

# South African Country Life

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THE REAL HEART OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

## ARID ATTRACTIONS

Namibia's living desert  
Richtersveld Route

### THE GOOD LIFE

Weekend cooking courses  
Bike touring the platteland  
Antique shopping in Parys

### DISCOVER

Rietbron  
Monkeyland  
Waterval Boven

### Padstals en route to Kruger



### WIN

2 nights at  
Shamwari

## COUNTRY PROPERTIES FOR SALE



# STIMELA

## RAILWAY POEMS OF SOUTH AFRICA

CULTURE  
CountryLife

TEXT KERRY  
THEOBALD

**T**HIS CAPTIVATING ANTHOLOGY OF 40 railway poems of South Africa gives us an unusual perspective on the country.

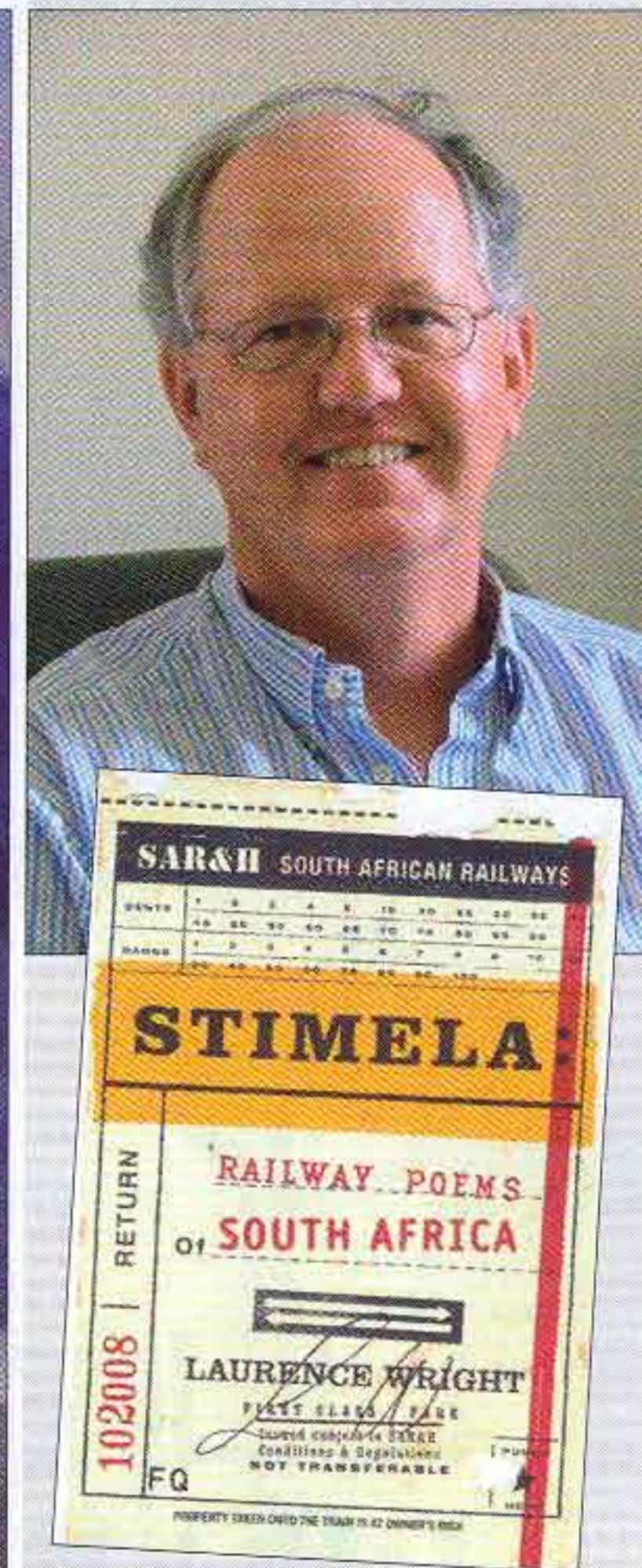
"Everyone, from remote rural people to city sophisticates, has some experience of the railways," says its compiler, Laurence Wright. Thus the poems were written by people from all walks of life and reach out to folk across the board. But all have one thing in common: a deep emotional response to our railways and, especially, the era of steam.

Laurence himself cherishes vivid memories of train journeys and says these, plus his interest in the mysterious bond that exists between people and trains, are what inspired him.

While some of the poems were penned by well-known authors, others were produced by ordinary people recording everyday experiences, such as simply taking a train journey, saying farewell to a loved one on a lonely platform, or praising a particular locomotive.

Poems by prominent authors include Cullen Gouldsbury's *Rhodes's Dream*, Rudyard Kipling's *Bridge Guard in the Karoo*, Edgar Wallace's *The Armoured Train*, Guy Butler's *The Parting*, Sydney Clouts's *Karoo Stop* and Mbuyiseni Oswald Mtshali's *Men in Chains*.

Subjects covered include Rhodes's dream of a Cape to Cairo route, how the railways introduced South Africa to modern life, railway engineering and machinery, a woman



### AN ANTHOLOGY OF VERSE THAT STEAMS DELIGHTFULLY ACROSS THE ENTIRE SOUTH AFRICAN LANDSCAPE

reflecting on her days as a young wife living next to a railway siding, the glory of steam locomotives and much more. There's truly something for everyone here.

*Stimela: Railway Poems of South Africa* will set you dreaming of the clickety-clack of rolling steel, the smell of burning coal, the sound of a lonely whistle echoing across the Karoo plains. □

**ISBN: 978-0-6204-1938-3**  
**Publisher: Echoing Green Press**  
**Price: R140**



- A 15F locomotive near Abbotsdale. Picture: Michael F. Allen
- The compiler of *Stimela: Railway Poems of South Africa*, Laurence Wright.
- The front cover of the book.
- Cookhouse Station. Picture: Transnet Heritage Trust