



Cals news

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

Newsletter

January 2013 – June 2013

From the Editor

In this 10th issue we celebrate lectures and visits by writers, publishers and academics, the completion of seven archival collections, the digitising project and the conversion of the AV collection to dvd. The newsletter covers the library and archives, 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 Library and Archives serve staff and students of the University and of other tertiary institutions, as well as international researchers and visitors, and members of the public. The number of users has grown this year with many patrons for the isiZulu collection. Acquisitions can be viewed at the website below and on the iLink catalogue and WorldCat.

cals.ukzn.ac.za



Stephen Gray expounding on literary biography



Stephen Gray's audience

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Stephen Gray visits CALS in March and May

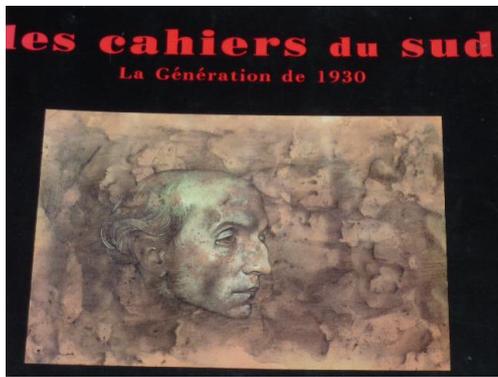
Professor Stephen Gray visited CALS on May 9th and 10th to carry out research and to address an English Studies seminar organised by Professor Mbongeni Malaba.

His topic was “The problem about Literary Biography in South Africa today” and as the pictures show he had his audience of staff, students, publishers and a journalist spellbound.

Gray encouraged those present to take up the writing of literary biography giving many fascinating examples from local works and also many useful tips.

He donated three books to CALS: a first edition of Marris Murray's 1953 *The Fire-Raisers*, Noni Jabavu's 1960 *Drawn in colour* and John McIntosh's *The Thorn trees*.

On Friday, 1 March he visited the Centre for a special celebration of his donation of the French literary journal, *Les Cahiers du Sud* to CALS.



Poster advertising Les Cahiers du Sud

Gray also donated the works of Noel Langley to CALS. He said he felt that it was fitting that CALS should house the collection.

Durban-born Langley graduated from the University of Natal in 1934 with a BA, before going on to make his name in London's West End and Hollywood. He was the screenwriter for the classic 1939 film, *The Wizard of Oz*.



Professors Stobie, Stilwell, Gray and Malaba at the celebratory tea.

The Langley Collection comprises eight novels: *There's a porpoise close behind us*; *Cage me a peacock*; *Hocus pocus* (two different editions); *The music of the heart*; *Nymph in clover*; *The inconstant moon*; *The rift in the lute*; *Where did everybody go* and a non-fiction item, *Edgar Cayce on reincarnation*.

Gray addressed staff from English and French, the Alan Paton Centre, UKZN Press, and *The Witness* about these works. The items will shortly be ready for use at CALS.

CALS also houses Gray's personal collection. He has now added a copy of his 2006 book '*Shelley cinema and other poems*'.

The United Kingdom publisher, James Currey, who shares a long publishing history with African literature, also attended the event.



James Currey and Professor Jaco Alant (French Studies)

James Currey, 'The New African' and the Heinemann African Writers Series Publishing Archive

James Currey has arranged for copies of *The New African* to be made available on the UKZN's Digital Innovation South Africa (DISA) website.

CALS has many of the original issues which will be used for the project. The publication of the journal was most irregular due to Special Branch raids, changes in the masthead, the editors leaving the country and so on. Currey noted that:

'From June 1966 *The New African* was banned in South Africa and to get copies through the post and to protect recipients the name on the masthead was changed to *Inkuleleko* and then in April 1966 to *Frontier* and as ban followed ban the name was changed to *Insight*, *Watchword*, *Sentinel* and *Vanguard*.'

James Currey is donating his papers from his book *Africa Writes Back; The African Writers Series and the Launch of African Literature* (2008) to CALS. He acknowledges the contributions of archivists Mike Bott and Verity Andrews at the University of Reading Publishing Archive. Verity Andrews photocopied selected letters and documents which formed the foundation of that book.

Currey was recently shown round CALS and stated in his letter to Guy Baxter, the University of Reading Archivist that 'This archive stands out as exceptional and is steadily being expanded.'

Baxter has agreed to the copies of the Reading papers being lodged at CALS (with suitable acknowledgements). He stated "It sounds like a very exciting project and one that we at Reading would wholeheartedly support."

The documents are copies of Heinemann correspondence with authors such as Bessie Head and Mazisi Kunene. Readers will be advised when the collection arrives and is ready for use.

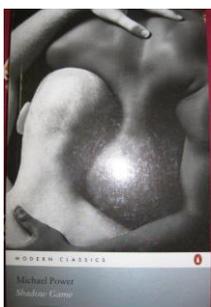
Stephen Coan donates books and journals



Stephen Coan

Stephen Coan, tireless champion of CALS and other UKZN Special Collections is relocating to Durban.

He has donated several runs of journals to CALS including *Carapace*. He has also donated some books including *Shadow Game* by Laurence Eben, the pseudonym of Michael Power, as well as a new edition of this title.



Cover of the 2008 edition under Power's name

Among the donations are collections of poems by well-known locals, Joan Kerchhoff and Clive Lawrence (the latter now lives in Nieu Bethesda).

Student digitising project at CALS



Students working on the digitising project at the Centre

Postgraduate students reading for the Postgraduate Diploma in Information Studies and the Postgraduate Diploma in Records and Archives Management are working at CALS on a digitising project as part of their Digital Libraries module presented by Ms Joyce Myeza of UKZN's Special Collections Division and Ms Patricia Liebetrau of DISA.



Students digitising

CALS celebrates Africa Day



CALS staff, Wiseman Masango (far left) and Fiona Polak (far right), with visiting Law students, Sakhile Nene and Judy Rautenhheimer.

CALS invited the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) staff and students to celebrate Africa Day a day early on 24th May, 2013, by visiting the Centre for a tour of its collections.

Law students, Sakhile Nene and Judy Rautenhheimer, took a break from their legal studies to celebrate with CALS. The picture shows them in front of displays on the CALS isiZulu Literary Museum and the South African literary biographer, poet and novelist, Stephen Gray.

The Library and Archives - Seven Archival Collections ready for use

Excellent progress has been made with the archiving of collections of documents and all seven collections are now available for use:

- Gillian Stead Eilersen collection on Bessie Head
- The large collection of Bernth Lindfors's documents;
- The Catherine Woeber collection of early black South African autobiography;
- The Lusophone collection of Gerald Moser;
- The Richard Priebe documents; and
- The Liz Gunner documents.
- The Stephen Gray collection.

An overview of each collection has been placed on the iLink catalogue and WorldCat. More specific details can be requested from CALS.

Other donors

We thank our generous donors including

The Sesotho Writer's Association

Moaba Sesotho, the Sesotho Writers Association has donated a whole box of mostly isiZulu books to CALS.

This was done through Mr Mohapi at Arts and Culture in Pretoria, and Mr Hlengwa from isiZulu Studies at UKZN. Processing of these items is almost complete.

Ray Wela

Mr Ray Wela from Shutters donated an additional copy of the isiZulu novel, *Ithemba Alibulali* by Maphili Shange, as this is a title in high demand. It is one of the National Library of South Africa's 'Proudly South African' classic reprints.

Vera Leckie

Ms Vera Leckie donated a copy of Boubacar Boris Diop's *Les petits de la guenon*.

Also see the **Gray**, **Currey** and **Coan** donations above.

Staff

■ Fiona Polak returns to teaching



Fiona Polak

Fiona resigned from CALS in June to do the Tefl course in Durban and to return to teaching. We thank her for the immense amount of work she did on the CALS' collections and wish her well in her return to teaching, which will possibly take her to the Czech Republic.

Fiona joined CALS in October 2004 as Acting Curator. She is a qualified teacher and librarian with experience in both professions. Fiona left CALS in 2007 but returned to CALS in December 2010 to work on the Priebe Collection on a contract basis.

Fiona completed work on the Priebe collection, the entire collection of journals, some 500 titles, the single issues of journals, theses and dissertations and the Moser collection.

She oversaw the journal binding and established a high standard in this regard. She had just started work on processing the newly converted AV collection in the form of DVDs when she left. She had also commenced sourcing missing issues to fill some of the gaps in the journal runs.

Fiona managed to find homes for many boxes of duplicate journals which were sent to the national Afrikaans Literary Museum in Bloemfontein, the National English Literary Museum in Grahamstown, University of South Africa (UNISA) and St Joseph's Theological Institute's Library.

CALS Highlights

French academics visit the CALS



Professors Malaba, De Meyer, Stilwell and Whyte (on the left and right with Drs Cingal and Jones in the Centre at the luncheon held in honour of the French academics

The Centre for African Literary Studies (CALS) hosted two visitors, Professor Philip Whyte and Dr Guillaume Cingal, from the University of Tours on the 15 February 2013. Professor Bernard DeMeyer, French Studies and a member of the CALS Advisory Board, was responsible for bringing the visitors to CALS. The visiting academics also addressed staff and students from English at CALS on 13 February 2013 in a seminar organised by Professor Mbongeni Malaba and Dr Michael Wessels.

The purpose of the visit to UKZN was to discuss the partnership between the two institutions (staff and student exchange, joint research, etc.) and hence the visitors met the French discipline (Pietermaritzburg (PMB Campus), the English discipline (PMB and Howard College), International Relations and the Dean and Head of School of Arts, Professor N. Zulu. They also held a meeting with two University of Tours exchange students who are at UKZN for this semester. Informal discussion at the seminar included ideas on the sort of student, staff and research exchanges that could be arranged in future between UKZN and the University of Tours with regard to the field of English literary studies.

Professor Whyte coordinates the MA programme at the University of Tours and his field of specialisation is postcolonial theory and literature in West Africa. He has published a book on Ayi Kwei Armah and about 20 articles on the African writers, Ben Okri (Nigeria), Kojo Laing (Ghana), Syl Cheney Coker (Sierra Leone), Syl Bendele-Thomas (Nigeria), Abdulrazak Gurnah (Zanzibar), and Kofi Awoonor (Ghana). Dr Cingal is the coordinator of 3rd year English studies and PGCE (English). His fields of specialisation are postcolonial literatures, semiotics and translation studies

In his presentation Professor Whyte gave an overview of the history of West African writing in English. Dr Cingal analysed two South African poems, including Jeremy Cronin's poem, 'Who'. He emphasised the need to provide the historical and social contexts to the poems when teaching them to French students.

At CALS the French visitors were very excited by the collection of books, especially the Onitsha market literature, and the newly archived unpublished materials. They found several items that they had searched for previously but never been able to locate.

"Each shelf cries out for a conference about its holdings!" said Dr Cingal. Future research exchanges

will certainly provide the opportunity to take this challenge further.

Visiting Academics and Translator

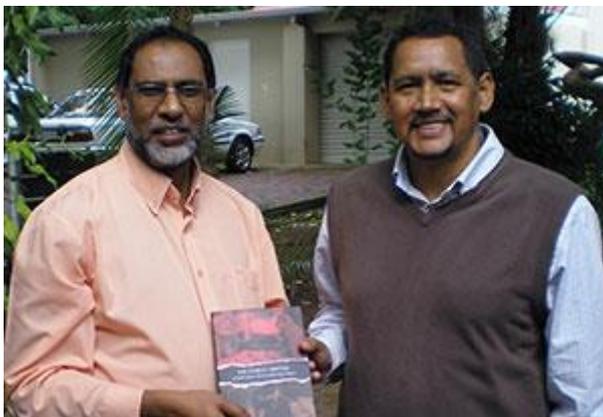
French/English translator at CALS



Vera Leckie

In June Vera Leckie worked at CALS on the proofs of her translation of the work of West African author, Boubacar Boris Diop. The book is *L'Afrique au-dela du Miroir* (Africa beyond the Mirror) (2007) and it has been translated into English from French. The translation is to be published by Ayebia Publishing in the United Kingdom. The book is an interesting and well-written compilation of essays and newspaper articles. Leckie hopes that publication of a second translated work of Diop's which she has submitted, *Les petits de la guenon* (The Monkey and her Children) (or *Doomi Golo in Wolof* 2009, will follow.

Archie Dick pays a first visit to CALS



Nazim Gani, Acting Manuscript Librarian at the Alan Paton Centre and Struggle Archives and Professor Archie Dick with Dick's book.

In April Professor Archie Dick visited CALS when he gave the 20th Alan Paton Memorial Lecture at which he was introduced by the Acting Director of CALS, Professor Christine Stilwell, who serves on the APC advisory Board.

Dick spoke about his book *The Hidden History of South Africa's Book and Reading Cultures*, published in paperback by the UKZN Press and seen in the picture above.

UKZN Graduate programmes

English Studies, Information Studies and Policy & Development Studies Postgraduates at CALS

CALS continues to host lectures and seminars for three postgraduate modules. These are for students from English Studies, Information Studies' Postgraduate Diploma in Information Studies and Post Graduate Diploma in Records and Archives Management as well as Policy and Development Studies.

The Policy students were especially fascinated by the link between their sessions on narratives and the many authors and narratives on display at the venue.

Upcoming News - 2013

UKZN Foundation Retreat at CALS

Bridget McBean and her UKZN Foundation team will be holding a retreat at CALS on the 11 and 12 July, 2013. Ms McBean serves on the Board of CALS.

UKZN Special Collections Day

The UKZN Special Collections Day, 'Telling our Stories through Archives and Museums', on 15 August. Prof Malaba has agreed to speak on behalf of CALS on the theme of 'Telling the CALS Story'.

Alumni to Visit CALS

The Alumni Relations Office is arranging a tour of CALS and other Centres and Departments on the Pietermaritzburg Campus on Thursday, 22 August 2013 for the UKZN Durban Alumni Association.

Midlands Literary Festival

CALS will once again be part of the Midlands Literary Festival, scheduled for 23 August 2013 (details to follow).

Poetry Africa – October

The 17th Poetry Africa Festival organised by the Centre for Creative Arts (UKZN) takes place from 14 to 19 October 2013. This annual event has become a firm favourite and is not to be missed by those who enjoy arts, poetry and music.

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