

Natalia
Journal of the
Natal Society Foundation

No. 45 (December 2015)



Published by the Natal Society Foundation Trust
P.O. Box 11093, Dorpspruit 3206, South Africa

SA ISSN 0085-3674

Cover illustration

This picture was taken by the Editor (then a student at the University of Natal) in 1957 from the side of the Durban road which, in those days, ran right past the little church built during the war years by Italian POWs in their camp. There was a spectacular sunset and he had his camera, complete with red filter, with him to record it. At that time the church stood completely isolated and in a state of dilapidation, a place used by tramps to overnight in when on their way to Durban.

ERRATA

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Book Reviews

p. 99. Paragraph 3 should begin with the following three sentences which introduce the quotation which follows:

Healy-Clancy's research is essentially a sociological study conducted within the perspective of a gendered and neo-Marxist paradigm. The terminology which accompanies this method makes for difficult reading. Consider, for example, the following extract from her substantial introduction:

This book explains the development of African women's schooling

Captions

p.21. The picture is not of Sydney Powell but of his father, William Powell, architect of the Colonial Building in Pietermaritzburg.

p.74. The pencil sketch of William Pearson is incorrectly attributed to Rabindranath Tagore. It is actually by Abanindranath Tagore, the nephew of Rabindranath.

Page design by M.J. Marwick
Printed by CPW Printers
Pietermaritzburg

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Editorial

DURING the course of the year the Editor received the following gratifying message from a reader: “Congratulations to the *Natalia* team for an annual treat. The stamina and broad wisdom of the journal puts many more self-important competitors to shame.”

This issue is numbered *Natalia* 45 although, in fact, it is only our forty-third production because on two occasions the journal did not come out and so, when it did appear, covered the material gathered over two years. The “stamina” of the journal is thanks to the stability of its editorial committee and the long years its members have served. The names of three of the present committee, the present Editor, John Deane and Bill Guest, first appear 37 years ago, in *Natalia* 8 of 1978.

Natalia's durability is also due to the fact that, unlike other publications, it has never had a problem with funding. Until the Natal Society handed over the running of the library to the Msunduzi Municipality (when it was renamed the Bessie Head Library), *Natalia* was paid for by the Natal Society. Since then the Natal Society Foundation has covered its costs. And throughout its history this has always been without query or quibble.

For its “broad wisdom”, the journal obviously relies on that of its contributors and the quality of their offerings. And it is important to note that, unlike some other journals which enjoy the recognition and financial rewards of academic officialdom, publication in *Natalia*, whether of articles, reviews, notes or obituaries, carries no pecuniary reward whatsoever. The sole costs incurred in bringing out the journal are those of layout and printing. It's a triumph of public-spirited volunteerism. And this altruistic spirit seems particularly vibrant at the moment. With *Natalia* 45 still on the stocks, the editor has already had offers of no fewer than five articles for *Natalia* 46.

Regular readers of the journal will recognise the name of Professor Adrian Koopman as a frequent contributor as well as a member of the editorial committee. This year he suggested a new feature, a look at life 100 years ago. More than that, he spent considerable time in the Bessie Head Library looking through the

newspapers of 1915 and from this treasure trove has teased out two threads: the War, and transport. We hope that readers find the new venture interesting and enlightening. He has also contributed an article more specific to one of his several fields of interest: the terms used by Zulus for crossing the many rivers which are so prominent a feature of the topography of Natal and Zululand.

Our reprint slot this year breaks new ground in featuring extracts from a novel. A rare children's book by Nellie Fincher published in 1910 graphically pictured the lives of girls on a farm in the Midlands of this province. It was tracked down by Professor Elwyn Jenkins, an authority on children's literature, and we are grateful to him for his editorial work in preparing this article.

The doctoral research by Duncan du Bois into the colonial South Coast has already yielded three articles in previous issues of *Natalia*. This year we publish a fourth: a Sketch of colonial Umkomaas. The book of his doctoral thesis, *Sugar and Settlers: A history of the Natal South Coast, 1850–1910*, has just appeared.

Townscapes have long been an academic interest of Rob Haswell. He contributed articles to *Natalias* 10, 13 and 15 on the Voortrekker dorps of Natal, Pietermaritzburg's oldest houses and Indian townscape features in the city. Nearly 30 years later, he picks up his pen again to consider how the townscape of Pietermaritzburg might best be transformed. He has also written the obituary of his late wife, Penny Haswell.

Alleyn Diesel is also someone who has published before in *Natalia*, articles on Hindu firewalking in Natal in *Natalia* 21 and on Hinduism in Natal in our 23/24 issue. This year she examines Pietermaritzburg's Tamil heritage.

Besides articles, a substantial part of the journal, as usual, is devoted to Notes and Queries, Obituaries, Book Reviews (more than usual this year) and the Select List of new publications.

We hope that our annual publication will continue to prove of value and interest, not only to local readers but now world-wide thanks to its presence on the Internet.

JACK FROST