



cals news

Centre for African Literary Studies
“Collecting the Best African Writing”

Newsletter

January 2012 – December 2012

From the Editor

In this ninth issue we celebrate the launch of the isiZulu Literary Museum, the acquisition of literature in the local South African languages, various donations and the completion of five archival collections.

The newsletter includes a brief description of the library, portrays the various efforts of the CALS team, and highlights the diverse events and activities that CALS has hosted. We thank our donors, Board members, users and CALS’ staff for their support.

The Library and Archives

The CALS Library and Archives are available to staff and students of the University and of other South African tertiary institutions, international researchers and visitors, and members of the public. Its acquisitions can be viewed at the website below and on UKZN’s iLink catalogue and WorldCat.

cals.ukzn.ac.za



Mercio Langa welcomes guests to the launch



Darryl David & Prof Donal McCracken

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Launch of the isiZulu Literary Museum

South Africa’s first Zulu literary museum was launched at CALS on the Pietermaritzburg Campus on 24th August during the Midlands Literary Festival. Officially opening the facility, Professor Donal McCracken of the Centre for Communication, Media and Society, paid tribute to Zulu culture quoting a former British Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli: ‘The Zulu’s are a remarkable people; they put an end to an empire, they convert bishops and they defeat generals.’ McCracken said: ‘I trust that the isiZulu literary museum, here in an institution, will prosper, grow from strength to strength and comprehensively reflect the literary writings of that truly remarkable people.’

Publishing Director for Indigenous Languages at the company, Ray Wela, sees the museum as critical for the preservation of the isiZulu language. ‘Someone had to take this initiative forward and we are grateful to the university and CALS for doing this’ said Wela.

The launch and festival attracted many local authors to CALS. It was a festive occasion with the visitors enjoying being re-united with many isiZulu books that they had not seen for some time. Among the distinguished guests were Miriam Tlali, Gcina Mhlope, Elana Bregin, Anton Harber and William Zulu.

According to Darryl David, UKZN lecturer (Afrikaans), and the inspiration behind the isiZulu literary museum,

no other African language literary museum has been opened in the 18 years of democracy. There is an English Literary Museum in Grahamstown and an Afrikaans Museum in Bloemfontein. For him "A literary museum is truly the holy grail in literary circles."

He thanked the Acting Director for CALS, Professor Christine Stilwell, "for having the belief in my vision and for seeing it through." Story teller and author, Gcina Mhlope added "The museum is the brightest feather in our cap ... not just for KZN, but for the whole country".



Else Schreiner & Christine Stilwell

Published by the Lovedale Institution Press, the book contains oral tales collected and transcribed by Mary Waters. Margaret von Klemperer in an article in *The Witness* (Dec 12, 2012, p. 10) refers to "the charming illustrations" (see below) which are the work of an untrained and unnamed African artist. The book is thought to have originated between 1900 and 1923 and has been reprinted several times.



Gcina Mhlope with school children at the storytelling session

Shuters have published isiZulu books since 1905 when J.W. Colenso's *Zulu-English Dictionary* was published, followed by J.L. Dube's *Insila kaShaka* in 1931. They donated a large number of isiZulu books to CALS and sponsored large portraits of Zulu writers which have been mounted in the museum and CALS' entrance foyer. A large banner and plaque record the details of the historic occasion which was featured in many of the local newspapers and other media.



Cameos from the Kraal

CALS also received substantial donations of new books from the **UKZN Press**. These are on Zulu culture, identities and history. **KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Public Library and Information Services** donated a large box of dictionaries, novels and children's books. Colleen Vietzen has been hard at work processing the isiZulu books with the help of Wiseman Masongo as a proof reader. The museum is taking shape as the books are shelved under Wiseman's expert care.

Else also donated a copy of her children's book *Lesothosaurus and the Ancestor's Bones* to CALS. She celebrated her 90th birthday in October this year and is working on another book for children.

National Library of South Africa's (NLSA) indigenous languages classics

The Department of Arts and Culture (South Africa), in a drive to promote a culture of reading and celebrate and preserve the literary heritage of the country, entrusted the NLSA with the task of identifying and reprinting books regarded as classics in nine of the 11 local languages. The NLSA invited the public to nominate books which they regarded as classics and a panel of literary and publishing experts finalised the list. In the first two phases 27 and then 19 titles were reprinted. CALS received the 46 titles plus some duplicate copies and these have all been processed and appear on UKZN's iLink catalogue.



Else, authors & translators (Fleur Webb, Pessa Weinberg & Margaret von Kemperer), publisher (Sally Howes), Alan Paton Centre staff (Jewel Koopman & Mary Gardiner) & expert in paper conservation (Dr Estelle Lieberman-Barkhuizen)

Else Schreiner donates rare book, "Cameos from the Kraal", and her *Lesothosaurus*

Sally Howes of Watermark Publishing donates Great African books

Else Schreiner, author of the book, *Time stretching fear: the detention and solitary confinement of 14 anti-apartheid trialists, 1987-1991*, handed over the rare book, *Cameos from the kraal*, officially to CALS on 7 December 2012.

In December 2012 Sally Howes of Watermark Publishing donated two books published by Pearson Educational to CALS. Sally is the editor of the series which includes the two items, *Great African Thinking* by Sharon Dell and *Great African Writing* by Arabella Koopman.

Catherine Woeber collection of early black South African autobiographical writing

In November 2011, Dr Catherine Woeber, then Senior Lecturer in English Studies (UKZN), donated four boxes of articles which cover social, educational and ecclesiastical history during the decades when the first black South African autobiographers were at school (1930s-1950s). She also donated two boxes of books containing South African, African and African-American titles.

Five Archival Collections ready for use

Barbara Gentil has made excellent progress with the archiving of collections of documents this year. She has processed:

- The large collection of **Bernth Lindfors's** documents;
- The **Catherine Woeber** collection of early black South African autobiography;
- The Lusophone collection of **Gerald Moser** documents;
- The **Richard Priebe** documents; and
- The **Liz Gunner** documents.

The documents have been archived in the correct acid and chlorine free folders and boxes. Indexes to the individual collections have been compiled to facilitate access. An overview of each collection has been placed on the iLink catalogue and WorldCat.

Photographs

CALS has an extensive collection of photographs of African writers which are part of the Bernth Lindfors collection. Fiona has overseen the sorting, indexing and storing of these items in the correct photographic wallets.

Journals - Stephen Gray facilitates donation of *Cahiers du Sud*

CALS received copies of the *Cahiers du Sud* for the years 1938 to 1965 from the Johannesburg Public Library. **Stephen Gray** arranged for us to receive the donation which was delivered via Louis Geiger of the UKZN Press.

English Academy Review

John Dean has donated a full run of *The English Academy Review* which completes CALS' holdings up to 2012.

Fiona has completed the journal cataloguing. She is making good progress with the mammoth task of processing the single copies of journals.

New Staff Members

■ Acting Director 1 Feb- 31 Jul

Dr Ruth Hoskins served as the Acting Director of CALS from February to July, while Christine Stilwell was on long leave. Ruth holds a PhD in Library and Information Studies and has worked in both academic and public libraries and archives. She is a senior lecturer in Information Studies and Head, Teaching and Learning in the School of Social Sciences at UKZN.



Dr Ruth Hoskins

■ CALS' Intern

Antonio Jacob joined CALS in June 2012 in a part-time capacity. He assisted with the processing of the photograph and newspaper collections. He was studying English at the UKZN Language Centre and came from Angola where he is a Roman Catholic missionary. He holds a Master's degree in Documental Science (documentation and library, University of Lisbon in Portugal) and previously worked as a librarian at Mosaiko Cultural Centre in Luanda, Angola, which is one of the biggest libraries in the city. Asked to comment on his time at CALS, Antonio said "I am happy with this experience ... because the work that I am doing is helping me considerably to expand my knowledge concerning the English Literary World in Africa."



Antonio Jacob

CALS Highlights

Poetry Africa at CALS!

Poetry Africa was held in October with readings by Oswald Mtshali and Nii Ayikwei Parkes at CALS. Both poets were ecstatic about the CALS collection noting its uniqueness as such a collection based in Africa.

Professor Mtshali read several poems in both isiZulu and then English and sang a new poem on the recent Marikana tragedy.

On a lighter note guests enjoyed seeing Prof Mtshali standing beside his large portrait in the CALS' foyer.

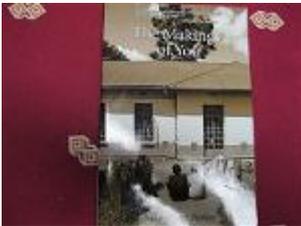
Nii Ayikweh read poems from his collection *The makings of you* which he donated to CALS.



Prof Mbongeni Malaba, Peter Rorvik, Nii Ayikwei Parkes, Prof Oswald Mtshali and Christine Stilwell



English Studies lecturer, Dr Michael Wessels, and English Honours students at the poetry reading



The makings of you

Grateful thanks go to Peter Rorvik, Director of the Centre for Creative Arts, who brought the poets to CALS and to Prof Mbongeni Malaba for chairing the session. CALS received a letter of thanks and good wishes for the festive season from Prof Mtshali

I am just dropping you a few lines to thank you for your hospitality during my visit with Peter Rorvik to your institution during the Poetry Africa Festival in October at UKZN in Durban. I wish you a Happy Festive Season and a prosperous new year.

MOMtshali

Visiting Academics and Officials

PhD student from Yale University

Matthew Keaney, a first year PhD student from Yale University in the United States, spent June to August 2012 at CALS. He received a grant from Yale to conduct some preliminary research for his thesis. His interest in South African community arts groups, particularly those that were active in the 1970s, brought him to this university. He did his Master's thesis on a comparative study of four literary journals - *Drum*, *The Classic*, *New Classic* and *Staffrider*. He found that it seemed that writers were beginning to come together in interesting collaborative ways - running workshops and branching out to work with artists in other media. Matthew came to UKZN a couple of years ago and did some work in the Alan Paton Centre.



Matthew Keaney with Fiona Polak

Drake students visit

CALS hosted Prof. Malaba's lecture to the Drake University students in May 2012.



Drake students and CALS' staff

MEC visits CALS

The MEC, Arts and Culture, KZN, Ms Ntombikayise Sibhidla-Saphetha, visited CALS in January 2012 with Joyce Myeza (UKZN Special Collections Head) as part of the ANC Centenary Celebrations.



MEC & other guests including Joyce Myeza and Nise Malange, Director of the BAT Centre, with Wiseman Masango

Rosemary Gray visits CALS

Professor Rosemary Gray from Wits paid her first ever visit to CALS on 4th December 2012.



Professor Rosemary Gray with Christine Stilwell

Institutional and other linkages

Crafting words in shared silence

In September, Fiona Polak, attended a writing course at the Buddhist Retreat Centre, Ixopo, entitled "Crafting words in shared silence". Professor Dorian Haarhof, a former Professor of English, University of Namibia, facilitated the course. The 12 participants, including poets and journalists, were taught how develop writing in a number of genres. Fiona found the course most beneficial and enjoyed a follow up session on her writing with Prof Haarhof at CALS.

Rene Bohnen, a poet, attended the course, and donated a copy of her work *In die niks al om* to CALS.

Durban 'Interest Group for Bibliographic Standards' (IGBIS) workshop

On the 15h November 2012 Fiona Polak attended a workshop organised by the Durban 'Interest Group for Bibliographic Standards' (IGBIS). The workshop was held at the UKZN Library & Information Studies Programme, Pietermaritzburg and was facilitated by Welna van Eeden, formerly of UNISA and also a former IGBIS President. The workshop was titled 'Subject Analysis for Cataloguers who use the Library of Congress Subject Headings'. The course covered conceptual analysis, subdivisions and South African headings and was most informative."

Regional Conference, Southern Africa & Indian Ocean, on French at Universities in a Multilingual Context.

In November 2012, Prof Bernard DeMeyer from French Studies and a CALS' Board Member attended the regional conference (Southern Africa & Indian Ocean) on French at universities in a multilingual context in November. He was responsible for the literature component. He represented CALS in an official capacity.

UKZN Graduate programmes

CALS' most regular postgraduate links are with English Studies and Information Studies. Prof Mbongeni Malaba held an Honours module on Imaging Africa at CALS. Dr Jill Arnott held weekly seminars at CALS.

Fiona Polak has registered for a PhD in Information Studies and presented her proposal in December to the School of Social Sciences. Her topic is *African Identity is in the Making?: The Role of the Centre for African Literacy Studies as a Special Collection of the University of KwaZulu-Natal and its Contributions to African Studies*

Post Graduate Diploma in Information Studies (PGDIS) students attended a module at CALS that featured fiction reading and children's literature. Examples were drawn from the collection to illustrate the wealth of material available from the continent. Some of these students produced materials development posters and pamphlets on CALS.

Upcoming News - 2013

Midlands Literary Festival

CALS will once again be part of the Midlands Literary Festival, scheduled for the second half of the year.

Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie seminars

CALS will host researchers from the region for intensive training and seminars conducted by Prof Bernard DeMeyer and sponsored by the *Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie*.

CALS wishes readers a peaceful festive season and all the best for the new year

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