

Book Reviews and Notices

**THE AMBIGUITIES OF DEPENDENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA:
Class, Nationalism, and the State in Twentieth Century Natal**
by SHULA MARKS

Johannesburg, Ravan Press, 1985. 171 pp. R10,85

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Solomon the great-grandson of King Dingane, John Dube first president of the African National Congress, and early trade unionist George Champion: what do they have in common? Each, a Natal leader, trod a precarious tightrope between subservience and resistance, says historian Shula Marks. This ambiguous situation arose from the mask of deference donned because of political and economic dependence. In 'ambiguity of dependence' Marks has coined a phrase which aptly sums up the relationship of the state to the leaders she discusses, and in turn, the leaders' relationship to the state, nationalism, class and class consciousness.

Marks, one of South Africa's leading historians and head of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London, has published several works on Natal. In this book, much of which she researched in the Natal Archives, she again turns to this province. The themes and subjects she chooses, however, speak vividly not only about their period but about contemporary South Africa.

Marks' technique is simple but effective. She examines in turn three ostensibly very different, carefully chosen, early twentieth century figures. She highlights a key episode in each life, then subtly but brilliantly discusses the episode as symptomatic of the ambiguity of each figure's position, an ambiguity which plagues black leaders still.

On July 24, 1930, the Earl of Athlone, Governor-General of South Africa, visited Eshowe, and all chiefs and their headmen were ordered to attend his address. Solomon ka Dinuzulu, son of Zulu king Dinuzulu, arrived late. Throughout the address he turned around and conversed with his chiefs; he remarked loudly to a local official: 'What do you mean by turning the king of this country into a dog?' He then left the meeting before the Governor-General. After this display of 'insolence' Solomon changed his tone, writing to the resident magistrate at Nongoma that he 'was drunk' at the time, and 'for my part I do not remember any offence'. The government withheld half Solomon's annual stipend of 500 pounds to show, in the Chief Native Commissioner's words, that it (the government) 'is not angry but grieved.'

The Eshowe incident and its aftermath pertinently illustrates Marks' thesis. Solomon, son of a king but forced to don the mask of deference to remain on the South African government's payroll, *was* in an ambiguous

position. The government on the other hand, seemed prepared to tolerate offences from Solomon for which any other official, black or white, would have been dismissed. But, says Marks, the ambiguity did not start nor end with Solomon.

In Natal 'the contrasts between (white) theory and practice . . . were particularly marked' and 'patterns of African responses have matched these ambiguities to the present day'.

Starting in the 19th century, colonial authorities followed the policy of indirect rule, and thereby propped up the powers of the chiefs (which were slipping as young men left the homesteads to become migrant labourers), by using them as labour recruiters, tax-collectors and administrators of customary law.

The Zulu king posed a more difficult problem, for he provided an alternative focus of power. On the other hand, his co-operation was useful to 'manufacture consent' for government 'native policy'. The Zulu king was also a counter to the forces of 'bolshevism' stirring with increasing black urbanization, whites such as the veteran MP for Zululand George Heaton-Nicholls felt.

The dependence was mutual. Solomon's financial affairs were usually chaotic. Inkatha ka Zulu was formed in the early 1920s as 'an attempt to collect funds for the Zulu royal family under the guise of a general fund', but at least once, Solomon's debts were paid by the South African government who then imposed an additional levy on his people.

The government's backing perhaps even helped Solomon retain his position. One of his elders warned in 1930: 'The king (is) subject to the will of the people . . . In ancient times an unworthy king lost his throne at times'.

The relationship between king and state, then as now, was uneasy, dependent and ambiguous, and even when the Zulu monarchy was finally recognised by the state in the 1950s, these ambiguities were not resolved.

John Dube, who has often been compared to Booker T. Washington the legendary American campaigner for negro rights, is Marks' next subject. An early middle-class black nationalist, he, like the king, was in an ambiguous position. The *Ihlambo* ceremony (the cleansing ceremony which followed the year of mourning declared on Solomon's death in 1933) is the key episode which highlights this ambiguity.

Dube was the son of a parson, educated both in South Africa and America. He founded the newspaper *Ilanga*, and was founding president of the South African Native Congress (later to become the African National Congress). Yet Dube was a chief speaker advocating the recognition of the monarchy at the *Ihlambo* ceremony where 8 000 Zulu warriors dipped their spears in 'white medicine'!

As in her discussion of Solomon, Marks explains this paradoxical individual action by looking at its wider setting. Dube was a *kholwa*, one of the new generation of middle-class Christian blacks. Most *kholwas* despised their tribal background and aspired to the status of white settlers. They espoused the mid-Victorian code-words, 'progress' and 'improvement', the importance of individual rights and individual land tenure.

Yet as the middle-class black community grew, the Victorian belief in 'civilization' waned. In the late 19th century monopoly capital demanded

cheap labour, not a competitive black middle-class. The result, comments Marks, was that 'the contrast between the mid-Victorian vision of progress and improvement on the one hand and subordination on the other, led to profound tensions and ambiguities'.

Dube helped establish the middle-class black nationalist South African Native Congress. But as the Congress became more radicalised and whites remained unreceptive to black middle-class aspirations, Dube and his conservative Natal faction turned increasingly to Zulu nationalism for support. Dube envisaged the Royal family as a unifying constitutional monarchy and a barrier against radical change, the pinnacle of an ethnic nationalism which included all classes.

It was because of the ambiguous attitude of white South Africans to the black middle-class, Marks concludes, that men like John Dube walked a tightrope between, on the one hand, their frustrated need to espouse white Christian liberal norms and their middle-class fear of the black masses, and on the other hand, their need to call on these very masses for support in the fight against white discrimination.

Trade unionist George Champion was affected by similar problems to Dube. Also the son of a *kholwa*, Champion owned a small sugar plantation and tailoring business and was educated at what was later known as Adams College. Yet middle-class Champion was leader of the Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union in Natal. In Champion, Marks has found an appropriate subject for her discussion of the ambiguities of class and class consciousness.

The ICU, formed in 1919, was the first union which aimed to be all-inclusive. By 1927 it claimed 50 000 members in the province. Throughout the 1920s the ICU caused a flutter in the white establishment, particularly in Durban. Champion's achievements in Natal were considerable: the abolition of the nightly curfew for blacks, the removal of the pass system, the abolition of 'bodily dipping of natives' (an anti-typhus measure) are examples.

In 1929 Champion instigated a beer boycott. Beer in Natal was an inflammable issue. The Durban Corporation had pioneered the municipal monopoly of the manufacture and distribution of African beer (*utshwala*), and in terms of the 1928 Liquor Act possession and brewing of this beer in the reserves also become illegal. This robbed many an impoverished family of their livelihood, and also caused migrants to spend much of their meagre wages on beer.

In beer, Champion had struck an issue which roused both workers and rural blacks. In June 1929 boycotting dockworkers clashed with police. Durban whites then surrounded the ICU headquarters and seven people were killed. The unrest also spread to the mainly female-populated countryside.

The pass system and the nightly curfew which Champion had fought were issues which humiliated *all* blacks. But once workers began to express their own class interests, Champion changed tactics. In 1930, the Durban City Council established a Native Administration Commission advised by a Native Advisory Board to improve 'native affairs'. Champion became a member of the Board.

Champion also cast around for allies in the black ruling classes, and in August 1926 met with Solomon. He wrote in 1930 that he was paying 'certain attention to organising the Native Chiefs in Natal and Zululand'.

Paradoxically, it was Champion's 'search for respectability and a more conservative constituency that seemed to carry the most revolutionary potential for the state'. In August 1930, ignoring the 'appalled' protestations of Durban's mayor, the government banned Champion from Natal.

The answer to the riddle of why the state waited until 1930 to ban Champion lies in his relationship with the Zulu royal family, says Marks. It was this meeting of trade unionists and traditionalists which the state found most threatening. 'The thought that Champion himself might use the same network (the Zulu royal family which the state used in controlling the black population) and perhaps radicalise it, was clearly disconcerting', Marks observes.

Today, the Zulu royal family exerts an influence which is not paralleled by any traditional black leader in South Africa.

Chief Buthelezi, cousin of King Goodwill Zwelithini and present chief minister of KwaZulu, is, like Solomon, both a potential threat to the South African state and indispensable to it. Particularly in the present unrest, Buthelezi is an important enforcer of law, and is increasingly seen as a buttress against radicalism.

Like Dube, Buthelezi tries to court both national black support (through his refusal to accept independence for KwaZulu), and his own Zulu constituency (through Inkatha). Like Dube, he is both a Christian and an ethnic nationalist. Buthelezi can also be compared to Champion. The recent launching of the Inkatha-backed trade union UWUSA by predominantly middle-class leaders, shows the continuing complexities of class and class consciousness in the province. As Champion tried to gain support for black nationalism from the workers in the 1920s, so Buthelezi is making a similar attempt today.

Marks' awareness of the relevance of her subjects to present-day Natal is inherent throughout her chapters on the ambiguities of state, nationalism and class. In her final chapter, she makes this relevance explicit: Buthelezi, she says, 'embodies in his contradictory position all the ambiguities of a Solomon, a Dube, a Champion'.

Buthelezi walks a tightrope but, Marks concludes, times have changed since Solomon, Dube and Champion balanced upon their tightropes. Today 'it would be unwise to underrate the force' of Buthelezi's revived ethnic nationalism, she warns, 'or his capacity to manipulate the elements of ambiguity in the current and coming struggles'.

Marks says in her introduction that she hopes, through her discussion of specific individuals, to make 'twentieth century South Africa . . . better understood'. Her pertinent and thoroughly readable book can only aid such an understanding.

For the historian, Marks' 125 page offering is one of the most valuable if not *the* most valuable contribution to the still exploratory sphere of Natal's post-union history.

Her work is also one of the best examples of the blending of the liberal and radical historiographical traditions, with their respective concentration on the individual and on groups and structures. Marks herself expresses 'a

certain dissatisfaction' with the fact that much of the present literature on South Africa falls into one or other camp, and she consciously tries to rectify this by presenting a 'total' picture. With her concept of 'ambiguity' she indeed succeeds in showing the complexities of the situation.

But one need not be a historian to appreciate Marks' subtle but masterly grasp of the intricacies of our province of the past and of today.

CLAIRE FROST

ENTERPRISE AND EXPLOITATION IN A VICTORIAN COLONY

edited by BILL GUEST and JOHN SELLERS

Pietermaritzburg, University of Natal Press, 1985. 362 pp. illus. R25,50.

The Editors of this volume of essays have spread a rich harvest before us. Their aim seems to have been to bring to the general reader the fruits of some of the latest research into the economic and social history of pre-Union Natal. The essays cover a wide field — from harbours to railways to coal; from game to sheep to sugar; from Indians to Zulus. Given the title of the collection, it may not be too churlish to suggest that the field could have been even wider.

'Enterprise' has been comprehensively dealt with. The role of all population groups has been set out in balanced detail. The white engineers and mining experts and sugar pioneers (and barons) are all here. So are the Indian labourers and market gardeners and 'Arab' traders. So, too, the Zulu peasants and 'Kholwa' and labourers. The 'Coloured' contribution to Natal development is absent, because, as the Editors justly point out, no serious research has yet been done on this small but important group. The white farmers are also given the benefit of two articles.

What, however, about the 'Exploitation' part of the title? In regard to the exploitation of the material resources of the colony, again these essays cover a wide field, and do so fairly and fully. It is in the exploitation of fellow creatures that there is something of a lacuna. A common thread through most of these essays points to the white settler as not only the *Deus-ex-Machina* but also its *Diabolus*. He was the exploiter, not only of natural resources (including game), but also of people, mainly of other races and groups. Yet in these essays he is invariably back-stage. We see him 'through a glass, darkly' — if at all. The reader needs to know much more about him. There is surely by now quite enough evidence, beginning with Hattersley's pioneering work, for an article on the white settler, comparable with those of Bhana and Brain on the Indian?

As contributor after contributor points out, the white settler was immensely important, because of the political clout he wielded, first indirectly, and then, from 1893, directly. For anyone who wants to know and teach about Natal politics in pre-Union days (indeed why white Natalians embraced Union) this book is indispensable reading. Natal's politics sprang primarily from attempts to make its white community consistently prosperous and safe. This book explains why — and why pre-Union attempts were not always successful.

This book also highlights the remarkable development in Economic History studies in recent years, and tribute is due to those who pioneered the discipline here in Natal.

J.W. HORTON

TREES AND SHRUBS OF THE NATAL DRAKENSBERG

by O.M. HILLIARD. Illustrated by L.S. DAVIS.

Ukhahlamba Series No. 1. Pietermaritzburg, University of Natal Press, 1985. 40 pp. illus. R4,70.

Visitors to the Natal Drakensberg are always fascinated by the magnificent forests that clothe the deep valleys of the Little Berg. They would like to know more about them, especially the names of the trees, but people who might be able to help are few and far between — Government Foresters and Natal Parks Board officials. The problem is easily solved if only you have with you this very fine little booklet, *Trees and Shrubs of the Natal Drakensberg*, by Dr O.M. Hilliard of the Department of Botany, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg.

It is a slim little publication, fitting easily into a large pocket, only 40 pages in length, but it is full of good things. It is aimed at the visitor to the Drakensberg who would like to know more about its magnificent trees, but has little, if any, botanical training. Its aim is to make it easy for the casual visitor to find out the names of the various shrubs and trees he encounters in his wanderings, and it succeeds admirably in this purpose.

The trees and shrubs are first of all divided into eight main groups, depending on their foliage. Their identification is easily achieved: there are pairs or trios of contrasting statements, together with diagrams to show exactly what is meant. The use of botanical terms is kept to a minimum, and the few that have to be used are clearly defined in a one-page Glossary. Your choice between these contrasting statements will lead you easily to one of the eight groups.

Having chosen your group, you then proceed to the main Key, again a series of contrasting statements which gradually narrow the field until you arrive at the name of the genus.

Each genus is clearly, but briefly, described, and again is accompanied by a line drawing of the leaf structure to simplify and clarify identification. Each drawing is provided with a single scale line representing 10 mm, making estimation of the size of the leaf an easy matter.

No attempt is made to go still further and give a Key to the species. This would serve little purpose and tend to complexity in a book whose main object is to make things as easy as possible. In any case the great majority of Drakensberg trees have only one species (which of course is given) and in the few cases where there are two or three species these are described and illustrated, again making identification easy.

The descriptions of the various genera are clear and concise, any particularly helpful identifying feature being emphasised. E.g. for *Philippia evanssi*: 'The twigs feel sticky when grasped'.

Wherever applicable, common names are given, but not (I think unfortunately) the Zulu name, except in one case, *Leucosidea sericea* (Zulu Mchichi). Most people are interested in the Zulu names of plants and trees, and any specific uses they have in Zulu customs or medicine.

The general habitat of each tree or shrub is given, but I would have liked to see a reference to the average altitude at which the specific tree or shrub grows. Summit vegetation (3 000 m) differs markedly from that of the Little Berg (1 500 to 2 000 m) and a reference to altitude would have been an aid to identification.

This booklet has been sponsored by the Ukhahlamba Field Centre at Cathedral Peak, and is the first of a series designed to increase public awareness of the natural resources of the Drakensberg, and their management, in a word to stimulate greater appreciation of what the Drakensberg has to offer. It is a first class production, and a 'must' for all visitors to the Drakensberg, and to all hikers and climbers who would like to know a little more of the country into which they venture.

R.O. PEARSE

A HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT AND SUPREME COURTS OF NATAL 1846-1910

by PETER SPILLER

Durban, Butterworth, 1986. 155 pp. illus. R30 plus GST.

In the footsteps of the explorers and the traders generally came the settlers and with their families, their ploughshares and their livestock they brought the law, canon and common, the one to tend men's souls, the other to order their quarrelsome affairs.

Natal after 1824 was little different in this respect. A good deal has been written of the clerics who served their colonial flocks but surprisingly absent from the public gaze has been an authoritative account of the Colony's early judicial system and the men who forged their jurisprudence under the heat of the African sun.

Peter Spiller has provided just such an account in his *History of the District and Supreme Courts of Natal 1846-1910*. While he may particularly have had in mind the need of the legal profession to become acquainted with its colonial antecedents, his work must surely engage the wider attention of those others whose general interest tends towards Natal's history.

For reflected by any legal system, whether Roman, Rumanian or Russian, may be observed the *mores* of men and their social discipline, the many aspects of their livelihood, their triumphs and disappointments, the means by which the general good was advanced or impeded, men's jealousies, their preferences and prejudices. The Law is, indeed, both the warp and the weft of any social fabric and its study yields a wider catch than common crime and the acrimony of civil litigants.

Natal's judicial history from 1846 to 1910 is of particular interest to historians, lawyers and laymen alike because it represents the confluence of three very distinct legal philosophies. At the start, Roman Dutch Law was imported from the Cape Colony to be the common law of Natal; it was administered by and large thereafter by jurists schooled in the Laws of England and was imposed summarily, save for the colonial settlers who were accustomed to the latter, on the majority of the population, itself traditionally subject to what was and remains called 'native law and custom', and to whom both the Roman Dutch and English systems of law were entirely alien and, thus, bewildering.

Dr Spiller, who is the Senior Lecturer in, and Head of the Department of Public Law at the University of Natal (Durban), takes his reader through the turbulent legal waters occasioned by the admixture of these systems in a society comprising white settler and indigenous black inhabitant. For this, posterity must be grateful. He has researched his subject in great detail and with admirable regard to the changing complexities of the law and to the many facets of its administration in the Colony. He deals objectively with the capabilities and shortcomings of the Bench and Bar who, nonetheless, together established a commendable body of law and practice which were to take their places at the time of Union alongside other South African jurisdictions which had evolved in the Orange Free State, the Transvaal and in the Cape.

While not of the *genre* of Agatha Christie fireside reading, Dr Spiller's book, written in comfortable style, is, notwithstanding its legal bias, rewarding. It sheds much light on personalities and events hitherto in shadow.

MICHAEL DALY

GENEALOGIË VAN DIE AFRIKANER FAMILIES IN NATAL

by B. CILLIERS

Pietermaritzburg, the Author, 1986. 717 pp. R46,50 including GST, packing and postage.

This recent publication by Dr Ben Cilliers is a most valuable addition to all genealogical libraries in Natal, and indeed in South Africa.

It follows the format of the well-known 'Geslags-registers van ou Kaapse Families' — 'Genealogies of old S.A. Families', by De Villiers/Pama, which records the members of various South African families and the relationships between them, detailing each member of the original family, and the descendants of that member as far as can be ascertained. This carries the story into Natal, where this publication continues the record to a later date, principally by the researching of baptismal and marriage registers, and of estate death notices of the colony and province.

The registers consulted include the baptismal records of Erasmus Smit and James Archbell, and the baptismal and marriage registers of Daniel Lindley, from the early days of Natal, and subsequent registers, including those of Utrecht and Vryheid (not a part of Natal until 1903). The volume is extremely useful to genealogical researchers from the point at which De Villiers/Pama leaves the story, down to the beginning of this century.

Readers should not miss the additional list of Small Families on Pages 664 to 701, dealing with families with few references in the baptismal and marriage registers. Many a link with English-speaking South Africans are provided here — as well, of course, as in the main volume.

There is a detailed index, an essential in such a work.

This is a private publication, and can be purchased from Dr Cilliers at P.O. Box 10535, Scottsville 3290 (Telephone 0331-64071). It is well worth the outlay.

C.O. HOLNESS

RECORDS OF NATAL**Volume one. 1823 — August 1828**

edited by B.J.T. LEVERTON

Pretoria, Government printer, 1984. xxxiv, 291 pp. maps. (South African archival records: Important Cape documents, vol. 4) R6,00 plus GST.

This series will include those documents in the Cape Archives relating to Natal. As is pointed out in the introduction the pre-colonial history of Natal has been much neglected by researchers and historians alike (the most recent work being Mackeurtan's *The cradle days of Natal, 1497-1845* published in 1948), largely because the documents are in the Cape and not in Natal.

The series is intended to cover the period 1820 to 1845. However, the first document in the Cape Archives relating to Natal is dated 1823, hence the dating of this volume.

Because of the chronological arrangement of the documents, the subject matter is not easily apparent. In the introduction, therefore, the editor has provided a brief resumé of the main themes of each year.

Obtainable from the Government Printer, Private Bag X85, Pretoria, 0001.

DEAR OLD DURBAN

by YVONNE MILLER and BARBARA STONE

Pietermaritzburg, the Author, 1986. 80 pp. illus. R19.95 plus GST.

With text by Mrs Miller, and well illustrated with examples of Mrs Stone's collection of historical postcards of Durban, this book provides a vivid picture of the leisurely life at the port between 1910 and 1933, a period, as Mrs Miller rightly observes, about which little has so far been written.

TWO FAMILIES OF ILE DE FRANCE:**a story of the Roüillards and de Chazals, Book I**

by VIRGINIA TAYLOR

Durban, the Author, 1985. 180 pp. illus., facsimis., maps. R36,00.

Although this work deals mainly with the family's history in Mauritius, whence the first Roüillard emigrated from France in 1783, it has relevance in that a number of Roüillards and related families, such as the Hourquebies, Couve de Murvilles, Reys and Bouilles emigrated to South Africa, and particularly Natal. Mrs Taylor points out that there are now more French Mauritians in Natal than on this island itself. There, the 'Grand Blancs', as they are called, account for less than 10 000 of the total population of about one million.

Book I, devoted to the Roüillards, is the first of a projected three-part work, to be produced in two volumes. Book II will deal with the de Chazals, and Book III with the couple whose marriage united these two families, John Roüillard and Edmée de Chazal.

Obtainable from Mrs Taylor at 24 Somme Road, Durban.

OX-WAGON TO SPACE TRAVEL

by WALTER A. SPEIRS

Drumfork, Eastwolds, Typescript, 1985. 135 pp. illus.

Here one has the history of the first Speirs family to come to Natal in 1850, Robert and Agnes, and their children. In addition details are provided of every descendant to the present day — some bearing well-known Natal surnames such as McArthur, McKenzie, Mitchell, Warren, Richards, Stainbank, Hampson, Hill, Shaw, Lund and Phipson.

LOYAL LITTLE NATAL

by GRANT CHRISTISON

Pietermaritzburg, the Author, 1986. 73 pp. illus., maps. R20,00.

Threaded through with the experiences of the Gold family — the brothers Robert, William and John — this book provides insights into 19th and early 20th century life in the Highflats, Ixopo and Underberg areas. It is profusely illustrated with drawings by the author and with photographs.

Obtainable from Mr Christison at 5 Clarendon Croft, 140 Roberts Road, Pietermaritzburg.

THE NATAL COLENBRANDERS (ADDENDUM TO THE PIGEAUD PAPERS)

compiled by A.B. COLENBRANDER

Typescript, 1986. 66 pp.

This slim volume forms an addition and correction to the chapter of the Natal Colenbranders in the book published in Holland, *My grandparents, Colenbrander — Sybouts and their immediate family*, by Jacoba Antonia Pigeaud (born Colenbrander) of which a few photostatted copies of the English translation exist in South Africa. Mrs Pigeaud's Natal chapter is based on information she gathered from family members between 1924 and 1930 while teaching in the Transvaal. Mr Colenbrander has compiled this book in order to update the original and eliminate inaccuracies.

THE BUILDINGS OF PIETERMARITZBURG volume one

edited by BRIAN BASSETT

Pietermaritzburg, Pietermaritzburg City Council, 1986. 1159 p.p. illus., maps. R25,00 (which includes the price of volume two when published).

This long-awaited catalogue embraces the entire central city area between the Dorp Spruit and the Umsindusi river. Volume two will cover the remainder of the magisterial district of Pietermaritzburg, but will be selective, not all-inclusive as is the present volume, this area being under less pressure for development.

The production of such a catalogue, in which the structural state of the city at a certain point in its history is documented, is, according to the Introduction, 'only the first step in the process of managing the built environment in such a way that its quality and character are not lost'.

The scene is set with an illustrated introductory chapter by R.F. Haswell, 'From Voortrekker dorp to colonial capital to South African city: the changing face of Pietermaritzburg'. Thereafter the catalogue is arranged by street, each street being prefaced by a map showing all the subdivisions. For each building a photograph is provided, the postal address is given, as are the survey number of the property, the valuation roll number, a brief description of the building, and a list of the criteria assigned to it by the city's Technical committee for Conservation and Development.

Available from: Room 504, Municipal Offices, 333 Church Street.

DRAGON'S WRATH: DRAKENSBERG CLIMBS, ACCIDENTS AND RESCUES

by R.O. PEARSE and JAMES BYROM

Johannesburg, Macmillan, 1986. 232 pp. illus. R39,95 plus GST.

This interesting and well-illustrated book details, as its sub-title suggests, the story of some epic climbs in the Natal Drakensberg, accidents, disasters and rescues, both successful and otherwise. It concludes with a chapter of sage advice on the safety precautions which should always be taken by those going into the mountains.

