific department, the number of students taught at such a department, or the general size and shape of a discipline. If more than one article from a department should be accepted for publication (after the usual peer review) the volume as a whole would then have to increase the number of articles required to 'reduce' such a department's contribution to 25% or less of the volume. The present volume 'meets' these requirements, since it so happened that articles were contributed from a number of different universities, but depending on the origin of articles in future, there may be substantial difficulties to overcome!

A further aspect of this year's volume that merits mention is the student essay section. On behalf of the Classical Association of South Africa (CASA) *Akroterion* publishes the best student essay received from a particular year. This year fourteen essays were received, many more than the usual number of entries. The winning essay was written by Helen Lenahan, a student from Rhodes who completed and submitted her essay under very difficult personal circumstances due to the ongoing and often violent student protests at Rhodes.

For a number of years, *Akroterion* has also published the translation that was awarded the CASA prize for a translation submitted by a registered student. The requirement of student registration for entry was originally intended to encourage students (as opposed to members of the public) to submit their translation efforts. Again more entries were received than are normally submitted. And again the quality was exceedingly high. Eventually it was decided that the translation prize would be awarded to two entries (each receiving the prize), since no prize was awarded the previous year.

From the above it remains clear that even under very difficult circumstances, Classics remains alive, relevant and a source of great intellectual stimulation to a large number of universities, departments, individual students and members of the public.

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