

REPORT ON THE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION OF
SOUTH AFRICA, 1957—JAN. 1959

The two years 1957—58 following on the second national conference held at Stellenbosch in February 1957 were a period of growth and consolidation for the Classical Association. Membership was more than doubled (96 members) and the active support of teachers in High Schools was enlisted.

1. REGIONAL ORGANIZATION.

The Northern Region held two meetings in 1958:

- (a) On April 26 at the University of the Witwatersrand, on which occasion the following papers were read:

Prof. C. A. van Rooij (Bloemfontein): *Tradition, linguistics, archaeology and aspects of the pre-Hellenic civilization in Crete and Greece* (in Afrikaans).

Prof. S. Davis (Witwatersrand): *Linear A and Linear B — some problems*.

A debate was also held on: *The claims of Roman History to inclusion in the high school syllabus for Latin*, introduced by Dr. W. J. G. Lubbe (Pretoria) and Mr. J. C. Mentz (Krugersdorp).

- (b) On August 22 and 23 in combination with the Cicero and Ovid Jubilee organized by the Department of Latin at the University of Pretoria. The following papers were read (the first four in Afrikaans):

Prof. W. N. Coetzee (Potchefstroom): *Cicero, the author*.

Prof. H. L. Gonin (Pretoria): *Cicero, the orator*.

Dr. P. J. Rabie (of the Pretoria Bar): *Cicero, the advocate*.

Prof. G. v. N. Viljoen (Univ. of S.A.): *Cicero, the student*.

Prof. S. J. H. Steven (Univ. of the O.F.S.): *Cicero, the statesman*.

Prof. S. Davis (Witwatersrand): *Ovid and his influence on European Literature*.

On the same occasion a plaque in honour of the late Prof. H. G. Viljoen, sometime professor of Greek at the University of Pretoria, was unveiled by Mrs. Viljoen at the entrance to the new Classics Reading room of the Merensky Library.

Further regional and local branches of the Association are being organized, e.g. in the south, in the O.F.S. and in Natal.

2. VISIT BY PROF. WAGENVOORT.

The envisaged visit of Prof. H. Wagenvoort of Utrecht, the Netherlands, sponsored by the committee administering the cultural agreement between the Netherlands and South Africa, at the request of the Association, took place during Sept.—Nov. 1957. Prof. Wagenvoort, accompanied by Mrs. Wagenvoort, visited all the University centres and addressed meetings of students and members of the public.

3. THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE, BLOEMFONTEIN
28—31 JAN. 1959.

The conference was attended by 25 members including its two honorary presidents, Prof. T. J. Haarhoff and Prof. A. Petrie.

The following papers were read:

Prof. F. Smuts (Stellenbosch) delivered his Presidential Address on: *Some thoughts on the task of the classical scholar in South Africa to-day* (since published in *Newsletter* IV, 1 (March 1959), pp. 7—12, Stellenbosch).

Prof. T. J. Haarhoff: *The experience of Aeneas, seen as an act of faith*.

Mr. A. Thorpe (Witwatersrand): *Lyon, metropolis of the three Gauls*.

Dr. W. J. G. Lubbe (Pretoria): *Quomodo Suetonius fontibus suis utatur in Divo Iulio*.

Dr. A. M. Hugo (Stellenbosch): *Desiderius Erasmus, considered in relation to the future of classical studies in S.A.* (in Afrikaans).

Prof. F. Smuts (Stellenbosch): *Roma Aeterna, some impressions of a recent visit to Rome* (in Afrikaans). Prof. C. A. van Rooij (Bloemfontein) illustrated this talk with colour slides taken by himself in Italy.

Dr. P. J. Conradie (Stellenbosch): *The rôle of Fate in Sophocles and Jean Anouilh* (in Afrikaans).

Prof. G. v. N. Viljoen (Univ. of S.A.): *The Plot of the 'Captivi' of Plautus* (in Afrikaans).

Prof. K. D. White (Natal): *How to teach the elements of Greek to adults: discussion of a vexed question.*

Prof. S. J. H. Steven (Bloemfontein): *Some pitfalls for the unwary in translating into Latin.*

Prof. H. L. Gonin (Pretoria): *Aspects of the teaching of the Classics* (in Afrikaans).

Mr. J. J. Engelbrecht (Hoër Volksskool, Potchefstroom): *Tense and Tense Forms: a discussion of pupils' difficulties especially with relation to the Subjunctive* (in Afrikaans).

Prof. Haarhoff honoured: One of the outstanding events of this conference was the opening meeting on Wednesday evening, January 28, on which occasion Prof. Haarhoff was presented with the first volume of *Acta Classica* (1958), dedicated to him, after Prof. S. J. H. Steven had read an encomium on him.

Acta Classica: A full report by the Editorial Committee was tabled and was adopted by conference. Acting on the instructions of the 1957 Conference to examine the possibility of starting a publication of the Association, the Executive, after extended discussions, in October 1957 decided to publish the first volume of its Proceedings or *Acta* as a commemorative issue in honour of Prof. T. J. Haarhoff. The following editorial committee was appointed: Prof. F. Smuts, Prof. G. P. Goold, Prof. G. v. N. Viljoen (Secretary), Dr. C. P. T. Naude, Dr. P. L. Nicolaides, and Mr. B. L. Hijmans. This Committee was responsible for collecting the funds and seeing the first volume through the press. On the financial side especially the work of Dr. Nicolaides and Dr. Naudé received honourable mention.

Contributions by both overseas and South African scholars were included in vol. I, which was published by A. A. Balkema, Cape Town, and appeared in print in Jan. 1959.

The Conference laid down rules for the future conduct of affairs and the Executive reconstituted the Editorial Committee for the next two years (1959—1960) as follows: Prof. G. v. N. Viljoen (Managing Editor), Dr. C. P. T. Naudé (Treasurer), Prof. F. Smuts, with a representative panel of collaborators.

Reports by other *ad hoc committees* were tabled and adopted by the conference:

- (a) Prof. J. P. J. van Rensburg reported that the Secretary of 'Die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie' had made contact with members of his committee on the question of the spelling of classical names in Afrikaans; they gave their opinion, and a final report was now awaited from the Akademie.
- (b) Prof. G. v. N. Viljoen reported that a comprehensive catalogue of classical and related periodicals and a list of periodicals in border subjects, available in South African Libraries, had been completed. With the aid of this list and after mutual consultation a large number of new periodicals and lacking volumes had been acquired by some Universities, and a revised list containing these new acquisitions would soon be completed. Thereupon the committee would carry on their activities in connection with corpora and serial works. An attempt was also being made to compile card indices on specific subjects or authors. A new committee to carry on this work was appointed with Dr. E. L. de Kock as convener.
- (c) In connection with the project of a museum exchange with Italy, Prof. K. D. White reported that it was essential first to have discussions to secure official support of the Department of Education, Arts and Science, before any further progress could be made. Prof. White, Gonin and Viljoen were appointed as a committee to further this matter.

Other resolutions were the following:

- (1) That Prof. White compile a short leaflet to be used for the enrolment of new members.
- (2) That Prof. van Rooij investigate the possibility of finding a suitable symbol and letterhead for the Association.
- (3) That the Association accept the invitation of the Classical Association of Rhodesia and Nyasaland to hold a conference as their guests in Salisbury in Jan. 1960,

provided a sufficient number of members could be found to go; if not, that a joint conference be held with the C.A.R.N.; that this be an extraordinary conference and that the next ordinary national conference be appointed for Febr. 1961 in Natal.

- (4) The constitution was thoroughly revised and inter alia it was decided that a Patron and Honorary Vice-Presidents be appointed.
- (5) Prof. W. Rollo, formerly of the University of Cape Town, who recently returned to the Union after having launched the new University College of Rhodesia, was elected as a third Honorary President, in recognition of his services to the Classics in South Africa.

The Executive for the next two years was constituted as follows: Prof. F. Smuts (Stellenbosch) — chairman, Prof. K. D. White (Natal) — vice-chairman, Dr. E. L. de Kock (Pretoria) — secretary-treasurer, Prof. C. A. van Rooij (Bloemfontein) and Prof. H. L. Gonin (Pretoria) — additional members.