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NATALIA

Natalia is published annually in Pietermaritzburg by the Natal Society Foundation. The journal publishes articles on the history (in the broadest sense) of KwaZulu-Natal.

The first editor of *Natalia* was historian and Deputy Vice Chancellor at the University of Natal, Professor Colin Webb.

The present editor, T.B. “Jack” Frost, has edited the journal for more than 15 years. The *Natalia* Editorial Review Committee includes established historians and writers who have published a wide variety of books, papers and articles on the history, languages, cultural traditions, buildings, geography, natural history and environmental conservation of the Province.

Submission of articles for *Natalia*: *Natalia* is a fully refereed, printed journal dedicated to publishing contributions relating to the history of KwaZulu-Natal. The journal is published annually in December each year. Submissions of original manuscripts are invited and should be sent by e-mail to the editor at jack.frost@futurenet.co.za from whom the *Natalia* style-guide document can be requested. The annual deadline for manuscripts to be considered for publication in that year is the end of May. Articles may be submitted as e-mail attachments to the editor in MSWord or Rich Text Format. Factors affecting final publication include the quality of the manuscript, the associated peer review process, and the number of manuscripts which have already been accepted.

Subscriptions: Printed copies of *Natalia* are available as are back numbers of most volumes. Please contact the NSF Administrator, Peter Croeser (khehla.publishers@gmail.com), regarding orders or more information.

Access to digitised back-issues of *Natalia*: Free access to the digitised contents of all published *Natalia* volumes is available in PDF format from the Foundation’s internet web-site (given below).

THE NATAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

Founded in Pietermaritzburg in 1851, The Natal Society has served the scientific and literary interests of the community of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, since its inception. It founded the Natal Museum (now a state-supported national institution) and the Natal Society Library which became the largest privately-owned public library system in the country (until transferred to the city’s Msunduzi Municipality in 2004).

Today the Natal Society Foundation, a registered Non-profit Organisation, continues the original aims of the Society in “the general encouragement of habits of study, investigation and research” by publishing *Natalia*, maintaining a specialist Victoriana and Africana research library, and providing funding to support scholarship, research and publications.

Further information on the Natal Society Foundation can be found at its web-site: www.natalia.org.za

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This photograph was taken on 12 June, 2009 by Angela Hough, a psychologist working at the Rob Smetherham Bereavement Services for Children, whose offices in Gallwey Lane overlooked the Colonial Building.

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Editorial

NOBODY will ever be able to accuse *Natalia* 42 of suffering from anorexia. We offer no fewer than seven different articles contributed by authors as far apart geographically as Cape Town and New Delhi and covering topics ranging from Mahatma Gandhi's interaction with African leaders during his years in South Africa to gun accidents in the early days of the Colony of Natal, and from the 1960 University of Natal Jubilee marking 50 years of tertiary education in this province to the so-called beer hall riots in Sobantu which had taken place the previous year. Articles on early pioneers of the sugar industry at Isipingo, the light-hearted verse written by artist Barbara Tyrrell about her travels in her caravan, and the recently restored Colonial Building in Pietermaritzburg and its architect complete our offering. And it is from the illustrations submitted with the latter that we have chosen our dramatic front cover picture showing the building going up in flames during the course of that restoration.

We also carry more obituaries than previously, ranging from a former Robben Islander to a former Administrator of Natal. The question of whom to eulogise and whom to leave out has long been a vexed issue and a topic of debate at *Natalia* editorial committee meetings. We cannot pretend that our selection is anything other than arbitrary and idiosyncratic. Next year we propose to follow the system adopted by some overseas newspapers: reducing the number of full obituaries while at the same time noting the passing of more people in a summarised "other lives" section. However, the selection of who is placed in which category is also likely to prove arbitrary and idiosyncratic.

In certain previous issues of *Natalia*, the Notes and Queries section has been somewhat thin. Not this year. We have some substantial items on the centenary of the Voortrekker/Msunduzi Museum, the Msimang brothers of Edendale who played a significant role in the early ANC, two culinary items dealing with the mysteries of nastergalkonfyt and bunny chow, while two members of the editorial committee have been in reminiscent mood about their experiences of "Singing" in primary school.

What we do not carry this year, for the first time since the journal first appeared in 1971, is either a reprint of a rare document or a previously unpublished piece. Various possibilities were considered by the editorial committee, but were rejected for a variety of reasons.

Natalia must surely be unique in running almost completely on altruism. Our many contributors do not receive a cent; the Editor and his committee spend many hours on the journal without any financial reward; the entire *Natalia* corpus is available on the Internet without charge. The only costs involved in the production of the journal are those for layout, printing and publishing on the Internet. These are met by the Natal Society Foundation, and the cover price of an individual copy is set at a highly subsidised rate. In a publishing world too often ruled by crass commercialism, it is a salutary reminder that the dissemination of knowledge is an activity which is inherently valuable and worthwhile.

Finally, two items of personalia. Bill Bizley has been both a member of the *Natalia* editorial committee for many years and a valued contributor of interesting articles. Unhappily, his contribution to *Natalia* 42 has been severely restricted by neurological problems. We wish him well. Pat McKenzie, after retiring as deputy director of the former Natal Society Library, took over as secretary to the Natal Society Foundation, and also as minutes' secretary for the *Natalia* editorial committee. Ill health at the end of last year precipitated his sudden resignation on doctor's orders, and he has subsequently relocated to Durban. His long and faithful service must be recorded with gratitude.

JACK FROST