

EDITORIAL



2012. What an interesting year! A letter from Janine de Villiers, a former colleague whom many of our readers will remember as an ex-sub editor of the **CL**, contained some very interesting information of the year in which we now find ourselves.

Amongst many other dates of interest, Cape Town is 360 years old this year; South Africa's local opera icon, Mimi Coertse turned 80; *Dickens 2012* celebrates the bicentenary of Charles Dickens' birth; and of course, this year also sees the commemoration of the sinking of the Titanic one hundred years ago, as well as the spectacular

Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Some other interesting dates of importance are the birth of the Swiss-French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau 300 years ago; the declaration of war by the United States of America (USA) on Great Britain 200 years ago, the emancipation of slaves 150 years ago in the USA territories; and 25 years ago, the birth of William, the Prince of Wales, second in line to the British throne and now married to Kate Middleton. The list is endless.

Although it is not possible to cover most of these events in depth, our book selector, Erich Buchhaus takes us down memory lane with the commemoration of the sinking of the 'unsinkable' Titanic. On page 34 he tells the story of the tragedy in which 1,500 people lost their lives and also provides an extensive booklist on a topic that for many years to come will still fascinate.

Also on the trip down memory lane, Dr Francois Verster entertains readers page 18 with anecdotes on the evergreen author; Jan Rabie, who died in November 2002, of whom well-known and famous author; Abraham de Vries said in a discussion at the recent Woordfees in Stellenbosch, '... his burning drive to "write things right" proved to be the ball and chain which prevented him to reach his potential'.

In this issue we introduce you to the *African writers series: celebrating 40 years of African literature*. On page 14 Neville Adonis, assistant director of General Services, introduces this classic series in two parts in which African writers' works and views on the political situation on the African continent are discussed.

We trust that you will enjoy the trip as much as we did.

2012 - voorwaar 'n interessante jaar! Ek het onlangs 'n brief van Janine de Villiers ontvang - 'n voormalige kollega en iemand wat baie van ons lesers sekerlik nog sal onthou as 'n subredakteur van die **KB** - waarin sy my omtrent vermaak het met interessante inligting oor die jaar waarin ons ons tans bevind.

Onder andere is datums van belang die feit dat Kaapstad vanjaar 360 jaar oud is; ons opera-ikoon Mimi Coertse is vanjaar 80 *Dickens 2012* is 'n herdenking van sy geboorte twee eeue gelede; en vanjaar is natuurlik ook die herdenking van daardie ongelooflike gebeurtenis toe die Titanic, gesink het asook die ongelooflike skouspel van die Britse koningin, Elizabeth II se Diamantjubilee. Ander interessante datums is die geboorte van Jean Jacques Rousseau 300 jaar gelede; die oorlogsverklaring deur die Verenigde State van Amerika (VSA) teen Brittanje 200 jaar gelede; die afskaffing van slawerny 150 jaar gelede in die VSA; en die geboorte van William, Prins van Wallis, 25 jaar gelede en tweede aanspraakmaker op die Britse troon, wat 'n jaar gelede met Kate Middleton getroud is. Die lysie is eindeloos.

Alhoewel dit nie moontlik is om al die gebeure in diepte te bespreek nie, neem een van ons boekkeurders, Erich Buchhaus, ons na daardie ongelooflike gebeurtenis 'n honderd jaar gelede toe die Titanic, die boot wat nie kon sink nie', wel gesink het en waarin 1,500 mense hulle lewens verloor het. Hy verskaf ook 'n uitgebreide boeklys oor hierdie onderwerp wat nog vir baie jare lesers se belangstelling gaande sal hou.

Steeds op 'n nostalgietoer onthaal Dr Francois Verster lesers op bladsy 18 met 'n kykie in die lewe van die immergroen skrywer Jan Rabie, oor wie die welbekende Abraham de Vries tydens 'n bespreking vanjaar by die Woordfees in Stellenbosch die opmerking gemaak het dat 'his burning drive to "write things right" proved to be the ball and chain which prevented him to reach his potential'.

Die assistentdirekteur van Algemene Dienste, Neville Adonis, stel op bladsy 14 die *African writers series: celebrating 40 years of African literature* aan lesers bekend. In hierdie artikel, wat in twee dele gepubliseer word, word die klassieke reeks werke van Afrika-skrywers bespreek waarin hulle hul menings oor die politieke situasie in Afrika lug.

Ons hoop dat lesers die terugreis in tyd net so baie soos ons sal geniet.

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Indexed in • Geïndekseer in
LISA (Library and Information
Science Abstracts)

Reproduction and Printing • Reprodusie en Drukwerk
Shumani Mills Digital

Cover design • Omslagontwerp
Olivia Forshaw

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SA ISSN 0 008 5790

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