PREFACE

Since the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War in October 1899 more than 5 000 books, articles and pamphlets on this far-reaching conflict have been published and already almost one hundred masters' and doctoral theses on one or the other aspect of the struggle have been completed. History is, however, an endless discussion and the Anglo-Boer War's centenary once more awakened interest in the conflict. This led to the publication of a stream of scientific, but especially popular scientific articles and books, while numerous novels, short stories and other literary works with the war as theme, have also been published more or less since 1998.

In academic circles the centenary of the war was commemorated by quite a number of conferences, the first of which was hosted in August 1998 by the library of the University of South Africa in Pretoria on the theme "Rethinking the South African War". Thereafter conferences commemorating the Anglo-Boer War were also held in England, Australia and New Zealand. The interest continues and at the end of August 2000 the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology hosted a conference in Durban where the role played by black people during the war, was scrutinised.

The most comprehensive Anglo-Boer War commemoration conference to date was hosted from 12 to 15 October 1999 by the Department of History at the University of the Orange Free State. During the four day conference approximately 400 persons listened to the papers being read, attended functions and/or looked at the exhibitions. Ninety papers on a wide variety of themes were read by persons from fifteen countries. It is a practical impossibility to publish all these papers, but by means of this special edition of the **Journal of Contemporary History** the editorial board of the **Journal** wishes, on the one hand, to reflect some of the themes focused on during the conference, and on the other hand to stimulate debate.

VOORWOORD

Sedert die uitbreek van die Anglo-Boereoorlog in Oktober 1899 het meer as 5 000 boeke, artikels en pamflette oor dié ingrypende konflik die lig gesien en is ook reeds bykans 'n honderd meestersverhandelinge en doktorale proefskrifte oor een of ander aspek van die stryd voltooi. Geskiedenis is egter 'n diskussie sonder einde en die honderdjarige herdenking van die Anglo-Boereoorlog het opnuut belangstelling in die konflik gaande gemaak, iets wat tot 'n stroom wetenskaplike, maar veral populêr-wetenskaplike, artikels en boeke aanleiding gegee het, terwyl talle romans, kortverhale en ander literêre werke met die oorlog as tema, ook sedert ongeveer 1998 gepubliseer is.

Op akademiese gebied het die honderdjarige herdenking van die oorlog tot 'n hele aantal konferensies aanleiding gegee. Die eerste is in Augustus 1998 deur die biblioteek van die Universiteit van Suid-Afrika in Pretoria aangebied, met as tema "Rethinking the South African War". Daarna is ook Anglo-Boereoorlog-herdenkingskonferensies in Engeland, Australië en Nieu-Seeland gehou. Die belangstelling duur voort en einde Augustus 2000 het die Departement van Kuns, Kultuur, Wetenskap en Tegnologie 'n konferensie in Durban aangebied, waar die rol wat swart mense tydens die oorlog gespeel het, onder die loep geneem is.

Die omvangrykste Anglo-Boereoorlogherdenkingskonferensie tot nog toe is vanaf 12 tot 15 Oktober 1999 deur die Universiteit van die Oranje-Vrystaat se Departement Geskiedenis aangebied. Tydens die duur van die vier-dag-konferensie het ongeveer 400 persone na referate geluister, funksies bygewoon en/of uitstallings besigtig. Negentig referate oor 'n wye verskeidenheid temas is deur persone afkomstig uit vyftien lande gelewer. Dit is nie prakties moontlik om al die referate te publiseer nie, maar deur middel van hierdie spesiale uitgawe van die **Joernaal vir Eietydse Geskiedenis** wil die redaksie van die **Joernaal** enersyds 'n beeld gee van sommige van die temas wat tydens die konferensie aangesny is en andersyds debat stimuleer.