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Cover illustration

Our cover illustration, taken from *Salt on the Sails: 150 Years of the Royal Natal Yacht Club* reviewed in this issue, shows the *Armadale Castle* entering Durban harbour on 25 June 1904. It is an oil on canvas by harbour engineer and talented artist Cathcart William Methven (1849–1925) and belongs in the Nigel Hughes Collection in Johannesburg.

The painting is a tribute to the conquest of the sandbar that had plagued the development of Durban harbour for over half a century. The arrival of the *Armadale Castle* prompted the adjournment of the Natal Parliament, while 20 000 people paid her a visit.
UNDER the heading ‘A valuable recording of the history of KwaZulu-Natal’, a feature article in The Witness written by Stephen Coan and timed to coincide with Heritage Week began: ‘Anyone interested in the heritage and history of this province cannot afford to ignore the annual publication of Natalia, the journal of the Natal Society.’ It is the fostering of interest in this history and heritage which has been, and will continue to be, the raison d’être of this journal.

This issue brings Natalia to the end of its thirties; next year it will reach 40, certainly a milestone in the life of any individual, one which marks reaching middle-aged maturity and one to be celebrated or mourned according to temperament. And this journal complete its thirties with a bang: a bumper edition featuring six full articles, a short unpublished piece as well as a brief reprint, some substantial items in our Notes and Queries section as well as obituaries, book reviews and the annual list of publications relevant to KwaZulu-Natal.

Since the mid-nineties, John Deane, a member of the Natalia editorial committee, has chaired the Colenso Homestead Conservation Project which has sought to preserve what remains of Bishop John William Colenso’s homestead at Bishopstowe, to expose and exhibit the early foundations and to utilise part of the property for an appropriate community project. Just as the grand missionary vision of the first Bishop of Natal was never fully realised, so in this project the original vision of the restored building being maintained by the diocese as day-conference centre has not been realised because of changing priorities and financial realities. By the time Natalia appears, the Colenso Homestead Conservation Project will have been wound up. However, Professor Brian Kearney, the architectural consultant on the project, has written an important article recording its endeavours and achievements.

In January 2009 a one-day conference was held in Dundee to mark the 130th anniversary of the Anglo-Zulu War. We are fortunate in being able to publish two papers given on that occasion: by Dr Damian O’Connor which re-examines the causes of that conflict in the widest possible context of Imperial policy, and by Professor John Laband, no stranger to Natalia, on the war-readiness and military effectiveness of the Zulu forces engaged.
It is now 60 years since the University of Natal received its charter as a university in 1949. Next year will mark a century since the Natal University College was established. So far as we are aware, neither anniversary has been or will be marked in any way by the present authorities of the successor institution, the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Indeed, their wish would seem to airbrush the University of Natal into oblivion in much the same fashion as later Soviet historians airbrushed out of group photographs individuals no longer regarded as politically acceptable. However, the University of Natal cannot just be photoshopped away and the article ‘Stella Aurorae: establishing KwaZulu-Natal’s first university’ by Professor Bill Guest ensures that, so far as this journal is concerned (all of whose editorial committee members are alumni of the University of Natal) that will not happen.

Debbie Whelan is engaged in doctoral research on trading stores and we are pleased to be able to publish her article on what is now a bygone institution but one which played a significant part in the economic life of Zululand, while Christopher Merrett, whose recent book *Sport, Space and Recreation: politics and society in Pietermaritzburg* is reviewed in this issue, has written a Soccer World Cup 2010-inspired article on African football in Pietermaritzburg between 1920 and 1974 based on his own doctoral research.

*Natalia* has never before had a front cover illustration taken from a book reviewed therein. *Salt on the Sails: 150 years of the Royal Natal Yacht Club,* however, is far more than its title suggests and is sumptuously illustrated thanks to the remarkable generosity of Nigel Hughes in placing his extensive art collection at the disposal of the author. It would have been a pity not to have made use of one or other of the beautiful paintings thus available, many of them by Cathcart William Methven. Hence the *Armadale Castle* crossing the harbour bar.

*Natalia* 34 was edited by Mark Steele before his increasing involvement in local government required him to relinquish the editorial chair. He has continued on the editorial committee and after the 2009 General Election was made a Member of Parliament, a move which has meant that we see even less of him than formerly. We have been joined, however, by Elwyn Jenkins and Peter Croeser. The latter is chairman of the Natal Society Foundation which funds the publication of *Natalia.* He is also the driving force behind plans to give *Natalia* a presence on the Internet, a development which we hope will, in due course, bring the journal to a much wider readership.

JACK FROST
Select List of Recent KwaZulu-Natal Publications


GRANT, Wayne. *Into the thorns; hunting the cattle killing leopard of the Matobo Hills*. The Author, 2009. Available at nyalavalley@mweb.co.za


SAMUEL, Rani. *Living stones: psychological and spiritual insights to inspire, renew and heal your life*.


SELLEY, Ron. *West of the moon: early Zululand and a game ranger at war in Rhodesia*. Cape Town?: 30 Degrees South, 2009. 284 p. illus., maps. R250,00


The assistance of Colleen Cook of Cascades Bookshop, Pietermaritzburg, and Linda McCullough and Mrs Hansman of Exclusive Books, Westville, in compiling this list is gratefully acknowledged.

SHELAGH SPENCER
Notes on Contributors

W.R. (BILL) GUEST, former Professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and author/co-editor of numerous publications on the History of Natal and Zululand, is now Professor Emeritus and Senior Research Associate in Historical Studies at that institution.

BRIAN KEARNEY is Professor Emeritus of Architecture of the University of Natal and an architectural historian.

JOHN LABAND, a former professor in the Department of History at the University of Natal, is now employed in Canada as a professor of History at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. His latest book is *Historical Dictionary of the Zulu Wars* (The Scarecrow Press) that appeared in 2009.

CHRISTOPHER MERRETT is a former librarian and administrator on the Pietermaritzburg campus of the University of Natal and now Letters Editor at *The Witness*.

DAMIAN O’CONNOR is a teacher who gained his doctorate from the University of East Anglia, UK, in 2006. He has contributed regularly to the Journal of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies and is the author of *The Zulu and the Raj: The Life of Sir Bartle Frere*. In 2008 he was awarded the Mangosuthu Buthelezi Medal for Services to the Zulu People. His main areas of interest are British Imperial Defence and Southern Africa.

DEBBIE WHELAN is a research fellow of the University of South Africa Department of Archaeology and Anthropology and a PhD candidate in the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.