

THE CAPE

LIBRARIAN

DIE KAAPSE

BIBLIOTEKARIS

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EDITOR/REDAKTRISE : MARY KLEINSCHMIDT  
ARTIST/KUNSTENARES : CLARE JEWISS



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## REDAKSIONEEL

Ons wens al ons lesers 'n baie voorspoedige nuwe jaar toe en hoop dat dit 'n suksesvolle jaar in u biblioteek sal wees.

Die klem gaan vanjaar veral op reklame toegespits word. Ons wil biblioteekassess graag toerus om hul in staat te stel om die openbare biblioteek se diens doelgerig onder die gemeenskap se aandag te bring. Die Afdeling Publikasies en Reklame het reeds 'n aantal treffende plakkate vir hierdie doel ontwerp en meer besonderhede sal binnekort bekendgemaak word.

## OPLEIDING

Die doelgerigte opleiding van personeel sal vanjaar voorkeur geniet. Eerstens is 'n opleidingskursus vroeg in Maart in Kaapstad aan die beurt vir al die vakkundige personeel van die Biblioteekdiens, waarin die rol van die streekbibliotekaris indringend bespreek sal word. Dit sal die eerste keer sedert 1968 wees dat vakkundige personeel die hoofkantoor gelyktydig sal besoek en almal sien uit na vrugbare besprekings.

Die aanbieding van eendaagse kursusse vir personeel van geaffilieerde openbare biblioteke blyk baie suksesvol te wees en minstens nege byeenkomste dwarsoor die Provinsie word beoog met spesiale klem op biblioteekreklame.

Later vanjaar word 'n kursus vir die groter biblioteke beoog en besonderhede sal later verstrekk word.

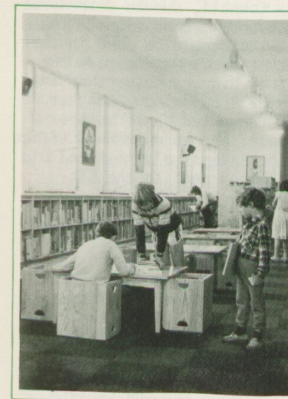
## VRYE OPENBARE BIBLIOTEKE

Daar is oor die afgelope aantal jare heelwat gedebatteer oor die toekoms van die vrye openbare biblioteek in Suid-Afrika. Graag bring ons dit onder u aandag dat mnr. Willem Bouwer, LUK, ons in kennis gestel het dat die Ordonnansie wat voorsiening maak vir die verskaffing van vrye biblioteekdienste in die Kaaprovinsie nie in hierdie stadium gewysig gaan word nie. Ons wil graag namens alle biblioteekarisse ons dank en waardering uitspreek vir hierdie besluit.

Dit moet in gedagte gehou word dat die openbare biblioteek vir sy voortbestaan grootliks afhanklik is van die goedgesindheid van die gemeenskap waarin hy funksioneer. Die openbare biblioteek moet dus bewys lewer van sy onmisbaarheid in sy gemeenskap. Slegs indien die openbare biblioteek in hierdie doel slaag, sal erkenning daarvoor verkry kan word sodat dit 'n groter krag in die gemeenskap kan word en derhalwe die nodige voorrang van die betrokke owerheid sal geniet.

C.H. Vermeulen, City Librarian

## Cape Town City Libraries



Although all public libraries in the Cape Province fall under the Provincial Library Ordinance, the three City Library Services of Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and East London are not affiliated to the Cape Provincial Library Service. They receive annual subsidies from the Administration and operate as independent urban library services. The City Library Services of Port Elizabeth and East London will be featured in later issues of this journal.

### THE ORIGINS OF THE SERVICE

The Cape Town City Council financially supported free library service even before the City Library Service was founded in the 1950's.

The Cape Libraries Extension Association, the pioneer of free public library service in Cape Town, was started in 1942, providing service for the underprivileged of Cape Town. This organisation, consisting of the representatives of various institutions, used the South African Public Library as its headquarters and depended mainly on funds from the City Council.

Three years later the City Council actually established a small organization to provide free books and magazines for hospital patients. The Cape Town City Libraries were founded in 1952 after the City Council had requested the Administrator to declare its municipality an urban library area, thereby adopting the 1949 Cape Provincial Library Ordinance. In terms of this ordinance such a municipality, maintaining a free library service on which the annual expenditure did not exceed two per cent of the municipality's revenue collected from rates during the immediately preceding calendar year, should be paid a subsidy\* not less than 50 per cent of such expenditure. The new 1955 Ordinance removed the upper limit on the City Council's expenditure but enabled the Administrator to limit the subsidy. For this purpose the concept of "approved subsidisable expenditure" was introduced enabling the Administrator to subsidise only part of the city's expenditure on free libraries by 50 per cent.

In 1952 Mr B.G. Hood was appointed as Libraries Development Officer. He became the first City Librarian of Cape Town and terminated his term of office in 1961.

\*The annual subsidy for the 1985/86 financial year amounts to R1 950 000.

The Head Office of the service was established in a former clothing factory, where a staff establishment consisting, inter alia, of qualified librarians was created. In this office all functions concerned with the preparation, rejection and rebinding of books were carried out, together with the issue of borrower's cards, the provision of library supplies and attending to requests, inter-library loan and overdue procedures.

A second major task was the incorporation into the scheme of the existing agencies in the field providing library service in Cape Town. Two of these agencies, namely the Cape Libraries Extension Association and the Hospital Library Service were easily incorporated. The lending department of the then South African Public Library was leased for a period of five years to serve temporarily as a central lending library. Other agencies were the subscription libraries of Camps Bay, Sea Point, Maitland, Good Hope Village (Brooklyn), Woodstock, Observatory, Rondebosch, Claremont, Wynberg and Muizenberg.

These subscription libraries were quite independent of one another and each was controlled by a local committee. To bring about their incorporation into the City Library Service meant, first of all, protracted negotiations to persuade the committees to cede their rights and assets to the City Council. Their members of staff had to be engaged as municipal employees. And then there was the onerous task of preparing the libraries themselves to re-open as branches of the City Library Service at standards approaching, as nearly as possible, those accepted at the time for public library service. They also had to be prepared, as far as possible, to cope with the much increased membership that would result from free registration.

In addition to renovating the building and bookstocks of exist-



Adult Section, Rondebosch District Library

ing libraries, new service points were established and additional services initiated. These services were accommodated in locked book cases (Windermere and Janet Bourhill), rented shop premises (Plumstead, Green Point and Kloof Street), a municipal hall (Kalk Bay) and deposit libraries (Ackerman's Factory and Service Products). In addition three mobile libraries, specially designed and built for the purpose, were introduced to serve outlying areas. The first branch library designed and built for City Library use was the Wynberg Library, opened in 1959. With a floor of 650m<sup>2</sup> and designed on a modular plan, with main exterior walls virtually all glazed, this library still has great aesthetic appeal. It was equipped to provide a gramophone record lending service.

The nucleus of a reference library proper was formed when a new library, intended primarily to meet the special needs of those in business and industry, was established on the first floor of the Here XVII building in Long Street in 1955. It also housed the newly developed art and music collections, including art reproductions and gramophone records on loan to the public. (1)

#### THE CENTRAL LIBRARY AND HEAD OFFICE

When the nucleus of a reference library was started in Long Street, it proved to be a step towards establishing a central library. This was brought about to a limited extent through the amalgamation of the central lending and Long Street libraries, on the ground and first floors of the Waalburg Building in Wale Street in 1966.

Staff at Head Office were working in adverse conditions in the former clothing factory. Furthermore, the accommodation in the Waalburg Building could not be extended and the Central Library bookstock soon outgrew the available space.

In 1969 planning commenced on the ideal solution, namely a new main library which would house both the Central Library and Head Office in one building planned specifically for these purposes. It was planned to be erected on the Mayor's Garden site behind the City Hall with a total floor area of 13006m<sup>2</sup>. The building would consist of six floors, of which one would be a basement, one a lower ground floor, one an upper ground floor and three upper floors. The basement would

contain the book stacks.

It was a very unfortunate setback to the Library Service when the scheme was abandoned by the City Council, due to deteriorating economic conditions. The best that could be done in the circumstances was to move the Central Library to part of the City Hall building which has been converted to serve the purpose, and to move Head Office to the extensively restored Old Drill Hall next to the City Hall.

The Old Drill Hall is ideally suited for the purpose it is serving now, particularly due to its flexible interior layout. Unfortunately the same cannot be said of the Central Library sharing the City Hall building with the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra. The sketch plans for the conversion of part of the building to accommodate the Central Library applied the open plan concept by the proposed removal of numerous walls. Eventually only the partitions and one wall could be removed, all the other walls being major supporting structures. This has led to the artificial fragmentation of the reference book collection, creating problems for the staff in rendering efficient service and causing confusion among users trying to find books needed by them.

The first floor houses English, Afrikaans and foreign language fiction as well as biography. From this floor a film lending service is also provided. The City Library Service does not have its own stock of films, but acts as agency for lending films obtained on loan from the Cape Provincial Library Service to organisations in Cape Town.

The second floor accommodates the Reference Library with a sound basic stock. It is particularly strong in the applied sciences, music and art and also offers lending service in gramophone records, language cassettes and art reproductions.

#### DEVELOPMENT PLANS

During the first two decades of the Library Services's existence

the provision of new branch libraries took place according to demand. During this period the new Wynberg (1959), Landsdowne (1965), Bonteheuwel (1967), Vredehoek (1971), Southfield (1971), Camps Bay (1971) and Sea Point (1972) libraries were provided. The Meadowridge Library was incorporated in 1971 as a branch library, as part of the incorporation of a Divisional Council area.

A first effort to introduce a proper development plan was made in 1971, when the City Engineer and the City Librarian collaborated in compiling a report. Although this report was not adopted by the City Council, it did enable the City Librarian to apply the hierarchical principle in future planning of the service.

The hierarchical concept implies a structure with a central or main library at the top providing the largest floor space, best bookstock and services and most highly specialized staff, a system of district libraries at the second level, a third level of neighbourhood branches and a fourth level of mobile libraries and special services e.g. for hospitals and Senior Citizens.

A standard of 700m<sup>2</sup> - 900m<sup>2</sup> floor area for neighbourhood branches and 1000m<sup>2</sup> - 1500m<sup>2</sup> for district libraries will apply in future. Planning such libraries would also comprise a foyer, separate adult and children's sections, with separate or communal workrooms, meeting or activities rooms and staff rest-rooms.

A second effort to rationalize the library service further was initiated in 1975, when the Town Clerk appointed an inter-departmental team consisting of members of his department, including the library service, and the departments of the City Engineer and City Treasurer. The inter-departmental team approach worked extremely well, since the library representatives were given an insight into the problems, financial and other, which beset the running of a big city, while the non-librarian team members gained a much more intimate knowledge of the library service and the principles on which it operates. A

high standard of professionalism was maintained at all times.

This co-operation is specially stressed, because it was not only a unique experience for the librarians involved, but also proved to be very fruitful both as a management tool and a method to get other Council departments involved in library matters.

The team re-affirmed the hierarchical structure. In addition certain criteria were adopted by the team in determining the spread of the hierarchical structures, e.g. district libraries should have a bookstock 2-3 times larger than that of a neighbourhood branch, should administer 5-6 neighbourhood branches and should generally cater for 200 000 - 300 000 people; fewer, but larger, branch libraries should be provided, +2-3km apart, situated in or close to shopping centres, offer sufficient parking space and should serve 30 000 to 50 000 people; mobile libraries should be used only in areas where the population is 10 000 or less.

These criteria were then applied to the present library/population/municipal boundary situation and proposals were made for certain libraries to be expanded, new libraries to be provided in certain areas and 24 libraries to be closed down (because they

were considered to be badly situated and uneconomical to stock, staff and run).

The controlling Council committee did not adopt the report but referred it back to the planning team for a further report in which it had to consider the suggestions and objections raised (2).

The Revised Development Plan for the City Library Service was adopted by the City Council in 1983, subject to no existing libraries being closed except in areas where small uneconomic libraries were being replaced by new improved libraries. This meant that five libraries were closed down. The development plans were effective in bringing libraries prominently under the attention of the City Council. Furthermore, since the first development plan was produced in 1971, seven standard neighbourhood libraries and one district library have been provided in areas which needed them most. The new standard libraries provided are the following: Hanover Park (1976), Westgeur (1978), Retreat (1979), Lentegeur (1979), Rocklands (1980), Manenberg (1982) and Kensington (1983). The new Athlone District Library was opened in 1984. In addition the Rondebosch neighbourhood library was extended in 1985 in order to

The Wynberg Library





Adult reference section in Kensington Library

serve as a district library. Of the 31 branches operated by the library service there are still 14 which are considered as sub-standard.

**SELECTION OF MATERIAL**

The Technical Services Division at Head Office has service functions relating to the Central Library and the branch libraries. These entail the acquisition, cataloguing and processing of books, periodicals, gramophone records, language cassettes, sheet music and art reproductions, as well as the provision of a display service to the libraries.

The pre-selection of books for adults on the one hand and children on the other is done by two separate sections, but the procedures in respect of both types of books are generally the same. Books are obtained from booksellers on approval either by booksellers taking the initiative in submitting titles or the Pre-selection sections requesting them to submit certain titles. The books are reviewed by staff on the Adult and Children's Pre-selection sections and other professional staff who serve on the reviewing panels. Reviewing journals are also used in the process. The adult books, together with their individual re-

views and selection cards containing columns for all libraries in the service, are displayed once every fortnight. All librarians-in-charge of work with adults in the respective libraries come to Head Office on a specific day to indicate on the selection cards which titles are needed in their libraries. Afterwards the Adult Book Selection Committee meet to make a tentative selection for the City Librarian's final approval. A similar procedure is followed in respect of books for children, with the difference that librarians-in-charge of work with children in the respective libraries come to Head Office once a month to indicate their libraries' needs.

Requests received from members of the libraries and stock requests received from librarians-in-charge of libraries are considered by the Adult Book Selection Committee at its regular meetings. Tentative decisions are taken whether to meet the requests, whether to turn them down for well-motivated reasons, e.g. for not being public library material, or whether to obtain them on Inter-Library-Loan. Again the final decision rests with the City Librarian.

There are gramophone record collections at the Central Library and at the Wynberg, Athlone and

Muizenberg branches. In addition the Central Library also has a collection of sheet music and language cassettes. Librarians-in-charge of this service at these libraries submit cards requesting specific records for their libraries. The Principal Librarian-in-charge of the Central Library co-ordinates selection and forwards the cards to the City Librarian for final approval.

From time to time art reproductions are submitted on approval to the Head of the Display Section who co-ordinates selection. Again cards are submitted to the City Librarian for approval.

When materials are ready to go to the libraries the Stock Control Section in the Administrative Division at Head Office distributes them on weekly deliveries carried out by means of a delivery truck. This section maintains allocation records of individual items throughout the service. All weeded stock is returned to the Stock Control Section where professional librarians of the Technical Services Division decide which items should be re-distributed, rebound or discarded.

The materials vote for the 1985/86 financial year is R1 798 000 which represents 20 per cent of the library budget.

**INTERESTING FEATURES ABOUT INDIVIDUAL BRANCHES**

The opening of the new Athlone District Library in 1984 was a milestone in the history of the service. In a relatively short time it has become widely known for its remarkable service orientation. It does not only serve its immediately surrounding community but reaches out, inter alia, to greater Athlone, Mitchells Plain, Kensington, Retreat, Sea Point, Camps Bay, Wynberg and Constantia.

The general areas of the library are the busiest in the service. In addition there is a separate quiet area for advanced reference work well provided with material required for the purpose. This facility is provided to save students and senior pupils the time and cost of travelling the long distance to the Central Li-

brary on a fairly regular basis. This service is also heavily used. On the other hand it is considered essential that very simple reading matter, including light fiction, be provided for the many non-readers and semi-literates. Great numbers of these people are attracted to the library by this type of book particularly in paperback format. They are usually drop-outs from school or university and the unemployed, whose entry to the library may be their first step to a new direction in life. They are gradually introduced to other books the library has to offer and many are saved from becoming involved in anti-social behaviour.

This library is indeed a cultural centre where the entire spectrum of the population, from the most sophisticated to the virtually illiterate, meet in a harmonious relationship regardless of race, creed and colour.

There is a vast difference between the Rondebosch and Athlone district libraries. The Athlone Library had its origin less than two years ago as a new custom-built facility. The Rondebosch Library had its origin in the last decade of the 19th century as a subscription library and was incorporated in the free City Library Service in 1954. At its incorporation it was housed in an upper narrow part of the Town Hall, accessible only by means of steep stairs. For over 30 years it was destined to attempt virtually the impossible, namely to serve the area of Cape Town with the greatest concentration of scholars and students from highly inadequate premises with a floor area of 340m<sup>2</sup>. In addition there are also large numbers of aged people, who had great difficulty in negotiating the stairs leading to the library. Many Rondebosch residents became so frustrated that they chose to patronise the Wynberg, Claremont and Mowbray libraries.

Since 1954, library management continued to bring the most unsatisfactory conditions to the City Council's notice. However, opposing stands were continually adopted by the City Council and

the Ratepayers' Association. This was terminated in 1984 when the City Council took a bold decision that the Town Hall be converted for library purposes. Towards the middle of 1985 the "converted" library with a floor area of 1300m<sup>2</sup> was opened. The adult lending library occupies the hall and the two adjoining wings house the reference and periodicals reading rooms respectively. The children's library occupies almost the entire area previously housing the adult library. In addition the tiered seating has been removed from the old gallery and a level floor has been substituted, which area serves as the children's reference library. Furthermore the City Engineer's Department has, using in-house expertise, restored the building in such a way that it has won praise from local advocates of urban conservation.

A distinctive trend is the growing number of estranged residents who are returning to the Rondebosch District Library. It is increasingly making an impact on the area and has become a landmark.

**PLANNED FOR THE NEAR FUTURE**

A high priority is a district library for the Mitchells Plain area to be provided on the scale of the Athlone District Library and to be built on a site adjoining the Town Centre. Mitchells Plain is approximately 50km away from the Athlone Library and 70km away from the Central Library. There is also a need for greatly improved library provision in the Black townships.

Another priority is the computerisation of the Library Ser-

vice, for which funds were provided in the 1984/85 estimates. A detailed specification was drafted including the following modules: acquisitions, cataloguing, serials, stock control and despatch, registration of borrowers, circulation and information retrieval. Tenders were invited. Due to increased prices caused by the devaluation of the Rand, the funds provided could only supply a system running on the City Council's computer mainframe. Extensive enquiries made with overseas libraries confirmed a strong trend towards a software package linked to a dedicated mini-computer. Seeing that this was ruled out due to insufficient funds having been provided, computerisation of the service was postponed to be introduced in two phases commencing in the 1986/87 and 1987/88 financial years.

The City Library Service will have to do its utmost to get its priorities right. This will certainly not be simple to achieve, seeing that the Service has a combination of first and third world components to deal with. If it succeeds in getting its priorities right in such a complex situation, this may still prove to be the greatest breakthrough in its history.

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**A FEW STATISTICS**

Estimated Population	835 846
Expenditure	R6 287 335
Membership (regularly renewed)	412 551
Bookstock	1 091 585
Periodical Title	395
Other Library Material	33 987
Circulation (all library material)	4 917 903
Professional Staff	80
Other Staff (including para-professionals)	348

Barbara Steele, Chief Librarian, Western Cape

## GET YOUR GROUPS TOGETHER!

*"Knowledge and information is a valuable resource in any community and nation. By providing public access to this resource, the public library is an essential link in the collection and dissemination of knowledge and information".<sup>1</sup>*

No longer do libraries restrict their activities to the distribution of books. For a long time now enlightened library systems have regarded films, art prints and gramophone records as within their scope in order to promote and encourage the enjoyment of the arts. A good, contented society is one which has the critical ability to recognize quality in reading and the arts and one which can discern the good and the indifferent in entertainment.

We all agree that the library should be a lively place, a place where things are happening, the centre of the community. In the troubled times we live in, people increasingly need to have a focal point where they can meet in their community, and enjoy the warmth, security and feeling of purpose that togetherness brings. The public library is the ideal meeting place.

We are fortunate in having a good many spacious and beautifully appointed libraries, well equipped to fulfil their role in the community. Besides having adequate collections of material and sufficient seating, all but the smallest libraries have their own group activities rooms.

These rooms are about 75 square metres in size, but may be as large as 100 square metres or a little over. Large impersonal halls are not what are needed. In the large towns small stages are sometimes added with back entrances leading to changing rooms, which make them ideally suited for theatre productions. Smaller communities are usually adequately served by moveable stages half a metre or so high.

1. Quotation from draft report on "Objectives and Functions of the Public Library" prepared by the Public Libraries Working Group of the National Advisory Council for Library Information.

A small projection booth is required which is best fronted by a large glass window, so that the projectionist can view the film without strain, and which should be raised two or three steps above the level of the activities room.

Sometimes the group activities room is placed next to the children's area of the library, with a concertina door separating the two rooms. This is a particularly valid arrangement in communities where facilities for home reading are inadequate and where much of the reading is done in the library. On busy afternoons the concertina door can be opened and the activities room used as a reading room.

Group activities rooms are planned so that access to them, and to the kitchen and toilet facilities, is possible when the rest of the library is closed. It is advisable to provide cupboards for the various societies, such as the chess club, the garden club, the handcraft societies, etc., to store their equipment. Sometimes special rooms are set aside for this purpose and sometimes the projection booths are made larger to accommodate the cupboards.

In many libraries excellent use is made of the group activities rooms and some of the larger communities have found that one room is not enough. At Bellville an additional room for societies has been built, complete with storage cupboards, kitchen and toilet facilities. The new library at Parow can separate off two smaller rooms from the larger activities room for the use of small groups. Provision will be made in the new library at Milnerton for no less than three activities rooms, the main room being a veritable little theatre equipped with a raked floor.

Why is it today considered so necessary to have special programmes in libraries? The most obvious reason is to lure the public into the library and to encourage them to become regular library users. By exposing people to

new ideas and subjects their interests may be broadened and their lives enriched.

Programmes sometimes aim to heighten the understanding of books in the library. These include book discussions, play readings, nature talks, etc.

But we acknowledge that people learn in different ways and not only through books, and it is the library's function to enlighten in every way possible. Programmes must of course be geared to the needs and abilities of the community.

Demonstrations on crochet, knitting, wood carving, caring for tropical fish, motor bike maintenance, kite-making, running and track techniques, flower arranging, etc. can provide very useful information. Films too can impart knowledge and meaningful experiences to non-readers.

The size of the audience is not necessarily a measure of the success of a programme, and librarians should not be discouraged by small audiences - the participants may experience great personal satisfaction.

Although societies and various cultural organisations should be encouraged to make use of the activities rooms, programmes organised by the library staff should always take precedence over outside organisations. Many libraries hold weekly story telling sessions for pre-school children and also show films to children one afternoon per week. Others have a weekly film show for adults. Library initiation programmes are held whereby the school classes are brought one by one to the library for talks on what the library offers for leisure time and study reading.

And during the school holidays, particularly during the September holidays, librarians organise extensive holiday programmes, and the children are provided with exciting and stimulating projects to keep them happily occupied.

Librarians have held fancy dress contests, (children dress up as characters from books), pet shows, colouring and drawing competitions of every description, crossword puzzle competitions, treasure hunts involving the use of library books, paper cutting competitions, chess playing contests, to name a few. Some libraries have successfully held special teenage programmes where talks on drug abuse are given and films on the topic are shown, or hobbies are featured. A particularly popular theme for girls has been dress and personal grooming.

Ladies of leisure and the elderly benefit from coming together in the library for special hand-work projects and demonstrations.

Please remember that the Cape Provincial Library Service has numerous art print exhibitions grouped by theme or artists, which can be freely borrowed for displaying in the activities rooms. A booklet listing the exhibitions can be obtained from your regional librarian.

In some libraries the use made of the group activities rooms has been most disappointing, and a major obstacle is apparently the reluctance of some Local Authorities to allow free use of the room. Local Authorities regretfully sometimes regard the rooms as a source of income and insist that would-be users pay a fee to the Municipality. Some Local Authorities also insist that application for the use of the activities room be done through the Municipality, instead of through the library staff, which can result in the librarian finding that the activities room is not available at a specified time for library purposes.

It will be as well to clarify the procedure which library authorities are urged to follow with regard to these rooms: -

- The group activities room is primarily intended for the use of cultural groups in the broader

sense, which are not necessarily organised by the library staff. These include for example book discussion groups, film societies, music societies, bridge and chess clubs, horticultural and wildlife societies, wine tasting societies, tropical fish societies and women's organisations of various kinds.

- The rooms are planned so that access to them is possible when the library is closed; the use should not be restricted to library hours and the library staff should not be expected to be present at all functions.
- No fee should be levied for the use of the room by cultural groups. Some municipalities do, however, find it necessary to make a small charge to cover electricity costs.
- Service organisations such as Rotary, Lions and Doves clubs can broadly be regarded as educational, (they frequently provide support for educational projects), and should be allowed to use the activities rooms without charge.
- The tea-making facilities should be made freely available to the organisations using the room, but a small refundable deposit to cover breakages may be levied. Groups naturally provide their own tea and other refreshments.
- Artists sometimes wish to display their work for sale in the library and may therefore be charged a reasonable fee. However, in fixing the fee, it should be borne in mind that exhibitions help to create interest in the library and serve as a drawing card. (Bellville library, for example, charges no fees for exhibitions, but only

the "better" artists, as approved by the Art Society, are allowed to exhibit in the library.)

- Application for use of the room by organisations which cannot in any sense be considered cultural should not be accepted, unless the room is definitely not required for any other purpose. A reasonable fee may be levied in these instances.
- Sometimes teachers of, for example, yoga or eurythmics, request the use of the hall. Such activities, which are often noisy and disturbing and for which the teacher receives a fee, should be discouraged. But if the room is definitely not required for another more worthwhile activity, it may be hired out to groups of this kind.
- Programming for the group activities room is best made the responsibility of the librarian who follows a policy laid down by the Council. The librarian works in close co-operation with the various organisations and should be well able to assess their needs and priorities.

Under-utilization of the group activities room can sometimes be attributed to the failure of the library staff to recognize that they should be organising programmes, and that this work is a vital part of their commitment. In small libraries run by one or two members of staff this work can understandably become an impossible burden, but outside help should be sought where needed. Many Local Authorities have unfortunately disbanded their Library Committees now that it is no longer legally imperative to have them. But a Library Committee which includes three or four members, who are genuinely interested in the library and have the time and the

inclination to operate the projector, tell stories or man the counter so as to free the librarian to hold programmes, can be of immeasurable help. And the two councillors on the committee can be of assistance in gaining the sympathetic support of the Council; they are in a position to influence the Council to provide funds for prizes for competitions and any necessary equipment.

One of the reasons numerous communities gave for discarding their Library Committees was that they were not needed. The success of the Committee depends to a large extent on having interested and active members. While having local dignitaries such as school principals, doctors, etc. on the Committee adds to its prestige and influence, it is advisable to include men and women on the Committee with the leisure to assist in practical ways.

In place of a Library Committee a "Friends of the Library" organisation may be chosen, whose main purpose is to engender interest in the library and to gain support for library endeavours. The "Friends" can be of wonderful assistance with programmes. To operate a library without the help and support of a Library Committee or a "Friends" organisation is inadvisable and librarians in this position are urged to take remedial action.

In nearly every community there are retired folk with time on their hands who could benefit from being involved in regular library chores; it would add a new purpose to their lives. Some of them would make gifted story tellers, others may have artistic talent and would enjoy helping with library displays; others would be willing simply to tidy the

library one or more mornings a week.

Librarians are advised to keep a file of individuals who can be approached for talks on stamp collecting, for handwork demonstrations, for puppet shows and other activities.

It is the responsibility of the librarian to organise the Committee meetings, draw up an agenda and alert the Committee to any problems. In the case of a "Friends" organisation the librarian here too arranges the meetings and motivates the members to provide active assistance. In order to do these things the librarian must know the community and have an understanding of its needs and capabilities. He/she is the force behind the Committee or "Friends" organisation and with the correct persuasive and dynamic approach, can achieve wonders for the community.

The Department of National Education is willing to arrange for talks on a variety of subjects to be given free of charge to interested groups; speakers are prepared to visit libraries throughout the Province.

The Family Education and Home-making section covers topics such as food preparation, dressmaking, home management and interior decoration, knitting, crochet, embroidery etc. The courses sometimes cover several sections. The Advancement of Culture branch covers musical arts, human sciences, (alcoholism, drug abuse, women in modern society etc.), natural sciences, (nature conservation, fauna and flora etc.), the dramatic arts, youth work etc.

The following addresses may be contacted:

The Regional Head  
Dept. of National  
Education.  
Private Bag X906  
CAPE TOWN  
8000

Tel: 21-5250

The Officer  
Dept. of National  
Education  
Privat Bag X655  
Dorhaak  
OUDTSHOORN  
6620

Tel: 4832

The Officer  
Dept. of National  
Education  
Private Bag X17  
VREDENDAL  
8160

Tel: 542

The Officer  
Dept. of National  
Education  
Private Bag X5004  
KIMBERLEY  
8300

Tel: 31504

Some books which provide ideas for library programmes: -

BAUER, C.F. Handbook for storytellers. - Chicago, 1977.

BAUER, C.F. This way to books. - Wilson, 1983.

GAFFNEY, M. and LAYBOURNE, G.B. What to do when the lights go on. - Oryx P., 1981.

ROBOTHAM, J.S. and LAFLEUR, L. Library programmes; how to select, plan and produce them. Scarecrow press, 1976.

## DIE WIE, WAT EN HOE VAN DIE GROEPAKTIVITEITSAAL

Sommer gedurende my heel eerste dag in die Somerset-Wes Biblioteek het ek deeglik kennis gemaak met 'n deel van die openbare biblioteek waarvan ek maar vaagweg bewus was. Drie of vier dames het my nog vóór die tienuur-tee genader oor die gebruik van ons aktiwiteitsaal. My vae vermoedens is spoedig bevestig met die eerste oopmaak van die dagboek, deurspek van telefoonnummers, en kontakpersone van verenigings.

Negentien klubs, liggame en verenigings het die saal op 'n gereelde weeklikse, tweeweeklikse of maandelikse grondslag bespreek vir 1985 en ek noem slegs 'n paar: Quilters Guild, Rapportryers, Toastmasters Club, Cake Decorators Guild, Housewives League, Alliance Francaise, Civil Defence, Horticultural Society, Photographic Society, Chamber of Commerce, Association for Retired persons and pensioners, Flower Club, A.A. Kennel Club - dink maar net hoe besig hulle 'n mens kan hou!

Die eerste taak soggens is om vas te stel hoe die saal na die vorige dag daar uitsien en die betrokke dag se besprekings te kontroleer. Daarna spring die skoonmaker gewoonlik aan die werk, want elke groep wil die tafels en stoele op 'n ander manier gerangskik hê. Eers hier-na kom die werklike biblioteek-sake aan die beurt.

Behalwe vir die vaste bespre-

kings, word die saal ook baie dikwels aangevra vir jaarvergaderings, demonstrasies, kursusse en lesings, asook kunsuitstallings. Veral laasgenoemde is 'n netelige saak, aangesien uitstallings gewoonlik oor minstens tien dae strek en dit nie elke dag opgeruim kan word vir die weeklikse byeenkoms- en vergaderings nie. Waar instansies geld invorder, hetsy met verkope of toegangsfooie, word huurgeld van R10 vir die eerste dag en R5 vir die daaropvolgende dae gehef. Andersins word die saal gratis verskaf. Althoewel die kunsuitstallings dus betaal vir die gebruik van biblioteekfasiliteite, word dit slegs verhuur op voorwaarde dat die normale aktiwiteite soos rolprentvertonings in die etensuur en vergaderings tussen-in mag voortgaan. Sover was die samewerking in hierdie verband besonder goed.

Gedurende 1985 is agt kunsuitstallings van plaaslike kunstenaars en kunsroepe aangebied en dit het gewissel van water- en olieverfskilderkuns tot borduur- en batikwerk. Die biblioteek gebruik natuurlik die saal vir hul eie biblioteekprogramme, soos die onlangse Tiener-100-week waartydens praatjies oor die versiering en meubilering van tienerkamers en -modes, grimeerdemonstrasies, 'n konsert van gemoderniseerde sprokies, "ball room"- en "breakdan-

ce"-demonstrasies maar 'n paar van die opwindende aktiwiteite was. Dan was daar die boomplantedae op 8 en 9 Augustus, waartydens uitstallings van inheemse bome en plante, tuingereedskap en lesings deur verskeie deskundiges groot belangstelling uitgelok het.

Hieruit kan u seker aflei dat die Somerset-Wes biblioteeksaal beslis nie 'n "wit olifant" is nie en na bykans 16 jaar van onvermoeide dienslewering nou 'n erkende en geliefde bymekaar-komplek vir die hele gemeenskap is. Is dit nie elke biblioteek se groot ideaal nie?

Om publiek en personeel egter gelukkig te hou by die gebruik van hierdie fasiliteite, het ek gou agtergekom dat definitiewe riglyne en neergelegde voorwaardes 'n MOET is.

Die volgende punte sien ek as waarskynlik die belangrikste:

- \* Die stadsraad moet bepaal watter instansies, verenigings, liggame en ander groepe kwalifiseer om die saal te gebruik, asook wanneer en hoeveel die huurgelde moet beloop. Veiligheidshalwe word byeenkoms- en politieke, kerklike of kommersiële inslag gewoonlik uitgesluit.
- \* 'n Deeglike stelsel van saalbespreking moet gevolg word om dubbelbesprekings en dergelyke slaggate te voorkom.
- \* Voorwaardes moet duidelik aan die saalgebruikers gestel word wat betref die toestand waarin die saal en kombuis gelaat moet word, die sluit van die deure na ure en die spesifieke behoeftes soos stoele, tafels, uitstalbronde, beligting, klavier en projektorgebruik. Dit sal die frustrasies en verantwoordelikheid van die biblioteekpersoneel aansienlik vermind.
- \* Kennisgewings ten opsigte van die betrokke geleentheid moet, wat grootte en voorkoms betref, aan sekere standarde voldoen en deur die betrokke instansies voorsien word: die biblioteekpersoneel het nie die tyd en materiaal daarvoor nie.

- \* Biblioteekprogramme behoort altyd voorrang te geniet en die aktiwiteitsaal moet by voorbaat vir skoolvakansieprogramme of spesiale biblioteekangeleenthede uitgehou word - dit was tog die oorspronklike doel daarmee.
- \* Laaste maar nie die minste nie, moet die biblioteekaresse en haar personeel sorg dra dat hulle altyd stewig in die spreekwoordelike "saal" sit en beheer oor die kaart en

transport van die aktiwiteitsaal uitoefen: so maklik kan dit ontaard in die spil waarom die biblioteek draai, so dat die versorging en instandhouding van biblioteekmateriaal in die proses afgeskep word

Die aktiwiteitsaal moet sy waardigheid en sprankel in die gemeenskap behou en nie 'n gerieflike, altyd beskikbare en relatief goedkoop bymekaarkomplek word vir enigiets wat onder die

vaandel van "kultuur" probeer vaar nie.

Wees bedag op die delikate skeidingslyn, probeer om uitsonderings te vermy, wees vriendelik en behulpzaam maar ferm, hou altyd die biblioteek se doelwitte voor óe en sien u groepektiwiteitsaal as die vertoonvenster van die biblioteek.

Voorspoed daarmee!

Anna-Marie Cloete  
SOMERSET-WES

## MILNERTON'S FLOWER CLUB

Our poor over-worked activity room will have a well-earned rest when the library moves to its new premises next year. The floors have resounded to everything from modern dance, aerobics, exercises, yoga, plays, drama workshops, art, choirs, flower arranging, municipal meetings, valuation court sittings, chess, bridge, exhibitions of everything you can name, holiday activities of every conceivable variety, to librarians' meetings and conferences.

But what I will miss most, when we move to our large library with its large activity rooms, will be the indescribable beauty of the delicate smell that wafts down the stairs on the third Monday of every month, when the Flower Club holds its meetings. Flowers of every description pour in through the door soon after 9 a.m. and clever fingers and minds make them into lovely arrangements.

The Club started fourteen years ago, when we moved to our present premises. It is a very informal club, run simply by a group of ladies who love flowers. They had been giving flower-arranging demonstrations to the pupils of the high school next door to the library. When I heard about this, I asked if we couldn't have something similar at the library.

They decided to get together

once a month, to arrange flowers on a set theme, and anyone was welcome to join in, from the greenest to the most professional. Tips on how to arrange flowers are given by those who know how. Demonstrations are arranged, seeds and slips 'swopped', or distributed - or sold for 10c for charity. We even had a sale of everyone's discard vases and raised about R30, which also went to local charities!

The club now has about 30 - 50 enthusiastic members, although they can't strictly be called 'members' as there are no fees or membership lists. The only charge is 75c a time for tea and any tea money left over at the end of the year also goes to charity. Everyone just comes along with their flowers whenever they want to and has a good time ... and, of course, books on flower arranging are on display for their meetings. Every November, during their last meeting of the year, the Club does an exhibition for the library and we look forward to having fifty arrangements amongst the shelves!

The Flower Club has been operating for all the years we have been here and, although we are all looking forward to the move and the space, we are leaving behind a lot of remembered pleasure in this cramped and tired activity room ...

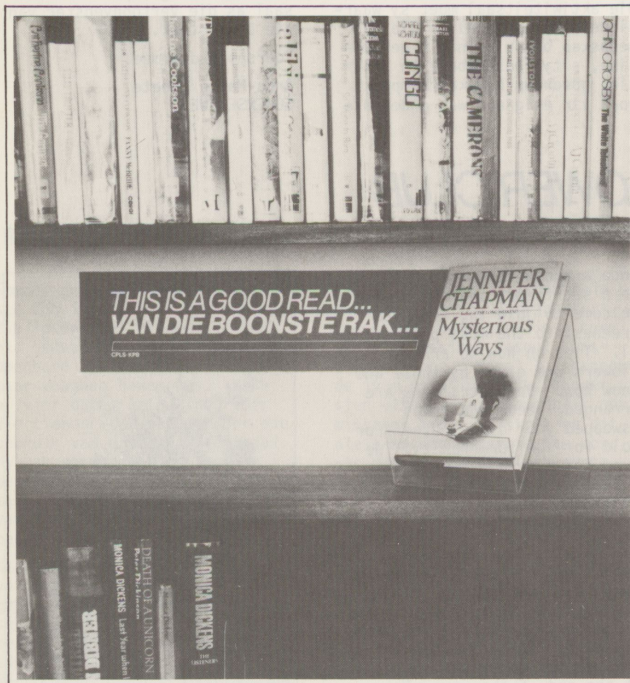
Wendy Hopkins



# NEWS AND VIEWS BROKKIES EN MENINGS

## FROM THE DRAWING BOARD

Mary Kleinschmidt



The Display Section has designed three 'caption-banners', which read -

THIS IS A GOOD READ / VAN DIE BOONSTE RAK  
RECORDS TO ENJOY / UIT ONS PLATESPENS  
ART PRINTS TO APPRECIATE / 'N FEES VIR DIE OOG

Find a place for each in your library, preferably near the material to which they refer, and make each a permanent feature.

The "Good read" can be set up in amongst the shelves - just the banner and one book - or on the end of an island bookshelf, or a useful small alcove. The idea is to promote books you have in stock already, and not just new stock or best-sellers. You can put good novels with such a banner as well as non-fiction; travel and lively biography would be ideal. But one book at a time.

The quick change, as the current book is taken by a borrower, to be replaced by another from your store of books, will keep the interest going. In time, your discerning reader will look to such a display each time he/she comes to the library, to see what is being recommended.

In a large library, one could maintain one display for books in English and another separate one for Afrikaans. In the smaller library, with limited space and bookstock, the languages could alternate happily.

The same approach applies to the banner for records. Display the banner as near your browser boxes as possible, also as a permanent feature, using one or at most two record sleeves with the banner. Here, too, it will be possible to promote highly enjoyable records that are being neglected, so don't only feature the pop records.

Explore your stock and display them in an interesting way. Why not have "Seasons" and feature



opera for a few weeks, then change to guitar music, then to choirs, then to, say, Spanish music, then on to a couple of weeks of Mozart in all his moods and so on. It could all be great fun and will certainly highlight your records in the most stimulating way.

So, too, with art prints. In small libraries, the storage of prints can be a problem and the borrower is not always aware of what is in stock locally. The display of just one art print and the banner, changed regularly, becomes very much a "We recommend ..." and should serve to promote a greater interest in the art prints.

As with the records, promote them in series. First a series of Impressionists, followed by several portraits, followed by some South African landscapes and then some moderns.

Use your imagination and you will find you have three interesting features in your library. The reactions of your borrowers will soon show you if you are winning!

## HIERVAN EN DAARVAN

Verlede jaar het ons talle nuttige naslaanwerke in hierdie afdeling bespreek. Ons hoop almal kon iets leer uit die besprekings. In die jaar wat voorlê gaan die afdeling 'n nuwe voorkoms kry en daar is besluit om boeke oor onderwerpe waarin daar besondere belangstelling is, te behandel. Ons vertrou dat u ons nuwe rubriek interessant en nuttig sal vind.

### EET LEKKER - EET SUID-AFRIKAANS

Die somer is hier en die Kersvakansie is op hande. Familie en vriende kom kuier en kinders kom huis toe vir die vakansie. Daar is ook diegene wat met sak en pak die vakansie in woonwaens en vakansiehuise gaan deurbring. Die vrou van die huis - hoe en waar sy ook al haar vakansie gaan deurbring, sal die taak hê om interessante vakansiemaaltye te beplan en voor te berei. Vir hierdie taak, wat 'n mens soms

hoofbrekens kan besorg, is daar talle boeke vol praktiese wenke en watertand-resepte in u biblioteek waaruit u hernieude inspirasie kan put.

*Dis nou Potjiekos*, deur Matie Brink (641.578 BRI) Potjiekos het gedurende die afgelope jare in gewildheid toegeneem en is 'n baie gesellige manier om gaste in die buiteland te onthaal. Die inleiding bevat wenke en waarskuwings wat humoristies, maar tog duidelik uiteengesit word. Daarna volg 'n menigte resepte, van hoenderpot tot haablokkies, van biltongpot tot bosduif-'paai'. Resepte vir diegene met meer konvensionele smaak en die visliefhebbers word ook nie vergeet nie. Daar is ook resepte vir braai op die kole wat met groot sukses saam met potjiekos voorgesit kan word. Die aantreklike illustrasies is deur Cora Coetzee gedoen. Hierdie boek is in albei tale beskikbaar.

*Braai met styl*, deur Lannice Snyman (641.5784 SNY)

Hierdie omvattende kookboek dek alle aspekte van Suid-Afrika se nasionale tydverdryf. Daar is resepte vir warm drankies waarmee jy jou gaste by hul aankoms kan verwelkom, voorgeregte om aan te peusel terwyl daar gebrui word, slaai, bykosse, braai en nageregte om die braaivleis aan te vul. Om alles af te rond is daar koffieresepte met 'n skop in. Die boek is kleurvol en aantreklik geïllustreer met interessante inleidingsinligting by elke afdeling.

*Die Suid-Afrikaanse kookboek vir die buitewêre*, deur Marty Klinzman

Hierdie resepteboek wat eersdaags op ons rakke sal verskyn, vul potjiekos en braaivleis pragtig aan. Die boek bevat idees vir braaipartye, pieknieks, patio-etes, kampeer- en voetslaankos.

In al die resepte word daar geпоog om voorbereidingstyd te verminder, om ekstra moeite te bespaar en om ten spyte van be-

perkinge wat toerusting en ruim- te betref, 'n groot verskeiden- heid disse te kan voorberei. Resepte vir ontbyt, middag- en aandete kom voor en daar word ook handige wenke oor vleis- braai, piekniek maak en ander buitlugaktiwiteite in die in- leiding tot elke afdeling gegee. Elke afdeling bevat ook eenvou- dige spyskaarte om die gasvrou/ kok te help met haar beplanning.

Die boek bevat kleurvolle illus- trasies en is in albei tale beskikbaar.

*Onthaal met potjiekos*, deur Matie Brink (641.578 BRI) Van hierdie voorste potjiekok se vorige boek is reeds 25 000 eksemplare in druk. In hier- die interessante tweede boek wys hy hoe maklik dit is om van 10 to 50 gaste feestelik, maar goedkoop te onthaal op smul- lekker geregte vir ontbyt, mid- dag- of aandete. Hier is iets vir elkeen, van varkpootjies tot garnale, van biltong tot pampoen. Die resepte vir pot- brood, bamboesontbyt en rooster- kook lyk ook watertand-lekker.

Fred Mouton se amusante illus- trasies laat 'n mens sommer lus voel om al die resepte in hier- die veelsydige dominee-kok se nuwe potjiekosboek dadelik te beproef.

Nie almal hou van informele etes in die buitelug nie en daar is ook spesiale geleenthede in al- maal se lewe wanneer hulle met elegansie en swier wil onthaal. Ook vir sulke geleenthede is daar keurige boeke uit eie bodem waar- in hulle hul kan verlustig.

*So eet ons in Stellenbosch*, saam- gestel deur die Fynproewersgilde van Stellenbosch. Die Stellenbosch Fynproewersgilde het by geleentheid van die dorp se drie-honderdste verjaarsdag hierdie pragtige resepteboek uit- gegee. Hulle is met reg trots op die dorp se geskiedenis en tradisie asook hulle reputasie vir smaaklike kos en goeie wyn.

Al is hierdie nie 'n baie lwyige boek nie, bevat dit heerlike resepte wat in die vier seisoene verdeel is en deur keurige illus- trasies en versies geïllustreer is. Die resepte is eenvoudig, word duidelik uiteengesit, is watertand-lekker en is gewaar- borg om nuwe geur en kleur aan

u tafel te verleen.

*Eet met swier in Suid-Afrika*, deur Anne Klarie en Lannice Sny- man (Q 641.5 KLA) (Engelse uit- gawe ook beskikbaar) Lannice Snyman en Anne Klarie het 'n restaurant, Chardonnay, in Houtbaai begin en die resepte in hierdie boek is spesiaal vir hierdie restaurant ontwikkel. Hulle het talle nuwe geregte getoets en vervolmaak en die resultate word in hierdie boek weergegee.

Die resepte is verbeeldingryk, maar maklik verstaanbaar en een- voudig genoeg vir die gemiddelde kok om baas te raak.

Die boek is aantreklik uitgegee en mooi geïllustreer met vol- kleur foto's en wit en swart tekeninge.

Vir die persoon wat belangstel in die Afrikaanse eetkultuur met oorspronklike resepte om die ge- skiedkundige inligting te staaf, sal *Spys en Drank : die oorsprong van die Afrikaanse eetkultuur*, deur Renata Coetzee, baie in- teressant wees. (Q 641.5968 COE)

Die skryfster het die eette- woontes en sosiale gebruike van die vroeë Kaaps-Hollandse gemeenskap van 1652 tot 1800 noukeurig nagevors. Die ou- tentieke resepte is almal be- proef en hulle kan dus sonder voorbehoud voorberei word. Hierdie boek is pragtig ge- ïllustreer met volkleur foto's en wit en swart teke- ninge. 'n Pragtige boek wat enige Suid-Afrikaanse koslief- hebbere ure van genot sal be- sorg.

*Die goeie gasvrou : 'n omvattende Suid-Afrikaanse onthaalgids*, deur Rina Pont (Q 641.568 PON) Hierdie is 'n omvattende ont- haalgids vir die Suid-Afrikaanse gasvrou. Diegene wat 'n doop- huweliks-, herdenkings-, mon- digwordings- of watter ander soort onthaal ook al moet reël, word met raad en daad bedien. Hoe om toebehore te huur, uit- nodigings te rig, spyskaarte saam te stel, die eetvertrek te verfraai, die tafel te dek en gaste te plaas en te bedien, word alles bespreek. Om die waarheid te sê, selfs nie die kleinste besonderheidjie word oor die hoof gesien nie. Bowen= dien is daar ook nog 250 resepte

vir die onervare gasvrou inge- sluit.

*Maleierkookkuns*, deur Betsie Rood (641.596871 R00) 'n Hele paar dames van die Maleier- gemeenskap het resepte bygedra tot hierdie versameling wat deur Betsie Rood byeengebring is.

In die voorwoord word die oor- sprong van die Maleiers, hulle geloof, feeste en seremonies en die verband tussen boge- noemde en die tradisionele Maleise disse, bespreek. Kruid- en speserye, sowel as kosterm- geniet ook aandag.

Hierna volg 'n reeks resepte, onder andere Roti en Buriyani. Koeksisters, lekkers en konfyf kom ook aan die beurt.

Almal wat van regte boerekos hou, sal hierdie disse geniet, aan- gesien talle eg Suid-Afrikaanse disse hulle oorsprong by die Maleierkookkuns het.

'n Afrikaanse, sowel as 'n Engelse uitgawe is beskikbaar.

*Vars uit ons see : Die Suid- Afrikaanse Seekos- en resepte- boek*, deur Lannice Snyman en Anne Klarie (641.69 SNY) Die skryfsters van hierdie boek se mans is ervare vistermanne en die twee vrouens het hulle en hulle mans se eie ervaring met vis gebruik om 'n aantrek- like en praktiese resepteboek te skryf.

Die boek bestaan uit drie af- delings : die eerste handel oor die keuse en voorbereiding, kook- en vriesmetodes van vis.

Die tweede afdeling is 'n alfa- betiese register van al die see- kosse wat in die boek bespreek word. Elke soort vis is duidelik geïllustreer en word kortliks beskryf en die beste metode van gaarmaak word aanbeveel. In die kantlyn daarnaas word na die resepte vir elke vissoort in die derde afdeling verwys.

Die resepte is eenvoudig en be- sonder smaaklik. Die boek bevat kleurvolle illustrasies en duide- like lyntekeninge. Daar is ook 'n seekos- en resepteregister agter in die boek.

Die boek is in sowel Engels as Afrikaans uitgegee. **Elizabeth de Roubaix**

#### PROVINSIALE BIBLIOTEEKRAAD VERGADER

Die Provinsiale Biblioteekraad het op Vrydag 15 November in die nuwe Komiteekamer by die hoofkantoor vergader. Die Raad dien die Administrateur van ad- vies oor sake wat na sy mening tot die bevordering van die oogmerke en doelstellings van die Biblioteekdiens sal lei.

Van links na regs is prof. D.L. Ehlers, mr. G.F. Vallenty, prof. Isabel Cilliers, dr. Bun Booyens, mr. G.M. Basson (Voor- sitter), mr. P.H. de Villiers (Sekretaris), mr. N.P. Ester- huys (Direkteur: Administrasie), mr. N.F. van der Merwe (Direk- teur: Biblioteekdiens), mej. M.H. van Deventer en mr. P.A.M. Streicher.



#### DIE KINDERBIBLIOTEKARIS

##### Toekennings vir kinderlektuur in 1985

Dis besonder verblydend dat daar oorsee, maar veral in Suid- Afrika, voortdurend nuwe pryse aan skrywers en illustreerders van kinderboeke toegeken word. Sodoende word klem gelê op kinder- lektuur, wat hopelik daartoe sal bydra dat die publiek al meer bewus sal word van hoe belangrik kinderboeke is. Sulke pryse dien as aansporing om vir kinders te skryf - 'n taak wat geensins mak- liker is as om vir volwassenes te skryf nie.

Die pryse wat in 1985 vir kinder- lektuur toegeken is, sowel as 'n keuse uit pryse wat in Brittanje en Amerika verower is, word kortliks bespreek.

#### SUID-AFRIKA

Die KATRINE HARRISTOEKENNING word elke tweede jaar deur SAIBI (Die Suid-Afrikaanse Instituut vir Biblioteek- en Inligtingwese) aan die beste illustreerder van 'n Suid-Afrikaanse kinderboek toe- geken. Die medalje is in 1985 by SAIBI se jaarlikse konferensie in Pretoria aan ALIDA BOTHMA toe- geken vir haar illustrasies in

twee boeke: *Al Everest se voëls*, deur Rona Rupert (Human & Rousseau 1984), en *Die aarde moet vry wees*, deur Pieter W. Grobbelaar (Daan Retief 1984).

'n Biografiese skets oor Alida Bothma wat deur Alida Potgieter in die *Kaapse Bibliotekaris* van Augustus 1981 geskryf is, word aangehaal:

Alida Bothma [geb. van der Merwe - sy het haar eerste illustrasies onder die naam Alida van der Merwe gedoen] is in 1953 in Pretoria gebore waar sy ook grootgeword het. Na skool het sy die diplomakursus in gra- fiese kuns by die Kaapstadse Technikon gevolg en daarna gaan werk by 'n advertensieagentskap in Kaapstad as illustreerder vir drie jaar. Toe is sy ge- trou en het sy en haar man 'n jaar lank in die buiteland rond- getoer, veral in Suid-Amerika waar sy dit geniet het om die Suid-Amerikaanse Indiane te skets. Na hulle terugkoms het sy as vryskutillustreerder be- gin werk.

Sy skryf: "Ek het van my kuns- skooldae af belanggestel in kinderboeke en dit was altyd iets wat ek graag wou doen. Terwyl ek by die advertensie- agentskap gewerk het, het 'n uitgewer my gevra om 'n boek-

omslag vir 'n jeugboek te doen - en daar het my kinderboekewêreld begin. En ek het nou alreeds 35 kinderboeke geïllustreer.

Ek teken graag in potlood of met pen en bruin ink en is veral lief daarvoor om in waterverf te skilder. In my kinderboeke probeer ek die tegniek waarin ek werk, afwissel, sodat die tegniek en medium by die atmos- feer en onderwerp van die boek pas. Potlood is vir my per- soonlik 'n baie ekspressiewe medium en ek hou daarvan om daar- mee te werk omdat 'n mens so baie verskillende stemminge daar- mee kan uitbeeld. Die verskillen- de media waarin ek in die alge- meen werk in boeke is potlood, ink, waterverf, kleurkryt, akri- liese verf en 'n bietjie pastel. Ek geniet die illustreer van jeug- en prentboeke albei, al- hoewel ek graag meer dikwels die kans sal wil kry om prentboeke te doen.

Wanneer ek 'n manuskrip ontvang, verkies ek dit as ek kontak met die skrywer kan hê ... As 'n mens weet hoe die skrywer oor sy boek voel en dink en hoe hy die karakters sien, kan 'n mens die atmosfeer van die boek net soveel beter vasvang en sal die teks en die illustrasies meer van 'n geheel vorm".

Die illustrasies wáarvoor Alida Bothma die Katrine Harries-toekenning ontvang het, behels 'n nuwe collage tegniek, wat veral in *Al Everest se voëls* baie merkwaardig is.

Alida Bothma woon tans in Port Elizabeth saam met haar man en drie dogters.

Die TIENIE HOLLOWAYMEDALJE VIR KLEUTERLEKTUUR is deur die S.A. Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns ingestel vir kleuterboeke geskik vir kinders tot die ouderdom van agt jaar. In 1985 is dit aan FREDA LINDE toegeken vir haar boek *Die keiserkroon* (Qualitas 1984), wat deur Ann Walton geïllustreer is.

Die M.E.R.-PRYS, wat die Nasionale Boekhandel vir die beste jeuglektuur toeken, is deur RONA RUPERT vir *Al Everest se voëls* gewen.

In 1985 is twee nuwe pryse vir die eerste keer toegeken. Hulle is die OU MUTUAL-PRYS, wat aan RONA RUPERT vir *Al Everest se voëls* toegeken is en die SANLAM-PRYS VIR JEUGLEKTUUR. Laasgenoemde is in oorleg met Tafelberg-Uitgewers ingestel vir boeke wat vir kinders van elf tot veertien geskik is en sal al om die derde jaar toegeken word.

Eerste prys (Engels): EVE MERCHANT: *Ghanka, man of men*  
Merieteprys: Louis Krüger  
*Donkerboskind*  
Chris Karsten: *Floris Sapiens*  
Peter Slingsby: *The cave*  
Desmond Grieg: *Secret of the eagles*

#### BRITTANJE

CARNEGIEMEDALJE: MARGARET MAHY: *The changeover* (Dent 1984). Dit is vir die beste kinderboek wat gedurende 1984 in die Verenigde Koninkryk gepubliseer is, toegeken.

KATE GREENAWAYMEDALJE: ERROL LE CAIN: *Hiawatha's childhood*, deur Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (Faber 1984). Die Afrikaanse vertaling, *Hiawatha se kinderdae* (HAUM 1984) is in voorraad. Die medalje word vir die beste illustrasies in 'n Britse kinderboek toegeken.

GUARDIAN-TOEKENNING VIR KINDERLEKTUUR: TED HUGHES: *What is the truth?* (Faber 1984). Dit word

elke jaar deur die Guardian toegeken vir 'n uitstaande kinder-verhaal deur 'n Britse of Statebondskrywer.

MOTHER GOOSE-TOEKENNING: SUSAN VARLEY: *Badger's parting gifts* (Andersen Press 1984). Dit word jaarliks toegeken aan die mees opwindende nuweling in die illustrasies van Britse kinderboeke.

#### AMERIKA

CALDECOTTMEDALJE: TRINA SCHAT HYMAN: *St George and the dragon*, deur Margaret Hodges (Little, Brown 1984). Dit word jaarliks vir die beste Amerikaanse prentboek vir kinders toegeken.

JOHN NEWBERYMEDALJE: ROBIN MCKINLEY: *The hero and the crown* (Greenwillow 1984; Julia MacRae 1985). Dit word jaarliks aan die skrywer van die beste Amerikaanse kinderverhaal toegeken.

Ilse Ahrends

#### LIBRARY MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP: GRAHAMSTOWN

On the 4th of October a Management Workshop was held at the Regional Library, Grahamstown. This Workshop had been arranged by the Eastern Cape Branch of SAILIS and was conducted by Mr. Alan Whitaker of Management Development Incorporation, Durban.

The emphasis was on the practical side of library management and the contents of the course included:

- Motivating people
- Effective delegation
- Handling people and their problems
- How to communicate effectively.

26 Librarians attended the course, representing not only the Cape Provincial Library Service and affiliated libraries but also Rhodes University, the East London and Port Elizabeth City Libraries and other smaller libraries.

After each discussion by Mr. Whitaker, the meeting was divided into small groups and presented with a problem which they had to solve. What was especially an eye-opener was when two participants had to explain to the rest

of a group how to put pieces of a puzzle together without seeing the pieces. This really showed us the importance of communicating clearly and effectively.

The general feeling at the end of the day was, that the course had been stimulating and thought-provoking, that one day was not long enough and that we would love to have a follow-up. Each librarian went home with their little lists of do's and dont's, determined to improve themselves and the people working with them.

Marleen Avgerinos  
PORT ELIZABETH REGION

#### SAILIS CONFERENCE IN PRETORIA

The South African Institute for Librarianship and Information Science held its annual Conference for 1985, in Silverton, Pretoria during the week of 9 September. The theme of the Conference was, *The role of library and information services in the development of South Africa*.

The Conference, which showed a marked shift in emphasis away from the recent pre-occupation with hi-tech and professionalism in librarianship towards problems at grassroots and important human needs, was opened by the Minister of National Education, Mr. F.W. de Klerk. In his speech he paid tribute to the important role played by libraries in Southern Africa.

On the first full day of Conference a number of speakers addressed the problem of development in South Africa and the role of libraries in this development. Factors such as the first world / third world dichotomy within the country, the illiterate and semi-literate, the 52% of the population who are children, the enormous generation gap in the developing component of our society, the importance of adequate information when introducing change, and information as an element in formal, non-formal and informal education were all given an airing in the wide-ranging discussions.

Papers presented later in the week, looked more specifically at action which can be taken by libraries to make this development possible. The need for adapting library services to play a more active role, the need to reach beyond the educated elites and the need to provide meaningful information and assistance for those studying to better themselves were all touched upon.

In the program presented by the Public Libraries Division, Professor Snunith Shoham was the keynote speaker. Visiting from Israel at the invitation of the Public Libraries Division, Prof. Shoham also spoke at meetings arranged by the various branches, before attending conference.

In her conference paper she looked at challenges of change which face public libraries today. Factors such as the post-industrial "information society", the aging of the population, changed status for women, increased leisure time, a more educated society, new technology such as home computers, economic instability and cuts in funds were among these which she discussed.

Public Librarians, Vincent Leutsoa, Doks Briers and Livia Burdette presented an interesting trio of papers, discussing the information needs of the developing community, the "platteland" community and the urban community respectively. Those papers will be published soon by the Public Libraries Division and will be well worth purchasing when available.

Mr. Gideon de Villiers of the Commission for Administration, spoke on the future of the Provincial Library Services in the new constitutional arrangements. While he was able to reassure us that the Provincial Services would definitely continue to function, there remain some unanswered questions on matters of detail. These must wait for political decisions still to be taken.

The business meeting, which ended the conference, raised no contentious issues. SAILIS has been asked to petition the

authorities again, in order to try to have GST removed from books.

Cape Provincial Library Service was represented at conference by the Director, Frans van der Merwe, André Steenkamp and Brian Paterson. Our affiliated libraries were represented by Christine Malan of Uitenhage, Fêbé van Niekerk of Kimberley and Susanna van Niekerk of Vryburg.

Brian Paterson

#### HALLEY'S COMET

A new animated film from the National Film Board of Canada to celebrate the return of Halley's Comet has just become available. Called COMET, it describes the general phenomena and nature of comets, with specific reference to the one that becomes visible from earth every 76 years. Made by Sidney Goldsmith, director of "Fields of space" and "Satellites of the sun", it runs for 12 minutes and has already received an award as the best educational film shown at the 1985 International Animated Film Festival in Annecy, France. The film is available from all three film libraries in Cape Town, Kimberley and Port Elizabeth.



#### SKRYWERSAAND 1985

Die Vriende van Bellville Biblioteek, in samewerking met Tafelberg Uitgewers, het weer eens op Woensdagaand 23 Oktober, dit vir ons moontlik gemaak om persoonlik met drie huishoudelike name in die literatuur, kennis te maak. ALBA BOUWER van Riversdal, oftewel die skepper van *Stories van Rivierplaas*, *Katrientjie van Keerweder*, *Abdoltjie* en andere, het in beeldryke Afrikaners vir ons 'n kykie laat kry in die lewe agter haar skryfery - wat eintlik die tema van die meeste van haar boeke is. Sy skryf 'n groot deel van haar sukses toe aan Katrine Harries wat die teks op besondere wyse toegelig het met illustrasies. Alba Bouwer het ook pas die Afrikaanse *Winnie-die-Poeh* die lig laat sien omdat sy besef het die storie het besondere waarde vir haar kleinkind.

CHRIS BARNARD sê dié vir hom soms 'n probleem dat mense dink omdat hy skryf, hy ook iets het om te sê - op verbale manier. Eintlik is skryfwerk harde duimsuigwerk, volgens Barnard. Dit is vanjaar 25 jaar gelede dat Barnard sy eerste boek gepubliseer het en hy sê met groot oortuiging dat hy nou dit wil lewe waaroor hy in die verlede geskryf het. Barnard het al met groot sukses jeugnovelles, dramas, hoorspele, kortverhale en romans geskryf - hy het al onder andere die CNA, Hertzog en W.A. Hofmeyrprys gewen. Sy nuutste bundel 'Chriskrasse', waarmee hy veral by die Huisgenootlesers bekend geraak het, *So onder deur die maan*, het pas verskyn. Barnard, 'n man met vele talente en 'n besondere humorsin, is tans draaiboekskrywer en regisseur vir Sonneblom-films.

*Spinola se rooi angelier*, is die debuutbundel van FRIEDRICH SWART, bekende TV-nuuskommentator, en vanaf Oktober 1985 Hoofredaksielid van Die Burger. Swart het na sy studiejare op Stellenbosch, vir 5 jaar lank in die buiteland gereis en gewerk. Ná sy terugkeer na SA het hy as joernalis vir die 'Oosterlig' gewerk "so dat ek kon leer skryf". J.P. Smuts sê in sy resensie in Die Burger van 10/10/85: "*Spinola* ... is een van die belofte-

rykste prosadebute in 'n baie lang tyd. Die bundel lewer in sy sterkste oomblikke van die beste kortverhaalkuns van die afgelope aantal jare. As dié werk 'n aanduiding gee van wat ons in die toekoms van Freek Swart kan verwag, moet 'n mens voorspel dat hy tot een van ons belangrikste kortverhaalkrywers gaan ontwikkel."

Die verhale is deels waar en deels fiksie en van hulle speel af teen die agtergrond van Swart se oorsese wedervaringe.

Ons almal sien inderdaad uit na Skrywersaand-1986!

**Ilze Swart  
BELLVILLE**

#### RONA RUPERT SE 25ste BOEK

Bellville Biblioteek het 'n paar maande gelede 'n sirkus in die klein beleeft.

Nasionale Pers, in samewerking met Tafelberg Uitgewers het die "sirkus" gereël om Rona Rupert se nuutste (en haar 25ste) kinderboek "Ek is Gideon", bekend te stel. Die verhaal het 'n sirkus as tema.

165 kinders het opgedaag om in die pret te deel: ons voorportaal is soos 'n sirkustent versier, met 'n reuse hansworskoek as middelpunt. Merv. Rupert was ook teenwoordig om met belangstellendes te gesels en om eksemplare van "Ek is Gideon" en van haar ander boeke wat te koop aangebied is, te teken.

'n Video-opname van Keith Anderson se jeugsirkus in Kaapstad "Once upon a circus" is in die biblioteeksaal aan die kinders vertoon.

Die opgewondenheid het byna breekpunt bereik toe Anneri van der Merwe van Tafelberg Uitgewers drie gelukkige nummers uit 'n hoed getrek en boekpryse aan drie gelukkige klein winners oorhandig het.

Die hoogtepunt van die okkasie was toe die reuse hanswors opgesny en deur die gretige kinders verorber is saam met vrugtesappe om die soetigheid mee af te speel.

Die nasmaak sal egter bly talm in die vorm van "Ek is Gideon"

wat hopelik eersdaags sy verskyning op ons rakke sal maak!  
**Leora Pretorius  
BELLVILLE BIBLIOTEEK**

#### CULTURAL PROGRAMME OF GEORGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Variety was a feature of the extension programme arranged by the George Public Library during 1985. There was a talk by a Nature Conservation officer on the development of the Wilderness Lakes area for public use, while preserving the habitat. Dr. Francois le Roux took armchair travellers on a visit to the USA, illustrated with his excellent slides.

Three lectures were arranged in conjunction with the centre for extra-mural studies of the University of Cape Town. These were on computers, the crisis situation in Africa and in commemoration of the tricentenary of Bach and Handel, respectively. The well known radio and TV personality, prof. Kristo Pienaar, gave a lecture and slide show on the preservation and cultivation of local flora. At the same time he announced the publication of his latest book, *Grow South African plants*. The library foyer was decorated with a display of proteas and other indigenous flowers and a selection of books on the subject.

**R.L. Cairncross  
LIBRARIAN, GEORGE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

#### RAY CAIRCROSS

Mr. Ray Cairncross, Librarian of the George Public Library for the past 16 years, retires at the end of 1985.

He served in the Navy during World War II, was a businessman and also a journalist. His knowledge of community affairs, wide range of interests and bilingualism made him particularly well able to meet his borrowers' needs. He was responsible for organising many stimulating cultural programmes, such as exhibitions and lectures.

During his period as Librarian, the George Public Library doubled its membership and circulation and, consequently, also its staff. In 1980 the spacious and beautiful library complex was taken into use. The Georgians make good use of their library, as the average monthly circulation of 21,000 books and 600 records proves. It is also a popular rendezvous for retired people.

Mr. Cairncross will always be remembered for his kindness, sense of humour and his appreciation of the good things in life. We wish him well in his retirement.

**Elna Cloete  
GEORGE REGION**

#### NUUS UIT KIMBERLEY

Op die biblioteekfront is dinge steeds aan die ontwikkel in Kimberley. Die Direkteur berig dat hy tydens sy onlangse besoek aan Kimberley verras was met die mooi vordering wat gemaak is met die restaurasie van die Africana-biblioteek. Hierdie projek word onderneem teen 'n koste van R300 000. Die munisipaliteit het verder besluit om voort te gaan om 'n groepaktiwiteitsaal by die nuwe sentrale stadsbiblioteek aan te bou, terwyl 'n finale besluit binnekort geneem sal word oor 'n geskikte perseel vir 'n nuwe biblioteek vir die inwoners van die voorstad Roodepan. 'n Volledige artikel oor Kimberley se biblioteekdiens sal later vanjaar gepubliseer word.

#### ENTERPRISING HOBBY

Jocelyn Mitchell, a schoolgirl in Port Alfred, saw a demonstration of the ancient art of Lacedrawing on television recently. Fired with enthusiasm, she asked for further information at the Port Alfred Public Library.

We found three books on the subject in regional stocks and, after careful perusal, Jocelyn chose *Bobbin lace making* by Doreen Wright, Bell, 1971. 746.22 WRI



Mr. Salie Jacobs, Mrs. Wendy Hopkins and Mrs. Josephine Andersen in the new mobile library.

Jocelyn intends persevering with this new hobby, despite the early problems. She hopes to buy the correct gauge (dermier?) in Johannesburg for her lace making. We see her in the photo with her work and the book that got her started. Good luck to her ...  
**Mervyn Jones, Librarian**

#### MILNERTON BREAKS NEW GROUND

Mrs. Wendy Hopkins, the Librarian at Milnerton Public Library, saw a dream come true when Milnerton's new mobile library was seen on a television programme, that her efforts really took off. The City Librarian of Roodepoort very kindly supplied diagrams, tender reports and other details, and building started in July 1984, taking a year to complete.

The mobile colours are pale blue and white, the inside is spacious and carpeted, with bookshelves lining the walls. The total capacity is roughly 3500 books. The mobile library went into operation early in August, making two-hour stops

at shopping centres in Tableview and Bothasig four days a week. (Wednesdays are spent at the main library, to replenish stocks).

The mobile librarian is Josephine Anderson, who has previous experience with City Libraries, The National Monuments Council and Maskew Millar.

Circulation figures for the three-month period ending in October are very satisfactory, with English juvenile fiction topping the list -

AF	1647	AJF	2644
EF	5133	EJF	6648
NJ	1780	JNF	1126
TOTAL	18 978		

'n Suksesvolle vakansieprogram is onlangs by die Draakensteine Munisipale Biblioteek aangebied. Musiekinstrumente van die simfonieorkester is aan die kinders getoon saam met klankopnames van die verskillende instrumente en 'n uitstalling oor musiekboeke. Verder het die plaaslike klinieksuster die tieners toegesprek oor tienerswangerskap en 'n skoonheidsdeskundige het skoonheid en versorging aan hulle verduidelik. Storietyd en rolprentvertonings word ook gereeld aangebied. Die vakansieprogram was afgesluit met 'n handwerksessie waartydens agttienjarige kinders 'n foto van hul eie keuse (enige prentjie uit 'n tydskrif) kan raam.

#### NUUS UIT DIE GEORGESTREEK

Daar was die afgelope tyd heelwat woelinge in die Georstreek. Die nuwe biblioteek by Plettenbergbaai, New Horizons, is onlangs betrek.

Marina Paulsen is aangestel as bibliotekaresse en ons wens haar voorspoed toe vir die taak.

Op Groot-Brakrivier vorder die bouery aan die nuwe biblioteek goed.

In die streekbiblioteek het feitlik die hele personeel in 1985 gewissel. Baie welkom aan Annalie Louw, voorheen van die Bloemfonteinse Stadsbiblioteek, en busbestuurder C. Robertson wat die geleedere voltallig maak.

Tydens 'n moeilike tyd het ons buurstreek Mosselbaai 'n helpende hand verleen.

Benewens die oortrek van boeke, het streekbibliotekaresse Linda van Zyl gehelp met die uitdunning van oortollige boeke. Danksy spanwerk tussen die George en Mosselbaai streekpersoneel, is die besending van 11 300 boeke vinnig afgehandel. Die nuwelinge op die George streekpersoneel het onlangs 'n leersame en gesellige oggend deurgebring by Mosselbaaistreek. Ons het ook Hartenbos se nuwe spogbiblioteek besoek.

**Elna Cloete  
GEORGESTREEK**

## CHRISTMAS BONUS

Christmas came early this year to the librarians in the Malmesbury Region, with Father Christmas arriving not in a sleigh, but a BOOKVAN!

Kim Melsens, Regional librarian, and her assistant, Rosy Pimenta, decided to brighten up the last tour of the year and spread some Christmas cheer by decorating the inside of their bookvan. Using the latest CPLS Christmas posters, liberally doused with glitter, and other, more conventional Christmas fare, they successfully captured the excitement and spirit of the coming season.

Librarians were able to choose their books to the soothing strains of the latest Richard Clayderman record, 'Christmas' featuring the season's favourites, and Elvis Presleys 'It won't seem like Christmas without you', which were available on board for the lucky few libraries who received them.

A bookvan visit to remember.  
**Barbara Todes**



Malmesbury Region Staff : Hermanus Pietersen, Rosy Pimenta and Kim Melsens aboard their Christmas bus.

▲ aangestel. In Augustus van dieselfde jaar is sy by Stellenbosch in dieselfde pos aangestel en in Desember 1979 tot hoofbibliotekaresse bevorder.

Gedurende dié tydperk is die Stellenbosch-biblioteek op groot skaal vergroot en gemoderniseer. Die eerste geïntegreerde kursus vir bibliotekaris in die Wes-Kaap, wat deur ongeveer 100 afgevaardigdes bygewoon is, is ook in die tyd daar aangebied. Melanie sal onthou word vir die gasvryheid waarmee die kursusgangers ontvang is en die gemak waarmee sy die groot aantal besoekers hanteer het.

Sy sal onthou word vir haar vriendelikheid en die bekwame wyse waarop sy die biblioteek geadministreer het. Sy was ook altyd bereid om tydens kursusse as spreker op te tree. Ons wens haar en haar man 'n aangename en interessante verblyf in die VSA toe en net die beste vir die toekoms.

## MARIËTTE VAN DER WESTHUIZEN

Mariëtte van der Westhuizen, tot onlangs assistent- hoofbibliotekaresse van die Openbare Biblio-

teek Stellenbosch, is vanaf Oktober 1985 as waarnemende hoofbibliotekaresse van die biblioteek aangestel.

Nadat sy die Hoër Diploma by die Universiteit van Stellenbosch verwerf het, het sy vir 'n jaar by die Onderwysbiblioteek in Kaapstad gewerk. Daarna was sy 4 jaar lank werksaam by die Wellingtonse Onderwyskollegebiblioteek en twee en 'n half jaar by die Tygerberg-hospitaalbiblioteek.

Mariëtte, alle sukses in jou nuwe pos!

## NUWE PERSONEEL BY DIE HOOFKANTOOR

Nadat die pos vir vyf maande vakant was, is mnr. A. Gericke onlangs vanaf die Onderwysdepartement bevorder as Provinsiale Administrasiebeampte in die Administratiewe Afdeling van die Biblioteekdiens. Ons hoop dat hy baie gelukkig in sy werkkring sal wees. Mev. Anita Marx, reeds 'n bekende in hierdie Afdeling, het die onderafdeling Statistiek en Bestellings by mev. I. Ryan oorgeneem,

terwyl mev. Teresa van Zyl, wat voorheen in die Wes-Kaapstreekdiens gewerk het, as mev. Marx se nuwe assistent aangestel is. Ons bedank die personeel vir hul geduld oor die afgelope paar maande toe hul navrae dalk nie so flink soos voorheen afgehandel is nie, maar vertrou dat met 'n voltallige personeel, sake nou weer normaal sal verloop. 'n Spesiale woordjie van dank aan Eslie Dearham wat die fort so mooi gehou het.

## STILBAAI

Mev. C. Lourens is aangestel as bibliotekaresse by Stilbaai in die plek van mev. A. Cronjé. Mev. Lourens was die afgelope agt jaar werksaam in die biblioteek op Bonnievale en ons hoop dat sy gelukkig sal wees in Stilbaai.  
**L. van Zyl**

## STREEKBIBLIOTEKARESSE

## VAKANSIE-AKTIWITEITE BY DRAKENSTEIN BIBLIOTEK

'n Suksesvolle vakansieprogram is onlangs by die Drakensteinse Munisipale Biblioteek aangebied. Musiekinstrumente van die simfonieorkester is aan die kinders getoon saam met klankopnames van die verskillende instrumente en 'n uitstalling oor musiekboeke. Verder het die plaaslike klinieksuster die tieners toegesprek oor tiener-swangerskap en 'n skoonheidsdeskundige het skoonheid en versorging aan hulle verduidelik. Storietyd en rolprentvertonings word ook gereeld aangebied. Die vakansieprogram was afgesluit met 'n handwerkessie waartydens agt- tot tienjarige 'n foto van hul eie keuse (enige prentjie uit 'n tydskrif) kon raam.



We said a farewell to Inez Ryan recently when she left us after 16 years of service to take up the challenging post of Provincial Administration Officer with Works Department.

Our warmest congratulations and best of wishes for all the happiness a successful future can hold will accompany her departure.

**Eslie Dearham**

## DIE BIBLIOTEK OP MOSSELBAAI VIER SY "MONDIGWORDING"

Die gebou waarin die biblioteek tans gehuisves word, is op 5 November 1964 vir die publiek geopen. Om hierdie "21-jarige" bestaan te vier, het die biblioteek vanaf 4 tot 8 November 1985 rolprentvertonings in die etensuur aangebied. Die rolprente is gebaseer op die verskillende dienste wat die biblioteek bied, nl. boeke (feite en fiksie), kuns (afdrukke), musiek (plate) en films. Boek-, plate- en kunsafdrukuitstallings het daagliks by die betrokke onderwerp van die rolprente aangesluit. Goeie opkomste is verkry met die volgende prente: *Namib, Jentsch of South West Africa, Interpretations en I heard the owl call my name.*

## RIVERSDAL

Weens haar man se verplasing, moes mev. L. Robertson by die Openbare Biblioteek op Riversdal bedank. Mev. A. Cronjé van Stilbaai is in haar plek aangestel en sy word met groot entoesiasme hier terugverwelkom.

## MELANIE SMIT

Melanie Smit, hoofbibliotekaresse van die Openbare Biblioteek Stellenbosch, het aan die einde van September 1985 bedank. Sy het haar by haar man in die VSA aangesluit, waar hulle vir tien maande in Philadelphia woonagtig sal wees.

Sy het in 1977 die B.Bibl.-graad aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch verwerf. In 1978 is sy as assistent-hoofbibliotekaresse by die Openbare Biblioteek Paarl



## ADULT FICTION VOLWASSE FIKSIE

ADAMS, Douglas  
So long, and thanks for all the fish: The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy 4. - Pan, 1985.

Douglas Adams has, at times, been described as 'that refugee from Monty Python's Flying Circus'. Far be it from me to reveal the complete extent of his wise lunacy in this brief review - let it simply be said that Earth is not always what it seems to be, that Arthur Dent, our travelling Earthman, suspects but only confirms this towards the end of his odyssey, that flying is simply a matter of learning to throw oneself to the ground and missing, and that Ford Prefect, The Hitch-hiker's Guide researcher, is as usual flitting from one planet to another, leaving trails of trouble behind him ...

Hopefully, Adams has not exhausted his enthusiasm for this series. As the reviewer in *Time* (11.3.85) says, "where in the history of the universe is it written that a trilogy must contain only four volumes?"  
D.D.

BAINBRIDGE, Beryl  
Watson's apology. - Duckworth, 1985.

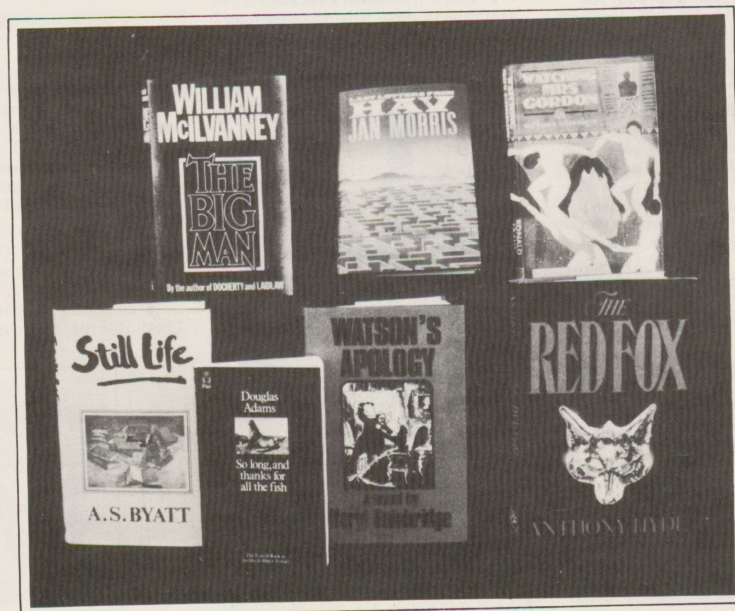
A new Beryl Bainbridge is always a book to be relished and reread, and this one is no exception as clues to the potential tragic ending can

be missed at the first hasty perusal! With imagination and ingenuity, she reconstructs a Victorian tragedy when an ageing clergyman had bludgeoned his wife to death. By meticulously providing apparently insignificant incidents, she builds up a picture of marital claustrophobia, passive aggression, frustration and small lunacies. Throughout the subsequent trail, the Rev. Watson remained unmoved and impassive, simply stating that his wife had provoked him to such an extent that he murdered her.

This tale of a Victorian tragedy becomes the portrayal of a hopelessly mismatched couple, told with perception and sympathy, but not without humour. The characterization is excellent, as is the picture of the steadily deteriorating relationship. Bainbridge fans will enjoy this.  
L.P.

BYATT, A.S.  
Still life. - Chatto & Windus, 1985.

In this very fine novel, the author examines the state of England in the 1950's, at the time when women were starting to become aware of their potential. The action moves between Cambridge and a small town in North Yorkshire, home of the Potter family, with diversionary excursions to London and the South of France. We watch Frederica Potter, the younger sister, begin her adult life with a feeling of elation as she discovers and explores the multitude of choices open to her. In contrast, Stephanie, the older sister, is bogged down in



domesticity. Although she is content and fulfilled, there is an awareness of the possibilities beckoning beyond.

The novel is densely packed with themes and images from the worlds of art, literature and the theatre, as well as botany, zoology and the social sciences, which all combine to evoke the feeling of urgency and excitement in a Britain stirring from its postwar lethargy and becoming aware of its potential. In many ways the novel is also reminiscent of George Eliot's *Middlemarch* in its exploration of the condition of England and the potential of women. It is an extremely literary work, and much of the satisfaction in reading it is derived from the pleasure of recognising the references and allusions. The author is obviously extremely conscious of the meaning of language, and the resulting style is rich, with a close, finely-grained texture which is a pleasure to read.

This author will be enjoyed by fans of Iris Murdoch, as well as Margaret Drabble, who is Antonia Byatt's sister.  
CvG

HYDE, Anthony  
The red fox. - Hamish Hamilton, 1985.

Reading this rip-roaring spy thriller is a compulsive experience. The author has undoubtedly hit the jackpot with his first novel. The convoluted plot is rooted in the shattering events of the Russian Revolution and its aftermath. The opening scene in a bleak American churchyard grabs the reader's attention immediately and the persuasive story that follows is a page turner! The catastrophic power struggle in the Soviet Union forms the foundation for main character Robert Thorne's present day search for the truth about his father's death and May Brightman's real parentage. Like a veteran writer, Hyde finally presents the reader with that ironic twist in the tail when everything falls into place.

A spellbinding, totally absorbing thriller which has all the hallmarks of a classic thriller.  
L.P.

FRAME, Ronald  
Watching Mrs Gordon and other stories. - Bodley Head, 1985.

Ronald Frame won the 1984 Betty Trask first novel prize for *Winter journey*. These stories are concerned with the effects on one or both partners of the stresses and strains of a relationship. The heroine of *Palladian* imagines an escape from matrimony, "to have the marriage knot untied" while for others, such as the main character in *Piccadilly Peccadilloes*, there are always the consolations of the fashionable material world. In *Secrets* a married couple reflect upon the "the private life between him and her that was secret and bitter". The most atmospheric of all the stories is the last one, aptly named *Endpiece* in which the mystery encountered by the narrator in a foggy November in 1942 becomes the mystery of human life.

Superb, powerful writing that shows Frame's strength as a short story writer. Throughout there is a general aura of disappointment, softened by life's little consolations and although the writing is somewhat sad, it is a most rewarding read.  
L.P.

McILVANNEY, William  
The big man. - Hodder, 1985.

The author's powers of description, and his incisive character studies have deservedly earned him several of Britain's most prestigious literary awards. His latest novel does not disappoint - it is a deeply probing, intensely felt work of tremendous psychological depth. It looks into the soul of modern man, where morality has been deadened by the industrial society.

The hero, Dan Scoular, is a large, physically powerful man, who has never tried to take advantage of his superior strength. He is out of work, seems to have lost touch with his wife, and is apparently drifting - somewhere his life has taken a wrong turning. He is manipulated by a wealthy businessman, Mat Mason, into taking part in an illegal fight, without realising what is involved. He is initially attracted by the money, but gradually becomes aware of the forces of evil behind a seemingly innocuous fist-fight. In his efforts to set matters right, he falls foul of the powerful Matt Mason, and although the novel ends with the threat of retribution, Dan is able to live with himself. He has made a journey into himself, and found direction for his life.

For once, the blurb does not exaggerate when it states that: *The Big Man* is a powerful and distinguished novel, eloquent in expression, resonant in meaning, showing depth of insight into action and character that matches William McIlvanney's feeling for individual people, and his understanding of the moral and social dimensions of their lives".  
CvG

MORRIS, Jan  
Last letters from Hav. - Viking, 1985.

At first one wonders whether this is fiction or non-fiction, but the reader becomes aware that the city of Hav was an imaginary microcosm of several cities in Levantine civilisation. The plot, basically, is that the writer is commissioned by an American magazine, to write a series of letters from Hav until the day of the invasion that will destroy it. The reader never really knows who the invaders are or why they invade. The drift the book takes is to describe the past history and what travellers like Marco Polo, Mark Twain and D.H. Lawrence might have encountered. Jan Morris captures the spirit of the city and describes the various sections of it - Russian, Greek, Arab, Turkish and British. She introduces us to a cast of characters that include such visitors, from hearsay, as Diaghilev, Freud, Lawrence of Arabia, even Hitler. She becomes involved in the affairs of the city. Very fine writing and an original subject. This book was on the Booker-Prize shortlist.  
E.S.

**SNYMAN, Adriaan**  
Die laaste vrees. - Human & Rousseau, 1985.

By die lees van hierdie meesleurende verhaal oor die bittere stryd van die Poolse partysane om hulle teen die einde van die Tweede Wêreldoorlog te bevry van die wrede juk van die Duitsers, kon ek byna nie glo die skrywer is Adriaan Snyman en nie Heinz Konsalik nie.

Na sy onthutsende boek oor satansaanbidding, *Heuwel van getuienis*, kom hy met hierdie boeiende greep uit die Poolse geskiedenis vorendag. Min lesers sal onbetrokke kan bly as hulle saam met die Suid-Afrikaanse vlieënier, Walter Hansen, ná 'n noodgedwonge landing, midde-in die Poolse stryd staan.

Adriaan Snyman het vir 21 maande lank oor die hele land navorsing gedoen en met Poolse immigrante oor hulle eie wedervering gesels vóór hy hierdie boeiende verhaal geskryf het.  
**Z.J.E.**

**SPELLMAN, Cathy Cash**  
An excess of love. - Collins, 1985.

A dramatic and powerful family saga set in Ireland of the 1890's till the Easter Rising of 1916 and the problems thereafter.

Elizabeth and Constance Fitzgibbon and their brother Desmond are the children of a wealthy Anglo-Irish aristocratic family in Sligo. Constance is beautiful and spirited, Beth is gentle and more conventional, but a great bond of love and friendship exists between the sisters. Beth as

the narrator, tells of her own unhappy marriage, and the great and wonderful love her sister found with the fisherman/poet Tierney. They lived in poverty and fought together for the Irish cause in Dublin. Their lives and those of their children and the destiny of Ireland were closely interwoven. This is an entertaining saga of great depth and sensitivity.  
**E.S.**

**STEVENS, Shane**  
The anvil chorus. - Deutsch, 1985.

French police inspector César Dreyfus is faced with what seems like a routine suicide case, but he is quick to notice clues pointing to murder, and further investigations put him on the track of a former SS officer, Dieter Bock. Each discovery seems to lead to a new mystery as the layers of secrets, deceptions, crimes, killings, plots and conspiracies are peeled away like the skin of an onion. Dreyfus has a special personal interest in the case. He is Jewish, and his parents died at Auschwitz. For him, hunting Bock becomes an obsession, and destroying him a just vengeance for his parents and all who perished in the holocaust.

While there is certainly enough pace, tension and violent action for this to succeed simply as a crime thriller, it has far more depth and substance than the average police procedural. It is very competently written, with interesting characterization, symbolism and philosophical overtones.  
**M.J.I.**

**SUMMERS, Judith**  
Dear sister. - Muller, Blond & White, 1985.

In this first novel, Esther & Rosa Dutzhin are sisters from Katrinoslav in Russia, around the turn of the century. Rosa marries the prestigious Shmuel Levine, a rabbi's son from neighbouring Novbielsk. When, a couple of months after Shmuel leaves for America, Rosa discovers she is pregnant, she and Esther use their parents' money for the trip by ship to follow him.

However, at Southampton, Rosa is conned out of her ticket, and stays behind while Esther goes on to America. Finally, Esther meets up with Shmuel, now disillusioned and called Sammy Levy, and falls painfully in love with him.

There follows a lifetime of lies, deceit and anxiety for Ester, while Rosa is imprisoned emotionally by not knowing the fate of her husband until 40 years later.

A saga that will appeal to fans of Maisie Mosco and Belva Plain.  
**D.D.**

**SWART, Freek**  
Spinola se rooi angelier. - Tafelberg, 1985.

As joernalis was Freek Swart oorgetuie van talle gewelddadige betogings en onwettelinge in Afrika en Europa. In hierdie boeiende kortverhaaldebuut, wat as een van die beste wat vanjaar verskyn het, beskou word, staan agt oorgetuievertellings opgeteken. Elkeen bevat 'n kern van waarheid, vandaar hulle geloofwaardigheid.

In die titelverhaal maak die leser die Spinola-oorwinningsfees ná die Portugese rewolusie van 1974 mee; in 'Krupp en Candeias' beleef ons een seisoen saam met die gasarbeider, Candeias, as 'n roosplanter in die suide van Frankryk; in 'Varkenspys vir Himmler' ontmoet ons die Poolse Jode, Hanna en Jankiel, wat vyf ontsettende jare versteek op die solder van 'n slagter se varkhok, in vrees vir uitdelging deur Hitler se SS wag; die leser is saam met Willeke ontgogel as sy na 40 jaar ontdek waarom haar moeder van haar geboortedag af so liefdeloos teenoor haar was, in die verhaal 'Hongerwinterkind'.

Die verhale is geskryf in 'n strak, ekonomiese styl wat die leser enduit sal boei.  
**Z.J.E.**

**SWEETLAND, Magde**  
Eightsome reel. - Macmillan, 1985.

Although this enthralling first novel has a rather ponderous style, it is so beautifully written that this reviewer was held captive for all 500 pages. It is set amongst the Scottish lochs and in the wilds of Canada, and the central character is the girl Esme who makes her "entry" into the real world at age 20 after the death of her reclusive mother. The only person to whom she relates easily is her uncle Alexis, a beguiling, creative man. They fall deeply in love despite the difference in their ages but when the wrath of Alexis's wife descends on Esme, she flees to Canada "... in allowing her space and choice, he gave her the opportunity for his own exclusion". She enters into a loveless marriage

with a Canadian Air Force pilot and it takes a dramatic turn of events for Esme to return to Scotland and Alexis.

A story in which the nuances and shades of love between a man and a woman are elevated to a level beyond the banality of romance writing. Female readers will find this an irresistible and alluring story.  
**L.P.**

## ADULT NON-FICTION VOLWASSE VAKLEKTUUR

**HUMAN, Annette**  
Geskenkresept. - Tafelberg, 1985.

Deesdae word die lewe al duurder en ons beursies al skraler. Vir diegene wat graag vir daardie spesiale geleentheid aan 'n dierbare of vriend 'n geskenk wil gee, maar nie altyd winkelgeskenke kan bekostig nie, het hierdie boek 'n hele rits oulike idees vir die maak van eetbare geskenke. Dit verduidelik nie net breedvoerig hoe om die geskenk te maak nie, maar gee ook wenke oor hoe om dit aantreklik en feestelik te verpak. Voorbeelde van eetbare geskenke wat gemaak kan word, is kruie-asyn, mosterd, atjar, kerrieboontjies, ingelegde eiers, blatjang, allerhande eksotiese likeurs, ingelegde vrugte, patees, verskillende soorte tuisgemaakte kaas, konfyt, lekkergoed, koeke, terte en nog veel meer.  
**Z.J.E.**

**MINNINGER, Joan**  
Totale geheue: hoe om alles beter te onthou. - Human & Rousseau, 1985.

Hierdie boek - die eerste van sy soort in Afrikaans - leer die leser hoe hy te werk moet gaan om sy geheue te verbeter. Vergeetagtigheid kan 'n mens duur te staan kom en die meeste mense behoort baat daarby te vind as hulle volgende tegnieke onder die knie kan kry: hoe om datums en getalle maklik te onthou; hoe om 'n lys feite vinnig te memoriseer; hoe om wat jy lees beter te onthou; hoe om beter te studeer; hoe jou ouderdom en die dieet wat jy volg aangewend kan word om jou geheue te verbeter; hoe om te leer watter dinge nie die moeite werd is om te onthou nie; wat om te doen as jy 'n belangrike naam of gesig vergeet het en hoe om so 'n verleentheid te hanteer.

Dat 'n goeie geheue die sleutel tot sukses op elke lewensterrein is, sal niemand seker betwyfel nie. Deur 'n bietjie van jou kosbare tyd te bestee aan die wenke wat in hierdie boek gegee word, kan elkeen wat aan daardie chroniese siekte - vergeetagtigheid - ly, leer hoe om dit te oorwin.  
**Z.J.E.**

**PEASE, Allan**  
Lyftaal. - Tafelberg, 1985.

Lyftaal is die kuns van kommunikasie sonder woorde. Die skrywer, 'n deskundige op die gebied van lyftaal, meen 'n mens kan dikwels meer vasstel oor iemand se gesindheid, sy



eerlikheid en sy ingesteldheid teenoor 'n saak of teenoor die persoon wat dit aanroer uit sy gebare- of lyftaal, as uit sy woorde, want mense vertel dikwels doelbewus leuens. Navorsing het aan die lig gebring dat mense in die westerse wêreld byna deurgaans dieselfde soort gebare vir dieselfde soort nie-verbale inligting wat hulle oordra, gebruik. Deur kennis te dra van lyftaal en hoe om dit te interpreteer, kan 'n mens vasstel of iemand jou probeer bedrieg, dalk nie van jou hou nie of jou dalk vyandiggesind is. Meer belangrik egter, jy kan leer om deur middel van lyftaal jouself meer aanvaarbaar vir ander te maak, hulle samewerking te verseker en suksesvolle onderhoude en sake-onderhandelinge te voer. Alle tekens en gebare wat bespreek word, is duidelik geïllustreer.  
Z.J.E.

SELBY, Bettina  
Riding to Jerusalem. - Sidgwick, 1985.

This is the second solo bicycle ride the author has taken. Her goals were twofold - to ride along the route of the Crusaders and pilgrims to the Holy Land, driven by the spirit of adventure, as well as a spiritual and religious motivation. Her travels took her along the paths of the medieval knights through western Europe to Venice, then by sea to Istanbul. She passed through Turkey and Syria describing ancient sites, Crusader castles and places where ancient battles were fought. In Jordan she visited the famous "rose-red" city of Petra.

Finally she moved to Israel, meeting place of the three religions. She tells her personal adventure story, too, most entertainingly describing the hostility encountered by a woman travelling alone on bicycle through Moslem territory as well as personal observations on treasures in churches, mosques and museums. Her book skillfully interweaves "spiritual reflection, worldly pathos, adventure and humour". A most unusual and entertaining travel book.  
E.S.

VAN ELFEN, Jan  
Ma is raad-op. - Tafelberg, 1985.

Alle moeders met babas, kinders en selfs tieners in hulle puberteitstadium, sal hierdie boek met sy vroeë antwoorde deur die bekende dr. Jan van Elfen, uiters nuttig kan gebruik. Die vroeë is ingedeel in afdelings wat voorgeboortelike kwellings, die beginjare (0-2), die vormingsjare (2-6), die leerjare (6-12), en die stormagtige jare (12-18), dek. Die omvattende register maak dit moontlik om spesifieke kwelvrae maklik na te slaan, byvoorbeeld oor veluitslag by babas, die simptome van verskillende kindersiektes, afwykende gedrag, epilepsie, depressie, doofheid, swak-siendheid, outisme, disleksie, ensovoorts. Vir my het die afdeling oor die stormagtige jare, as ma van 'n tienerdogter, baie van my eie kwelvrae beantwoord.

Die boek is gebaseer op die honderde kwelvrae wat oor vele jare uit baie dele van die land aan dr. Van Elfen as mediese rubriekskrywer gerig is.  
Z.J.E.



WOLTER, Ruth  
Houtsnwyerk. - Tafelberg, 1985.

'n Handleiding, met pragtige volkleurillustrasies, vir die beginner. Daar word verduidelik watter soort werkplek geskik is om die stokperdjie te beoefen, wat se gereedskap en watter houtsoorte gebruik moet word, wat die verskillende tegnieke is om verskillende effekte te verkry, hoe 'n mens ornamentele insnywerk kan doen om bestaande deure en meubels te versier, wat reliëfwerk is, hoe sierpanele gemaak of letterwerk in hout, bekend as skrifsnit, gedoen word. Vir die meer ervare houtsnyer is daar wenke oor hoe om figuurbeeldhouwerk te doen. Die skryfster se eie werke versier talle openbare geboue: die lughawe Jan Smuts; 64 panele in die kantore van die Wetgewende Vergadering in Windhoek; die Hoorposkantoor in Pretoria en talle ander geboue.

'n Handige, praktiese gids wat met vrymoedigheid aanbeveel kan word.  
Z.J.E.

### JUVENILE FICTION JEUG FIKSIE

BYARS, Betsy  
Cracker Jackson. - Bodley Head, 1985.

Jackson Hunter - "Cracker" Jackson to his much-loved ex-babysitter Alma - is very concerned about Alma, convinced that her husband Billy Ray is beating her. When he discovers that in

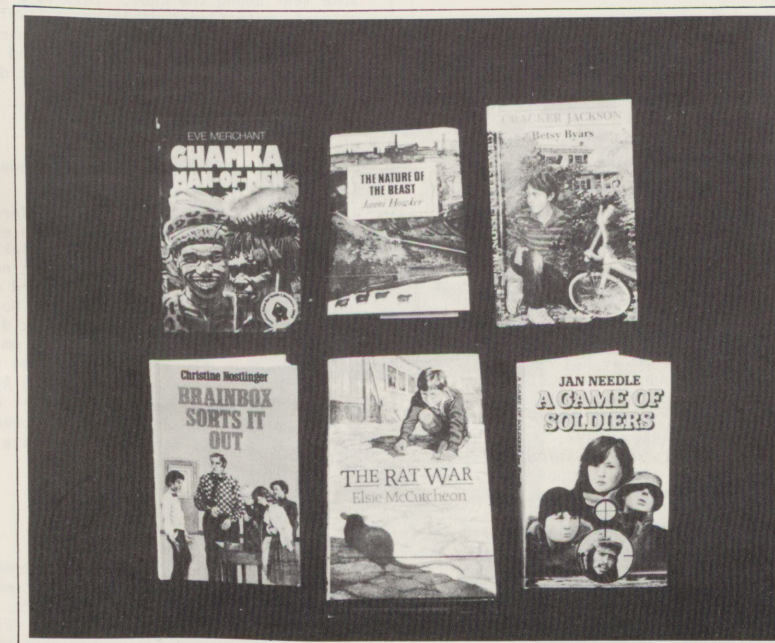
fact Billy Ray had hit her and her six month old baby Nicole, he decides to take her to a nearby town where there is a place for battered mothers. He enlists his best friend's help and they decide to take Jackson's mother's car for the trip. The only trouble is that the boys are just eleven years old. The abortive drive - Alma decides half-way that she wants to go back home - offers some real humour, which is welcome relief from the seriousness and suffering that Jackson is so aware of. Eventually it is his mother who comes to the rescue. This is one of Ms Byars' better stories; she is so good at balancing harsh realism with genuine humour and compassion. Her fans will want to read this.  
I.A.

GARLAND, Sarah  
Coming to tea. - Bodley Head, 1985.

A little girl and her mother prepare tea for a visit from their next door neighbours. They play, enjoy their tea and go home when it starts raining. The text is concise and easy for young children to absorb. The illustrations in brilliant colours have a great deal of movement and interest. Young readers will love this one.  
E.S.

HOWKER, Janni  
The nature of the beast. - Julia MacRae, 1985.

The closely-knit Haverston community in the north of Britain is devastated when the local mill closes and unemployment becomes a terrible reality. Their worries are not made easier to



bear by the harsh winter, and by the mysterious beast at large, which is savagely attacking livestock on the surrounding farms. Billy, living with his father and grandfather, is deeply affected by all these events. The beast roaming the moors becomes to him a symbol of all the turmoil and he determines to track it down and kill it. Believing it to be an escaped panther from a travelling circus, Billy nevertheless sets off to face it, armed only with his air-rifle. This is a powerful novel - stark, uncompromising, and painted as it were, in black-and-white rather than in colour. It is not often that one finds a character so realistically portrayed and true-to-life as Billy. This book may need some initial promoting, but it will be well worth the effort. Suitable for older children and young teenagers.  
I.A.

JOUBERT, Elsa  
Die vier vriende en ander stories uit Afrika; illus. deur Cora Coetzee. - Tafelberg, 1985.

'n Voorleesboek vir kleuters met 13 dierestories uit Afrika wat die skryfster uit ou reisbeskrywings opgediep en hier oorvertel het. Daar is fabels soos die een waarin die padda vir die valk 'n les geleer het; 'n ander een waarin die rooiak die luiperd bedrieg het; nog een waarin die trapsoetjies uit pure naway sy eie kop afgekap het; 'n storie waarin 'n piepklein muisie die olifant en die krokodil uitoorlê het en nog talle ander.

Cora Coetzee slaag goed daarin om die Afrika-atmosfeer in haar swart en wit illustrasies uit te beeld.

Hierdie dertiende boek deur een van ons mees bekroonde skryfsters van romans en reisverhale, is haar eerste kinderboek en behoort net so gewild by kleuters te wees as wat haar ander boeke by haar volwasse lesers is.  
Z.J.E.

McCUTCHEON, Elsie  
The rat war. - J.M. Dent, 1985.

In her second children's novel, Elsie McCutcheon certainly lives up to the high expectations created by *The summer of the Zeppelin*, for warmth, humour, and a sympathetic understanding of a child's world. Set in Sussex, just after the end of the Second World War, it is a perceptive look at a brother-sister relationship. Nicholas (9) and Morna (11) have spent the war living with their grandmother (called Gramarye), their parents being in India. When Gramarye has a stroke, however, they are sent to Aunt Dorothy, who lives in a small Sussex village. Life with Gramarye had been sheltered and isolated, and Nick and Morna had become very close. Nick, as the more timid of the two, is very dependant on his very confident, rather cocky sister. Upon their arrival in Sussex, Morna immediately makes friends with Louis Bugg, daughter of Aunt Dorothy's "daily", and is drawn into the age-old village feud between the Buggs and the Footers. Nick, less socially adept, and not keen on fighting, is left to his own devices. He discovers a baby rat in the back yard, and is determined to shelter and protect it from the local ratcatcher - rats have become Britain's "New Enemy", on whom

war has been declared. He hides the rat in a disused bunker in a field, adjoining their cottage, and christens it Victor. It becomes a source of consolation in the face of Morna's taunts of cowardice, and a friend in his loneliness. But he also begins to find that feeding Victor and keeping his cage clean is a heavy responsibility. How this problem is resolved makes an exciting climax, which also ends the village feud.

The author shows great depth of understanding of the thoughts and feelings of a 9-year-old boy, as well as of the sibling bond, which is a mixture of affection and exasperation. Without tub-thumping, she also makes some telling points about war and its effects.

Highly recommended.  
CvG

MERCHANT, Eve  
Ghamka man-of-men. - Tafelberg, 1985.

This first novel, which won the 1985 Sanlam Prize for Youth Literature, is set along the coast of what is now known as Mossel Bay, at the time of Dias and da Gama rounding the Cape. It is the story of Ghamka, a young boy destined to become leader of the Attaqua, one of the Khoi-Khoi clans. Threatened by a hostile clan and needing better grazing for the cattle, Ghamka's father leads his tribe westwards along the coast until they find a good place for a village beyond the Hartenbos river. It is while they are there, and Ghamka is growing up and learning of his responsibilities, that the pale strangers arrive from the sea, causing much wonder and some fear among the Khoi. This is a good first attempt, with fluent dialogue, a lively style and lots of things happening, together with much interesting detail of the culture and life-style of these people. It is a story that deserves to be widely read.  
I.A.

MILNE, A.A.  
Winnie-die-Poeh; vert. deur Alba Bouwer.  
Tafelberg, 1985.

Vyftig jaar na die verskyning van hierdie klas-sieke kinderboek, is dit nou vir die eerste keer in Afrikaans vertaal en wat 'n lekkerleesvertaling is dit nie! "Piglet" heet nou Varkentjie, "Eeyore" het Iejör geword en dan is daar ook nog die olifant wat nou Holeyamp heet, Kanga en Baba Roe en natuurlik die Whoeziel. Dat Tafelberg besluit het om E.A. Shepard se oorspronklike illustrasies te gebruik, is verblydend. Vir so 'n eg Afrikaanse vertaling waarin die atmosfeer en die styl van die oorspronklike nogtans behoue gebly het, was dit voorwaar die moeite werd om vyftig jaar te wag!  
Z.J.E.

NEEDLE, Jan  
A game of soldiers. - Deutsch, 1985.

One is not told at first, but it becomes obvious after a while that this is set on the Falkland Islands during the war there. Michael, Sarah and young Thomas are friends, through being neighbours rather than by choice.

They are each affected and frightened by the war which they do not really understand. Michael hides his fear under a bullying attitude and persuades the other two to play a game of soldiers; after a particularly fierce battle one night, he decides they should go out and find themselves an enemy conscript to kill. None of them really think that they will indeed find a wounded soldier, nor do they have any idea of the effect he will have on them. As always with this author, this is a harshly realistic story, with no easy ending. It is made more bearable however, by Sarah's innate compassion and the more caring understanding of her parents.  
I.A.

NOSTLINGER, Christine  
Brainbox sorts it out, tr. by Anthea Bell. - Andersen Pr., 1985.

This is a translation of an excellent title by an Austrian writer - a who-dunit with a difference, where the psychological and moral implications are more important than solving the mystery.

Brainbox, Ace, His Nibs and Lizzie are four friends in class 3D, who are disturbed by a series of petty thefts from the classroom. Even more disturbing is the fact that His Nibs, who is black, is suspected of being the thief. His three friends are determined to find the real thief, and this is eventually accomplished by Brainbox, who lives up to his name with a remarkable process of induction. Brainbox,

however, is not merely a problem-solver, he is a thinker as well, and through extracts from his diary we realise that he has great compassion and insight into human nature.

Particularly thought-provoking is his final diary entry, where he reflects on the difficulty of liking certain people, who are in fact, the ones most in need of our sympathy and understanding.

Growing Point (July 1985) says of this story: "Into a fastmoving, direct tale, with a firm background of school and home, the author has unobtrusively woven a wisdom and warmth of understanding which could set many young readers thinking."  
CvG

RUPERT, Rona  
Ek is Gideon. - Tafelberg, 1985.

Hierdie is Rona Rupert se 25ste boek. Dit vertel die verhaal van die sirkuskind, Gideon, wat hom nooit kon tuis voel by die sirkuslewe nie, al was sy ma 'n sweefstok-artieste.

Toe Gideon klein was, het sy ma hom vertel sy pa is dood. Op twaalfjarige ouderdom ontdek hy egter dat dit nie waar is nie en dat sy pa 'n plaas naby Worcester het. Toe hy ná die skoolvakansie veronderstel is om 'n trein te haal terug kosskool toe, koop hy 'n kaartjie na Worcester sodat hy sy pa kan gaan soek. In die proses vind hy nie net sy pa nie, maar ook homself.

Deur Gideon se oë leer die leser die wêreld van



die sirkus ken en word hy bewus daarvan hoeveel hierdie wêreld van dié van gewone mense verskil.

'n Boeiende verhaal vir agt- tot tienjariges wat as 'n avontuurverhaal goed slaag, maar waaruit die leser ook veel sal leer oor die kompleksiteit van menslike verhoudings.  
Z.J.E.

SCHÜLER, Rena  
Miskien was dit Marnelle. - Human & Rousseau, 1985.

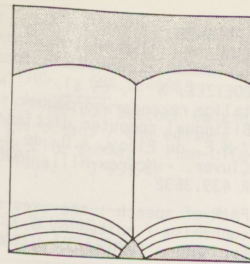
As Marnelle se pa hooflanddros word op 'n baie groter dorp as die een waar hulle voorheen gewoon het, gaan sy die nuwe lewe wat hulle daar moet begin met gemengde gevoelens tegemoet. Aan die een kant verlang sy na haar maats en die klein dorpie waar sy grootgeword het, maar aan die anderkant is hulle ruim, nuwe huis met sy groot swembad weer vir haar 'n aangename verrassing. Die nuwe skool is ook baie groter en dis vir haar 'n groot aanpassing om nuwe maats te maak en gewoon te raak aan die lewe op 'n groot dorp.

Met verloop van tyd leer Marnelle egter hoe dinge op dié dorp gedoen word en neem sy deel aan opwindende nuwe aktiwiteite soos swem- en duikwedstryde, balletklasse en ander tydverdrywe waar- aan sy nie vantevore kon deelneem nie. Nadat sy

'n meisie uit die swembad gered en sy en die bure se seun goed bevriend geraak het, is die lewe op die nuwe dorp skielik vir haar lekker, want nou is sy nie langer 'n buitestaander nie en word sy deur die ander kinders as een van hulle aanvaar.  
Z.J.E.

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L.W.



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