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Natalia

Journal of the Natal Society

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This volume is dedicated to the memory of

Colin de Berri Webb
1930–1992

Founding editor, 1971–1975

Cover Picture

Colin de Berri Webb: 1930–1992

As Vice-Principal and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Natal, 1988

(Photograph: University of Natal Archives)

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Editorial

This edition of *Natalia* marks a number of important events. Sadly, the first and foremost event is the death of *Natalia*'s founding editor, Professor Colin Webb, to whom this volume is dedicated. We publish two richly deserved tributes by Professors John Laband and Colin Gardner.

The second event, not nearly as dramatic, but certainly marking a change in eras, is the change in the editorship of our journal. Mr T.B. Frost, after eleven unbroken years in the editorial chair, stepped down at the beginning of this year, but fortunately remains on the editorial committee. As the new editor, I must pay tribute to 'Jack' Frost for his unprecedentedly long service. He has edited our journal for half its lifespan and, since relinquishing the editorship, has given much-needed, calming advice and courteous assistance to his rookie successor. Taking the editorial chair after so long and distinguished a reign, is a daunting challenge, particularly because the Natal Society, the Editorial Board and I, had all hoped that Colin Webb would reassume the editorship in his retirement. But, sadly, this was not to be. I do believe, however, that I am the first of Professor Webb's former undergraduate students to edit *Natalia*.

In addition to the tributes to Colin Webb, *Natalia* 22 offers its readers an unpublished piece, four varied articles, the usual 'Notes & Queries', reviews and obituaries of other prominent Natalians. We have not reproduced this year's Natal Society Lecture by Professor Guy Butler as it was not of specifically Natal interest.

To mark the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Dick King's ride to Grahamstown and the clash between the British and the Boers at Port Natal, we present the 'Reminiscences of Thomas Green', the brother-in-law of Dick King and a soldier of the period. 1992 has been a festival year for the South African German community and Hans-Jürgen Oschadleus provides us with a timely article on the Hermannsburg Mission Society. The Anglo-Zulu War continues to arouse readers' interest and British military historian, Ian Knight, offers an article on an intriguing sidelight to the activities of the British in Zululand, namely the acquisition of Zulu artefacts and cultural material as 'souvenirs'. Our third article, by Professor Cornelis Plug, is on the Natal Microscopical Society, a little known aspect of Victorian Natal's curiosity about the natural world. Andrew Hall's article changes the focus and is a forward-looking assessment of the position of national monuments in Natal at a time of great changes.

We note with sorrow the deaths of the Rev. Dr André de Villiers, a well known religious and educational figure; Mrs Dulcie Somers Vine, a long serving, but unsung, administrator at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg; Mr Geoffrey Sutherland, the driving force behind NAPAC's musical drama department for many years; Dr Fred Clarke, a distinguished politician and much respected member of the medical fraternity. Dr Clarke spent four

years in a coma before his family obtained an historic decision from the Supreme Court allowing his life to pass naturally to its end.

As *Natalia* was going to press, the assassination of Mr Reggie Hadebe, a prominent leader in the ANC in Natal, occurred on 27 October 1992. Earlier in the year Mr Skhumbuzo Ngwenya, another young ANC leader in the Pietermaritzburg area, was killed outside a hotel in the city. On the other side of the political divide, Inkatha families have suffered their losses, including the tragic death of young children in an ambush aimed at Inkatha leaders in Imbali. It has been a desperately sad year for Natal in which misery and violence have dimmed hope. Surely each killing is further proof that the 'Zulu nation' is not a united political entity and non-ethnic solutions have to be sought. *Natalia* does not contain any obituaries for victims of the violence this year, but we reprint the *Natal Witness's* editorial of 28 October, following the assassination of Mr Hadebe, which expresses our views better than we can at such a late stage in the *Natalia* production cycle.

In 'Notes and Queries', Moray Comrie has brought together an array of items ranging from Natal's contribution to the restoration of the bells of the cathedral in Grahamstown, to information on new museums at Hermannsburg, Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift and the restoration of King's House in Durban.

The Register of Research on Natal has been omitted as it is impossible to provide an accurate reflection of the breadth and depth of research on our province from the returns submitted by readers of *Natalia*. A list of the most recent publications on Natal is still provided, however, and many of these have been reviewed.

The Editorial Board has been strengthened by two new members. Dr David ('Dai') Herbert, a malacologist at the Natal Museum, brings the much needed expertise of a natural historian to a board dominated by plain historians and educationists, as well as his interest in bell-ringing. The conference of the South African Economic History Society in July 1992 brought many distinguished overseas academics to Pietermaritzburg and Dr Ged Martin from Edinburgh University has agreed to serve as an international editorial consultant for *Natalia* and has offered contributions to future editions.

While the political and economic situations remain bleak, there is still place for optimism and a longer perspective. In this regard, *Natalia* notes, with pleasure, several new university appointments which bode well for the future. Professor David Maughan Brown has taken Colin Webb's place as Vice-Principal and Deputy Vice-Chancellor on the Pietermaritzburg campus of the University of Natal. Professor Jeff Guy, the author of the influential work, *The Destruction of the Zulu Kingdom*, has returned to South Africa, after many years lecturing in Norway, to take a chair of history on the Durban campus of Natal University. And Professor Joy Brain, who has retired from the Chair of History at the University of Durban-Westville, has been replaced by Professor Irina Filotova, formerly of the African Studies Centre at Moscow State University. We congratulate all these academics on their appointments. In the museum field we congratulate *Natalia's* northern Natal correspondent, Mrs Sheila Henderson, on her appointment by the Administrator of Natal as Chairman of the Provincial Museums Advisory Board.

The political and economic solutions to the country's woes have to be found within the context of sound environmental policies and the Editorial Board hereby gives notice that *Natalia* 23 will focus on environmental issues pertaining to Natal.

GRAHAM DOMINY

Select List of Recent Natal Publications

[Other Natal publications are reviewed elsewhere in this journal]

- BAKER, Ken. The maritime postal history of Natal, 1824–1901. Pretoria: Postmark and Postal History Society of southern Africa, 1991. (Occasional paper, No. 11)
- CONNERTY, P.E., *et al.* Africa: four centuries of maps from the Don Africana Collection: an exhibition held in the Paper Gallery, 5 Feb. 1992 –1 March 1992. Durban: Durban Municipal Library, 1992.
- COOPER, J.A.G. Shoreline changes on the Natal coast: Tugela River mouth to Cape St. Lucia. Pietermaritzburg: Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission, 1991. (Natal town and regional planning report, Vol. 76)
- COOPER, J.A.G. Shoreline changes on the Natal coast: Mkomazi River mouth to Tugela River mouth. Pietermaritzburg: Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission, 1991. (Natal town and regional planning report, Vol. 77)
- DURBAN. *City Council. Conservation Awards Committee.* Rewarding conservation, 1986–1991. Durban: the Committee, 1992.
- ECONOMIC development of North Western Natal: proceedings of a workshop held at Talana Museum, Dundee, 25 July 1990. Pietermaritzburg: Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission, 1991 (Natal town and regional planning supplementary report, Vol. 36)
- ELLIOTT, Aubrey. Zulu: heritage of a nation. Cape Town: Struik, 1991.
- GILFILLAN, Robin. The Old Hiltonian Club centenary family album, 1892–1992. Pietermaritzburg: Old Hiltonian Club, 1991.
- LEA, J.D. Maize production in KwaZulu: a handbook for extension officers and farmers. Pietermaritzburg: University of Natal, Institute of Natural Resources, 1991.
- MCCRACKEN, Donal P. The Irish in Southern Africa, 1795–1910. Durban: University of Durban-Westville, 1992.
- MINNAAR, A. de V. Conflict and violence in Natal/KwaZulu: historical perspectives. Pretoria: Human Sciences Research Council, 1990.
- NEWMARCH, David. Tree notes from the Durban Botanic Gardens: a heritage for the subtropics. Durban: Durban Botanic Gardens, 1991.
- PATON, Anne. Some sort of job: my life with Alan Paton. London: Viking, 1992.
- POOLEY, Tony. Mashesa: the making of a game ranger. Halfway House: Southern, 1992.

- REPORT on invader plants in Natal. Pietermaritzburg: Cedara Agricultural Research Station, 1991. (Report N/A/91/19)
- SCHROEDER, Bert. Joseph Zulu. Pietermaritzburg: Shuter and Shooter, 1991. (2nd ed. 1992)
- SPENCER, Shelagh O'Byrne. British settlers in Natal: a biographical register. Vol. 6. Eagle to Fyvie. Pietermaritzburg: University of Natal Press, 1992.
- STEYN, M. *et al.* An assessment of the community-based health programme (CBHP) in KwaZulu. Pretoria: Human Sciences Research Council, 1991.

Notes on Contributors

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ROBERT CROSS is the Director of the Natal Performing Arts Council, Durban.

GRAHAM DOMINY is the Editor of *Natalia* and the historian at the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg.

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

ANDREW HALL is the Natal Regional Manager of the National Monuments Council and a graduate of the University of the Witwatersrand. He received a Fulbright Scholarship to read for an MSc in historic preservation at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, in 1988.

IAN KNIGHT is the author of *Brave men's blood: the epic of the Zulu war, 1879*, former secretary of the Victorian Military Society and a graduate of the University of Kent, Canterbury.

JOHN LABAND is an Associate Professor in the Department of Historical Studies at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg. He is the author of a number of publications, the most recent being *Kingdom in crisis*.

ANDRÉ LE ROUX is the Rector of the Edgewood College of Education, Pinetown.

HANS-JÜRGEN OSCHADLEUS is an MA student at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg.

CORNELIS PLUG is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of South Africa, Pretoria. He has published several articles on the history of South African science.

DENEYS SCHREINER is a former Vice-Principal of the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg.

TREVOR WARMAN is a former Mayor of Durban and a former Chairman of the Natal Provincial Council.