

REPORT ON THE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA,
FEBRUARY 1959 — FEBRUARY 1961

1. *Regional Organisation.*

(a) The Northern Region held two meetings in 1959; no meeting was arranged during 1960.

On April 25, 1959, a Conference of Transvaal Latin Teachers was arranged at the University of Pretoria, and attended by more than 80 teachers and lecturers. The discussions were introduced by the following speakers (the last two in Afrikaans):

Opening Address by Mr H. A. Whitecross, Inspector of Education.

What is our aim with the teaching of Latin at school? by Mr W. J. H. Wilson (Johannesburg).

A discussion of the Latin syllabus, by Mr. J. J. A. de Villiers (Johannesburg).

Pronunciation and reading aloud of Latin, by Prof. H. L. Gonin (Pretoria).

Method in the literary interpretation of Latin texts by Miss H. A. Holtzhausen (Pretoria). A wide range of discussions included topics such as Classical Clubs at schools, tape-recordings of spoken Latin, preparation aids ('hulpboekies') to set books, and the need of refresher courses. A demonstration of audio-visual material was arranged. A detailed Report on this conference was cyclostyled and is available from the Regional Secretary (P.O. Box 392, Pretoria) at 2/6.

On October 24, 1959, the annual regional meeting was held at the University of South Africa in Pretoria, and the following papers were read:

Dr E. Holm (Pretoria): *Prehistoric foundations of the Greek mysteries — with reference to prehistoric art in South Africa* (in Afrikaans).

Mr D. B. Saddington (Witwatersrand Univ.): *Cicero's portrayal of Deiotarus in the 'pro Rege Deiotaro'*.

Dr T. F. Carney (Salisbury): *Formal elements in Livy*.

Mr W. H. Hewitt (Salisbury): *Cicero's picture of Laelius*.

The Regional Executive in 1959 was composed of Prof. H. L. Gonin (Chairman), Prof. G. van N. Viljoen (Secretary), Messrs. J. C. Mentz and J. T. Engelbrecht. In 1960 the members were Prof. S. Davis (Chairman), Prof. G. van N. Viljoen (Secretary), Miss H. A. Holtzhausen, Mr C. A. M. de Vleeschauer.

(b) A local branch of the Northern Region was founded at Bloemfontein on October 26, 1959. The meeting heard the following papers:

Prof. C. A. van Rooij: *Rome and Italy* (with slides).

Prof. S. J. H. Steven: *Constructional usages: 'cum' with the indicative and the subjunctive*.

A second meeting was held on October 29, 1960, and was addressed by the following: Mr J. W. Malan: *Some experiences of 40 years of teaching Latin: on constructional usages*.

Prof. S. J. H. Steven: *'Se' and 'suus' in Latin classical writers, with special reference to Caesar and Livy*.

The local committee was headed in 1959/60 by Messrs. J. W. Malan (Chairman) and W. J. Richards (Secretary), and in 1960/61 by Prof. S. J. H. Steven (Chairman) and Mr G. P. S. Albertse (Secretary).

(c) A conference for Natal Latin teachers was organized by Prof. K. D. White at Pietermaritzburg on May 21, 1960, at which occasion volume II of *Acta Classica* was officially presented to Prof. A. Petrie, to whom it is dedicated, on behalf of the Classical Association by Mr B. H. P. Farrer (Natal University).

(d) An Eastern Cape Region of the Association was founded at Grahamstown on October 14, 1960, at a public meeting presided over by the Mayor of Grahamstown. Prof. W. Rollo addressed the meeting on *What the Classics still mean to us today*, and Miss Lydia Baumbach explained the aims and function of the Classical Association. This was the last service done to the cause of the Classics in South Africa by Prof. Rollo before his death on October 20. This new Region offered splendid hospitality to the National Conference at Grahamstown in February 1961. Under the chairmanship of Prof. O. A. W. Dilke a full programme for 1961 has been drawn up (and already partly carried out), aiming in particular at establishing a better liaison between the University and the schools.

2. *Fourth National Conference, Grahamstown 1—4 February 1961.*

This conference was attended by 30 members; there was also sustained interest from the public. Visitors were hospitably accommodated by local members and friends of the Association. Receptions were held by the Vice-Principal of Rhodes University and by the Mayor of Grahamstown; a pleasure trip was arranged to Port Alfred. The following papers were read:

Prof. F. Smuts (Stellenbosch) held his Presidential address on: *The Roman concept of Natural Law.*

Miss L. Baumbach (Rhodes): *Journey through Sicily* (with slides).

Prof. G. van N. Viljoen (Univ. of S. A.): *The hymn to Hecate in Hesiod's Theogony* (in Afrikaans).

Mr D. B. Saddington (Witwatersrand): *Rome and the 'externae gentes'.*

Prof. T. F. Carney (Salisbury): *The life and times of C. Marius.*

Dr E. L. de Kock (Pretoria): *Sophocles and Oedipus* (in Afrikaans).

Dr C. P. T. Naudé (Univ. of S. A.): *The origins of Roman historiography* (in Afrikaans).

Prof. C. A. van Rooij (Bloemfontein): *The satirical elements in Greek literature.*

Mr D. M. Kriel (Univ. of S. A.): *Some classical views on the rhetorical sententia* (in Afrikaans).

Mr J. T. Engelbrecht (Potchefstroom): *Caesar as a man of letters.*

A symposium on the Teaching of the Classics, introduced by Mr B. H. P. Farrer (Natal) on Latin school syllabuses, and Prof. H. L. Gonin (Pretoria) on Latin at university level.

At the business meeting of the conference the Chairman began his opening address by referring to the death of Prof. William Rollo, at Grahamstown on October 20, 1960. He spoke as follows:

'It is with a deep-felt sense of loss that I have to begin this report by announcing the death of our honorary president, Prof. William Rollo. Prof. Rollo served the Classics for many years in South Africa, first as lecturer, later as professor of Classics at the University of Cape Town. After he had been pensioned he was appointed as first principal of the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, laying the foundations of that institution. Even at the time of his death he had not yet laid down the harness, for he had almost come to the end of a two year period of teaching at Rhodes University.

He served the Classics on a wide front — as a teacher in the best sense of the word, as popular lecturer, with a number of publications which revealed his passion for research, as a writer of schoolbooks, as a member of the executive of the old Classical Association and as examiner in Latin. All who knew him were infused with a little of his enthusiasm, which he could not contain in himself. We have lost a fine scholar and an able teacher. He will always be gratefully remembered, not only by his old students, but also by his colleagues in the Classical Association.'

The Chairman also remarked on the growth of the Association to a membership of 130, with its activities extending on a regional or local basis to the Transvaal, Bloemfontein, Natal and the Eastern Province. He noted with pleasure that *Acta Classica* appeared to be well established with its third volume on the point of appearing, while in the more popular field the splendid special number of the journal *Lantern* (Sept. 1959), devoted to 'Our Classical Heritage', earned a warm word of thanks to the editor, Mr V. C. Wood, assisted by Prof. T. J. Haarhoff. Sincere appreciation was expressed of the work done by school teachers of Latin, and the steady increase in the number of pupils taking Latin at school was noted with pleasure*, though concern was felt that several large schools still do not yet teach Latin. The Association had protested against the bill proposing the abolishment of Latin as a prerequisite for the training of attorneys, and was relieved when this proposal

* *Editorial Footnote:* The following table shows that although the *percentage* Latin pupils of the total number of candidates taking the various South African school leaving examinations has in all cases fallen during the past ten years, yet there has been a notable increase in the *numbers* of Latinists (in the Cape and in the O.F.S. at least no decrease). This is surely an encouraging sign at a time when the secondary school population has experienced such a phenomenal growth, derived in particular from sections of the population which formerly enjoyed very little secondary education and therefore had not acquired a more academic educational tradition.

was withdrawn. A memorandum on the value of Latin for proposed theological students was compiled for submission to the different Churches of South Africa. Cordial relations were maintained with the Classical Association of Rhodesia and Nyasaland and Prof. T. F. Carney of Salisbury was particularly welcomed as participant to the conference; it was regretted that the proposed joint conference in Salisbury in January 1960 proved impracticable. Mr J. J. Coetzee of Potchefstroom had attended as an observer on our behalf the assembly and general conference of the International Federation of Classical Associations in London in August/September 1960.

The following business was transacted at the meeting:

(a) It was resolved to seek affiliation with the International Federation of Classical Associations.

(b) The account of Income and Expenditure for the two years ending 31 January 1961 was tabled by the Secretary-Treasurer, Dr E. L. de Kock, and approved with a vote of thanks. An income from membership fees of £ 204.3.0 enabled the Association to increase its balance from £ 136.7.2 to £ 299.1.8d.

(c) The report from the Editorial Committee of *Acta Classica* was tabled and approved with congratulations. The Editor pointed out that the circulation and sale of *Acta Classica* was still far from satisfactory and required special attention. A contribution by the Association of £ 75 to the costs of vol. I and II was authorised; it was approved that exchange periodicals be deposited in the library of the University of South Africa in Pretoria. A new Editorial Committee and a panel of collaborators were appointed by the Executive.

(d) Admiration was expressed for the work done by Prof. F. Smuts and his colleagues of the department of Classics at Stellenbosch in publishing the quarterly bilingual *Newsletter* catering for teachers and students of Latin and now in its sixth year. With the consent of Prof. Smuts it was decided that the Association in future automatically subscribe to *Newsletter* for all its members, and that the Classical Association become associated with the Stellenbosch department of Classics as joint sponsor of the publication, the

	1950	1955	1960
Transvaal School-leaving	$\frac{581}{2817}$ 20.6%	$\frac{938}{4629}$ 20.3%	$\frac{1218}{7829}$ 15.5%
Cape Senior Cert.	$\frac{702}{4613}$ 15.2%	$\frac{766}{5500}$ 13.9%	$\frac{767}{7116}$ 10.8%
O.F.S. School-leaving	$\frac{124}{1044}$ 11.9%	$\frac{165}{1375}$ 12%	$\frac{140}{1869}$
Natal Senior Cert.	under the J.M.B.	$\frac{150}{900}$ 16.7%	$\frac{213}{1456}$ 14.6%
Joint Matriculation Board	$\frac{1170}{2634}$ 49.5%	$\frac{1247}{2386}$ 52.3%	$\frac{1397}{3025}$
National Senior Cert.	$\frac{0}{2189}$	$\frac{254}{3585}$ 7.1%	$\frac{511}{4210}$ 12.1%
<i>Total</i>	$\frac{2577}{13,297}$ 19.4%	$\frac{3520}{18,375}$ 19.2%	$\frac{4246}{25,505}$ 16.6%

The Latin candidates of the National Senior Certificate are mainly private external students and their number of failures is disproportionately high. The examinations of the Joint Matriculation Board are taken mostly by the private schools throughout the country while government schools write their relevant provincial examinations. Until 1953 all Natal schools wrote the examinations of the Matriculation Board.

editorial responsibility remaining with the Stellenbosch department assisted by a number of outside collaborators to be selected by itself.

(e) It was noted with pleasure that after a memorandum had been submitted by Dr E. L. de Kock, the National Council for Social Research had awarded £ 800 per annum for three years to purchase papyrological source material for the country. The Council had also voted £ 100 for the publication of each of vols. III and IV of *Acta Classica*. Prof. S. J. H. Steven was thanked for this good work he had done on the Council.

(f) The constitution (sec. 3a and 4a) was amended so as to provide for life membership in the case of ordinary members who pay within two years their membership fees for 12 years (i.e. £ 24). A pamphlet designed by the Executive for canvassing new members for the Association, was approved.

(g) It was decided to invite to offices of honour in the Association the following persons (who have all since graciously accepted appointment):

As *Patron*: The Hon. Dr L. C. Steyn, Chief Justice of South Africa.

As *Honorary Vice-Presidents*: Dr H. L. Muller, High Commissioner for the Union of S.A. in the United Kingdom; His Excellency Count Renzo Carrobbio di Carrobbio, Ambassador for Italy in South Africa (ex officio); His Excellency Mr V. D. Lappas, Ambassador of Greece in South Africa (ex officio).

(h) It was decided to accept the invitation from the University of Natal to hold the next national conference, in 1963, at Pietermaritzburg. The *Executive* for the following two years was constituted as follows: Prof. H. L. Gonin (Pretoria) — chairman, Prof. K. D. White (Natal) — vice-chairman, Prof. C. A. van Rooij (Bloemfontein) — secretary-treasurer, Dr J. P. Louw (Bloemfontein) — assistant secretary, Prof. F. Smuts (Stellenbosch) — additional member