

rand and Professor J. Leighton of the Rand Afrikaans University took a very stern view. At universities we have only three years in which to acquaint students with English literature. It is a desperately short time, even in a single subject honours degree, and if Shakespeare and Milton do not infuse an enthusiasm for literature and a deeper perception of experience, an inferior work with 'local interest', will not do the trick. Leighton summed it up succinctly:

I know of no poet whose work surpasses the work of Spenser and Dryden (both of whom I omit for lack of space), and whose work could with justice replace the works of those whom I feel I must prescribe if I am to achieve my aim of providing a picture of some of the great moments in English Culture

as it is reflected in creative writing.⁶

They also felt that a University was perhaps not the place to stimulate creative writing or stimulate an indigenous literary culture. Segal felt such an attempt erroneous and artificial and remarked:

Neither Shakespeare nor Plomer nor Keats nor Pauline Smith went to a University. Departments of English are of a pretty recent foundation, yet, somehow, English literature got itself written.⁷

In some ways it was a sombre but correct conclusion. Nevertheless at the conference views were aired and information imparted; this can only be of value. Somehow South African English literature will have to get itself written.

REFERENCES

1. South African Writing in English and its place in School and University: Proceedings of the Conference of the English Academy of Southern Africa held at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, 7-11th July, 1969. *English Studies in Africa*, 1970, 13, 1-300. The poetry readings which the writer did not attend have also been published and are reviewed below, pp. XXXXX.
2. *IBID.*, 182.
3. *IBID.*, 209.
4. *IBID.*, 127-8 quoting from *Ophir*, 6. ix. 1968, 16, and *One Life*, Cape Town, Purnell, p. 11.
5. *Proceedings*, 199-200. Both volumes are published by the Afrikaans Pers Boekhandel, and a translation *Selected Poems* has been published by Jonathan Cape.
6. *IBID.*, 187.
7. *IBID.*, 179.

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Conference of the South African Institute of International Affairs, 1970

The conference was held in June 1970 at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and was devoted to 'The Impact on International Relations of the Population Explosion'.

The subjects of discussion ranged widely, but of particular interest to readers of *Zambezia* was the provocative paper on the economic and other implications of population growth in Africa, given by Professor G. M. E. Leistner of the University of South Africa. He concluded that the most explosive factor is the increasing number of unemployed and relatively poor young men and the

tendency for political and social disputes to arrange themselves around tribal interests. On the one hand, in urban areas tribal differences tend to become obscured and so create the beginning of a real proletariat. On the other hand, differences between the relatively well-off African and his poorer compatriot tend to be blurred by the fact of the latter's participation, through family, and tribal loyalties, in the former's wealth. The political implications of these factors is being accentuated by the increasing individualization of the urban African and an 'excellent revolutionary potential' is being created.

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