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Cover Picture

The first four professed Augustinian sisters of Estcourt with Bishop Jolivet
and Frs. Murray and Le Bras

(Photograph: Prof. J.B. Brain)

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Contents

	<i>Page</i>
EDITORIAL	5
NATAL SOCIETY LECTURE	
The Early Chinese Mariners, Natal and the Future <i>David Willers</i>	7
REPRINT	
Colenso Letters <i>Brenda Nicholls</i>	17
ARTICLE	
The Tradition of Hindu Firewalking in Natal <i>Alleyn Diesel</i>	31
ARTICLE	
The Influence of the Geology of Durban on the Supply of Water from Wells to Early Settlers <i>T.E. Francis</i>	40
ARTICLE	
The Centenary of the Augustinian Sisters in Natal <i>Joy B. Brain</i>	54
OBITUARIES	
Neville James	66
John McGregor Niven	68
Mhlabunzima Joseph Maphumulo	71
NOTES AND QUERIES	
<i>Moray Comrie</i>	73
BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES	85
SELECT LIST OF RECENT NATAL PUBLICATIONS	92
REGISTER OF RESEARCH ON NATAL	94
INDEX: <i>NATALIA</i> NOS. 1–20	96
<i>D.J. Buckley and M.P. Moberly</i>	

Editorial

With this issue *Natalia* enters its third decade. It is no reflection on the merit of the articles in *Natalia 21*, however, to suggest that perhaps one of its greatest values will prove to be the Index to the previous twenty volumes. A decade ago we engaged in a similar exercise for the ten issues which had appeared at that time. With the wondrous aid of the computer, that Index has now been enlarged and updated. Even the most cursory perusal of it will reveal how extraordinarily wide has been the range of material covered by this journal. The foundations of the Index were laid by David Buckley of the Natal Society. The update has been most generously done as a labour of love by Margery Moberly, until last year a member of its Editorial Board, and still a very good friend of *Natalia*. Future researchers will be much in their debt.

The 1991 Natal Society Lecture by the Editor of the *Natal Witness*, David Willers, took most of his hearers into the quite unknown field of the voyages of Cheng Ho, the Columbus of ancient China, to the shores of eastern Africa in the early fifteenth century. We are glad to be able to make it more widely available in these pages.

For its previously unpublished piece, *Natalia* returns, for the third time in twenty years, to the corpus of Colenso material, in this instance letters from the Colenso daughters on the death of their famous father and the subsequent disastrous fire at Bishopstowe (the latter theme not unfamiliar to a Natal ravaged by fires in 1991). For the meticulous transcription and editing of these documents we are grateful indeed to Miss Brenda Nicholls of Rhodes University who, after a lifetime of study of the Colensos, is undoubtedly better placed than anyone else to perform such a service.

Any suggestion that *Natalia* might be regarded as a purely historical journal is countered by the nature of two of the three articles which we publish this year: the influence of the geology of Durban on the supply of water from wells to the early settlers, written by Dr Tim Francis of the Durban City Engineer's Department, and the tradition of Hindu Firewalking in Natal, written by Ms Alleyn Diesel of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg. We are grateful to them for their contributions, as we are to Professor Joy Brain, who retires at the end of 1991 as Head of the Department of History at the University of Durban-Westville, and who has written the history of the Augustinian sisters and the sanatoria which they founded and ran in Natal as the latest offering to *Natalia* from her ongoing research into Catholics and Indians.

In its Obituaries *Natalia* notes with sadness the passing of Justice Neville James, a distinguished former Chief Justice of Natal. The piece is written by Michael Daly who, were he not President of the Natal Society and a successful professional man in Pietermaritzburg, could undoubtedly have been an obituary writer for the *Times* in London. The sudden passing of Professor Jack

Niven, for whose Obituary we are grateful to Professor Robert Muir, Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg, came as a profound shock to his many friends, and not least to two members of the Editorial Board who were colleagues at the Natal College of Education and who had been at tea with him shortly before he was found dead on the floor of his office. Chief Mhlabunzima Maphumulo was highly esteemed in the black community, if the crowd which attended his funeral is any yardstick. His assassination, disquieting as it was, was rendered doubly so in as much as it has given rise to allegations, unproven at the time of writing, of involvement by agencies of the state in instigating it and other incidents of violence. Natal is the poorer for the passing of these of its most distinguished sons.

In the place of Ms Moberly, the Editorial Board has been joined by Dr Sylvia Vietzen, Headmistress of Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School. Like Graham Dominy, whose service began last year, she is a past contributor to *Natalia* and their willing giving of their time and talents, busy schedules notwithstanding, is much appreciated. June Farrer has been replaced as Minutes Secretary by David Buckley.

The regular features of the journal, Notes and Queries, Book Reviews and Notices, Select List of Recent Natal publications and Register of Research on Natal appear as usual. We are grateful to the many who have contributed to them, and trust that our readers will continue to find *Natalia* interesting fare.

T.B. FROST

Select List of Recent Natal Publications

- ACHTZEHN, H.G.O. Zinkwazi Beach and surrounding area, Natal North Coast: history, personalities, developments. Darnall: Achtehn family, 1991.
- ARNOLD, Pam. Tom and Ethel: the story of a soldier settlement. Pietermaritzburg: the Author, 1990. (Malonjeni, near Dundee, Natal)
- BLACK SASH. *Natal Midlands Region*. Pietermaritzburg 1990: the fractured city. Pietermaritzburg: the Black Sash, 1990.
- BUTHELEZI, Mangosuthu G. South Africa: my vision of the future. London: Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 1990.
- DUNNE, Walter Alphonsus. Eyewitness in Zululand: the campaign reminiscences of Colonel W.A. Dunne, CB, South Africa, 1877–1881. Edited by Ian H.W. Bennett. London: Greenhill Books, 1989.
- EDWARDS, Terry. Seasons of change: 100 years of the Natal Agricultural Union. Pietermaritzburg: Natal Agricultural Union, 1991.
- FORSYTH, Paul. Pietermaritzburg conflict chronology: political developments in Pietermaritzburg, 1980–1986. Pietermaritzburg: Dept. of Historical Studies, University of Natal, 1991.
- GREAT BRITAIN. *War Office. Intelligence Branch*. Narrative of field operations connected with the Zulu War of 1879. London: Greenhill Books, 1989. (Facsimile of the 1881 ed.)
- HALL, Darrell. Halt! Action front!: with Colonel Long at Colenso. Glenashley: the Author, 1991.
- HANVEY, Patricia M. Field guide to geocryological features in the Drakensberg. Johannesburg: Geography Dept., University of the Witwatersrand, 1990.
- HARRIS, V.S. Land labour and ideology: government land policy and the relations between Africans and Whites on the land in northern Natal, 1910–1936. Pretoria: Government Printer, 1991. Archives year book, 1991; Vol.I, p.157–303.
- HAYES, Stephen. Black charismatic Anglicans: the Iviyo loFakazi baka-Kristu and its relations with other renewal movements. Pretoria: University of South Africa, 1990. (Charismatic movement in Zululand)
- KILLICK, Donald. A field guide to the flora of the Natal Drakensberg. Johannesburg: Jonathan Ball and Ad. Donker, 1990.
- LOTTER, J.M., *et al.* Crime and its impact: a study in a black metropolitan area. Pretoria: Human Sciences Research Council, 1990. (KwaMashu and Umlazi townships, Durban)

- LOYALTY, Honour, truth: the story of Longmarket Girls' School, 1890–1990. Pietermaritzburg: Longmarket Girls' School, 1990.
- McKENZIE, Peter. Pioneers of Underberg: a short account of the settlement. Pietermaritzburg: Africana Book Collectors, 1991. (Facsimile reprint of the 1946 ed.)
- MARTIN, B.F. Drakensberg approaches policy. Pietermaritzburg: Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission, 1990. Natal town and regional planning report; Vol. 74.
- OOSTHUIZEN, Constance M. Conquerors through Christ: the untold story of the Methodist Deaconess in South Africa. Port Shepstone: Deaconess Order of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, 1990.
- RESEARCH and the environment, Maputaland: workshop proceedings, May 1989. Durban: Cord, University of Natal, 1989.
- SHEPHERD, Olive. Wild walks of Natal. Durban: Natal Branch, Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, 1990.
- SMITH, Tim. They have killed my children: one community in conflict, 1983–1990. Pietermaritzburg: PACSA, 1990. (Elandskop, Natal)
- STRUTHERS, Robert B. Hunting Journal 1852–1856 in the Zulu kingdom and the Tsonga Regions. Edited by Patricia L. Merrett and Ronald Butcher. Durban: Killie Campbell Africana Library and Pietermaritzburg: University of Natal Press, 1991.
- SWEET, Reg. Natal 100: centenary of the Natal Rugby Union. Durban: Natal Rugby Union, 1990.

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.

BRAIN, Prof. J.B.

Epidemic diseases in Natal and Zululand and their effects on humans, 19th and 20th centuries.
Computerization of the data from the Indentured Indian shipping lists, 1902–1911; part 2. (Project of the History Dept., University of Durban-Westville)

FORSYTH, Paul

Contemporary political conflict in Natal.
Regionalism in South Africa.

HENDERSON, Sheila.

Diary of Edward Arnold, late of Weenen: trading trip to the Zambesi and Shire Rivers, 1868. A Livingstone connection?
Translation and summary of the Anglo-Boer War record of Nita Meyer, sister-in-law of President Lukas Meyer, re campaign 1899–1902 in Northern Natal. 'The woman's view'.

JAYARAM, V.

Public relations in academic libraries in South Africa.

MARES, Robert G.

The life and times of Herbert Watkins-Pitchford: his career in the Natal Agricultural Service, his relations with Sir Arnold Theiler, Killie Campbell, Baynesfield Estate, etc.

RAINIER, Margaret.

Madonela: Donald Strachan, autocrat of Umzimkulu.

RAJU, R.

An investigation of the library needs of Black high school students in Umlazi.

SHAH, Mrs T.D.

An investigation into the *raison d'etre* of the 'autonomous' libraries on the Howard College campus of the University of Natal.

SHAW, M. and Bell, R.

A bibliography of Pietermaritzburg. (Project of the Library, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg)

THAKUR, Pravin.

A history of Sastri College.

WYLEY, Chantelle.

Bibliography of published works on the political economy of Natal and Zululand prior to 1910.