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Editorial

A small but valuable publication from the University of Natal, Durban, appeared in mid-year. Entitled *A Guide to Unofficial Sources Relating to the History of Natal** it originated from a research project initiated by the Department of History and Political Science and was supervised by Prof. K. H. C. McIntyre, head of the Department. Sadly, it is the last publication with which his name will be associated as he died earlier this year. Dr. A. H. Duminy of the Department and two full-time research officers played a big part in collecting and collating the material and seeing it through the press. The method of collecting the information was an interesting one: a circular letter was sent out to Natal historians, students, writers, representatives of settler families, libraries, institutions, etc., and appeals were also made through the medium of the press, not only to the big-circulation newspapers but to smaller town and country weeklies. From the response to the circular the History Department was able by means of its research officers to collect up-to-date information on unofficial sources of Natal material, including diaries, letters, documents, photographs, and facts supplied by word of mouth. And it is amazing what turned up among even the big names—the Acutts, Catos, Methleys, Campbells, Birds, etc.—and from other sources believed to have been exhausted by previous researchers. It reminds one of the method used by Cory in the Eastern Province to collect 1820 settler information. With a pack on his back and a notebook in his hand, he trudged from farmhouse to farmhouse to ask questions of descendants and other people.

The fact is, that much historical information concerning Natal is still held by relatives and descendants in various corners of the province. Proof of this is the success of the Federation of Women's Institutes in producing their series of 'Area Annals' in which they publish unknown photographs and particulars about early settlers in each district. Many of these people know the value of the material and preserve it in trunks and steel boxes. Occasionally they take it out to acquaint their children with its importance to their family's history. But there are other people, perhaps the majority, for whom the material is so much waste paper occupying valuable space or collecting dust and fishmoths. Some of it is stored in outhouses, sheds, or garages where white ants, rats, and the damp do their worst. In the dry moistureless deserts of the Middle East it was possible for ancient scrolls to be preserved naturally for ten centuries but it is not so in the climate of Southern Africa. Inside 60 years Natal books can deteriorate to a perishable condition with buckled cases, heavy foxing, broken spines, borer, and — worst of all — damage by white ants. In my own possession is a scarce pamphlet by Bishop J. W. Colenso written as an open letter in 1861 to the Archbishop of Canterbury on the subject of polygamy among the Zulus. Stowed away in a wooden box in an outhed it has been reduced by a quarter of its size from the spine inwards by a colony of white ants working on a broad front. The book is now valueless except as a record

that the Bishop once produced it in pamphlet form. The culprit in this sad affair was an uncaring old man, the last of his family.

Other dreadful things have happened in the past. There is the story of Harry Escombe whose sudden death on the 27th December 1899 dismayed the people of Natal. Apparently his extensive collection of documents which had accumulated over 30 years of a crowded political career was stored for many years after his death in a Durban house and then destroyed. The bonfire took place in the garden and lasted three days. In that fire there must have perished much of the inside story of Escombe's fight to remove the sand bar and develop the harbour of Durban.

Another story concerns the court interpreter and expert on Zulu culture, Carl Faye, who died many years ago at his remote home in the Wilgefontein area of Pietermaritzburg. The house, slowly disintegrating with birds flying in and out of the empty windows, had been emptied of its contents except that in an open shed there lay exposed to the weather a mouldering mass of his papers, mostly dealing with native law and administration. Deep down in the pile was a letter written from Government House by Sir George Pomeroy Colley during his term as governor of Natal (1880-1) in succession to Sir Garnet Wolseley.

Even more vulnerable in their sensitivity to sunlight, fluorescent lighting, chemical deterioration, and careless handling are photographs. Probably the best place to keep them is in an album as Victorian people did with the admirable little pictures known as *cartes-de-visite*. There, safe from light and handling, many of them have been preserved in good condition to this day. Modern photographs, however, are too hastily processed and do not have the same 'keeping' qualities as the old ones. They will need careful watching. A drawback with all photographs is the absence of a caption or other identification of the person or place. Everyone has seen albums of the 1870s full of photographs of beautiful girls and handsome young men, but — regrettably — all are unnamed. They were known to their family and therefore no written identification was felt to be necessary. So thousands of pictures of that period have no value to historians except those specialists who study costume.

The purpose of these remarks is, of course, to encourage people to preserve historical material whether it be books, documents, letters, diaries, pictures, photographs or other items. South Africans, deeply attached though they are to furniture, china, silver, and other antiques, have still to develop a liking for historical documents. As yet, progress is slow — but it may come in time.

JOHN CLARK

* Durban, University of Natal, Department of History and Political Science, 1977. Research Monograph No. 4.

Register of Research on Natal

The following does not pretend to be complete. It has been compiled from the Human Sciences Research Council *Research Bulletin* and from individual submissions.

It is a supplementary list to the 'Register' published in *Natalia* 6. Persons knowing of research work that has not been listed are asked to furnish information for inclusion in the next issue. For this purpose a slip is provided.

ANTHROPOLOGY

- 'n Onderzoek na ontwikkelingsprosesse en probleme by die Xolo van Suid-Natal A. O. Jackson

ARCHITECTURE

- The Development of the architecture of the Natal railways between Durban and Pietermaritzburg P. J. J. Jones

BANTU LANGUAGES

- A Linguistic and instrumental investigation of the tonemic system, tonal morphology and intonation in the KwaZulu dialect of Zulu J. S. M. Khumalo

- A Study of the structure of Zulu folktales, with special reference to the Stuart collection M. J. Oosthuizen
 Die verwerking van nuwe begrippe in Zulu P. M. S. von Staden
 Die Zoeloe-predikaat en enkele verskynsels wat daarmee saamhang C. S. van Rooyen

BIOGRAPHY

- Colonel A. W. Durnford R. W. F. Droogleever
 The Life and letters of Frances Ellen Colenso (1849-1887) Mrs. P. L. Merrett
 Rev. James Scott, missionary — Impolweni Mission 1877-1910 Rev. C. S. Shaw
 Dr Killie Campbell Norman Herd

BOTANY

- The Grasses of Natal P. C. V. du Toit
 A Morphological-taxonomical revision of the genus *Pentaschistis* P. C. V. du Toit

BUSINESS ECONOMICS

- A Comparative study of the productivity attainments in the men's and boys' clothing industry in the Durban-Pinetown area P. N. Palmer
 An Investigation into management development in the clothing industry in the Durban-Pinetown area P. S. Nel

An Investigation into the planning, execution and evaluation of management development in the textile industry in the Durban-Pinetown area

P. S. Nel

'n Onderzoek na die bestaansreg van bepaalde soorte kleinhandelsake in Umlazi, Natal

P. G. Marais

A Socio-economic survey of Indian squatters in the Mariannhill area

J. J. C. Greyling and
W. W. Anderson

ECONOMICS

Labour problems in the sugar industry of Natal and Mauritius, 1793 to 1860

M. D. North-Coombes

EDUCATION

An Investigation into the extent which certain psychological and sociological factors influence academic achievement among first-year students in the faculty of Education at the University of Durban-Westville

P. K. Gouden

An Investigation into the social and cultural aspects of the home background of two markedly different socio-economic groups of Indian primary school pupils in the Durban area and its implications for education

S. A. Naicker

The Prognostic value of the Standard Five examination for placement of pupils in academic and practical classes in a selected group of Indian high schools in Durban

M. Naidoo

Relative independence for colleges of education with special reference to Natal—an historico-comparative study and evaluation

A. L. le Roux

Resource-based learning and its implementation through the resources centre concept in South African education institutions, with special reference to Natal

D. Walker

The Role of the school library in the teaching of history in Durban schools in Natal

S. Natalie

The School principal's executive role under the Natal Education Department

R. G. Adams

FAMILY HISTORY

Family history of Natal Archibald family for five generations

Dr. R. E. Gordon

GEOGRAPHY

'n Bepaling van die buiteligontspannings-potensiaal van die Natalse Drakensberge

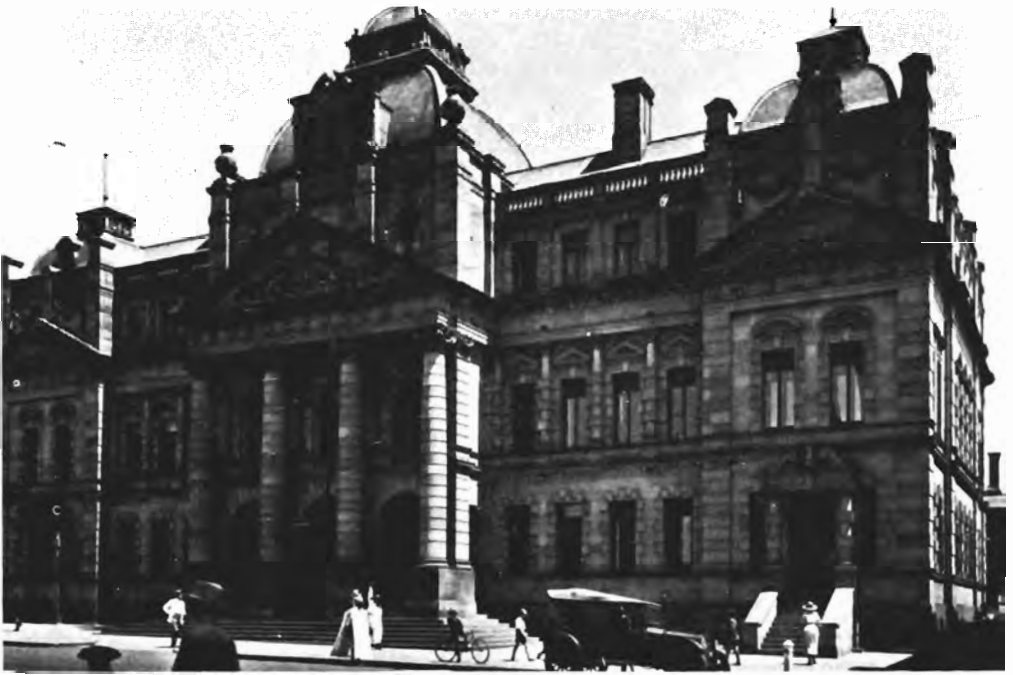
J. M. van der
Westhuizen

Die Invloed van litologie en gebiedsgradiënt op die ontwikkeling van dreineercome in die omgewing van Durban

J. Cooks

Woonbuurtdifferensiasie in Port Shepstone

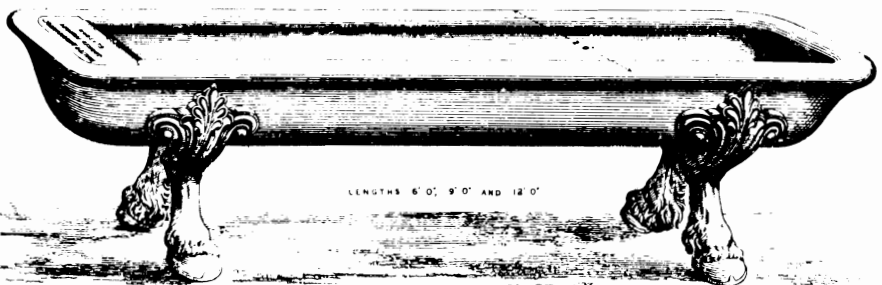
A. van der Merwe



The Legislative Council or Colonial Office buildings, now the Deeds Office, Church Street, Pietermaritzburg, 1898: 'Has none of the elegance of the earlier Parliamentary buildings ...'



Maritzburg College, 1885: 'By no means a good example of Dudgeon's work ...'



Cast-iron water trough: from MacFarlane's Catalogue. 'Complete with hooved legs.'



Natal Museum, Loop Street, Pietermaritzburg, 1905: 'This particularly hideous building in the Flemish style ...'



D.R.C. Church, Dundee, 1900: 'An entity held together by marked quoinings and the deep recesses of the fenestration ...'

HEBREW STUDIES

A History of the Jews of Durban, 1825-1918 S. G. Cohen

HISTORY

The Administration of Lieutenant-Governor
Sir Henry Bulwer in Natal (1875-1885) B. Naidoo

Alexander Harvey Biggar Mrs. Sheila Henderson

The Cato Manor riots, 1959-1960 L. K. Ladlau

E. G. Jansen se rol in die kulturele ontwaking
van die Natalse Afrikaner P. J. J. Prinsloo

Fort Mcupe and Fort Mistake Mrs. Sheila Henderson

Fort Pine Mrs. Sheila Henderson

General Louis Botha's second expedition to
Natal during the Anglo-Boer War, Septem-
ber-October, 1901 D. M. Moore

Historical graves J. A. C. Uys

The History of Mid-Illovo — a study of the
development of a rural community in
colonial Natal A. E. Gonlag

An Iconographic study of the paintings of the
Zulu War, together with an assessment of
their reliability as historical documents Mrs. J. A. Verbeek

The Ingwayuma magistracy, 1895-1910 R. W. F. Droogleeever

The Natal Nguni, 1893-1910 J. Lambert

Organised labour in Natal, 1918-1924 B. L. Reid

Place names in relation to the histories of the
settlers N. T. Hunt

Die Vestiging van Blankes in Zoeloeland van
1897 af tot 1936 W. van der Merwe

The Village of Helpmekaar Mrs. Sheila Henderson

MAPS

Old maps and charts of Durban with particular
reference to the Old Fort, Fort Victoria and
Smith's Camp S. Evans

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political attitudes of Africans in Umlazi and
KwaMashu Townships in Durban P. Zulu

TOWN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Plant ecological study of the vegetation of the
Durban metropolitan area B. Cawood

Research project to determine the hydrological
potential of the Drakensberg R. E. Schulze

Research project to determine the scenic pre-
ferences of the Natal Drakensberg J. Pickels

Compiled by J. FARRER

Select List of Recent Natal Publications

- AKHURST, J., *and others*. *Compilers*. A Field guide and worksheet to the Umgeni valley. Durban, Natal branch of the Wildlife Society, 1976.
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- BAILEY, Harold. Pietermaritzburg — and the Natal midlands; pen and ink drawings . . . (Vol. 2). (Pietermaritzburg), the Author, 1976.
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Twenty years after the appearance of the first edition, the Lovedale Press published a second edition with additional material, including some outstanding photographs. It is this rare second edition, long out of print and now a classic work of Africana, that is reprinted in this new edition. Its interest for the general reader and its usefulness for the researcher are enhanced by the biographical introduction and notes by Dr. Christopher Saunders.

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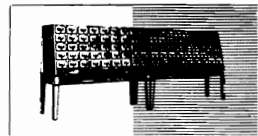
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