

Book Reviews and Notices

KINGDOM IN CRISIS: THE ZULU RESPONSE TO THE BRITISH INVASION OF 1879

by JOHN LABAND

Pietermaritzburg, University of Natal Press, 1992, viii + 272 pp. illus. maps, R93,50 (hard cover).

ISANDLWANA

by JOHN LABAND and JEFF MATHEWS

Pietermaritzburg, Centaur Publications in association with the KwaZulu Monuments Council, 1992, 6 + 98 pp. illus. maps, R19,75 (soft cover).

The most cursory examination of any historical bibliography or index, including the index to the first twenty volumes of *Natalia*, will reveal the enormous and unabating concentration of scholarly and popular historical energy on the Anglo-Zulu War. One of the most prolific and influential writers on the subject is Professor John Laband and the publication of his doctoral thesis under the title, *Kingdom in crisis*, is most welcome.

In his introduction, John Laband accuses many historians, including some recent writers, of underplaying the Zulu perspective on the war, while repeating the story from the imperial, the British military and the Natal colonial perspectives (p.1). Ironically, Professor Shula Marks levels the same criticism at Professors Laband and Thompson: In her review of Andrew Duminy and Bill Guest's *Natal and Zululand from earliest times to 1910: a new history* (Pietermaritzburg, 1989), she claims that they are 'far better on the motives and calculations of imperial actors than they are on those of the Zulu' (*Journal of Natal and Zulu History*, Vol XIII, 1990-91, p.113). Shula Marks would be unable to make the same point about *Kingdom in crisis*.

John Laband has applied the techniques of the 'war and society' school of history to the study of the war from the Zulu perspective and produced fascinating new slants on what is a well known series of historical events. Laband's research is thorough, well presented and deeply nuanced. *Kingdom in crisis* is written in an easy, flowing style which will keep the attention of critical and lay readers alike.

Laband has reinterpreted many individual aspects of the battles of the campaign in his other works, so many sections of this work have a familiar ring to them. *Kingdom in crisis* is, however, an important and original contribution to our knowledge of the period and the war because its primary focus is on the functioning and disintegration of the Zulu polity under the stress of the war. This is a unifying theme that keeps the reader's attention despite the familiar sections on individual battles. Today we are subjected to a barrage of

ill-informed propaganda in certain sections of the national and international media which seeks to portray the Zulu people as a united force in the South African body politic. Laband's painstaking research reveals that even during the heyday of the Zulu Kingdom, the unity of the state was fragile, the Zulu people were divided and many of their leaders abandoned the 'national' and royal cause and turned to the British in defence of their economic, regional and lineage-based interests as soon as it was practical or expedient for them to do so. The richly textured analysis of the disintegration of the Zulu state is probably the most substantial contribution to Anglo-Zulu War scholarship in this book.

Laband's explanations of the traditional and spiritual reasons for so-called Zulu 'atrocities', such as the disembowelling of the British dead are also of great interest. He also supplies a formidable array of evidence demonstrating that the British were equally guilty of atrocities in the aftermath of battle. The British undoubtedly killed scores, if not hundreds, of Zulu wounded after Rorke's Drift (Only three wounded were taken prisoner and 'ostentatiously' cared for by the British medical personnel — see pp. 107–8). Further slaughter of fleeing and wounded Zulu occurred after the battles of Khambula and Ulundi.

Kingdom in crisis is in fact a joint publication of the University of Natal Press and the Manchester University Press. The international edition is published in the 'War, Armed Forces and Society Series' under the general editorship of Dr Ian Beckett. Strangely enough, this is not acknowledged in the South African edition. It is clear, however, that the printing of the book in the United Kingdom may have made the work more expensive for South Africans: R93,50 is a high price to pay for what is really a small book, even if it is nearly three hundred pages in length. Technically the work is well produced and the maps are as accurate as those we have become accustomed to from the University of Natal's Cartography Unit. Unfortunately, the maps have been reproduced in dull tones and they are not as striking as those in Laband's other works.

Dull maps are not a failing in the other Laband work under review. *Isandlwana*, the fourth work in the KwaZulu Monuments Council's series on Zulu history, is co-authored by John Laband and Jeff Mathews. It is a short, simply written, synthesis of the latest research on the Isandlwana campaign which is aimed at visitors to the battlefield, lay readers and school groups. It includes a section of exercises for school children and its layout is suited to the attention span of young readers and the 'guide book' needs of battlefield visitors. There are lavish illustrations and plenty of colourfully outlined 'boxes' containing information on familiar questions and myths, such as the 'ammunition box' controversy, the disembowelling of the British dead by the Zulu, and which provide statistical data that could otherwise burden the narrative.

The maps in *Isandlwana* are most striking and the product of the latest computer-enhanced imagery. It is the first time in South Africa that this technique has been applied to the making of historical maps. Congratulations are due to Helena Margeot for her pioneering breakthrough. Another 'first' for this book, as far as the KwaZulu Monuments Council is concerned, is that it appears in both English and Zulu editions.

GRAHAM DOMINY

THROUGH THE ZULU COUNTRY: ITS BATTLEFIELDS AND PEOPLE

by BERTRAM MITFORD with an Introduction by IAN KNIGHT
 London, Greenhill Books, 1992, xxvi and 257 pp. illus. R100,00.

'BY ORDERS OF THE GREAT WHITE QUEEN': CAMPAIGNING IN ZULULAND THROUGH THE EYES OF BRITISH SOLDIERS, 1879

by IAN KNIGHT
 London, Greenhill Books, 1992, 272 pp. illus. maps, R100,00.

THE ROAD TO ISANDHLWANA: COLONEL ANTHONY DURNFORD IN NATAL AND ZULULAND 1873-1879

by R.W.F. DROOGLEEVER
 London, Greenhill Books, 1992, 272 pp. illus. maps, R100,00.

These three volumes are the latest in Greenhill Books's African Colonial Wars series, which combines reprints of classic contemporary accounts (usually without a modern introduction), and more recent compilations and interpretative works by historians.

Bertram Mitford's *Through the Zulu country*, which describes his visit in 1882 to the sites of the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879, combines evocative descriptive writing with invaluable interviews with many Zulu who had fought in the war. It is thus both an important source for historians of the period, as well an inspiration for the modern traveller setting out for historic Zululand. First published in 1883, it was last reprinted in 1975 in a limited edition by Griggs of Durban. This handsome new edition is enhanced by nineteen photographs and an introduction by Ian Knight, a well-known historian of the Anglo-Zulu War who, since he has first-hand acquaintance with the locations Mitford visited and described, expertly sets the context and the scene.

'By orders of the great white queen' is Ian Knight's latest full-scale work, following up his well received *Brave men's blood: the epic of the Zulu war, 1879*, London, Greenhill Books, 1990. As a compilation of eye-witness accounts and reminiscences of the Anglo-Zulu War by a dozen officers, a soldier in the ranks and a war correspondent, linked together by Knight's narrative and commentary, it necessarily bears comparison with the late Frank Emery's *The red soldier: letters from the Zulu war, 1879*, London, Hodder and Stoughton, 1977.

Emery's celebrated work has the advantage of being the first of the *genre*, and of presenting a wider range of voices, speaking with more immediacy through their letters than through the memoirs on which Knight mainly draws. Nevertheless, there is a decided point in Knight's making these reminiscences (usually long out of print) available to a modern audience. The problem is that, although biographical notes are provided, bibliographical details are not set out in the same systematic manner at the end of the book as in Emery's, making it difficult for the reader to track down the sources. In comparison, sources were made much clearer in *The red soldier*, where the layout also differentiated the quoted passages from the commentary much more effectively.

The illustrations in Knight's book deserve comment. Drawn mainly from the *Penny Illustrated* and similar popular papers, they present an unabashedly vulgar vision of the war, unfamiliar to those used to the more genteel engravings in the *Illustrated London News and Graphic*.

Shortly after the battle of Isandhlwana, Sir Theophilus Shepstone wrote to his son Offy, characterizing Colonel Anthony Durnford as 'plucky as a lion but as

imprudent as a child'. This might well stand as his epitaph. Durnford's brother Edward, and his devoted admirer, Frances Colenso, tried their best for many years to reverse this view and, in particular, to exonerate him from blame for the Isandlwana disaster. R.W.F. Droogleever, in his biography of this controversial figure, whose career in Natal and Zululand was scarred not only by Isandlwana in 1879, but by the Bushman's River Pass debacle in 1873, seeks to create a creditable portrait. In many ways he succeeds, and Durnford gathers substance under his treatment as a real personality. His humanitarian as well as his military concerns are given their due place, and help explain the abiding friendship of the Colenso family.

However, this book suffers from a serious shortcoming. It derives from the author's doctoral dissertation of 1982. This in itself should have been its strength, guaranteeing its scholarship. However, the work does not appear to have been thoroughly revised or updated. If the select bibliography is any indication, most of the last ten years' works in the field have not been consulted. Thus, in the very selection of his title, the author should have been aware that Philip Gon's *The road to Isandlwana* had already pre-empted him back in 1979, and with a form of spelling, moreover, that conformed to modern Zulu orthographic practice. More seriously, Dr Droogleever seems unaware of Dr Jeff Mathews's authoritative work on Chelmsford which, while being highly critical of the General's mistakes, also convincingly points the finger at Durnford's culpability on the day of Isandlwana. Some acquaintance with Dr Paul Thompson's work on the Natal Native Contingent and the Natal border levies would not have gone amiss either. This book, though interesting and filling a gap in the literature, is dated in a way it should not have been, for presumably there must have been opportunity while being prepared for publication for its revision in the light of the latest research.

JOHN LABAND

THE NATAL PAPERS OF 'JOHN ROSS'

by CHARLES RAWDEN MACLEAN, edited by STEPHEN GRAY

Durban & Pietermaritzburg, The Killie Campbell Africana Library & The University of Natal Press, 1992, 210 pp. illus. R55,55 (soft cover).

This book is published as no.7 in the series *Killie Campbell Africana Library Publications*.

The legend of 'John Ross' is firmly established in the popular history of Natal, and seems destined to survive, with the assistance of some substantial material objects. The modest tiled commemorative tablet at Durban's Old Fort has been joined, over the years, by the thirty-storey John Ross House (with more than life-size bronze sculpture) on the Victoria Embankment; by the John Ross Bridge carrying the main road to Zululand across the Tugela River; and by John Ross College in Richards Bay. With such solid reminders, and a television serial made in 1987, the public can be forgiven for looking no further than the romanticised and mythologised story of a boy's journey on foot from Port Natal to Delagoa Bay and back, to fetch medicines and other necessities.

Stephen Gray has some hard words, however, about historians who have

overlooked or undervalued the Natal Papers of Charles Rawden Maclean, whom the world wants to know only as the youthful 'John Ross' of legend.

Although Maclean's own version of his Natal years has been available to English readers since the 1850s — and readily accessible in library collections in South Africa since the 1950s — it is fair to say that the many writers who have felt themselves capable of writing his biography — who have come to be considered authoritative on the man — have not felt the need to consult these sources. Rather, with a self-generating will of its own, and in a state of blissful unawareness, an entire sub-literature has accumulated around 'John Ross' without reference to the primary facts. (p.22)

And later, in trenchant summary:

The evidence shows that historical myths are constructed by an accumulating process of selection and omission. Anyone reading Maclean's thick stew of data will be shocked at the thinness of the gruel we are usually served. (p.23)

He speculates on a possible reason for this: '[Maclean's] declared method is to follow the vagaries of recollection over "a long vista of years". He writes associatively, not systematically. His chosen discourse is thus more literary than scientific. Possibly this is one reason why his text has not to date been found congenial to historians, because of the difficulty it presents in the extraction of simple facts — dates, places and events. But as a literary text — a childhood autobiography — it is not only unique in terms of our history, but in fact rather orthodox. Literary critics are well placed to respond to its depiction of personal anxiety, to its formal attempts to shape a "tale" and to its general skill in dramatising the great theme of the haphazard contingencies of providence.' (p. 143) But there is no doubt in Gray's mind that such a source must impact on historical scholarship: '. . . we have a document that is so contrary to our received expectations from the legend-makers that it is not too exaggerated to say that Maclean's text demands not only new ways of reading, but a fresh attitude to the historical evidence he presents.' (p. 145)

Gray notes that Laband's entry on 'John Ross' in the 1987 *Dictionary of South African Biography* (Vol. 5, p. 659) is 'the closest to accurate that South African history has produced in a cycle that has lasted over a century and a half.' He considers that careful study of Maclean's Natal Papers can contribute to historical re-evaluations of the attitudes of the Zulus towards the British at Port Natal; of the supposed unity of purpose and combined intention of Farewell, Fynn and King; of the person of Shaka and the nature of his rule; and of the role of all European groups in south-eastern Africa in the first three decades of the nineteenth century.

Although Maclean's Natal Papers have been known and available to scholars for a considerable time, this is their first appearance in book form. Gray's energies have been largely devoted to biographical research and careful editing, and this does not constitute the sort of re-evaluative work he considers necessary.

Yet that is the challenge that Maclean's Natal Papers represent for us today: beginning again. This is not the place to make the attempt. Let it

be sufficient here to give some notes towards a redefinition of 'history' in Natal that the Maclean documents provoke, with illustrations from this particular small — but crucial — case. (p.23)

Despite his disclaimer, I believe Gray, in his Introduction and Commentary, has in fact begun the process, clearly and boldly pointing out a flaw in our historiography, suggesting some changes of emphasis and interpretation, and providing scholars with a conveniently accessible collection to work with.

After spending part of his boyhood in Natal and Zululand, Maclean became a master mariner shipowner, and eventually held important public office in the Caribbean colony of St Lucia. The Natal Papers consist of eleven instalments published in *The Nautical Magazine* between January 1853 and March 1855, under the title *Loss of the brig Mary at Natal with early recollections of that settlement*, and as a sort of postscript, a letter to *The Times* of 3 August 1875, prompted by reports of the trial in Natal of Chief Langalibalele. In this letter Maclean mentions that by coincidence Langalibalele was also the name of 'a chief appointed by King Shaka . . . to command a party of thirty warriors charged with the escort of the writer to the Portuguese settlement of Delagoa Bay.' And, 'though it was at a time a perilous journey, nobly and faithfully did the chief and his men perform their duty.' The main intention of the letter to *The Times* is, however, to plead for a more favourable interpretation of the modern Langalibalele's 'disobedience' and his refusal to obey the Governor's summons. Maclean's knowledge of the Zulus leads him to claim that such a summons in the Shakan context would be nothing less than notice of execution to follow. He argues that Langalibalele's actions may have arisen from 'sheer panic', and appeals for a redress of the injury and wrongs done to the Hlubi. He ends his brief letter with an eloquent quotation from his earlier piece in *The Nautical Magazine*:

I owe them [*i.e. the Zulus*] a debt of gratitude that leads me to wish and to hope my countrymen, whosoever they be, will exercise that mercy and kindness towards them which I experienced at their hands in the day of their rule. Those are yet living to whom I am indirectly indebted for my life, and I trust their goodness will meet a just reward by kindness and forbearance at the white man's hands.

One may regard the *Loss of the brig Mary at Natal with early recollections of that settlement* as the vivid experiences of an intelligent and observant boy recollected in the tranquillity, and with the perspective, of mature years. Whatever the extent of his education when he was a young 'apprentice to Mr James King', Maclean became in addition to all his other attainments, a very good journalist. For a time he was one of the most prolific contributors to *The Nautical Magazine*, capable of producing sustained, well-written pieces in which 'hypotheses [were] argued out in stages, justifying a procedure and an attitude to contemporary life.' His Natal recollections run to about 37 000 words, and he wrote on other subjects too. At the conclusion of the Natal series, the editor of *The Nautical Magazine* makes some very complimentary remarks, which suggest that the quality of Maclean's writing owes little to editorial intervention and improvement.

For the present reviewer, this is the first encounter with Maclean's Natal Papers, and they make delightful reading, with their many new insights into,

and perspectives of, circumstances at Port Natal, early 19th century Zulu life, and the court of Shaka in particular.

Here is a worthy addition to the library of Natal history. Its interest lies equally in the original material and in the editor's case for historical reconsiderations. Gray's Commentaries form a final section of the book, and readers are advised to follow the reading of each of Maclean's eleven pieces with the relevant Commentary, rather than undertake a 'cover-to-cover' reading.

J. M. DEANE

ROCK PAINTINGS OF THE NATAL DRAKENSBERG

by J. D. LEWIS-WILLIAMS & T. A. DOWSON

Pietermaritzburg, University of Natal Press, 1992, 68 pp. 61 illus. R19,80.

Enormous strides have been made in the interpretation of the Natal Drakensberg rock paintings over the last 20 years. They began with Pat Vinnicombe's publication *People of the Eland* in 1976 and have been continued mostly through the research of David Lewis-Williams and his students, who have produced a constant stream of publications on the subject. Ever aware of the need to communicate his findings to a wider audience Lewis-Williams has published many pieces aimed at the lay and informed public. But this book, written with his student Thomas Dowson, is his first popular work to concentrate exclusively on the Natal Drakensberg, one of the richest rock painting areas in the world.

Lewis-Williams and Dowson set themselves the task of trying to answer what they believe to be the major questions that 'lurk at the back of our minds, even when we are just admiring the beauty of the art' (p.2). These are: 'Why did Bushmen paint these pictures?' and 'What do they mean?'

The rock painting chapter titles — 'Bridging worlds', 'Exploring the Spirit World' and 'Varieties of Visions' — capture the reader's imagination and suggest that something out of the ordinary will be furnished by the book. It is in these chapters that this book comes into its own. In exploring the reasons for the paintings and what they mean, the authors use good examples from the well known sites of Battle Cave, Main Caves and Game Pass Shelter, as the public has access to them. Their explanations, however, apply to the paintings throughout the Natal Drakensberg. The book is well illustrated with redrawings and colour photographs of paintings which will assist the reader in identifying the images discussed in the text and on the rockface. The only pity is that the illustrations were not numbered as this would have helped the readers to work between the text and the illustrations more effectively.

Concerning the interpretations of the paintings, Lewis-Williams and Dowson lead the readers on a journey through San¹ religion and into the spirit world and from the spirit world to the rock paintings. It is a world rich in thought and feelings. Their perceptions and arguments are informed by knowledge about the San and their religion, mostly derived from records collected in the northern Cape and Lesotho in the last century and from the Kalahari during the last forty years. To the authors, *realism*, *symbolism* and *non-reality* are the 'three interacting elements at the heart' (p.28) of the rock

paintings which enable us to 'see' the paintings in a new light. Understanding how these elements intermesh in the San world enable us to comprehend paintings and images that were previously inexplicable. Paintings, such as the half-human, half-animal figures, lines emanating from the top of heads and connecting figures, humans bleeding from the nose and elongated human figures are demystified. They are shown by the authors to represent what medicine people saw and felt while they were in trance. As you begin to 'see' the paintings in this way, your appreciation of them is taken to greater heights. You may even end up agreeing with Lewis-Williams and Dowson (p. 1) that 'the paintings can take their place next to any of the world's great art'. I certainly do.

Having dealt with the positive aspects of this book I feel I should express some of my reservations. These relate mostly to the 'Preserving the Drakensberg's Past' and 'Bushmen of the Berg' chapters in which the authors provide background information about the history of the San in the Drakensberg and also consider the preservation of the rock paintings. Unlike the chapters dealing with the paintings, these two chapters, and particularly that on San history, do not sufficiently reflect current knowledge. For example, we no longer have to say that 'we know that Bushmen lived there for many thousands of years (p. 18), but can mention that Middle Stone Age people ephemerally occupied the Natal Drakensberg before 25 000 years ago and that the recent San occupation of this area dates back 8 000 years, as is evidenced by a radiocarbon date from Good Hope Shelter. But these reservations do not in any way detract from the main thrusts of the book which are the meanings and motives behind the paintings.

My advice to those wanting to 'see' the rock paintings through a new pair of eyes is to buy this inexpensive, well illustrated book, put it in your backpack and see for yourselves. Doing this will enhance your understanding of the San and their history which tragically came to an end in the Natal Drakensberg about one hundred years ago. The San may never return to the Natal Drakensberg but armed with a good understanding of their paintings you will never feel that their departure was final. As the authors conclude in their book, the voice of the San, through their paintings, calls 'us to a more humane southern Africa' (p. 57).

NOTE

1. I use the term San in preference to Bushmen.

ARON D. MAZEL

RENISHAW: THE STORY OF THE CROOKES BROTHERS

by ANTHONY HOCKING

Bethulie, OFS, Hollards SA, 1992, 320 pp. illus. hard cover.

Family histories are like the proverbial curate's egg — good in parts. This family history is like the bishop's egg, good throughout, provided that it is judged as an egg and not as a full breakfast. Family histories give readers a wealth of fascinating detail about individuals and generations within families that broader histories gloss over. On the other hand, family histories often

ignore wider social issues and, even worse, attempt to whitewash family heroes to the point that critical readers are inclined to dismiss the *genre* altogether. A family history that manages to place the family in a broader social context is a good read.

Anthony Hocking has succeeded in missing most of the pitfalls in the path of the family historian. *Renishaw: The Story of the Crookes Brothers*, is a very sound, highly readable history of one of Natal's most important sugar families which is presented in a most attractive format. With plenty of 'sugar baron' money behind the production of this work, it is technically outstanding, of high quality and printed on glossy, durable paper in hard covers. The illustrations are well chosen and beautifully enhance the text. The only quibble I have is a personal prejudice against a brown-on-white finish, it may enhance sepia photographs, but it makes pages of text look more dull than black-on-white does. Most of the technical apparatus is in place: a comprehensive index, a full list of illustrations, a chronology and an elaborate family tree (which will be of great interest to genealogists as it gives all the ramifications of the Crookes clan). Regrettably, there is no list of sources, but it seems that Hocking had access to family and business papers which enabled him to write from the inside.

The Crookes have been among Natal's grandest sugar barons since their ancestors arrived in the 1850s and 1860s. The sugar enterprise was founded in the 1870s by Samuel Crookes and the well known firm Crookes Brothers was founded by Samuel's sons in 1913. Since then the company has expanded (there are estates in Swaziland), diversified (Crocworld near Scottburgh is one of the modern enterprises) and survived despite the domination of the sugar industry by financial conglomerates. Hocking has produced a well rounded history of the family including mentions of internal feuds over control of the company and the estates, a saga which he brings up to the 1990s. He also brings in the involvement of the workers who cut the cane and kept the sugar barons in the state to which they were well accustomed. This is unusual in South African family histories which often convey the impression that fame and fortune was gained solely by white entrepreneurship and the role of black labour is totally ignored. Hocking avoids this over-simplification. It is difficult to know how much labour history has not been told, because the emphasis is on workers who have been 'loyal' to the company and the family, not on those who went on strike or deserted. The section on the strikes of 1987 lays much of the 'blame' on an 'outside agitator'.

The book is also a fascinating local history. Not much has appeared in print on the development of the South Coast and *Renishaw* provides us with valuable information on the development of the Scottburgh and Umzinto areas. Again, all credit to the author who has done extensive research and still managed to produce his findings in easily digestible form.

All in all Anthony Hocking has succeeded admirably in telling the story of a remarkable family involved in developing Natal's most important industry. This he has done without resort to cant or undue praise. The role of the usually unmentioned groups who make these large achievements possible is given credit and the book provides the reader with information on local and regional histories as well as on family history. It is also a book that will look impressive on the bookshelves of a boardroom or a company office.

GRAHAM DOMINY

[Reprinted with acknowledgements to the *Natal Witness*.]

THE NATAL MAIN LINE STORY

by HEINIE HEYDENRYCH and BRUNO MARTIN

HSRC, Pretoria, 1992, 176 pp. 120 photographs, many maps, hard cover.

Whether a revamped doctoral thesis can ever entirely hit the 'pop market' remains a matter of question, but Heinie Heydenrych (on whose dissertation the major portion of the text is based) has found ramifications and reverberations in our railway politics (he takes us up to 1895) such as have certainly eluded any previous author on Natal's main line. That Disraeli was a bogey figure in colonial Natal for blocking railway progress, that the Langalibalele incident directly retarded the start of construction, that the tracklayers were mostly Delagoa Bay Tsongas, that a 'corridor' was maintained for them to come through Zululand, and that Cetshwayo derived considerable income from the paypackets of these 'navvies': these mini revelations demonstrate the web of association that Heydenrych has spun round his story. He unties a delicious 'knot' whereby Garnet Wolsely 'buys' the *Times of Natal* to support (against *The Natal Witness*) a pro-federation railway contractor. And he notes the political battle over free outspanning for trek oxen: the Railway called it 'a system of free dinners'!

Here and there I could wish that 'popularisation' had led the authors to sterner editing. In the earlier chapters, the careful reconstruction and even mapping of stillborn railway schemes can never really grip the non-specialist reader. It is a text that invites selective reading — the cherries are somewhat buried, but (helped along by a mouthwatering selection of some 120 photographs) the 'going' is amply rewarded (rather like a Natal railway journey).

The really exciting chapter is No. 6, 'Negotiation Politics'. The research here makes one nostalgic not so much for creaking railway rides in those wonderful NGR sleeping saloons, but for a time when one's political destiny was still within reach of local negotiation, local colour, local drama. Remember: the Natal mainline rapidly became the colony's biggest source of revenue. As Heydenrych points out, the lossmaker of the early 1880s was, by 1889, putting £535 000 into the treasury, and by 1896, over a £million (the reward, in effect, for not being complicit in the Jameson Raid.) We are reminded of the days when Cape Colony and Natal Colony were, for all their common imperial heritage, bitter rivals for Kruger's goodwill. Heydenrych takes us through some marvellous cloak-and-dagger dramas where frock-coated gentlemen meet at the opening of tunnels and smile at the 'Kodak', but are actually wrapped in intrigue with each other for very survival. (A pity we don't get to the story of the line through the Anglo-Boer War itself.)

In Chapter 8, Bruno Martin supplies a nicely-assembled survey of the actual track-expansion and the development of locomotive power. He notes for example Natal's vital role in testing and applying the Garrett locomotive. And, oh dear! — he reminds how unlikely it was that we would ever have been steam enthusiasts back in the 1920s and '30s, when the 'new line', with its succession of tunnels, was built between Durban and Cato Ridge. The arrival of Durban's first electric train, back in 1936, (the photo shows Durbanites looking like Al Capone) was a red-letter day — no more smoky corridors and smutty seats.

All in all, about a third too long to be 'a good read', but a major new step in well-cited research, and with a nice spicing of rare photographs and excellent maps to help along the non-specialist reader. ·

W. H. BIZLEY

NATAL RESEARCH JOURNALS

Professor Shula Marks, in her important review of Andrew Duminy and Bill Guest (eds), *Natal and Zululand from earliest times to 1910: a new history* (published in the *Journal of Natal and Zulu History XIII*, 1990–91), claims that it is a measure of white Natalians sense of their own identity, that this is the only province where historians have ‘attempted a single-volume synthesis of the past’. Natal is in fact a province well served by research journals as well as being the focus of regional histories. These journals cover natural history and the environment as well as human history and the social sciences.

The Natal Museum produces two high quality journals. The *Annals of the Natal Museum* has been published regularly since the establishment of the museum in 1904 and is devoted to research in the natural sciences. The 1992 volume appears in two parts and contains important papers in the fields of entomology and malacology. The *Natal Museum Journal of Humanities* first appeared in 1989 and has now reached its fourth volume. It is the publication medium for valuable research papers on archaeology, anthropology and history. Volume 4, 1992 was published in October and contains papers on stone age archaeology, the Zulu metalworking industry and the construction of Fort Napier. Important papers on Thomas Baines’s art of the Langalibalele Rebellion, Zulu beadwork, historical Zulu horn carvings and stone and iron age archaeological sites appear in earlier volumes. Enquiries can be addressed to the librarian, Natal Museum, P/Bag X 9070, Pietermaritzburg, 3200.

The *Journal of Natal and Zulu History* has made a welcome return to the bookshelves having overcome its technical problems and caught up with its publishing schedule. Vol. XIII, 1990–1991, contains a number of articles which reveal new perspectives on old themes such as the Anglo-Zulu War and the colonial garrison and others which explore new themes in twentieth century and economic history. There is also an important bibliography of early writings on the natural history of the region. Information on the journal can be obtained from the editor at the Department of History, University of Natal, King George V Avenue, Durban, 4001.

The Natal Parks Board’s journal *Lammergeyer* continues to appear and propagates the research findings of the board in relation to the province’s wildlife. The Institute of Natural Resources also produces important research papers focusing on environmental issues in the region.

The editors of *Natalia* welcome information on other research publications with a Natal focus and encourage the reading public to support them.