

Introduction

People do not live in a country, they live in a language

Stellenbosch is a very special and beautiful town, situated in a famous wine area near Cape Town, South Africa. A town with an Afrikaans medium university and a mainly Afrikaans culture.

Many of the 353 authors presented in this book have published work in both Afrikaans and English. This book offers you a good selection from the many interesting "Stellenbossers", and my aim is to present the rich Stellenbosch culture to non-Afrikaans speakers and readers.

The history of the development of the Afrikaners and their language is astonishing and unique! Here is a people who gave itself a pronounced identity by purposefully developing its own language. In the beginning of the last century they spoke Afrikaans, but still **wrote** only Dutch (more or less), or English later. So the Afrikaans speaking population had to be encouraged to read and write Afrikaans. To this end the written language needed to be defined. Afrikaans language schools and universities were founded, as well as Afrikaans language newspapers and magazines. The beginnings of an Afrikaans literature did not just spring up - for it, too, was expressly created. Later the SA Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns (the Afrikaans Academy of Arts and Science) was founded. Thus an "all round language" was created which proved as fitting for its scientific publications, as for its beautiful poetry.

Please don't ask me why I choose any particular author in my book and not another? I do not know all authors, so I could not "choose" from them all. All authors who have lived, worked or studied at Stellenbosch were eligible to feature in this book and I included those on whom I was able to collate enough information.

Stellenbosch Writers is a never-ending job. Rather than leave them out, I included authors with incomplete information and I hope to fill in these pages in future editions. I will be very grateful for any suggestions and corrections!

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