

Notes and Queries

Ithunga or Isigxusho?

IN OUR last issue we published a query from Major G. J. B. Egerton, D.L., Assistant Regimental Secretary to the Royal Regiment of Wales, in which he sought help with the identification of a wooden object reputedly found at the kraal of King Cetshwayo in 1879.

Photographs of the object were published with the query, but no firm identification has been forthcoming from readers. The experts seem reluctant to do more than confirm the opinion recorded by the editors, that 'the object is *either* a mortar (Isigxusho) used for stamping grain and pulping foodstuffs *or* a milking pail (Ithunga)'.

A helpful suggestion from Miss E. M. van der Linde, Africana Librarian of the Campbell Collections of the University of Natal, is that the height of the object should be ascertained, as 'the Ithunga would of necessity be smaller than the Isigxusho, bearing in mind the height and position of the user . . .'

We have accordingly written to Major Egerton asking for measurements.

In the meanwhile, we hope that those with knowledge of Zulu handicrafts will have the courage to venture further opinions.

Sir Patrick Manson

Following upon the article 'H. W. D. Manson, poet and playwright, and his Natal connections', the following query has been received from Mrs. Amy H. Young:

Is H. W. D. Manson a relative of Sir Patrick Manson G.C.M.G., M.D., LL.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. who was born in Aberdeenshire on 3 October, 1844, and died on 9 April, 1922? It was he who discovered that the mosquito is the carrier of malarial fever. At one time he worked in eastern countries. Latterly he lived in London where he continued his researches. A relative of his named Blaikie came to Natal in 1861 and became the forebear of many descendants, though only a few bear his surname.

Robert Dunn of Albert Falls

Can any reader supply information on this ex-officer of the British Army who farmed in the Albert Falls area, and died in 1866? He was the father of Robert Ernst Dunn who accompanied Cetshwayo to England as interpreter in 1882. When did he come to Natal, and in which regiment did he serve? Descendants differ as to the regiment, variously stating the Seaforth Highlanders, the 90th Regiment and the 99th Regiment.

This query has been submitted by Mrs. Shelagh Spencer who is compiling a register of early Natal settlers.

Richard Vause, J.P., F.R.G.S.

Richard Vause was a notable figure in the early history of Durban. He served several terms as mayor of the town, and played an important part in early

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newspaper publishing. In the 1860s he was closely associated with John Robinson in the management of the *Natal Mercury*. Information about the life of Richard Vause is required by Mr. D. Stayt, c/o The Daily News, Durban.

Rara Nataliana?

Mr. R. A. Brown, University Librarian, Pietermaritzburg, is anxious to trace copies of the following publications:

KENNEDY, Robert. *The Story of Fifty Years, 1878-1929*. Printed by *Natal Witness* for Wesleyan Church Jubilee, Ixopo.

USHERWOOD, Archdeacon T. E. ed. *Maritzburg Clergy Directory and Churchman's Guide to Natal*. Advertised in *The Vineyard*, 1883.

Mr. Brown also writes:

The University of Natal Library, Pietermaritzburg, has been given a very interesting map of Natal compiled for Sir Redvers Buller by the Field Intelligence Department, Maritzburg, in 1901. Unfortunately, the map is not in good condition and the University Librarian would be pleased to know if another copy exists elsewhere as he wishes to examine the legend and other details illegible on the library copy.

More Natal Artists

In our first issue we published 'A First List of Natal Artists 1824-1910', drawn up by Mrs. J. A. Verbeek. Since then the following names have been added to her list:

ANCKETILLE, Oona 1879-1955

CARLISLE, M. E. c. 1890

DE SMIDT, Abraham 1829-1908

DUFF, George

FERGUSON, John

FRANCOIS, Leo

GARDEN, *Capt.* R. J.

HARDING, *Lt.* James Augustus c. 1839

HUGGINS, William John 1781-1845

'JAGUAR' (cartoonist) c. 1880

McMILLAN, A. L.

OERDER, Frans c. 1896-1899

PATERSON, W. M. c. 1859

PRIOR, Melton c. 1879

SAMUELSON, *Rev.* S. M. c. 1869-1879

STANGER, *Dr.* W. 1812-1854

THOMPSON, G. I.

WATTS, J. A. c. 1857

WILSON c. 1879

The name Frans Oerder is famous, but how much is known about his work in Natal? Any information about these artists and their works, or about those listed in the first issue will be very welcome, and should be addressed to Mrs. Verbeek, c/o University of Natal Library, P.O. Box 375, Pietermaritzburg, where details of these artists are recorded on cards.

Micro-Witness

The State Library has undertaken the task of putting the *Natal Witness*, 1846 to 1972, onto microfilm. These films will be available for purchase, and it is hoped that their acquisition by libraries and other institutions will save the originals from further deterioration.

The *Natal Witness* has produced a brochure, *Open Testimony*, to commemorate its 125th anniversary.

THE EDITOR WILL GLADLY RECEIVE NOTES OR QUERIES ON ANY TOPIC OF NATAL INTEREST.