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# *Natalia*

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*Cover illustration*

**The Fabian Window at Beatrice Webb House, Leith Hill, Surrey**

The large figures are, left to right, Edward Pease, Sidney Webb and George Bernard Shaw. The kneeling figures, members of the Fabian Executive Committee, are, left to right, H.G. Wells, Charles Charrington, Aylmer Maude, G. Sterling Taylor, Lawson Dodd, Mrs Pember Reeves, Mary Hankinson, Miss Mabel Atkinson, Mrs Boyd Dawson and Caroline Townshend. The books represent Shaw's plays and Fabian publications. The window was commissioned by Shaw in 1910. The photograph originates from the late John Parker, former Secretary of the Fabian Society and a British MP. The link with Natal is through Mabel Atkinson who, as Mabel Palmer, lived in Durban from 1921 until her death in 1958, and through Bernard Shaw who visited Natal in 1935. In 1979 John Parker wrote, 'Miss Atkinson appears as one of the figures in the famous stained glass window designed by Bernard Shaw & carried out by Caroline Townshend about 1910. It showed the world being forged by Shaw & Webb & fired by Pease (The Sec. Fab.Soc.) with the motto "Remould it nearer to the Heart's desire" & the Fabian coat of arms as a wolf in sheep's clothing. Members of the E.C. kneel below ... led by H.G. Wells, cocking a snook at Shaw & Webb.... Unfortunately the window has recently been stolen from Beatrice Webb House near Dorking (a conference house). Interpol seek it.' (John Parker, House of Commons to Sylvia Vietzen, 15 February 1979.)

## *Editorial*

WITH this issue *Natalia* is approaching the end of its fourth decade of publication. It has been generously funded throughout by the Natal Society Foundation, but that covers only the costs of production. Beyond that nobody, neither contributors nor members of the editorial committee, is or has ever been in it for material gain, CVs or anything else. We have tried to maintain a quality journal for the sheer appreciation of what is valuable, good and precious in our KwaZulu-Natal heritage. Such altruistic endeavour must be rare in an increasingly materialistic age.

Our unpublished piece/reprint slot this year is filled by a reprint of an account by Eliza Whigham Feilden (originally published in 1887) of a great flood of 1856 which inflicted huge damage on pioneer settlers along the Umgeni River. A feature of this year's issue is the amount of material contributed by members of the editorial board. Of this, Dr Sylvia Vietzen has provided a scholarly article on the visit of the Irish man of letters and playwright George Bernard Shaw and his wife to Natal in 1935, while Dr Bill Bizley in his article 'A Horse, A Singer and A Prince — two busy months in the life of Pietermaritzburg' has focused on the year 1925 and copies of the newspapers of the day to provide an intriguing insight into topics which commanded public interest. The other two articles come from Dr Kalpana Hiralal and Dr Paul Thompson on Indian Merchant Families of Natal and Bhambatha's Family Tree respectively. Other contributions from the editorial committee are Professor Adrian Koopman's substantial note which takes a quirky look at 19th century by-laws, further notes provided by board members John Deane, Shelagh Spencer and Pat McKenzie, and four obituaries written by the editor.

Of these deaths recorded, perhaps the greatest loss to *Natalia* was the death of Michael Daly, for many years a member and chairman of the Natal Society Council and latterly the chairman of the Natal Society Foundation. He was the journal's most ardent supporter and his passing is a sad blow. Mobbs Moberly, too, had a long association with *Natalia* as a former member of the editorial committee and compiler of the Notes and Queries section. Professor Colin Gardner has contributed a fine obituary on Professor Denys Schreiner, a former vice-principal of the Pietermaritzburg campus of the University of Natal and a pillar of liberalism in this province.

We regret the absence of a review of Jeff Guy's latest book, but the reviewer (in the United States) who had undertaken the task let us down after keeping us on a string for over a year. Other overseas writers proved more reliable. The distinguished historian Shula Marks has kind things to say about Julie Parle's unusual study of mental illness in Natal while John Laband reviews the new translation from the French of the Anglo-Zulu War observations of the French journalist Paul Deléage. We trust our readers will find such book reviews and the listing of new publications, a task undertaken meticulously every year by Shelagh Spencer, of interest.

JACK FROST

# *Select List of Recent KwaZulu-Natal Publications*

- BHENGU, Nozipho Precious. *Against the wall*. Nasou Via Africa, 2008. 72 pp. R60,00
- BIGGS, Tim. *Three rivers of the Amazon*. Pietermaritzburg: The author, 2007. 298 pp. illus., maps. ISBN: 978-0-620-39815-2. R354,00
- BLACKBURN-WRIGHT, Sandy. *Holding up the sky: an African life*. Millers Point (NSW): Murdoch Books, 2008. 518 pp. illus. ISBN: 9781921208232. R199,00
- COAN, Stephen. *Chant of the doves*. Kloof: Leopard Press, 2008. unpaginated, illus. ISBN: 978-1-920082-03. R82,00. A book of poetry.
- COURT, Peter. *Hear the ringdove call*. Reach Publishers, 2008. ISBN: 978-1920084769. R152,00. A novel.
- CRESSWELL, Evelyn. *Keeping the hours on the frontiers of faith*. Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publications, 2007. 150 pp. illus. ISBN: 978-18750-53-674
- DENNISON, Clive. *A brief history of the Wild Coast*. Howick: Brevitas, 2008.
- DESAI, Ashwin and VAHED, Goolam. *Inside indenture: a South African story, 1860–1914*. Durban: Madiba Publishers, 2007. 480 pp. illus. ISBN: 1-874945-23-3. R204,00
- DORNING, Denise N. *Chimneys in the clouds: an overview of the historic buildings in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands (1845–1925)*. 2nd edition. Pietermaritzburg: the Author, 2007. 123 pp. illus., map.
- ECKSTEIN, Brenda. *ABCs of effective networking: 52 ways of achieving success*. Pietermaritzburg: The author, 2008.
- FREUND, Bill. *The African city: a history*. Cambridge: University Press, 2007. 214 pp. illus., maps. (New approaches to African history). ISBN: 978-0-521-572972-7. R274,00
- GOVENDER, Ronnie. *In the manure: memoirs and reflections*. Cape Town: David Philip, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-86486-209. R166,00
- GOVENDER, Ronnie. *Song of the Atman*. Johannesburg: Jacana, 2007. ISBN: 978-177009-863. R138,00
- GOVENDER, Rubendra. *Sugar cane boy*. Durban: Bambata Publishing, 2008. 129 pp. ISBN: 1-920135-87-1

- GOVINDEN, Devarakshanam Betty. *A time of memory: reflections on recent South African writings*. ?Durban: 2008.
- GREEN, Michael Cawood. *For the sake of silence*. Roggebaai (Cape Town): Umuzi, 2008. ISBN: 978-1-4152-00452. R254,00. An historical novel about the Mariannhill Trappists.
- GUTHRIE, Iain. *Free bounds*. Balgowan: Michaelhouse, 2007. 136 pp. illus., maps. R299,55. Sold in aid of Michaelhouse Oribi Reserve.
- HONE, John. *Encounters with the Dragon: a photographer's passion for the Drakensberg*. Durban: Art Publishers, 2007. 277 pp. illus., maps. R425,00
- HUNTLY, Jeff. *Veld sketchbook: wildlife portraits and essays*. Roggebaai (Cape Town): Sunbird, 2008. 192 pp. illus. ISBN: 978-1-9919938-71-4. R224,00
- INGLIS, Robert and BEUKES, Leonore, eds. *The Maloti Drakensberg experience*. Jive Media, 2007. ISBN: 978-0620381482. R148,00
- KHUMALO, Sihle. *Dark Continent my black arse*. Johannesburg: Random House, 2008. ISBN: 978-1415200360. R133,00
- KYD, Hamish. *Charlie*. ?Durban: Storyland, 2008. ISBN: 978-0140272239. R92,00
- LEE, Sumayya. *The story of Maha*. ISBN: 978-0795702467. R154,00
- McNULTY, Bridget. *Strange nervous laughter*. 2007. ISBN: 978-1770200623. R123,00
- MANJOO, Shantee. *Classrooms in the shade*. Sunnyside (Johannesburg): STE Publishers, 2008. 300 pp. illus. ISBN: 1-919855-67X. R149,00
- MARTIN, Julia. *A millimetre of dust: visiting ancestral sites*. Kwela Books, 2008.
- MNGADI, Mzi. *Sobantu village*. Pietermaritzburg: Nutrend Books, 2008. 27 pp. illus. ISBN: 978-1-920244-99-6. R32,00
- NAIDOO, Phyllis. *Footprints beyond Grey Street*.
- NTSHINGILA, Futhi. *Shameless*. Pietermaritzburg: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, 2008. 108 pp. ISBN: 978-1-86914-143-1. R95,00
- NYEMBEZI, Sibusiso. *The rich man of Pietermaritzburg*; translated from the Zulu by Sandile Ngidi. Laverstock (Wiltshire): Aflame Books, 2008. 200 pp. ISBN: 978-0955233999. R113,00
- O'MARA, Bree. *Home affairs*. 30 Degrees South, 2008. ISBN: 978-1920143190. R138,00. A novel.
- PARKER, J.W. *Just now, now, now*. Durban, Just Done Productions, 2008.
- PATON, Alan. *The hero of Currie Road: complete short stories*. Roggebaai (Cape Town): Umuzi, 2008. 175 pp. ISBN: 978-1-4152-0050-6. R140,00
- PATTMAN, Rob and KHAN, Sultan, eds. *Undressing Durban*. ?Durban: Madiba Publishers, 2007. 499 pp. illus. R220,00
- POOLEY, Elsa. *Trees of eastern South Africa*. Revised edition of the 1993 work.
- POWER, Michael St George. *Shadow game*. Johannesburg: Penguin, 2008. (Penguin Modern Classics). ISBN: 978-0143-18556-7.
- RAGAVALOO, Andrew. *Richmond: living in the shadow of death*. STE Publishers, 2008. ISBN: 978-1919855820. R135,00
- RABIE, Sue. *Boston snowstorm*. Cape Town: Human & Rousseau, 2008. A novel.
- RINGDAHL, Bridget. *Blonde on a bike in India, South East Asia, South West China and Tibet*. Noordhoek (Cape Town): Print Matters, 2007. 129 pp. illus., maps. ISBN: 978-0620-36331-0. R174,00

- RINGDAHL, Bridget. *Blonde on a bike in South America*. Noordhoek (Cape Town): Print Matters, 2007. 163 pp. illus., maps. ISBN: 978-09802620922. R199,00
- SCHEFERMANN, Vernon. *A German settler saga: a Schäfermann story*. Vryheid, the Author, 2005. 42 pp. illus., diags.
- SCHÜTTE, Richard. *150 years of the Volker family in South Africa: a special anniversary souvenir of 15 June 2008*. Priv. print, 2008. 24 pp. illus.
- STEWART, Dianne, ed. *Durban in a word*. Penguin, 2008. ISBN: 978-0143-025504
- TOMASELLI, Keyan G. *Encountering modernity: twentieth century South African cinemas*. ?Pretoria: Rozenberg-UNISA Press, 2007.
- VON FINTEL, Eckhard. *Die Nachkommen von Friedrich Küsel und Johanna Schröder: die Geschichte eines Missionskolonisten und seine Nachkommen, 1858–2008*. Pietermaritzburg: The Küsel family, 2008. 576 pp. illus., map. ISBN: 978-0-620-40350-4. R300,00
- VON FINTEL, Eckhard. *Die Nachkommen von Johann Heinrich Jakob Filter 1824–2008: die Geschichte einer Pionierfamilie in Nordnatal*. Pietermaritzburg: Filter family, 2008. 462 pp. ISBN: 978-0620-41725-9
- WHITESIDE, Alan. *HIV/Aids: a very short introduction*.
- WINTER, Martin. *A resumé of the life and times of Henry Daniel Winter, his forebears and descendants*. Estcourt: The author, 2007. 73 pp. illus. R174, 00
- ZULU, Musa E. *Wheels on the souls of my shoes*. Pietermaritzburg: Nutrend Books, 2008.

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SHELAGH SPENCER



## *Notes on Contributors*

DR SYLVIA VIETZEN is a former principal of Girls' High School in Pietermaritzburg who has been researching the life of Mabel Palmer.

DR KALPANA HIRALAL is a lecturer in Historical Studies on the Howard College campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

DR BILL BIZLEY retired as senior lecturer in the Department of English on the Pietermaritzburg campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

DR PAUL THOMPSON retired as associate professor of Historical Studies on the Pietermaritzburg campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal.