



**The South African Society for Cultural History
in collaboration with the University Museum, Stellenbosch University**

invites submissions for the
**43rd International Ballad Conference
of the Kommission für Volksdichtung**

The 43rd International Ballad Conference will be held in Stellenbosch, South Africa, 13–19 October 2013. Stellenbosch is situated in the heart of the Winelands, the main wine region of South Africa, 50 km from Cape Town and 18 km from the sea. The town is world famous for its natural beauty, while the University of Stellenbosch and some of the oldest schools in the country contribute to the town's fame as a centre of educational excellence. Moreover this region boasts at least four of the best choirs in the world, with the Stellenbosch University Choir presently ranked number one in the world. Apart from recreational pursuits – running, cycling, swimming, sailing, hiking – the Cape is also renowned for its theatres and restaurants.

The three official languages of the Western Cape Province are Afrikaans, English and isiXhosa, with Afrikaans being the first language of the largest percentage of inhabitants. Cape Town and surrounding areas are also home to, amongst others, the culture and songs of the Cape Malay people.

Conference theme

 Social issues in ballads and other songs

As this will be the first Kommission für Volksdichtung ballad conference to be held in the Southern Hemisphere (Stellenbosch, South Africa, Southern Hemisphere), we have made the letter S key to the theme (in English): **Social issues in ballads and other songs**, with such possible subthemes as,

- **Status**
- **Social customs**
- **Singing and society**
- **Singing and social class**
- **Servants/Service**
- **Slavery**
- **Subservience**
- **Spirituality**
- **Scorn**
- **Sanctity**
- **Sacrifice**
- **Sexuality**

We also welcome papers on any other social issues, the music and performance of ballads and songs, and other topics on folk song in general.

The theme can be applied in various ways. Where a social issue emerges from the content of a ballad (for instance the subservience of women in a patriarchal society), it could be discussed in the context of a specific society's social structure. It might also be possible to explore examples of ballads and other songs being used intentionally to address social issues. Or, one might analyze the popularity of ballads that tell stories of societies and customs past even though their cultural context no longer exists.

Papers will be accepted in any of the official languages of the Kommission für Volksdichtung, German, French and English.

Please submit abstracts with the following requirements before **25 February 2013**:

- up to 300 words, referring to the paper's content, academic perspective and argument
- supply author's name, title, address, affiliation and contact details, along with a brief account of the author's career and research interests (up to 200 words)
- attachment to email in Word format

Abstracts will be peer-reviewed.

Send abstracts as attachments to:

Matilda Burden: mb4@sun.ac.za

Thank you

Prof Matilda Burden. Conference organizer