

## SAACLALS Report

Since 2006 *Current Writing* has been the SAACLALS journal. The blurb in the journal describing this change originally ran thus: “*Current Writing* from this issue onwards is the official journal of SAACLALS ....it will mean a reduced price for members of SAACLALS. Moreover, this may well signify that the time has come to re-energise the focus of *Current Writing* on Southern African literatures within a larger framework, a time for the making of comparative connections with the work done in other areas of the Commonwealth. It is timeous that such a wider expansiveness should take place now when postcolonial cultural practices and theories are so prominent. In particular, it is important that Southern African literary and cultural production take its place within wider diasporas, within the interwoven universe that is literariness. This sense of expansiveness is important not only as an antidote to the years of South Africa’s isolation and the sense of Africa’s exceptionality, but also as a means to celebrate and evaluate the full range of Southern African literary production. In this latter sense, post colonialism has been burgeoning recently, what with work on the postcolonial gothic, postcolonial romanticisms, postcolonial exoticisms and so on, all of which herald the sense of the multiplicity and richness of this literary production. So it is hoped that this new association between SAACLALS and *Current Writing* will prove to be fruitful for the Association and the journal, energising both and suggesting new directions for literary study.”

The journal suggested that this linkage of *Current Writing* to SAACLALS should result in an increase in the original low membership fees of R25 per annum to R85 per annum to be instituted in 2007. Unfortunately, this has also resulted in a substantial decrease in membership: from 46 in 2006 to only 7 in 2007. Perhaps such a decrease is unsustainable and we will not be able to link reduced price journals with membership? This has yet to be discussed.

SAACLALS members participated in two conferences: “Forging the Local and the Global” at the University of Stellenbosch, in 2006. (about 80 attendees; at least 40 were from other nations; membership increased from 14 in the previous year to 46), and “Worlds, Texts, Critics” at the University of Kwazulu-Natal, Durban, in 2007

(about 70 attendees; 20 or so were from other nations; membership declined to 7 due to the new higher membership fees of R85.)

The branch finances are in a healthy state, especially compared to the financial situation when I inherited the secretariat when we had no financial credit at all. This improvement is largely due to the success of the Stellenbosch conference which provided a very healthy cash injection of R9696.39. We now have a credit of R14729.39. It is envisaged that some of this credit can go towards *Current Writing* as well as the organisation of future conferences.

Gerald Gaylard  
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