

Proposal: Sandra Saayman (Professor in South African Literature at the University of La Réunion and author of *Breyten Breytenbach. A Monologue in Two Voices*, Johannesburg: Fourthwall Books, 2013.)

Title: Writing and Publishing in Spite of Censorship: The Buren Archive of Correspondence between Breyten Breytenbach and Daantjie Saayman (1969-1973)

I propose an analysis of the correspondence between Daantjie Saayman of Buren, a small, independent Cape Town-based publishing house, and Breyten Breytenbach. The letters (typed, with extended hand-written afterthoughts added to his own letters by Breytenbach) were written between 1969 and 1973 when Breytenbach was living in self-imposed exile in Paris. The focus will be on the letters dealing with the preparation of the manuscript of the collection of poetry, *Kouevuur*. A handful of poems that would have caused the collection to be rejected by the Censorship Board were published clandestinely in a separate, thin volume, entitled *Oorblyfsels* ("Leftovers"). The question of censorship is omnipresent in the letters, in heated discussions about poems and word choice and in direct references to the Censorship Board. The contemporary reader has the impression that the letters were most probably intercepted by the security police, as the late arrival of letters and the numerous strikes of the French *La Poste* are often referred to with irritation. Thanks to the fact that Daantjie Saayman made carbon copies of his own letters, the whole correspondence has been preserved.

Bibliography:

Breytenbach, Breyten, *Kouevuur*, Cape Town: Buren, 1969

Breyten Breytenbach, *Oorblyfsels. Uit die pelgrim se verse na 'n tydelike*, Cape Town: Buren, 1969

McDonald, Peter D., *The Literature Police: Apartheid Censorship and its Cultural Consequences*, Oxford University Press, 2009.