

Stellenbosch: Geliefde, Vormende Plek

...op Stellenbosch het ek geleer om met die oog van 'n digter waar te neem en waar ek ook al reis, is dit met die oog wat ek kyk.

Lina Spies

...at Stellenbosch I learnt to observe with the eye of a poet, and wherever I travel, it is through this eye that I see

Vandag besef ek dat die belangrikste les wat ek in my ses jaar aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch geleer het, die kuns is om te lees.

Audrey Blignault

Today I realize the most valuable lesson I learnt during six years of study at the University of Stellenbosch, is the art to read

Thank you all!

This book is a thank you to Stellenbosch and to our friends - especially the friends who lured us here, Cathy and John Horan, an American couple, whom we first met in Vienna. They told us: "If you are looking for a place to settle, do have a look at South Africa" and introduced us to Marie and Johan Viljoen (then the South African Consul in Vienna), who encouraged us to move to Stellenbosch.

Well, we did so in December 1981 and have never looked back! After many years of living in different countries we finally settled down here, where our sons grew up, attended local schools and studied at Stellenbosch University.

One of the first books we were given was *Stellenbosse Galery*, published by HAUM in 1974. This booklet has inspired me to read some great works by Stellenbosch authors and consequently to publish a new Stellenbosch Writers' Gallery. To find the necessary information, I created the website: www.StellenboschWriters.com, which includes many additional photos and information on the town, the region and its flora and fauna.

Although I have written this book, it would never have got off the ground without the gracious help of many very kind people. Much of the information was provided by the authors themselves, some contributed to other authors' texts and people from all over the globe and from many universities gave a helping hand. I am most grateful to all who gave permission to use their photos, illustrations and excerpts of their work. (If I have inadvertently infringed copyright, please let me know and I will rectify it).

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Rosie

January 2005

Spotted Eagle Owl *Bubo africanus*

