
D.C. Hauptfleisch 14 March 1926 – 14 June 2008

On 1 June 1958, D.C. Hauptfleisch joined the editorial staff of the *Woordeboek van die Afrikaanse Taal* (WAT) as compiler (later co-editor) under Dr P.C. Schoonees, the second editor-in-chief. On 1 October 1966, he was promoted to assistant editor-in-chief. After the retirement of the third editor-in-chief, Dr F.J. Snijman at the end of 1980, he was appointed fourth editor-in-chief of the WAT as from 1 May 1981. He held this position until his retirement on 31 July 1991 when *Lexikos* was presented to him as festschrift. On 14 June this year, he died at the age of 82 years.

On behalf of present and former colleagues, sympathy is herewith extended to his family: to his wife Maria, his four children Linda, Stefan, Therese and Sonja, as well as his six grandchildren. And at the same time thanks is given to the family who had to share Niël with the WAT which formed such a part and parcel of his life. He often worked until late at night, at weekends and even during his holidays. During his total tenure of office of more than 33 years, the WAT was an important part of his life.

Daniël Carinus Hauptfleisch was born on 14 March 1926 in the Paarl where he grew up on the farm Lemoenkloof. From 1935, he attended the Boys' High School (now Paul Roos Gymnasium) in Stellenbosch where he passed the Matriculation Examination in the first class with distinction in Afrikaans in December 1943. His Latin teacher was the legendary Paul Roos himself. At the end of 1946, he obtained the B.A. degree cum laude at the University of Stellenbosch, majoring in Afrikaans-Dutch and Latin. During 1948 and 1949, he continued his studies at the University of Stellenbosch for the M.A. degree in Afrikaans-Dutch. In 1953, he obtained this degree cum laude, his thesis, completed under the guidance of Prof. Dr W. Kempen, dealing with *Vorm en gebruik van die attributief-adjektiewiese voltooid deelwoorde in Afrikaans, met inbegrip van skynbare partisipia (Form and Use of the Attributive Adjectival Past Participles in Afrikaans, Including Apparent Participia)*. Except for the period 1 January 1950 to 31 May 1958 when he was in the service of the then House of Assembly in Cape Town as a translator, Hauptfleisch spent the greatest part of his life in Stellenbosch.

During September 1972, at that time assistant editor-in-chief, he visited the Instituut voor Nederlandse Lexicologie (INL) (Thesaurus and WNT) in Leyden and the OED Supplement in Oxford where he discussed various aspects and problems regarding the editorial modus operandi, the collection of material and the lexicographical apparatus with members of the different editorial staffs. After his appointment as editor-in-chief, he continued this contact. During his editorship, the Bureau acquired constitutional membership of the Euro-

pean Association for Lexicography (EURALEX) and the Dictionary Society of North America (DSNA), which made more extensive lexicographical contact possible. Continuous liaison was also maintained with the Rhodes University English Dictionary Unit in Grahamstown, where the *Dictionary of South African English on Historical Principles* was compiled, at that time, except for the Bureau of the WAT, the only other lexicography unit in South Africa.

After his appointment as editor-in-chief, Hauptfleisch aimed at speeding up the work on the WAT by making the editorial process more streamlined. Bearing witness to this, is his paper 'Die Woordeboek van die Afrikaanse Taal: Verlede, hede en toekoms' which he read in 1982, during his early years as editor-in-chief, at the Eighteenth National Congress of the Linguistic Society of Southern Africa at Rhodes University, Grahamstown. In this presentation, he particularly concentrates on editorial policy by first giving an overview of the past and the present before indicating what is envisaged for the future to accelerate the editorial process with regard to production rate and alphabetical progress. He accentuates the importance of continuous contact with the users of the WAT to determine their views and needs.

With great accuracy, he handled the editing of the manuscript, kept the editorial system up-to-date and attended to the source references. During his tenure as editor-in-chief, volume VII was published. Volume VIII, which he fully edited, appeared on 16 November 1991 shortly after his retirement.

Hauptfleisch was accessible to motivated suggestions for the improvement and acceleration of the activities of the Bureau. Towards the end of his office, strategic planning was started, which resulted in a new editorial policy which, with the implementation of a suitable computer system, brought about an important change in and a considerable acceleration of the work on the WAT.

In 1968, he became a member of the South African Academy for Science and Arts, and in 1971, a member of the Language Committee of the Academy, that is charged with the compilation of the *Afrikaanse Woordelys en Spelreëls*. Later, as secretary, he was responsible for the accurate and time-consuming recording of the decisions taken during the week-long sessions of the Language Committee.

Hauptfleisch's linguistic and lexicographical interests resulted in several publications. Between 1967 and 1969, using material he collected for a planned doctoral thesis, he published three articles in, among others, the journal *Standpunte*, dealing with word repetition and reduplication features in Afrikaans. In 1974, he was the co-editor together with F.F. Odendal and J.E. Loubser of a collection of studies with the title *Taalkunde — 'n lewe*, dedicated to Prof. Dr W. Kempen on the occasion of his 65th birthday. In *Spil Plus* 10 (1984), the journal of the Department of General Linguistics at the University of Stellenbosch, an article appeared about 'Taalnormering en woordeboeke: 'n Praktykgerigte perspektief' (Language Standardization and Dictionaries: A Practice-directed Perspective'). In April 1989, he took part in a lexicography symposium at the

Department of Afrikaans and Dutch at the University of Stellenbosch where he introduced the subject 'The Definition of Meaning in Overall Descriptive Dictionaries'. But it was especially because of the changing social-political situation in South Africa that he started directing his attention in articles towards offensive and sensitive language use, for example in the treatment of racist and sexist terms in dictionaries. An article on 'Taalseksisme en die woordeboek' ('Language Sexism and the Dictionary') is included in the festschrift edited by T.J.R. Botha, *Leksikografie en leksikologie*, which was presented to Prof. Dr F.F. Odendal on his retirement in September 1989. The article 'Racist Language in Society and in Dictionaries: A Pragmatic Perspective' that appeared in *Lexikos* 3 (1993) is in this regard an important contribution, which formed the basis for the policy of the WAT on the defining of such terms.

After his retirement, he compiled, in co-operation with P. Harteveld and L.G. de Stadler, the *Woordkeusegids — 'n Kerntesourus van Afrikaans* that appeared in 1992. Also during the years 1994–1996, he acted as review editor of *Lexikos* 4–6. In 1995, he received a medal of honour for lexicographical work from the South African Academy for Science and Arts.

As editor-in-chief, colleagues came to know him as a person with a tireless capacity for work and absolute exactness, coupled with a sense for fairness, accessibility and courtesy. After his retirement, he showed continued interest in and affinity with the activities of the Bureau and the Language Committee. Colleagues can bear testimony that Niël was, as is said in Yiddish, a 'mensch': a selfless person characterized by integrity, genuineness and compassion. He spoke and wrote Afrikaans in such a way that it demonstrated its validity as a medium in all language situations. For this devotion and for the person that he was, his memory is honoured.