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Cover Picture

Alan Paton at work in his study
(Photograph: Natal Witness)

SA ISSN 0085 3674

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Editorial

There has been a distinct tendency, in the media at any rate, to link history with the arbitrary clockwork of the calendar. Thus anniversaries of events 500, 400, 300, 200, 100 or 50 years ago are deemed worthy of celebration; those of 501, 401, 301, 201, 101, or 51 are not. In fact, anniversaries in terms of prime numbers — 509, 419, 307, 127, 73 or whatever — might be more interesting to mathematicians and no less interesting to ordinary mortals, though perhaps more difficult to remember.

Certainly 1988 has been defined in terms of other years, none of which has any particular connection with the present: 1588 (the Spanish Armada), 1688 (the ‘Glorious’ Revolution), 1788 (white settlement in Australia), 1888 (the Jack the Ripper murders) and 1938 (Hitler’s Anschluss or the establishment of the Dried Fruit Board — take your pick!)

In Natal we have had commemorations of Bartholomew Dias (1488) and the Huguenots (1688) — neither of direct significance to this Province, but dutifully celebrated as declared National Festivals — as well as the Great Trek and the establishment of Pietermaritzburg (1838). Any jollifications to mark the latter have been understandably subdued in the light of the tragic ‘unrest’ which continues to sear and scar the city’s surrounding townships. Posterity will almost certainly judge the most enduring monument to the sesquicentennial to be *Pietermaritzburg 1838–1988: A New Portrait of an African City* published jointly by Messrs Shuter & Shooter and the University of Natal Press. Several members of the *Natalia* Editorial Board were among its seventy contributors and Ms Margery Moberly, as head of the University Press, the driving force behind its production.

Natalia 18 pays only partial attention to fashionable anniversaries. Ian Uys, historian of the Uys family, casts a questioning light on some traditional Trekker hagiography in the article we publish to mark the 150th anniversary of the Great Trek, while Bill Guest sets the scene for the 1989 centenary of commercial coal mining in Natal. For the rest, the articles on the Natal Museum, the Italians in Pietermaritzburg, and Planning in Natal are unrelated to anniversaries — and no less interesting for that.

Undoubtedly the most distinguished Natalian to die during the year was Alan Paton, whose life we commemorate not with the usual obituary, but by the publication of the annual Natal Society Lecture — ‘Alan Paton: often admired, sometimes criticized, usually misunderstood’ — delivered by Professor Colin Gardner.

But Natal has lost other sons and daughters — Bishop Alphaeus Zulu, Dr A.D. Lazarus, Professor C.J. Nienaber, Professor Jill Nattrass, Mr Douglas Mitchell — whose passing has impoverished us all. We regret not being able to publish obituaries of all of them due to the failure to produce copy timeously by people who were asked to write. A more personal loss to members of the Editorial Board was the death, after a long illness, of Dr John Clark, a former Editor of *Natalia*. His irrepressible zest for life has made his departure like the extinction of a light.

My thanks go to all those who have contributed obituaries as well as articles, book reviews, notes or queries to this edition of *Natalia*, and not least to my colleagues on the Editorial Board without whose untiring efforts the journal could not possibly continue to appear.

T.B. FROST

Select List of Recent Natal Publications

- BEGG, G. The distribution, extent and status of wetlands in the Mfolozi catchment. Pietermaritzburg: The Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission, 1988.
- BELL, William. Narrative of the entrance of the 'Conch' at Port Natal with troops, to relieve Captain Smith, when blockaded by the Boers, in June, 1842. Durban, Natal Mercury, 1869. Facsimile reprint. Pietermaritzburg: Prontaprint, 1988.
- BRISTOW, David. Drakensberg walks; 120 graded hikes and trails in the 'Berg. Cape Town: Struik, 1988.
- CROMB, James, *editor*. The Majuba disaster: a story of Highland heroism, told by officers of the 92nd Regiment. Edinburgh: Menzies, 1891. Facsimile reprint, Pietermaritzburg: Prontaprint, 1988.
- CUBBIN, A.E. An exposition of the clash of Anglo-Voortrekker interests at Port Natal leading to the military conflict of 23/24 May 1842. Kwa Dlangezwa: University of Zululand, 1987.
- HILLIARD, O.M. The botany of the Southern Natal Drakensberg. Kirstenbosch: National Botanic Gardens, 1987.
- LABAND, John. The battle of Ulundi. Pietermaritzburg: Shuter & Shooter, 1988.
- LINSTRÖM, W. The geology of the Dundee area. Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs: Pretoria, 1987.
- NICOLSON, G. Towards a plan for the Durban metropolitan open space system. Pietermaritzburg: Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission, 1987.
- SHORTEN, Richard J. The Legion of Christ's witness; change within the Anglican Diocese of Zululand 1948-1984. Cape Town: Centre for African Studies, University of Cape Town, 1987.
- SIMENSEN, Jarle, *editor*. Norwegian missions in African history. Volume 1: South Africa, 1845-1906. Oslo: Norwegian University Press, 1986.
- THOMAS, R.J. The geology of the Port Shepstone area. Pretoria: Government Printer, 1988.
- TICHMANN, P. Powerlessness and poverty: a study of the nature and function of four African local authorities in the Durban functional region. Durban: University of Durban-Westville, 1987.

Register of Research on Natal

This list has been compiled from individual submissions of subscribers to *Natalia* and information supplied by the University of Natal's Department of Library Science.

If you know of any current research which has not been listed, please fill in the slip which has been provided for this purpose so that the information can be included in the next issue.

- AITCHISON, J.
Index to Mudie's history of the Anglo-Zulu War.
- COX, G.
The Point Yacht Club, 1892–1992.
- CROESER, F. *and* HEARNE, S.
Bibliography of the St Lucia/Maputoland Marine Reserve.
- HUTSON, T.R.
Narrow gauge railways and sugar tramways of Natal.
- LEVY, J.
Judaism in Natal: a select bibliography of surviving documents.
- LUTHULI, T.
Examination of status, tables of rulers; kings; paramount chiefs in Xhosa and Zulu history with a view to assisting researchers in the Killie Campbell library.
- McDOUGALL, A.G. *and* RYCROFT, Dr. D.K.
The family of W.G. Baker (1831–1917) of Pietermaritzburg (son of 1820 Settler Richard Baker).
- MACHIN, Ingrid.
The levying of black labour and military service by the Colonial State of Natal.
- MINNAAR, A de V.
The sugar industry of Zululand; 1905–198 . . . ; its problems, development and history.
The fight against Nagana in Zululand.
- MSIMANGO, H.
The compositions and publications of Prof. R. T. Caluza.
- PIM, J.
A history of the Killie Campbell Africana Library.
- RAJCOMAR, R.
The biblioculture of Indian professional teacher-librarians in metropolitan Durban.
- RAJU, R.
A bibliography of separately printed bibliographies of Natal.
- RYCROFT, Dr. D.K.
The family of John Pearson Cato (1831–1908) of Glenwood, Durban.
The family of John and Sarah Whitehead, 1820 settlers.
The family of John William Rycroft (1853–1934) of Malvern, Natal.
- UYS, Ian.
Uys family and Voortrekkers of the Uys party.
Natal officers who fought in Delville Wood.
- WILKINS, Mrs Joy.
The Norwegian Mission Society in Natal and Zululand especially the Leisegangs, Titlestads and Dahles.
- WYLIE, C.
Bibliography of 19th century travel in Natal.

Notes on Contributors

SHIRLEY BROOKS is a graduate of the University of Natal. She currently holds an Emma Smith Scholarship and is studying for a Master's degree at Queens's University, Kingston in Canada.

BILL BURNETT is a former Archbishop of Cape Town.

GEORGE CANDY retired from the former Natal Training College as a Senior Lecturer after a career in both education and journalism. He has written extensively on a wide variety of topics.

CLAIRE FROST, a graduate of the University of Natal, is a former Reporter and now Sub-Editor on the Natal Witness.

COLIN GARDNER is Professor of English at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg.

BILL GUEST is Associate Professor in the Department of Historical Studies at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg.

RALPH LAWRENCE is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Political Studies at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg.

PETER ROBINSON, a former teacher and University lecturer, is a partner in a firm of planners and architects in Durban. He is currently Vice-President of the South African Institute of Town and Regional Planners.

BRIAN SPENCER is Librarian in charge of the Don Africana Library in Durban.

IAN UYS, an accountant by profession, is the immediate past Chairman of the South African Military History Society. He has written authoritatively on the history of the Uys family in South Africa, and the battle of Delville Wood.

FLEUR WEBB teaches French at Wykeham School. She has also translated the first volume of Adulphe Delegorgue's *Travels in Southern Africa, particularly in the territory of Natal*.

JOHN WRIGHT is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Historical Studies at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg.

T.B. FROST