



Ośrodek Badań nad Tradycją Antyczną (OBTA)

Wydział „Artes Liberales” UW

zaprasza na e-wykład z cyklu

SPOTKANIA OBTYMIŚTÓW

w środę, 26 listopada, o godz. 10.00 (s. konf., ul. Nowy Świat 69, seminarium K. Marciniak)

Prof. Jo-Marie Claassen

Department of Ancient Studies, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Gained in Translation:

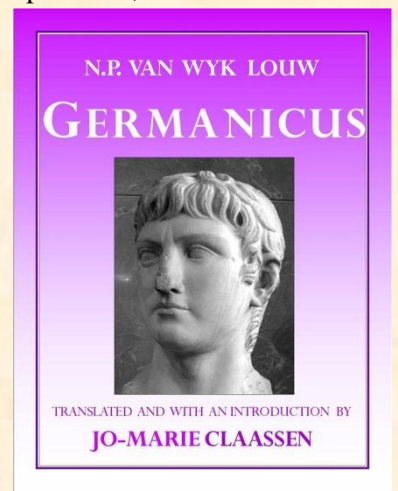
Greek and Roman Classics in Afrikaans Literature

The paper gives a brief overview of works from the Greek and Roman world as translated into Afrikaans, with discussion of their varying degrees of literary success. After a brief introduction and roughly genre-by-genre exposition of major works, with due consideration of the measure of faithfulness in the adherence of each translator to the original work, the paper will critically discuss two works in greater detail. These, respectively by the Afrikaans poets D.J. Opperman and N.P. Van Wyk Louw, were both awarded the prestigious Herzog Prize. Finally, the paper concentrates on the genesis of and possible political thrust of Van Wyk Louw's *Germanicus*, ending with reflection on the timelessness of this great poet's quasi-prophetic vision.

Jo-Marie Claassen holds a DLitt from the University of Stellenbosch, near Cape Town, South Africa.



She is best known for her work on Ovid's exile, but has also published articles on Cicero, Boethius, and Fronto, on comparative literature, women in Antiquity, the reception of Classical architecture in South Africa and the didactics of Latin. She taught Latin, Classical Culture, and Ancient History at her *Alma Mater* for many years, before retiring in 2001. As she grew up in a bilingual (English-Afrikaans) home, she has a particular affinity for code-switching. She recently published as an ebook her English translation of an Afrikaans classic, *Germanicus* by the poet and essayist N.P. Van Wyk Louw, which she feels deserves international exposure. She is married to Dr. Pieter E. Claassen, an urban planner, who also taught at Stellenbosch.



They have two children and two grandsons. She is very involved in community work through her local church and teaches needlework to Xhosa-speakers, as well as chairing the church's bursary fund for financially handicapped Black students. As the descendant of a nineteenth-century Polish mercenary soldier (who travelled with Napoleon to Moscow, and then deserted to come to South Africa), she is very pleased to be able to speak to a Polish academic audience on an aspect of the reception of the Classics in South Africa, namely, the translation of Classical literature into Afrikaans.