

Curators of the A.P. Goossens herbarium: 1932 – 2009

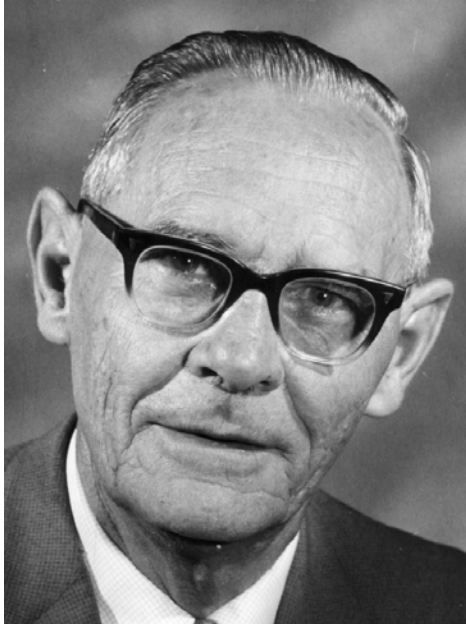
M Struwig & SJ Siebert

The A.P. Goossens Herbarium has been managed by seven curators during its 77 years of existence. It has been housed in many buildings and has shifted regularly between the Botany Department and the Botanical Garden. It was initially known as the Herbarium Potchefstroom for C.H.E., but the name was later changed in honour of its founder and first curator, Professor Antonie Goossens.



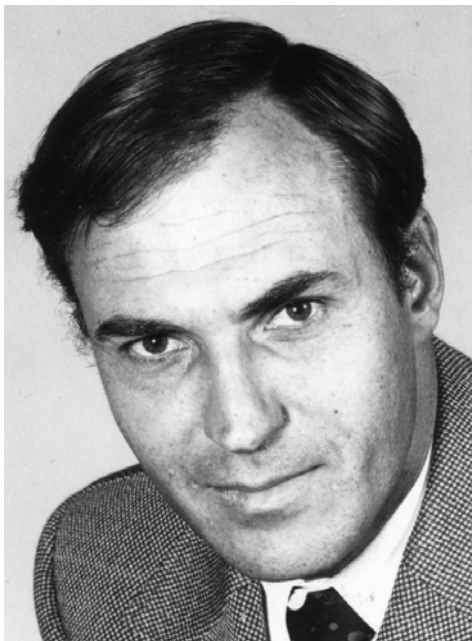
1932-1961: Professor Antonie P.G. Goossens

Prof. Antonie Petrus Gerhardus Goossens was the founder and first curator of the herbarium. He curated the herbarium for 29 year (1932 to 1961) and was also the head of the Botany Department during that time. He had a keen interest in grass taxonomy and anatomy, and contributed extensively to the grass collection of the herbarium. He also described a new grass genus *i.e.* *Bewsia* Goossens, as well as seven new grass species and two subspecies.



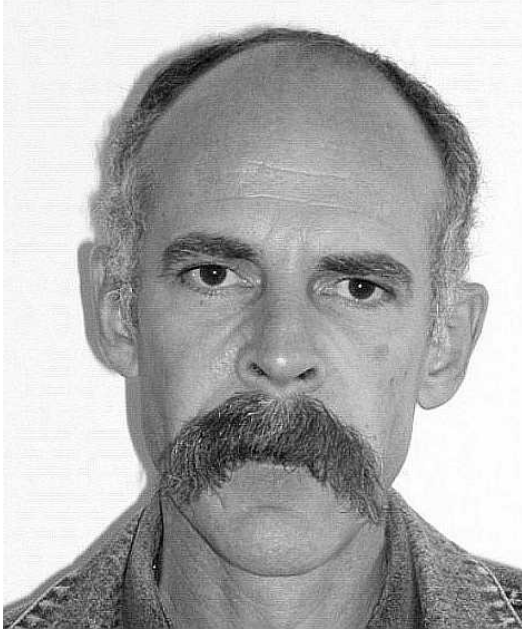
1962-1970: Dr. Wynand J. Louw

Dr. Wynand Jacobus Louw was appointed lecturer in Botany in 1962 with the curation and expansion of the herbarium as one of his main tasks. He expanded the herbarium extensively through an exchange programme with an unknown herbarium in the Scandinavian countries. He had a special interest in succulents which resulted in many collecting trips and the discovery of new succulents which were then described by Dr D.A. Dryer (head of the Department of Botany and Pathology in South Africa). Some of these species were named after him, e.g. *Euphorbia louwii* L.C. Leach. He also laid the foundations for the botanical garden when he started a small garden to supply plant material for Botany practicals.



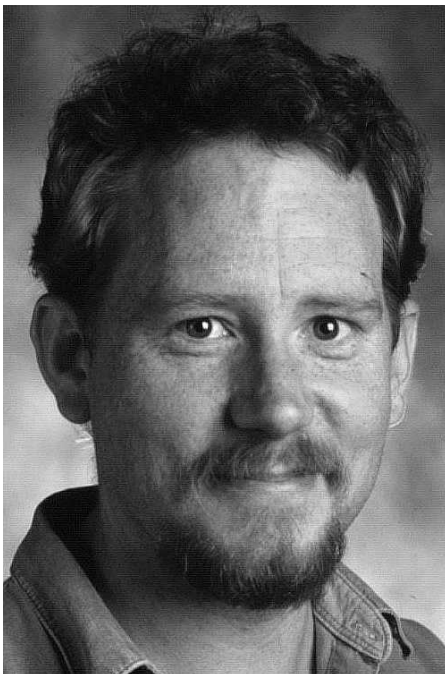
1971-1985: Dr. Daan Botha

Dr Daan Botha was curator and head of the Botany Department from 1971 to 1985. He curated a herbarium of 22 000 specimens, which was accommodated in a lecture hall of the Botany Department. He had an interest in the Restionaceae and Menispermaceae and under his supervision *Sphedamnocarpus* (Malpighiaceae), *Vitex* (Lamiaceae) and *Eugenia* (Myrtaceae) was revised. He also designed a dry oven that could accommodate an entire plant press. He also designed a portable drying oven for field excursions. He believed that a botanical garden forms an important extension of a herbarium and in 1982 he established the current botanical garden at the university.



1986-1992: Prof. Gideon F. Smith

Professor Gideon Francois Smith was appointed lecturer and curator of the herbarium in 1986 and relocated the herbarium to the botanical garden. He promoted the use of the herbarium for research, education, plant identification and a site to deposit voucher specimens of succulent species. He had a research interest in the Asphodelaceae, Crassulaceae and Mesembryanthemaceae, which led to the revision of several genera in the Asphodelaceae. He is currently the Chief Director of Research for the Biosystematics Research and Biodiversity Collections at the South African National Biodiversity Institute. He is also a renowned author of several books on the flora of southern Africa.



1993-1997: Dr. Daniël J. Theunissen

Dr Daniël Jacobus Theunissen curated the herbarium from 1993 to 1997, after which he worked for Monsanto. During his time at the herbarium, his main interest was the taxonomy of grasses, specifically at the level of ecotypes. His current whereabouts are unknown and should anyone have information, the staff of the herbarium would like to make contact with him.



1998-2006: Dr. Matthias H. Buys

Dr. Matthias Hendrik Buys was appointed lecturer and curator of the herbarium in 1998, housing 28 000 specimens. The herbarium was in the botanical garden and under his supervision it moved to its current location. He also started a small library within the herbarium and changed the herbarium's name from the Herbarium Potchefstroom for C.H.E. to its current name (A.P. Goossens Herbarium). He also initiated the data basing of the specimens using the PRECIS programme. He had an interest in *Lobostemon* (Boraginaceae), *Drimiopsis* (Hyacinthaceae) and *Delosperma* (Aizoaceae) and under his supervision *Drimiopsis* was revised.

Since 2007 the herbarium is curated by professor Stefan John Siebert. His taxonomic interests are mainly associated with the description of endemic species. Under his supervision the Nyctaginaceae is being revised.