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# Herman Charles Bosman Short Stories

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*Herman Charles Bosman Short Stories*

2022-10-19

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## DEANNA JAYLA

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A Bekkersdal Marathon Human & Rosseau

In 1926 South Africa's celebrated short story writer, Herman Charles Bosman, shot and killed his step-brother in an argument. He was sentenced to death and this is where his story begins. Cold Stone Jug is an account of his years serving time in South Africa's notorious Pretoria Central Prison, beginning in the 1920's. Despite the hellish conditions, Bosman uses his razor-sharp wit and exemplary skills as a short story writer to describe the most fascinating tales of prisoners and prison life. At times poignant, depressing and hilarious, Cold Stone Jug manages to provide a window into a forgotten world as seen by a writer whose wry sense of humour carries you through the horror of his predicament. In the end, it is Bosman's personal journey that resonates long after the last page.

**Best Stories and Humour of Herman Charles Bosman** Human & Rosseau

Seminar paper from the year 2009 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1.0, University of Duisburg-Essen, course: South African Cultural Studies, language: English, abstract: In his current popularity, Herman Charles Bosman has come to be viewed as something of an "eternal artist" figure, conveying "marvellous home-truths for all men" (Gray 1977:79). But the truth about the later Bosman is that he became a writer who had a scrupulous, instant understanding with each passing day and each yard of newspaper that underwent his professional scrutiny. Stephen Gray suggests "that he [Bosman] meant himself to be taken as [...] a commentator, a newspaper columnist, whose medium happened to be fiction" thus drawing attention to the underlying truths of South Africa (ibid.). By debunking the myth of Boer bravery during the second Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) in his short story "Mafeking Road", Bosman touches upon a subtle theme extant amongst the Boer community, namely extreme Afrikaner patriotism (Wenzel 1999:109-110).

**A Narrative Discourse Analysis of Herman Charles Bosmans' Short Story 'Mafeking Road' (1932)** BRILL

This study deals with a particular kind of short story in South African English literature - a kind of story variously called the fireside tale, tall tale, skaz narrative or (the term used here) the 'oral-style' story. Most famously exemplified in the Oom Schalk Lourens narratives of Herman Charles Bosman, the oral-style story has its roots in the hunting tale and camp-fire yarn of the nineteenth century and

has dozens of exponents in South African literature, most of them long forgotten. Here this neglect has been addressed. A.W. Drayson's Tales at the Outspan (1862) provides a point of departure, and is followed by discussions of works by William Charles Scully, Percy FitzPatrick, Ernest Glanville, Perceval Gibbon, Francis Carey Slater, Pauline Smith, and Aegidius Jean Blignaut, all of whom used the oral-style story genre. In the work of Herman Charles Bosman, however, the South African oral-style story comes into its own. In his Oom Schalk Lourens figure is invested all of the complexity and 'double-voicedness' that was latent - and largely dormant - in the earlier works. Bosman demonstrates his sophistication particularly in his metafictional use of the oral-style story. The study concludes with a discussion of the use of oral forms in the work of more recent black writers - among them Bessie Head, Mtuzuzeli Matshoba, and Njabulo Ndebele.

Bosman's Social Arena Human & Rosseau

This is the absorbing (and often shocking) story of the life of the most famous and best loved writer in South Africa of the first half of the twentieth century. Bosman was born in the Cape in 1905, schooled in Johannesburg and trained as a teacher, then sent to a backveld school - the people he met there and the observations he made were the source for the stories in his bestselling Mafeking Road. After a sensational trial, found guilty of murdering his step-brother in cold blood, he served his term in Pretoria Central Prison - the source of his classic Cold Stone Jug. During his years of exile in Paris and London and when he returned to South Africa to make a popular career as a sly commentator, he produced A Cask of Jerepigo. Before his untimely death in 1951, he became the country's best loved humorist. In this biography Bosman's extraordinary career is reconstructed from documents and his papers, to present the most revealing and explicit portrait of South Africa's most controversial author. Gray's investigation has thrown new light on many aspects of Bosman's life - some of his outrageous actions will astound his many faithful readers. Bosman himself ) with which Gray at times paints this fuller-than-ever-before portrait of his subject.

Jurie Steyn's Post Office Human & Rosseau

Twenty-four short stories from South Africa's greatest storyteller, exactly as he penned them. No other African writer has ever managed to capture the pathos, order, chaos, love, hate, loyalty, betrayal, wonder, intrigue - and high humour - of early twentieth century South Africa, as Herman Charles Bosman. From the open plains of the old western Transvaal, set against the backdrop of the Boer republics and the era immediately following the Second Anglo-Boer War, narrator Oom Schalk Lourens spins his gripping tales which highlighted the contradictions of life in South Africa, and

which have held generations of readers in thrall. Now with a glossary to explain Afrikaans words, phrases, and sayings to the present-day reader.

#### **Recognising Blues** Archipelago

Herman Charles Bosman's unique account of the term he served as a young man in Pretoria Central Prison. Convicted for the murder of his step-brother, and initially condemned to hang, he had his sentence commuted to be a regular convict through the 1920s and into the 1930s."

#### Herman Charles Bosman Human & Rosseau

In one volume for the first time, the entire sequence of Bosman's famous Oom Schalk Lourens stories. Edited from authoritative sources, and accompanied by original illustrations, this gathering represents a feast of South Africa's best-loved tales. The sixty pieces include all-time favourites like In the Withaak's Shade, Makapan's Caves and Willem Prinsloo's Peach Brandy, the Boer War classics Mafeking Road and The Rooinek, as well as several lesser-known treasures.

#### *Bosman at His Best* Ad Donker Publishers

The reputation of this well-known writer rests, for the most part, on a large body of short fiction about the people of the Marico and on his skilfully created raconteur Oom Schalk Lourens, narrator of many of the stories. Few people are aware, however, that Bosman's literary career began much earlier, when he was a scholar at Jeppe High School. His contributions to issues of the school magazine of 1921, which contain a pair of sketches in Sherlock Holmes vein, were aimed at a different audience from the adult readers of the Johannesburg Sunday Times who, in 1921 and 1922, would have been entertained by over a dozen tales from the pen of the young Bosman. The last of the juvenile prose from his pen was published in 1925 in The University of the Witwatersrand Student Magazine: The Umpa. All of these youthful works anticipate aspects of the creative talent that would later establish Bosman as one of South Africa's best-loved men of letters and have been made available in this compilation for the first time since their initial publication in the nineteen-twenties.

#### **Herman Charles Bosman** Human & Rosseau

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#### **Unto Dust: Stories** Atlantic Books

'For the first time in one volume, the complete sequence of Bosman's "In die Voorkamer" sketches. Published to a weekly deadline over 1950 - 51 as hilarious satires of the issues of the day ... These deft conversation pieces, set in Jurie Steyn's backveld Marico post office, raise the art of idle talk to a level unequalled in South African humour.'--Back cover.

#### **Best Stories and Humour of Herman Charles Bosman** Ad Donker

Winner of the Edward Stanford Prize for Fiction with a Sense of Place; 2019 Longlisted for the Rathbones Folio Prize; 2019 Longlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize; 2019 \_\_\_\_\_ 'Easily the best debut I've read this year; Tshuma's novel is both hilarious and horrifying; filled with compassion; anger and despair. [Her] unreliable narrator [is] of the kind that deserves to be remembered up

there with Humbert Humbert' Kim Evans; Culturefly \_\_\_\_\_ Bukhosi has gone missing. His father; Abed; and his mother; Agnes; cling to the hope that he has run away; rather than been murdered by government thugs. Only the lodger seems to have any idea... Zamani has lived in the spare room for years now. Quiet; polite; well-read and well-heeled; he's almost part of the family - but almost isn't quite good enough for Zamani. Cajoling; coaxing and coercing Abed and Agnes into revealing their sometimes tender; often brutal life stories; Zamani aims to steep himself in borrowed family history; so that he can fully inherit and inhabit its uncertain future.

#### *Celebrating Bosman* GRIN Verlag

These slyly simple stories of the unforgiving South African Transvaal reveal a little-described (and rarely romanticized) world of Afrikaner life in the late 19th Century. Like our own Mark Twain, Herman Charles Bosman wields a laughing intolerance of foolishness and prejudice, a dazzling use of wit and clear-sighted judgment. Spun by the plainclothes local visionary and storyteller Oom Schalk Lourens, these moving and satirical glimpses of lethargic herdsmen, ambitious concertina players, legendary leopards and mambas, and love-struck dreamers lay bare immense emotions, contradictions, and mysteries within the smallest movements and unadorned talk of the Groot Marico District. Leading oral tradition by the hand into a territory all his own, Bosman maps a world at once lucid and layered, distant yet powerfully familiar.

#### *Herman Charles Bosman*

Seventeen short stories from South Africa's greatest storyteller, exactly as he penned them. The stories, spun out as dialogues in the "voorkamer" or reception room of the post office in the Western Transvaal town of Bekkersdal, all contain Bosman's renowned soft humour, his unexpected twists and lurking social commentary. Those taking part in the conversations are a group of Marico farmers-Chris Welman, Gysbert van Tonder, who is known to be the biggest cattle smuggler in the district, At Naudé, who listens to the radio and reads the newspapers, Oupa Bekker, the oldest inhabitant of the district, and young Johnny Coen. And of course, the schoolmaster, young Vermaak, who often finds himself the butt of the others' remarks. In the course of these conversations, as points of view are expanded and elucidated, these people are brought with all the foibles and idiosyncrasies. Now with a glossary to explain Afrikaans words, phrases, and sayings to the present-day reader.

#### *Unto Dust*

This book is representative of the entire spectrum of the writing of Herman Charles Bosman over a period of 30 years. Many of the stories were rescued from long-forgotten magazines and journals and were published in a book for the first time. There are Oom Schalk Lourens stories, veld stories, a prison story and some 'In the Voorkamer' pieces, which were originally written for the now defunct The Forum. This selection was compiled by Valerie Rosenberg, who also provided an introduction and notes relating to each story. Ramoutsa Road is indeed vintage Bosman.

#### **Herman Charles Bosman**

This Omnibus of a Century of South African Short Stories makes available all the stories from three best-selling anthologies: A Century of South African Short Stories (1978); the revised edition (1993); and The New Century of South African Short Stories (2004)

#### **The Oral-Style South African Short Story in English**

One of South Africa's most famous storytellers, Herman Charles Bosman had a unique way of seeing life. This book brings together some of his best short stories, drawn from the likes of 'Mafeking Road', 'Cold Stone Jug' and 'Unto Dust'.

[The Complete Voorkamer Stories](#)

The poet Roy Campbell called Herman Charles Bosman's stories of the wars and loves, faiths and superstitions, prejudice and insights of a backveld community "the best short stories that ever came

out of South Africa." Others have called them the best Afrikaans stories ever written in English. In this centenary selection Mynhardt brings to loyal readers, as well as to a generation not yet acquainted with Bosman's genius, his personal choice of the best of them.

[Herman Charles Bosman's Juvenilia](#)

[Omnibus of a Century of South African Short Stories](#)

[A Century of South African Short Stories](#)