

REPORT OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF *ACTA CLASSICA* FOR THE PERIOD 2007-2009

1. The Editorial Board

The members of the Editorial Board for the period were:

Prof. L. Cilliers (UFS), Editor
 Prof. J.C. Zietsman (UFS), Chairperson of CASA, *ex officio*
 Dr. J.F.G. Cilliers (UFS), Secretary
 Prof. P.R. Bosman (UNISA), Treasurer
 Prof. J.L. Hilton (UKZN), Additional member
 Prof. W.J. Henderson (UJ), Additional member

2. Meetings

All business was conducted by regular e-mail interaction.

3. Articles

The policy of preserving the status of the journal as an international academic publication is being maintained. All articles submitted for publication are sent to one internal (South African) and one external (overseas) referee, while notes are refereed by two local scholars, if available (decision of CASA Business Meeting, 24 January 1989).

Articles submitted continue to be processed mainly by e-mail. The procedure is as follows:

1. Articles are received by e-mail, sometimes followed (especially if Greek is involved) by a printed copy and CD.
2. The MSS are forwarded to two referees, normally by e-mail.
3. Reports are received and forwarded to the author with an assessment and, if publication has been recommended, a request for revision and a final version.
4. The final version is then formatted and any further corrections made or points clarified.
5. The print-ready text is usually also sent by e-mail to the author for final checking, but a printed version is sent where Greek is involved or other considerations make this preferable.
6. A print-ready copy (title-page, contents and last pages) of the final text with correct pagination, is sent to all local contributors for subsidy purposes.

Articles have again been received from various parts of the world: Belgium, Italy, Australia, the US and UK. The assistance of local and foreign referees is gratefully acknowledged: their input is indispensable for maintaining high standards and advising the authors. The external referees each receive a letter of thanks and a free copy of the volume of *Acta Classica* in which the article they refereed, appears. The necessity of the system is proven by the fact that no article has been published without revision.

The editing and lay-out are done internally. The final text of the volume is saved onto a disk and taken to the printers in Pretoria, where the full process of production is discussed and problems ironed out. The text is printed straight onto transparent sheets for printing. This new system has brought about significant savings in production costs. The know-how developed is easily transferable to anyone computer-literate.

In accordance with a decision of the Editorial Board and the Executive Committee, the size of the volume has been limited to 150-200 pages. However, so many good articles were received for the 2007 and 2008 volumes that both exceeded the limit. It was, however, possible to cover this by internal funds.

Acta Classica L (2007), the Jubilee issue, had a special cover with the Therina coin printed in gold with a golden wreath around it. In the preface the issue was dedicated to the founding members of CASA in acknowledgement of and gratitude for their role in the establishment of CASA. The volume further contained the Chairperson's Address, 8 articles (5 local and 3 foreign), 1 note, 4 reviews, summaries of papers read at the 2007 CASA conference, a list of the periodicals received in exchange for *Acta Classica*, and the Guide for Contributors – a total of 202 pages.

Acta Classica LI (2008) retained the wreath around the coin, but no longer in gold. It contained an appreciation of Prof. Piet Conradie to whom it was dedicated, 11 articles (7 local and 4 foreign), 1 note, 7 reviews, a list of the periodicals received in exchange for *Acta Classica*, the Guide for Contributors, and an advertisement of *Classical World* and of *Acta Classica* – a total of 238 pages

Judging by the increase in the number of articles, it seems that *Acta Classica* is attracting more attention overseas, which is a good sign. The number of books received for review has also increased; preference has been given to books written by South African colleagues, and thereafter to overseas books reviewed by South African colleagues.

4. *Acta Classica Supplementa*

A second Supplement of *Acta Classica* appeared in 2008 – *Asklepios. Studies on Ancient Medicine*, edited by Louise Cilliers. It contained the re-worked papers of the 2007 CASA conference on medical topics – of the 11 articles 8 were by international scholars specializing in Ancient Medicine. A donation of R30 000 from the University of the Free State made it possible to publish this prestige Supplement.

5. Publicity

An advertisement of an overseas journal (*Classical World*) has for the first time been published in *Acta Classica* – this was in exchange for an advertisement of *Acta Classica* in *Classical World*. Other journals have also been approached but no deals have as yet been clinched. This is a valuable way of publicising *Acta Classica* overseas and should be followed up by the new Editorial Board.

6. SABINET and GALE Cengage Learning

At the previous Business Meeting it was decided that the one-year embargo before full articles become available on the website's SABINET link, should be lifted. At present full texts are available from 1994 up to 2008 (the present issue of *Acta Classica*). On the CASA website contents pages and abstracts are available from 1958 to 2008. Many thanks to Prof. John Hilton for keeping the *Acta Classica* information on the CASA website up to date.

In the treasurer's report it will appear that the fact that full texts are available immediately did not result in libraries cancelling their hard copy subscriptions, and that the electronic income is substantial.

A contract was signed with GALE Cengage Learning to include *Acta Classica*'s material in their electronic database. This is a valuable platform for advertising *Acta Classica* in the US and increases our international visibility. It is free of charge and royalties are paid.

7.The Academy of Science of South Africa (Assaf)

The Academy of Science of South Africa which has the aim to promote excellence and high visibility of the country's research activities, has established a National Scholarly Editor's Forum which has meetings once a year to attempt to promote high quality in scholarly publishing, and to discuss the progress in achieving this object. It was worthwhile attending their first meeting and one can but hope that Assaf will become a useful mediator between editors and the Dept. Of Education.

Assaf strongly recommends Open Access publishing, i.e. "free online copies of peer-reviewed journal articles". At present *Acta Classica* cannot comply fully with the recommendation since we do not get state subsidy and do not require page fees. However, articles (full text) are immediately available on SABINET and GALE, but users have to subscribe.

8.The Dept. of Education Database

In accordance with the policy of the Dept. of Education to periodically sample journals to assess if they continue to meet the criteria for accreditation, information on *Acta Classica* was submitted in June as requested.

At present *Acta Classica* is listed on the DoE's list of accredited journals. An application for indexing on the ISI/Thompson Scientific list was sent in 2007. They require issues of 3 consecutive years and information regarding the journal, which were sent to them. We are still awaiting their verdict.

9. Thanks

On behalf of the Editorial Committee I wish to thank the following:

- All the scholars who contributed to the two volumes published in this period.
- All the referees who willingly offered their expertise and knowledge to ensure the quality of the journal.
- The additional members of the Editorial Board for their assistance, in particular Bill and Ann Henderson for the meticulous care in formatting, typesetting and correcting the final text for publication.
- The secretariat and staff of the Department of Classics at UNISA for compiling the list of exchange journals, and for handling the distribution of *Acta Classica*.
- The UNISA library for managing the exchange periodicals.
- The University of the Free State for contributing R10 000 toward the running costs of *Acta Classica*.

As I have decided not to stand for re-election as Managing Editor, I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Association for the confidence placed in me to manage *Acta Classica* for the past 5 years. It has been a privilege to serve CASA in this capacity.

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 Louise Cilliers
 Managing Editor