

The Genealogical Society of South Africa (GSSA) is proud to announce that the following Awards were allocated to the very deserving recipients during a Dinner function following the Society's Annual General Meeting which was held at the Pinedene Inn, Pinetown on 24 February 2007.

The first Merrit Award went to Mr. Johan Pottas, current Chairman of the Freestate Branch of the Society for his hard work in re-establishing the Freestate Branch only three weeks after a first poll was taken in Bloemfontein to see if there was any interest from the people in the area. He also made sure that the appointed committee organised ten get-togethers for the new branch members and was instrumental in setting up and manning of a genealogical stall at the Volksblad Kunstefees, where four members joined because of the exposure that the GSSA received. He also published his second book "Die Pottas Skerwe van Schwalenberg tot Windhoek" and reached out to other branches by visiting and presenting a talk to the members of the North West Branch.

The second Merrit Award was presented to Mr. Richard Ball for transcribing and making the following documents available online:

- The registers of the NGK in the Cape to 1695
- Early muster rolls (monsterrollen) of the Cape
- The Drakenstein Church registers

He also published a number of genealogy articles on the early European presence at the Cape, including new information and interpretations on some of the progenitors (stamvaders) of the old Cape families. His article on Susanna Claassen provoked much discussion on the internet lists. He provided guidance and counsel to many researchers, to consult primary sources and not to rely on secondary and tertiary sources. In particular, he cautions against repeating inaccurate information from past publications. As Richard says: "... I began to discover discrepancies in the published genealogies and I decided to base my family histories only on original documents and not on any published works." Richard also contributed enormously to the eGSSA MOOC 13/1/1 project. He individually processed some 700 photos through editing, improving the photo clarity, establishing an organised layout and sorting all. He also did the layout thereof. This was a time-consuming and tedious task to edit every photo in the collection and the result of his work is the product the eGSSA has now made available. As part of his accomplishments, Richard has been a driving force to publish original articles and content on the eGSSA website <http://www.eggasa.org>. (See: "Contents", then "Transcriptions" and "Articles".) Finally there is also a list of articles that was published during 2006 just to round his accomplishments off.

The AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE Trophée was awarded to Mrs. Juna Malherbe (born Swart) for her sustained work over a twenty-five year period. Even considering that she is in charge of the administration of the Huguenot Museum in Franschhoek, she still found the energy to remain actively involved in genealogy. Her single biggest genealogical contribution has been the publication (together with Alet Malan) *Geslagregister van die Familie De Villiers in Suid-Afrika*, Volumes I en II, 1997, which is surely the most comprehensive register on this family at this stage. Together

they were also responsible for *Hugenote wat na die Kaap gekom het* (2000) and *Die Anglo-Boereoorlog met verwysing na Hugenote nasate en die Kaapkolonie* (2001). Added to this is the fact that she has written more than twenty articles (most of them as single author) between 1983 tot 2006 for the *Bulletin* of the Huguenot Society of South Africa. Her articles cover a wide spectrum of family history, pedigree charts, education, illnesses, churches and farms. Of specific interest to genealogy is her article of 1999 about *Die Du Toit-familie in Suid-Afrika: Nuwe feite oor die b-geslag*. She is also instrumental in the publication of family details about the following progenitors: Pierre Jaubert (1997), Jannetjie de Klerk (1998), Jean Prieur du Plessis (1998), Estienne Terreblanche (1999), Guillaume en Françoise du Toit (2000), François Retief (2000) and Hercules du Prez (2001). There is also still a whole list of unpublished works that are available at the museum, that were done by Mrs. Juna Malherbe.