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## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EDITORIAL</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARTICLE</strong> A Rare Piece of Africana — S. P. M. Spencer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REPRINT</strong> First Impressions of Natal by a Perthshire Ploughman (Thomas Duff)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARTICLE</strong> All aboard for Howick! — W. H. Bizley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARTICLE</strong> The Embossed postage stamps of Natal, 1857-69 — E. C. Wright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARTICLE</strong> Portrait of my friend Magqubu Ntombela — Ian Player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARTICLE</strong> The Incident of the <em>Brazilia</em> and the Rev. Pieter Ham — Gordon W. Haddon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARTICLE</strong> ‘The Father of Natal Botany’ — John Medley Wood — Rudolf G. Strey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOTES AND QUERIES</strong> D. H. Strutt, M. P. Moberly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REGISTER OF RESEARCH ON NATAL</strong> J. Farrer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVIEWS AND NOTICES</strong> Trekking the Great Thirst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victorian Buildings in South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Possible Incorporation of East Griqualand into Natal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pioneers of Natal and South Eastern Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dictionary of South African Biography, Vol III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thoughts on South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reprint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Natal and Zulu History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SELECT LIST OF RECENT NATAL PUBLICATIONS</strong> J. Farrer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Ondersoek 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
The Life and letters of Frances Ellen Colenso (1849-1887)
Rev. James Scott, missionary — Impolweni Mission 1877-1910
Dr Killie Campbell

R. W. F. Droogleever
Mrs. P. L. Merrett
Rev. C. S. Shaw
Norman Herd

BOTANY

The Grasses of Natal
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

’n Ondersoek na die bestaansreg van bepaalde soorte kleinhandelsake in Umlazi, Natal

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

ECONOMICS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FAMILY HISTORY

Family history of Natal Archibald family for five generations

GEOGRAPHY

’n Bepaling van die buitelugontspanningspotensiaal van die Natalse Drakensberge

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

Woonbuurtdifferensiasie in Port Shepstone

P. S. Nel

P. G. Marais

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

M. D. North-Coombes

P. K. Gouden

S. A. Naicker

M. Naidoo

A. L. le Roux

D. Walker

S. Natalie

R. G. Adams

Dr. R. E. Gordon

J. M. van der Westhuizen

J. Cooks

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

HISTORY
The Administration of Lieutenant-Governor
Sir Henry Bulwer in Natal (1875-1885)
Alexander Harvey Biggar
The Cato Manor riots, 1959-1960
E. G. Jansen se rol in die kulturele ontwakings
van die Natalse Afrikaner
Fort Mucuple and Fort Mistake
Fort Pine
General Louis Botha’s second expedition to
Natal during the Anglo-Boer War, September-October, 1901
Historical graves
The History of Mid-Ilovo — a study of the
development of a rural community in
colonial Natal
An Iconographic study of the paintings of the
Zulu War, together with an assessment of
their reliability as historical documents
The Ingwavuma magistracy, 1895-1910
The Natal Nguni, 1893-1910
Organised labour in Natal, 1918-1924
Place names in relation to the histories of the
settlers
Die Vestiging van Blankes in Zoeloeland van
1897 af tot 1936
The Village of Helpmekaar

MAPS
Old maps and charts of Durban with particular
reference to the Old Fort, Fort Victoria and
Smith’s Camp

POLITICAL SCIENCE
Political attitudes of Africans in Umlazi and
KwaMashu Townships in Durban

TOWN AND REGIONAL PLANNING
Plant ecological study of the vegetation of the
Durban metropolitan area
Research project to determine the hydrological
potential of the Drakensberg
Research project to determine the scenic prefer-
cences of the Natal Drakensberg

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Mrs. Sheila Henderson
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Mrs. Sheila Henderson
Mrs. Sheila Henderson
D. M. Moore
J. A. C. Uys
A. E. Gonlag
Mrs. J. A. Verbeek
R. W. F. Droogleever
J. Lambert
B. L. Reid
N. T. Hunt
W. van der Merwe
Mrs. Sheila Henderson

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Select List of Recent Natal Publications


BHOOSHAN, Shri Bharat. What is Indian culture?: Durban, Arya Prathinidhi Sabha, and Veda Niketan, 1976.

BOSHOFF, D. N. Botany and our society: inaugural address . . . Kwa-Dlangezwa, University of Zululand, (1976).


DHLOMO, Oscar Dumisani. A Survey of some aspects of the educational activities of the American board of commissioners for foreign missions in Natal as reflected in the history of Amanzimtoti Institute, 1835-1956. (KwaDlangezwa, the University of Zululand, 1975).


DURBAN-WESTVILLE. University. Institute for social and economic research. Bibliography on Indians in South Africa; compiled by J. J. C. Greyling and J. Miskin. Durban, the University, 1976.

DURBAN-WESTVILLE. University. Institute for social and economic research Socio-economic conditions in Verulam, by M. A. Sugden. Durban, the University, 1976.

DURBAN-WESTVILLE. University. Institute for social and economic research The Squatter’s market, by J. J. C. Greyling. Durban, the University, 1976.


Natal. University. Faculty of medicine. Staff publications, July 1968 to December 1975. Durban, the University, 1976.

Natal. University. Institute for social research. Minimum living levels among Black employees in a textile processing industry in Natal, by Peter Stopforth. Durban, the University, 1975.


SOUTH AFRICAN CANE GROWERS ASSOCIATION. The first fifty years, 1927—1977. (Durban, the Association), 1977.

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF TOWN AND REGIONAL PLANNERS. Natal branch. Evaluation techniques in land use and planning: a “workshop”, . . . (Durban, the Institute), 1975.

SPUY, Herman Hubert van der. Die Musieklewe van Pietermaritzburg, 1850-1902. Proefskrif ingelewer vir die graad van Doktor in die lettere en Wynsbegeerte aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch. 1975.


UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND. Dept. of business economics. Income and expenditure patterns of Zulu households in the Mgwelezane townships at Empangeni, by H. R. Lemmer. KwaDlangezwa, the University, 1975.

UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND. Dept. of business economics. Income and expenditure patterns of Zulu households in the Richards Bay area, by H. R. Lemmer. KwaDlangezwa, the University, 1975.

WHYTE, Harry Grant. Between life and death. Pietermaritzburg, Shuter & Shooter, 1976

WILDLIFE HERITAGE TRUST FUND. Who's zoo?: a light-hearted look at wildlife and animals. Durban, the Fund, 1976.

Compiled by J. FARRER
# NATA AIA No. 6

## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Editorial</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obituary</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reprint</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serial Article</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes and Queries</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register of Research on Natal</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviews and Notices</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People of the Eland</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Beginnings</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fashion in South Africa</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dictionary of EnglishUsage in Southern Africa</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bent Pine</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Historian of Victorian Natal</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register of Societies and Institutions</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select List of Recent Natal Publications</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reminiscences of Kafir Life and History
by Charles Brownlee
Facsimile reprint of 2nd edition (1916), with introduction, commentary and notes by Christopher C. Saunders.
21 x 14.5 cm. 528 pp. Photographs. Index. Full cloth. R13.50. ISBN 0 86980 104 X.
Killie Campbell Africana Library Reprint Series No. 1.
Charles Brownlee is a key figure in the making of African policy in the nineteenth century Cape colony. He held a number of important magisterial posts and was the Cape's first Secretary for Native Affairs in the 1870s. He visited Natal in the 1830s and again in 1878. His Reminiscences, put together after his death, first appeared in 1896. 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.

Compositae in Natal
by O. M. Hilliard
Compositae is by far the largest family of flowering plants in South Africa and this is the first detailed account to cover a whole province. No less than 113 genera and 640 species are described and there are keys for their identification. Many of these genera and species also occur outside Natal. The account is based on the author's own research, involving examination of material from all over South Africa and from parts of tropical Africa. This book is one of the most substantial contributions to knowledge of the South African flora that has appeared in recent years: it will be an invaluable reference work and, with a little selection of material, a useful teaching aid.

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