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## *Cover Picture*

The old Supreme Court Building (opened 1871), now the new home of the Tatham Art Gallery (1990).

*(Photograph: Natal Witness)*

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# Editorial

With this issue of *Natalia* 20, the journal completes its second decade, and its Editor his first in that office. Looking back over the past 20 years, one cannot but reflect that, to adapt the Roman playwright Terence, its unspoken motto has been *Nataliensis nil a me alienum puto* (nothing of Natal do I consider foreign to me). We are pleased to have been able to publish material in a number of fields, though given the veritable explosion of historical research which has occurred, as well as the interests of members of the Editorial Board, it has been historical articles which have predominated. We hope that the Index which appeared in *Natalia* 11 will be brought up to date next year in *Natalia* 21 to include the fruits of the second decade. Would that the circulation of the journal had increased in proportion to its (still-subsidized!) price.

We have two unpublished pieces this year: the third and final instalment of *Deux Ans à Natal* by the enigmatic M. Bourbon, and George Russell's lively account of the wreck of the *Minerva*, an event which occurred exactly 140 years ago. Our colleague, the prolific Dr Bill Bizley, has interviewed former Natal politician G.J. (Horace) Rall, while articles on locust invasions in Zululand and rabies highlight some of the harsher features of nature in the region. Natural disasters, however, pale into insignificance against the man-made horrors inflicted on Natal during the past year by the on-going strife in the townships. It is too awful and too close for any objective analysis, and we have attempted none; we publish, however, an Obituary of one of its more prominent victims, Father Victor Africander.

*Natalia* must also record with sadness the death of an old friend, Harry Lundie. His association with the Natal Society goes back over many years, as a member of its Council and, latterly, an Honorary Vice-President. The community at large is poorer for his passing, but enriched by his long career in the Natal Education Department and, after his retirement as Deputy Director of Education, Pietermaritzburg City Councillor and Mayor.

*Natalia* loses the services of its Secretary and the Natal Society one of its most faithful employees (fortunately not to the hereafter!) with the retirement at the end of 1990 of Miss June Farrer. She joined the Society on 1 April 1945, rising through the ranks in those forty-five years to the post of Deputy Chief Librarian. Hers is a record of dedication and service which few will be able to emulate, let alone equal, and we salute her. Though relieved of secretarial responsibilities, Miss Farrer has agreed to continue to serve on the Editorial Board, a welcome decision, for she is a proof-reader beyond compare.

Another change on the Editorial Board after the production of *Natalia* 20 is the departure of Margery (Mobbs) Moberly, a member since 1975. For a number of years she compiled the Notes and Queries feature. She has been a most stimulating colleague, and her endless fountain of ideas will be a source greatly missed. So too will be her editorial expertise as a professional publisher. We are pleased, on the other hand, to welcome Mr Graham Dominy. He has contributed to *Natalia* several times in the past, most recently in 1989, and his archival and museums experience will be a considerable asset.

Among our books reviewed this year is *Guardian of the Light*, a collection of tributes paid to Archbishop Denis Hurley on the Golden Jubilee of his

priestly ordination. It is singularly appropriate that it should appear at this time in view of the announcement of his retirement. As Colin Gardner so truly observes in his review, Denis Hurley is one of the great Natalians, in some ways reminiscent of Natal's other great ecclesiastic, John William Colenso. When he became a bishop in 1947 he was the youngest Roman Catholic bishop in the world; he is now its longest-serving.

For the rest, the mix of Notes and Queries, Book Reviews and Notices, and Select List of recent Natal publications remains pretty well unchanged. We are grateful to all who have contributed to this issue of *Natalia*, and trust that our readers will continue to find it interesting fare.

T.B. FROST

## *Select List of Recent Natal Publications*

- BANCROFT, J.W. The terrible night at Rorke's Drift: the Zulu War, 1979. Durban: Bok Books, 1988.
- BRISTOW, David. Drakensberg walks: 120 graded hikes and trails in the Drakensberg. Cape Town: Struik, 1989.
- DAWNAY, Guy C. Campaigns: Zulu 1879, Egypt 1882, Suakim 1885; being the private journal of Guy C. Dawnay. London: Cambridge, 1989.
- DELEGORGUE, Adulphe. Travels in Southern Africa. Vol. I. Translated by Fleur Webb. Durban: Killie Campbell Africana Library and Pietermaritzburg: University of Natal Press, 1990. (We will be reviewing this book in *Natalia* 21).
- ELLIOTT, W.J. Victoria Cross in Zululand and South Africa: Isandhlwana and Rorke's Drift. Pietermaritzburg: Africana Book Collectors, 1990. Facsimile reprint of 1882 edition.
- HARRISON, Errol R. Memories of early Mtubatuba and district. Mtubatuba: the Author, 1989.
- JEWELL, Jack. A history of the Durban City Police. Durban: Durban/Musgrave Rotary Club, 1989.
- PAYNE, S.H.C. S.A.S. Inkonkoni, 1885-1955. Privately printed, 1990.
- A REMONSTRANCE on behalf of the Zulu chiefs. Pietermaritzburg: Africana Book Collectors, 1989.
- ROGERS, Eryll M. Edward Ross Dixon: the story of a Natal settler, his descendants and some associated families. Pietermaritzburg: the Author, 1989.
- SHEPHERD, Olive. Wild places of Natal: nature reserves, resorts and parks. Natal branch of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, 1989.
- SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHIVAL RECORDS. Important Cape documents, Volume 5: Records of Natal, Volume 2, September 1828-July 1835. Pretoria: Government printer, 1989. 318pp. R6,06
- WATSON, William. The Siege diary of William Watson, October 1899-February 1900. Ladysmith: Ladysmith Historical Society, 1989.

## *Register of Research on Natal*

This list has been compiled from individual submissions of subscribers to *Natalia*.

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.

DOMINY, G.A.

The Imperial Garrison in Natal, with special reference to Fort Napier 1843–1914.

MINNAAR, A. de V.

The historical roots (origins) of faction fighting and tribal violence in Natal–KwaZulu.

The history of nature conservation in Zululand.

WYLEY, C.

A bibliography of published work on Natal and Zululand, pre-1910.