

◆ PEOPLE

Gordimer, Serote honoured

South African writers Nadine Gordimer and Wally Serote were awarded the Pablo Neruda International Presidential Medal of Honour by the Chilean government in Pretoria. The medal was instituted by Chile in honour and recognition of their poet Pablo Neruda.

Gordimer and Serote were two of 100 international poets and writers to receive the honour, a century after Neruda's birth.

Chilean ambassador to South Africa Claudio Herrera, described Neruda as the world's most famous poet, 'a giant of a man' who won the Nobel Prize for Literature.

'Chile decided to pay homage to 100 men and women who have significantly contributed to culture, literature and the arts.'



Photo: Sophie Bassouls



*Cindy Zeilhofer
Correspondent*

IFLA announces appointment

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is delighted to announce the appointment of its new secretary general, Professor Peter Johan Lor. Professor Lor currently holds the post of Professor Extraordinary at the Department of Information Science, University of Pretoria, South Africa. Born in the Netherlands, Lor immigrated to South Africa where he studied at the universities of Stellenbosch and Pretoria - later studying at Caen in France. Following appointments as university librarian at the University of Bophuthatswana, assistant director of the State Library, Pretoria and professor in the University of South Africa's Department of Library and Information Science, Peter Lor was the director of the State Library. He subsequently became the national librarian and chief executive officer of the National Library of South Africa, which was formed in November 1999 by the amalgamation of the State Library with the South African Library. In addition, he has served on the boards of directors of a number of non-profit foundations, including SABINET (the

South African Bibliographic and Information Network), the Foundation for Library and Information Services Development (as its executive director), and the Book Development Foundation. He also serves on the executive of the Pretoria Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Professor Lor has been a very active contributor to IFLA and currently chairs the Advisory Board of IFLA's Action for Development through Libraries Programme (ALP) and the interim standing committee of IFLA's Section of Library and Information Science Journals. He chaired the Conference of Directors of National Libraries from 1996 to 2000 and has served as a member of the International Advisory Committee of the Council on Library and Information Resources, Washington DC. From 1996 to 1998 he was vice-chairperson of the Standing Conference of African National and University Libraries in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa.

Lor was actively involved in developing policy for library and information services for post-apartheid South Africa and played a leading role in the formation of the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA), a new inclusive organisation that replaced the former separate associations. He regards this as one of his biggest and most satisfying professional achievements.

Professor Lor brings this wealth of administrative, academic and association experience to the post of secretary general. He believes passionately that good libraries are essential for the quality of life of individuals and communities. When accepting the appointment, he stated that he is 'thrilled to serve IFLA as secretary general because IFLA has a unique role to empower library and information professionals. Individually and through our organisations we enable participation by all in the knowledge society and we make an essential contribution to building an informed, tolerant, just and co-operative world community.'

*Mariette van Dyk
LIASA*

◆ LIBRARIES

Tsunami devastates libraries

As part of its assistance to tsunami-struck Asia, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) is assessing the situation of libraries,

archives and other information institutions in the region. UNESCO's Susanne Ornager, based in the organisation's New Delhi office, accompanied WA Abeyasinghe, chairman of the Sri Langkan National Library and Documentation Boards (NLDSB), on an inspection tour to the tsunami-affected areas. Herewith her first impressions as published by Webworld:

'What we experienced was like a nightmare - a war zone. Watching the damage on television is appalling, being at the actual site is terrible. We saw debris everywhere along the coast. Ships and boats lying crowded together at the roadside or the beach. Twisted rails and ruined houses.

'In Hikkaduwa we found an open library. The public librarian was drying books. The circulation desk used to be at the wall - the tsunami wave tore it from there and it was thrown to the middle of the room. The librarian managed to find the list of users in the garden, two houses away.'

Apart from this functioning library, most buildings, which contained librarian collections, were totally damaged or ruined. In Kahawa (before Hikkaduwa), where more than a thousand people died in a train, a school library established in 2001 as part of the World Bank project completely vanished.

Galle City showed the same devastation. However, the public library escaped the tsunami destruction as it was built on high grounds.

In all the villages and towns: Habaraduwa, Koggala, Ahangama, Wellgama, Matara, Tangalla, and Habantota (just to mention a few), the libraries were destroyed or collections damaged.

*UNESCO
New Delhi*

UNESCO restores libraries

UNESCO will provide US \$100,000 for the restoration of all destroyed libraries in the tsunami-affected countries in the South Asian region. This is part of the funds allocated to the affected countries by UNESCO at the beginning of this year and more funds will be allocated soon, adviser for Communication and Information UNESCO in Asia, Dr Susanne Ornager said. She said that since Sri Lanka is the second most affected country in the region more funds will be allocated to Sri Lanka in order to re-build libraries and develop a modern library network.

Ornager stressed the importance of publicising the method of utilising aid in



order to keep donors and the relevant persons informed. This can be done through web sites as the head of the World Bank pointed out and it will be more transparent if recipients can inform the donors and the world how they use aid effectively.

Cultural Affairs and National Heritage Minister Vijitha Herath thanked UNESCO for the assistance and said that Sri Lanka is the first tsunami-hit country that commenced rehabilitation of libraries and related institutes.

At the moment the National Archives Department provides consultation and technology to preserve destroyed books, magazines and other documents. (**Daily News**, Tuesday 11 January 2005, online edition).

The Cultural Affairs and National Heritage Ministry will soon submit a complete report on the full damage to UNESCO. 'A large number of donors have expressed their willingness to donate English books to Sri Lanka but they are of little use to a larger segment of people. Therefore the Ministry has focused its attention in obtaining more financial aid to buy Sinhala books.'

Minister Herath said steps will be taken to establish a tsunami museum and requested the public to collect tsunami souvenirs and memorabilia to be housed in this museum. He also said that a special film on the tsunami disaster and how Sri Lanka withstood all odds as a nation will be made.

The script for this film has already been accepted by the National Film Corporation. Several libraries including 177 school libraries, 68 libraries attached to religious institutions and 53 public libraries were damaged in the tsunami.

Nadira Gunatilleke
UNESCO

◆ BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Welcome to 'Christian Chick Lit'

For fun-loving singleton Bridget Jones, sex, cigarettes and chardonnay make the world go round. For the deeply-devout Kemi Smith, the Bible is her best friend and sex before marriage is a guilt trip.

With her debut novel Nigerian writer Abidemi Sanusi has created a Christian Bridget Jones for whom the power of prayer, not partying, is what life is all about. Welcome to the world of 'Christian Chick Lit'.

The genre, echoing the rise of the Christian Right, is big business in the United

Cape Librarian
forty years ago...

Stefan Wehmeyer, Assistentdirekteur: Steundienste



- ★ In 'n oorsig artikel oor Afrikaanse boeke wat in 1964 gepubliseer is, skryf JA Bouwer. 'Neem ons die Afrikaanse publikasies vir volwassenes die afgelope jaar in oënskou, is dit weer eens duidelik dat daar vooruitgang in die gehalte van ons letterkunde te bespeur is. Die sensasie van die oomblik is beslis Breyten Breytenbach met prosa, poësie en daarby nog skilderkuns ook.'
- ★ Good advice in 1965 on training the kids to care for books: don't eat an orange while reading and don't leave a book where the puppy can get his teeth on it. Exactly what happened to me recently when one of my new pups got hold of a new library book. Mens is ook nooit oud om te leer nie, né!
- ★ Anthonie P Roux, die eerste redakteur van die **Kaapse Bibliotekaris**, tree uit diens. Een van sy take destyds was om ook 'om en om 'n tafel te loop om bladsye agtermekaar te kry en met 'n kramtang vas te heg'. Hy was redakteur, proefleser, kolleerder, binder en afsender! Anthonie was ook die outeur van 'n paar boeke. Volgens PALS is daar nog 'n paar kopieë daarvan oor, meestal op die streekkrakke.
- ★ A whole two pages are devoted to the 1964 Hans Christian Andersen Award winner, Renè Guillot. This author wrote many children's books on his experiences in Africa.
- ★ Nie baie mense weet hiervan nie, maar die Kaapse Provinsiale Biblioteekdienste het in die sestigerjare die Nienaber Versameling van Africana (meestal ou Afrikaanse en Nederlandse boeke) gekoop. Op 'n later stadium is dit weer teruggegee aan die Vrystaat en is die sestigerjare tans in die Letterkunde Museum in Bloemfontein. Een van die boeke was **De Poorten der Hel**, met hoofstukke oor: Dansen, Onbescheiden Kleederdracht, Ontucht (onzedelikheid, gemengd baden, bioscoop, laat opzitten als ouders slapen), Onmatigheid (dronkenschap), Weddenschappen (dobbelarij, loterij, kaartspel) en Me-laatsche Leesstof (Romans, twijfelagtige boeken).

Errata: in die November-Desember uitgawe het ek geskrywe van Sewe dae by die Silbersteins en die karakter 'popperok'. Dit is verkeerd, my ma het my dadelik gebel en gesê sy is 'die slanke mevrou'.

States. Now, with the publication of **Kemi's journal of life, love and everything** by human rights worker Sanusi, Britain could be tempted by this 'comfort food for the saved'.

CapeTimes

◆ TRAINING

Stimulating course for assistants

A highly successful and stimulating course for library assistants was held at the Hornlee Public Library toward the end of last year. Staff from nine public libraries in the George Region attended. To ensure a balanced approach the presenters included regional staff, public and children librarians and the head of libraries and museums (Knysna).

In her motivational introduction, Gillian Carter pointed out that library assistants form the backbone of any public library and that they are the first contact that the public experience. Without them a basic service cannot be rendered. They need to be versatile and always willing to go that extra mile for their community.

Estelle van Rooyen, ex-teacher and currently the children's librarian of George,

◆ LITERARY AWARDS

Wolfe earns Bad Sex Prize

The literary award no author wants has gone to Tom Wolfe.

The **Literary Review** gave Wolfe its annual Bad Sex Award yesterday for his best-selling novel **I am Charlotte Simmons**. Judges said its sex scenes were 'ghastly-nept(and) unrealistic.' The prize, in its twelfth year, is intended to 'draw attention to the crude, tasteless, often perfunctory use of redundant passages of sexual description in the modern novel'.

CapeTimes

Right and below: Cheerful and colourful - lovely displays in PD Paulse Library brightened up the past festive season



'n Paar jaar gelede het 'n kunstige tydelike personeelid van Oudtshoorn Biblioteek 'n kleurvolle feetjekermis uit **Fairy stories** deur Philip Hawthorn geteken en op 'n groot uitstalbord in die kinderafdeling vertoon. Dit het bibliotekaris Alice Swanepoel inspireer om die kinderbiblioteek op te kikker met 'n feetjetema. Cicely M Barker se illustrasies uit **A flower fairies treasury** is in kleur gekopieer, op gekleurde plakkaatpapier geplak en gelamineer. Die blomfeetjies is met stringe krale verbind en die bewertjie feetjies, in wisselende lengtes van 150cm tot 180cm, is van die hoë plafon gehang. Die snuffelkassies met prentboeke is met 'n gelamineerde strook van découpagepapier, met blomfeetjies op 'n appelgroen agtergrond, versier. Découpage papier, Henry & Daisy's alfabet, is vir die rakgidse gebruik.

Uitstallings soos hierdie verg deeglike beplanning en harde werk, maar dit is beslis die moeite werd om van die biblioteek 'n aantrekliker plek te maak! Vir verdere leesstof, raadpleeg:

Barker, C. M. **A flower fairies treasury.** - F.Warne, 1997.

Booth, W. **Themes familiar.** - Belair, 1987.

Bromilow, C. **Problem plants of South Africa.** - Briza, 2001.

Cherrier, F. **A treasure trove of ideas.** - Angus, 1973.

Garvey, M. **Library displays.** - H.W.Wilson, 1978.

Hawthorn, P. **Fairy stories.** - Usborne, 1993.

Morris, N. **The Macmillan letters and borders book.** - Macmillan, 1994

Petherbridge, E. **Paper sculpture step by step.** - Bell, 1972

Randall, R. **Bulletin boards and display.** - Mass, Davis Publ., 1968.

Snyman, F. **Kartonkuns.** - Metz P., 2000.

Thomas, D. **A dime a dozen.** - The University, 1963.

Onder: Die skokgebeurtenis in Amerika van 11 September 2001 word jaarliks in Oudtshoorn Biblioteek by wyse van 'n uitstalling herdenk. Gebruikers se belangstelling in dié gebeurtenis vervaag net eenvoudig nie. Koerante soos **Newsweek** en **Time** van daardie tyd is bewaar en word saam met boeke en memorabilia, asook 'n T-hemp met die wolkekrabbers van New York, waarop die Twin Towers nog verskyn, uitgestal. Dit lok nog elke jaar groot belangstelling en dit is asof biblioteekgebruikers die berigte weereens met ongelooft lees

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Learn...Read...Succeed! - the slogan for this year's national Library Week. Featured below are some of the promotional tools that librarians can expect to promote the project. The key featured will be a die-cut and is to be used as a book mark. Other items include licence discs, posters, die-cut libraries to assemble (see below) and book bags.

Turn to page 42 for a look at another new publication that will reach librarians shortly - a striking poster with an excerpt from the all-important Freedom Charter. An easy to assemble display using the poster to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this event is also featured



presented an excellent and eye-opening session on professional behaviour in the workplace. She reminded delegates of the importance of appearances, attitude, verbal and non-verbal communication and how it affects the public and one's colleagues.

Maria Williams from Hornlee Library and her team of librarians provided a great start to the second day of the course by dressing as scholars and giving a brilliant presentation on service to learners and schools. They also organised a highly successful and hilarious role-play on how to handle the public with participation by the delegates.

Other subjects covered during the course were library administration, for example, membership, reregistration, stock-taking, annual accounts, periodicals and newspapers, late books and blacklisting. Practical sessions were held on book repair, book displays and user's queries, with reference to relevant sources of information. The assistants impressed with their general knowledge. As one person put it: 'It's our daily bread and butter to supply people with required information, so one must know one's sources and where to find it in the library.'

The participants were eager for guidance and advice to serve their different communities as best as possible. It was a real pleasure to witness the active participation by everybody.

Stanley Jonck
Senior Library Assistant, George Regional Library

WIN! WIN! WIN!

How sharp are you?

The theme for this year's cover of the **CL** is *A picture says a thousand words and only a few characters can make a picture...* a rather novel creation of images by means of a multitude of characters and punctuation marks by Craig Cockcroft from the Jack Russell Design agency.

Test your powers of observation and count the number of different letters/punctuation marks used for the image. You could be the lucky winner of a mystery prize and a year's free subscription to the **CL**.

Answers should stipulate the actual characters used, for example, p,d,z,! There is no need to count the number of times a particular character was used.

Get cracking and let's see how sharp you are. Entries must be sent to: The sub-editor, Cape Librarian, PO Box 2108, Cape Town, 8000. Closing date: 31 March 2005. The first correct entry drawn will receive the prize.

Imaginative worlds

During 2004 the South Peninsula Administration, in conjunction with the City of Cape Town hosted *Imaginative worlds*, a symposium on science fiction, fantasy and comics. The symposium consisted of displays, a panel discussion and five guest speakers and organised by the Adult and Reference Interest Group, with the assistance of Christine Fransman, under project manager Rudi Wicomb, and the library manager Lynn Steyn.



A stormtrooper with Jenny Kriel, Chairperson: Adult and Reference Interest Group

The first speaker was Richard Kunzmann, the author of **Bloody harvest**, a crime thriller set in Johannesburg mainly dealing with muti killings.

He gave a broad description of speculative fiction: at the core of speculative fiction lies, what Coleridge originally termed, 'the willing suspension of disbelief'. Kunzmann then gave a talk on the history and development of speculative fiction, or science fiction and fantasy. He also spoke about the birth, decline and rebirth of comics.

He stated that the need for this symposium 'is to protect these three (science fiction, comics, fantasy) misunderstood sections of literature, to learn more about them, and to understand their worth to libraries and readers.'

The second speaker was Alex D'Angelo, also an author who has written mainly for children. His published works include **Asmodeus: a forkful of tales from Devil's Peak** and the *Sannie Langtand* series. He proceeded to explain how stories get retold and adapted throughout history to fit into the times. An example given was Beowulf. It has been told and retold over the centuries and then gets altered and enriched by Michael Crichton in his book **The eaters of**

the dead which is then made into the film **The thirteenth warrior**.

Lianda Martin gave a Powerpoint presentation, showing slides of sequential artwork (comics) and picture stories, a snippet of the exhibition held at National Library of South Africa. Tanya Barben, the University of Cape Town Library rare books librarian - curator of the speculative fiction collection, spoke of her love of fantasy and her favourite books and authors.

Mariano Badiali spoke about the effect of modern technology and popular media on the teenager. This availability of entertainment enables parents, teachers and librarians to challenge teens to read - the need for genres that attract teens to reading and libraries. Graphic novels, fantasy and action-packed space operas (sci-fi) especially attract the difficult teenage boy market.

There was also a panel discussion on science-fiction, fantasy and comics/graphic novels. A lively debate on whether to shelve fantasy and science fiction separately or to interfile them ensued.

Bradley Meyer
Systems Librarian

MISCELLANY

Biblioteekboek ná eeu terugbesorg

'n Biblioteekboek is ná 'n eeu aan 'n biblioteek in Inverness terugbesorg en goeiehartige biblioteekpersoneel het die boete van £5 000 (sowat R58 000) laat vaar.

Inverness sketches 1901 to 1904 deur Isabel Harriet Anderson is deur Stuart Thompson by 'n vlooiemark met ou boeke in Johannesburg ontdek, het die BBC berig. Dié 63-jarige het Skotland in 1971 verlaat om oorsee te gaan en het besluit om die boek met sy terugkeer saam te vat huis toe. Die biblioteek het gesê die boek kan nou sy ou plek in die naslaanafdeling inneem, waar dit nooit uitgeleen moes gewees het nie.

Die Burger

Erratum

It appears that the gremlins were very hard at work in the Nov/Dec 2004 issue of the CL. Our apologies for the erroneous description of the acronym NGO on page 6 of the Nov/Dec 2004 CL issue. It should read, non-governmental organisations. And the correct spelling of the popular author of Tavern of the Seas (Argus), is, of course, Biggs and not Briggs (page 57).