

# RHODESIANA

PUBLICATION No. 35

SEPTEMBER, 1976



*Pre-publication announcement:*

THE MATABELE JOURNALS  
OF  
ROBERT MOFFAT

1829-1860

Volumes I and II

These important journals were first published in 1945 as No. 1 of the Oppenheimer Series. Both volumes have been out of print for a number of years, and the purpose of reprinting them is to satisfy a constant growing demand by libraries and collectors for works that form the basis of the development of Rhodesian historiography.

Apart from a new *Foreword*, the reprint, which will appear in paper-back and hard-cover editions, will be a facsimile of the original volumes.

The expected date of publication is 1 November 1976. The price in Rhodesian currency for the two volumes is: Hard-cover \$16,50 per set and soft-cover \$12,00 per set.

THE DIRECTOR,  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF RHODESIA,  
P/BAG 7729,  
CAUSEWAY.

# RHODESIANA

Publication No. 35 — September, 1976

THE RHODESIANA SOCIETY  
Salisbury  
Rhodesia

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*The cover picture is from a painting by T. Baines, showing his expedition on the market square in Pietermaritzburg, 1896, prior to his departure for the Interior. An expedition by E. Mohr was there at the same time; the two explorers are seen greeting each other.*

# The Rhodesiana Society

*Founded 1953*

The Society exists to promote Rhodesian historical studies and to encourage research. It also aims to unite all who wish to foster a wider appreciation and knowledge of the history of Rhodesia.

There is no entrance fee; with effect from January, 1977 the subscription is \$5,00 Rhodesian currency (\$8,90 U.S.A. or R7,00) a year, and this entitles paid-up members to those numbers of *Rhodesiana* issued during the year. There are two issues in each year, dated June and September.

For further information and particulars concerning membership please write to:

The Honorary National Secretary, Rhodesiana Society,  
P.O. Box 8268, Causeway, Salisbury, Rhodesia,

For information about Branch activities please write to:

Matabeleland Branch, P.O. Box 1614, Bulawayo.

Manicaland Branch, 12, Vumba Avenue, Umtali.

Mashonaland Branch, P.O. Box 3946, Salisbury.

Manuscripts will be welcomed by the Editor. They should preferably be typed in double spacing and be complete with any illustrations. Copies of published works for review will also be welcomed.

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#### THE RHODESIANA SOCIETY'S GOLD MEDAL

The Society periodically awards a gold medal to individuals who have made either an outstanding contribution towards furthering the aims and objects of the Rhodesiana Society or a major contribution to Rhodesian history. The following have been the recipients:

- 1970 H. A. Cripwell.  
Colonel A. S. Hickman, M.B.E.  
The Rt. Hon. the Viscount Malvern, P.C., C.H., K.C.M.G., LL.D  
(Posthumously).
- 1972 Dr. O. N. Ransford  
G. H. Tanser.
- 1975 M. J. Kimberley.  
H. A. B. Simons.

Any member may nominate, to the Honorary Secretary, a candidate for consideration for the award of a Gold Medal. Awards may be made at any time, but not necessarily annually.



**A. S. Hickman, Commissioner of B.S.A. Police, 1954-55.**

# Selwyn Hickman 1900-1976

## National Chairman and Gold Medallist

*(Colonel Arthur Selwyn Hickman, M.B.E., C.St.J., who was the National Chairman of the Rhodesiana Society from 1970 to 1972 and one of the Society's first Gold Medallists, died on July 22nd, 1976. The following appreciation written by Robert Cary, was published in the "Rhodesia Herald" of July 29th 1976 under the title of "Selwyn Hickman, great humanitarian", and it is reprinted here by courtesy of the "Herald".—Editor)*

Many books and articles set out to tell us how to enjoy our retirement. They could hardly do better, by way of illustration, than to give details of the life led by Colonel Selwyn Hickman between 1955 and his death on July 22.

His many interests in retirement included the Anglican Church — in which he was secretary and guardian of the Anglican Cathedral Cloisters — the Samaritans, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Rhodesian Cornish Association, of which he was the founder.

It is not, however, in belittlement of these activities that I suggest that the field for which Selwyn Hickman will always be remembered is that of historical research into the pioneer history of Rhodesia.

Selwyn's first published article appeared in the *Outpost* in September, 1928, and was entitled "Murder on the Tuli Footpath". From then onwards he was a regular contributor both to *Outpost* and to *Mapolisa*, one of his most significant articles being an account of the life of Randolph Nesbitt, V.C., hero of the Mazoe Patrol.

Within months of leaving the BSA Police in November, 1955, Selwyn Hickman joined the Rhodesiana Society, becoming a committee member in 1957. He remained on the committee for the rest of his life, serving as deputy chairman between 1967 and 1970 and as national chairman from 1970 to 1972.

Throughout that long period he contributed regularly to the society's magazine (*Rhodesiana*), his last contribution being in September, 1974, when he wrote a tribute to his old friend, the Rev. Herbert Carter.

In early 1956 Selwyn Hickman, with the financial assistance of the BSA Company, started work on a register of all those young men who had joined the BSA Company's Police between 1889 and 1892.

This was a formidable project, and Selwyn tackled it with the determination and precision of a well-trained investigator. The resultant book, *Men who made Rhodesia*, was published in 1960 and forms a permanent tribute to the early members of that fine force.

Shortly after finishing this work Selwyn began to compile similar material in respect of the members of the Pioneer Corps. By 1966 he had accumulated a



great deal of information of the most valuable sort. In that year, however, he was commissioned by the Army authorities to write a history of the part played by the Rhodesian forces in the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-02.

The first volume of this work, called *Rhodesia Served the Queen*, was published in 1970 and took the story up to June, 1900. Selwyn then started work on the second volume which was published towards the end of 1975.

In the early 1960s Selwyn Hickman played an active part in the work of the Rhodesian Schools Exploration Society, and he led two expeditions to the south-western corner of Rhodesia in an effort to trace relics of the early Pioneer days.

In August 1971 the Rhodesiana Society awarded commemorative gold medals to three persons — Mr. A. H. Cripwell, the first Viscount Malvern and Colonel A. S. Hickman — for their "outstanding contributions towards the aims and objects of the society". Selwyn Hickman valued very highly indeed the honour that had been conferred upon him and the association of his name with two other outstanding Rhodesians.

Selwyn Hickman always enjoyed the happiest of relationships with the National Archives, for whom he acted on many occasions as agent in the procurement of historical manuscripts. Perhaps his greatest coup was to secure from Captain J. A. Spreckley's niece (Mrs. Nancy Harris) an enormous bundle of letters written by Henry Borrow between 1884 and his death on the Allan Wilson Patrol in 1893.



**Trooper A. S. Hickman as a member of the Governors' Bodyguard at the first opening of the Rhodesian Parliament in the present building on 23rd November, 1924.**

Selwyn Hickman did not aspire to the title of historian. On the other hand, he was not simply an antiquarian digging into the past for its own sake. He saw himself rather as a researcher, a man prepared to devote his energies to providing historians with a firm foundation of accurate historical facts.

It is interesting to consider the qualities which made Selwyn Hickman such an outstanding researcher. Determination, an eye for detail, and a refusal to accept anything as proven unless supported by facts, are qualities which all researchers must possess, but it is doubtful whether any profession provides a better grounding for such work than the police force.

In this sense it is possible to trace a consistent pattern throughout Selwyn Hickman's active life, from the young constable investigating a stock theft in 1925 to the elderly gentleman trying to pinpoint the location of a small engagement in the Anglo-Boer War.

It would be wrong to end this account of Selwyn Hickman's career without making mention of the personal qualities of the man. In the words of Mr. E. Burke, Director of the National Archives, "He was a great humanitarian, deeply interested in his fellow-beings and anxious to help them whenever he could. He stands out in my mind as a man who was always prepared to share the fruits of his work with other people. There was nothing selfish or restrictive in his approach to historical research. We shall miss him greatly".

#### AFRICAN SOCIAL RESEARCH

As a "modest contribution" to the United Nations' International Women's Year, 1975, the main features of the December 1975 issue of this journal are two articles by women about women.

Karen T. Hansen writes on "Married Women and Work in Urban Areas". The urban wife is more dependent upon her husband's resources than is the village wife. There are comparatively few paid occupations for women in towns so they are often forced into private activities. Some of these are legal, such as selling vegetables, charcoal, cooked food or second hand-clothes but others, such as beer brewing or re-selling commercial goods, are illegal.

Marion Wright in "Women in Peril" comments on the published life stories of some women captured as slaves in the area between lakes Malawi and Tanganyika at the end of the 19th century. The individual stories show that there was no simple owner — slave pattern. Treatment, acceptance into the captor's clan, and sometimes, release all varied according to political and economic factors.

There are notes and numerous book reviews. The journal is published by the University of Zambia at K2,50.

# The History of Gwelo

## Part 2

by Pat Davis

*(Part 1 of this article which brought the history of Gwelo up to 1895 was published in our last issue, March 1976. The author's manuscript continues with the story of Gwelo during the 1896 Rebellion. But since we published an article The Gwelo Laager, 1896 in our July 1970 issue that portion of Pat Davis's history has been omitted. Her story continues with Gwelo after the Rebellion.— Editor.)*

### 1896 —1900

After the Rebellion the rebuilding of Gwelo was left in the hands of those few people who remained having decided to make Gwelo their home. Only two licenced hotels remained, one baker and two butchers though there were a number of general dealers. The one licenced brickyard could not cope with the demand which meant that many buildings were hastily built with whatever material was available.

In an effort to start on the right foot, a Sanitary Board was set up and held its first meeting on December 23rd, 1896. Mr. H. T. Longdon the attorney, was the chairman with Dr. Smyth, Messrs. Norris, Furse and Nash present. It was decided that "that a notice be posted calling for applications for the combined post of temporary Secretary and Sanitary Inspector to the Board. Applicants to state salary required". In reply two applications were received. F. N. Reed offered his services at £35 per month while Mr. J. M. Wright stated that he was prepared to accept the Board's offer. The latter was engaged at £15 per month. Wright's first task was to correspond with Salisbury, Bulawayo, and Fort Victoria Sanitary Boards for guidance in forming Gwelo's bye-laws and regulations. At a later meeting, Bagnall and Norris were requested to select a new site for the native location — the existing site being too close to town. The Board's first premises were situated in a room in Hartopp's building — rental at £6 per month.

The Inspector of the Board was provided with one of Duly's latest bicycles at a cost of £30.

Amongst the first actions of this Board were the prohibition of indiscriminate outspanning within the township and the setting up of specific areas for the purpose on the commonage.

Another was to beautify the town by encouraging residents to plant trees on the pavements outside their stands but within certain specified limits stated

by the Board. In order to raise funds a list of stand-holders was compiled so that sanitary fees could be levied. These fees were fixed as follows:

17/- each occupied stand with one bucket: 7/6 for each additional bucket: 5/- for unoccupied stands: 5/- extra for a stable to be maintained: 20/- fixed initial charge for a set of two buckets on all stands on becoming occupied.

A tender by Mr. Quinn for the removal of night soil was accepted at 14/- per bucket up to 50 buckets but thereafter 10/- per bucket.

A list of registered voters was also prepared and it appeared in the *Gwelo Times* of June 18th. There were 28 names amongst which appeared such well known names as Austin, Bagnall, Furse, Falk, Fotheringham, Hurrell, Nash, Street, Fife, Scott. On July 7th a public meeting of these voters was held at which a properly constituted Sanitary Board was elected consisting of four elected representatives and three appointed by the Government. This Board held its first meeting on August 3rd under the chairmanship of Mr. Norris. At a later date, on October 5th, the chairmanship of this Board was taken over by Mr. P. G. Smith, the Resident Magistrate, who remained in this office for many years.

Finance was always a thorny subject and the lack of funds was always a problem to the Board. The first loan from the Government was a sum of £500 granted at 6 % interest.

An offer by Mr. Rendell to plant 500 trees and tend them for one year at a charge of 2/- per tree was accepted. These trees were to be planted along the main streets.

Bagnall was appointed Consulting Engineer to the Board at £60 per annum, his main duties being to supervise the construction of storm water drains.

A tri-weekly early morning sale of produce was inaugurated in December 1897, by Nash and Street, the auctioneers, the mornings being Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. These sales were one of the "social" events of the town where everyone went to see what was on offer, the prices and meet friends.

Another sign of the growth in Gwelo was the opening of the Rhodesia Hotel by Messrs. Paulsens. It was considered one of the best in town having twelve bedrooms, a bar and sitting room with a billiard room, dining room, stables and so on still to be completed. As the Paulsens were said to have run a large hotel in Chicago at the World's Fair they were expected to provide good service.

The following is a description of Gwelo in December 1897 as seen by a Commission set up to describe the towns and development in Rhodesia generally. "Gwelo is favourably situated for expansion, with good soil and extensive town lands. A spruit runs near the township but water is generally obtained by means of wells — 20 to 40 feet invariably being a sufficient depth to strike any amount of splendid drinking water . . . Gwelo expatiates with pride upon its close vicinity to the bulk of the most valuable mining districts of Rhodesia". Rinderpest followed by the rising retarded development. After the Rebellion,

building material barred rapid progress for although brick and stone were abundant, "the transport of wood and iron for roofing and casements and doors for the structures, is still forbidding in price, when obtainable at all. Now the railway is completed to Bulawayo, doubtless these difficulties will be overcome, and the place will go fast ahead". (It was obvious that it was anticipated that the railway should come from Bulawayo, but the Boer War intervened and halted all construction of the railway from the south. The line eventually arrived from Salisbury). "The appearance of Gwelo, a few months ago, under the conditions, was bewildering. The traveller arrived by coach apparently pulling up on the veld, and you were told that you were at the hotel. Naturally you were not aware of the circumstance, for the structure had yet to be built. You only observed a long low building which was eventually to become the stable. The dining and billiard rooms, and other accommodation were there before you in embryo, that is, the foundations were laid, but no superstructure. One of the passengers in the coach at the time, facetiously enquired of a couple of citizens standing by, how far it was to Gwelo? This raised a laugh among them, though he saw nothing to smile at, having heard of Gwelo being a rising town. Upon a more careful survey, other buildings were seen, but so scattered and distant from one another, that no idea of a township was conveyed. Crossing a large open space of ground which was taken for the market square, but subsequently turned out to be the principal street, the passenger arrived at another hotel, guided there by the proprietor of the phantom one. Here accommodation was found, a roomy bar and large dining room with kitchen was already completed. A row of six bedrooms of fair size, but without roof, door or windows was also built in skeleton, and a comfortable billiard room with foundations laid and walls then going up. All these buildings, completed and projected, were made from good sound brick and stone. The passengers, perforce found themselves occupying a low canvas hut with huge rents in the side, and an airy roof.

"A local Stock Exchange and Stand Syndicate, with no building erected, had already its shares standing at 100% premium". Gwelo, "the centre of a wide reaching gold belt, has thousands of claims pegged and is being exploited by numerous wealthy syndicates with many blocks now ready for the battery".

The first *Gwelo Times* of 1898 contains the following report. "At the present date, when the future appears to be smiling at us, we are apt to forget the troublous conditions of things as they were at the commencement of the year just ended, where provisions were at such famine prices as flour at £15 a bag, tea at 6/6 per lb., jam at 3/6 per lb., and sugar of the coarsest quality 2/6 — when the disbandment and departure of many of our Volunteers made the place look and feel deserted, when Government had to be approached in the matter of assisting us with rations, when rinderpest was raging, lions roaring within earshot and the only Colonial papers brought by the post were seldom less than two months old, but *letera scripta manet* and among all the miseries recorded in the journal to which we refer we find we were actually dancing within the first week of January . . . Truly, dancing is typical of the mercurial temperament of our townsmen, therefore let none who delight in taking a gloomy view of any situation think of settling at Gwelo". Entertainment had to be provided by the

local residents who proved to be versatile in their talents. A variety Concert held in March 1898, was a great success. Prizes were presented at the end and one went to Mr. Smart for his singing. His presentation was a "rolled gold" watch. One wit remarked that this was most appropriate as, like the town, it ran on tick.

Considerable difficulties were experienced by the *Gwelo Times* with editorial and printing staff constantly changing. It was finally reorganised and re-established by Mr. Chivers, a new owner, who printed the new publication in May 1898. At this time the proprietors were the principal suppliers of all stationery, periodicals and magazines. Mr. Campbell, a confectioner in Livingstone Avenue, offered to donate a monthly cake "to the gentleman who shall say, do or write anything that is deemed of the greatest value to beneficially (or otherwise) affect "our community". A few weeks later the first cake was presented to Mr. Finnie for his article on his experiences "Gwelo to the Zambesi". At this time both Anglican and Nonconformist church held their Sunday services in the Court House with the Rev. Walker holding the Anglican services at 7.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. while the Rev. Giles held the Nonconformist service at 7.30 p.m.

Everyone received a great surprise in July 1898 for the first consignment of frozen meat arrived — from Australia. Mr. John Harper, who also supplied fresh fish for the first time, sold the meat. The import was considered a slight on the Rhodesian cattle.

In the same month the Amateur Cycle Club was formed and held its first run a week later. Twenty-four members left Duly's depot at 10.30 a.m. for Robertson's Wayside Hotel — 7 miles out of Gwelo on the Selukwe Road.

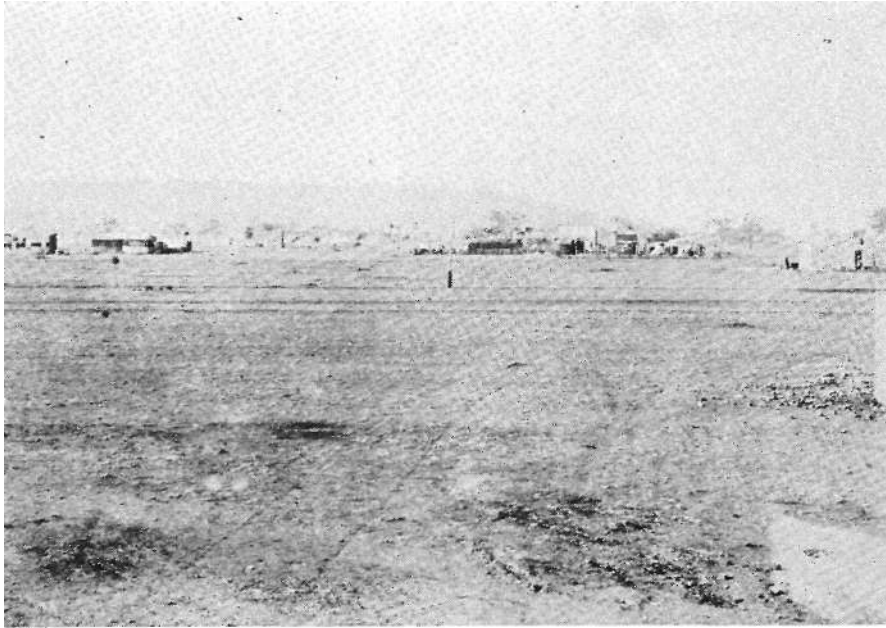
Shortly after this, another outstanding event in the life of the residents was the arrival of Searelle's Opera Company from Salisbury. They had put on a three night performance at the Stock Exchange buildings. Seats were rather expensive for the time — £1 for a seat in the first eight rows and 10/- for other seats. These buildings were again used at the end of the year when a Ballad Concert was held. It proved a great success with the local residents once again providing the entertainment. Both Mrs. Nash and Mrs. Smyth received numerous encores.

In April 1898, the Board's staff had been increased by a Coloured boy and four Africans for general maintenance work in the township.

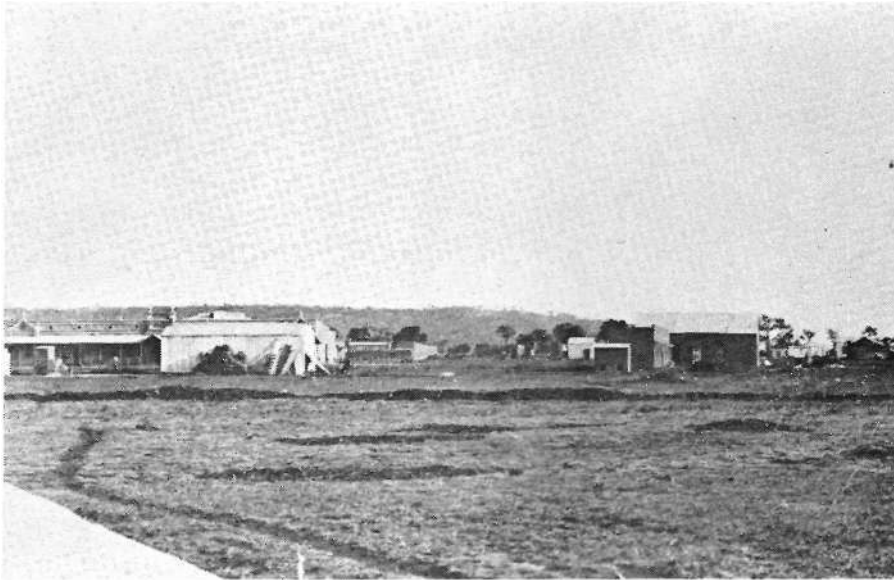
The first public water supply was supplied from a well in the Market Square on which a windmill and tank were erected by Mr. McNeilage in May.

Building bye-laws, adopted by the Board, permitted verandahs to be erected with a minimum height of 8 feet and not more than 10 feet wide on the Main Street and 8 feet wide on the other streets and avenues, such verandahs to be provided with guttering. The Board also applied to the Administrator for power to prevent pole and dagga erections which not only depreciated the value of town property but were also a danger to health.

At first the Board adopted the Bulawayo bye-laws and regulations with minor modifications, but at a later date, June 1898, it decided to adopt those of Umtali and a request to that effect was submitted to the Government.



**Gwelo just after the rebellion when the town was being rebuilt.**



**Gwelo 1898.**

For valuation purposes, the first assessment of the stands and buildings thereon were made in July 1898 by Jordison and Rowle. The following month the assessment roll was available to the public for inspection and any objections were received and values were reduced in a number of cases. Assessment rates were fixed at 2d. in the £ on immovable property in the town. (In August 1900, these rates were increased to 3/- in the £ with 33 1/3% rebate for all payments on the due date.) At the time a dog tax of 10/- per annum was introduced to supplement the Board's income.

Although Gwelo was still primarily a mining centre, a number of people, especially Indians, began to lay out market gardens. As so many applications for these were made, the Board decided to limit the site for these properties to the northern side of the river.

In September 1898, the Board transferred its offices to the newly completed Stock Exchange Buildings with Messrs. Hurrell and Walker being the standing committee on Finance and Wash and Bodewig the standing committee on Public Works.

By October trees had been planted along Livingstone Avenue and the line continued to the top corner of the Gymkhana Ground. A request was made to Bulawayo for 500 trees of one variety, either Syringa or Red Gums preferred, but it was not until March the following year that a consignment of pepper trees arrived from Bulawayo. Some of these were planted along Main Street — one of which is still standing today. A donation of 100 Blue Gums was made to the Board by its Chairman Mr. P. J. Smith.

In this year the first Market Master, Mr. Poingdestre was appointed by the Board. The produce was sold several times a week.

In spite of the difficulties and high cost of obtaining building material such as wood and iron, the year 1898 saw considerable progress being made in Gwelo. Several buildings were completed during the year and others started. Some of these included McIntosh's Chemist — the second in town; Nimmo and Bridgeman's large "soft goods" store; the Milling Company's main buildings for the mill and store room with a lean-to for the engine room; Kean and Gillespie's combined tea room and pie shop (they also hoped to have an "Ice-machine" soon which being the first in Gwelo, would be most welcome). The public library was completed in May with the Rev. Giles as Librarian. The reading room of the library was available from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at a charge of two guineas. The Gwelo Restaurant was opened in May. Sited in Fifth Street this establishment was highly praised with Mrs. Greenfield being the first proprietor. In June the foundation stone for the first St. Cuthbert's Church was laid by Mr. P. G. Smith on St. John the Baptist's Day. When the dining room of the Gwelo Hotel under Messrs. Smart and McLean was opened, a dinner for thirty was given to celebrate the event. A banquet was held in honour of the opening of the Stock Exchange buildings in July 1898. Mr. H. A. Bradley, who had arrived in Gwelo from Mafeking less than a month previously to take over his own hotel, provided an excellent dinner and wine. This building provided Gwelo with its first hall, offices for the Standard Bank, Sanitary Board and Post



Office. By this time the Postmaster and his assistant complained of being overworked with mail arriving every day. A new bakery and butchery belonging to Mr. Campbell was also completed in the same month. By December, Barry Bros, were in the process of building the gaol. Sometime during the year the Nonconformist church building was completed. It consisted of a wood and iron building which had been sent out from England by the Colonial Missionary Society and this was the first church erected in Gwelo.

Those energetic leaders of the community instituted the Gwelo Building Society in order to assist would-be builders. This was in February 1898 and two months later the Gwelo Chamber of Commerce was formed.

Captain Boggie, as he was then, called a meeting of Freemasons in the Charterland Stores buildings and it was agreed to form the first Masonic Lodge in Gwelo under the Scottish constitution.

The year 1899 opened with the consecration of the Masonic Lodge which was followed by a banquet at the Horseshoe Hotel and a Ball at the Stock Exchange Hall.

The opening of the Royal Toilet Club was in January of the same year. This was set up next to the Royal Hotel with "shaving 6d, haircutting 1/-, shampooing 1/-, singeing 1/-, a razor set 1/- and great reductions in tobacco — three packets of Camp cigarettes 1/-."

In May, the public library's new premises were completed.

The first demand for Municipal status came in a proposal from Mr. Bodewig in March 1899. This was not submitted in writing to the Administrator as he was due to pay a visit to Gwelo in the near future.

Projects mooted at the time, proposed by Mr. Finnie, were duckboards across the stormwater drains and a promenade pathway to the top of the kopje, but these were rejected because of lack of finance.

By March the same year, Livingstone Avenue had been "metalled" for its entire length and adequate storm water drains provided.

The following year, 1900, was one of despondency for the citizens of Gwelo as the Boer War was in full swing and the supplies from the south were severely restricted and at times completely cut off. Such supplies as were received had to come via Beira and Salisbury and were consequently scarce and expensive. The local press, that is the *Gwelo Times*, devoted itself almost entirely to news of the war.

One important happening during the year, however, was the inauguration of the Trinity Church School by the Rev. Truscott of the Trinity (Nonconformist) Church. This was done because in spite of the Government offer of 14 stands, £700 for the building of the school with £100 for fittings and furniture and an annual subsidy of £110, the cost of building was so high that the whole scheme was shelved until building circumstances were more favourable. Seventeen children were enrolled when the school opened in October 1900 with the Rev. Truscott as principal and Miss Truscott and Miss G. Reed as his assistants. In an appeal to the parents, the Rev. Truscott said, "The curriculum includes the

ordinary subjects of a sound English education and, being comprehensive, has the merit, so important in the eyes of paterfamilias, of costing only a moderate expenditure in fees, which on the average amounts to 13/- a month for each pupil, pianoforte lessons alone being charged extra". Education was un-denominational and unsectarian.

The subject of street lighting was constantly in the minds of the Board and in June 1900, a proposal was put forward to the Board by the Gwelo Milling Co., that a 16 horsepower generating plant shortly to be available in Bulawayo, be purchased and erected in Gwelo. The Milling Company suggested that they should run the plant for the first five years which would thereafter be acquired by the Board. This plant would be capable of supplying 200 street lights at a distance of up to one mile from the generating station. This proposal by the Gwelo Milling Company was not adopted because no suitable financial arrangements could be made.

Once again the demand for Municipal status was raised in order that sufficient loan funds could be raised. A few months later, in August a meeting of representatives of the Sanitary Board and Chamber of Commerce was held with Cecil John Rhodes, at which various matters were raised all of which required additional money. Again a request was made by Mr. Wolff, that Gwelo be granted Municipal status. Mr. Rhodes pointed out that as there were only some 300 people resident in the town, Gwelo had not a large enough community for such status to be granted. He informed the meeting that Salisbury was carrying out an investigation of a scheme for public street lighting and its cost. In the meantime he suggested that if they really wanted street lights they should use hurricane lamps. The Government continued to assist the Board in the form of annual grants for tree planting with loans for other purposes.

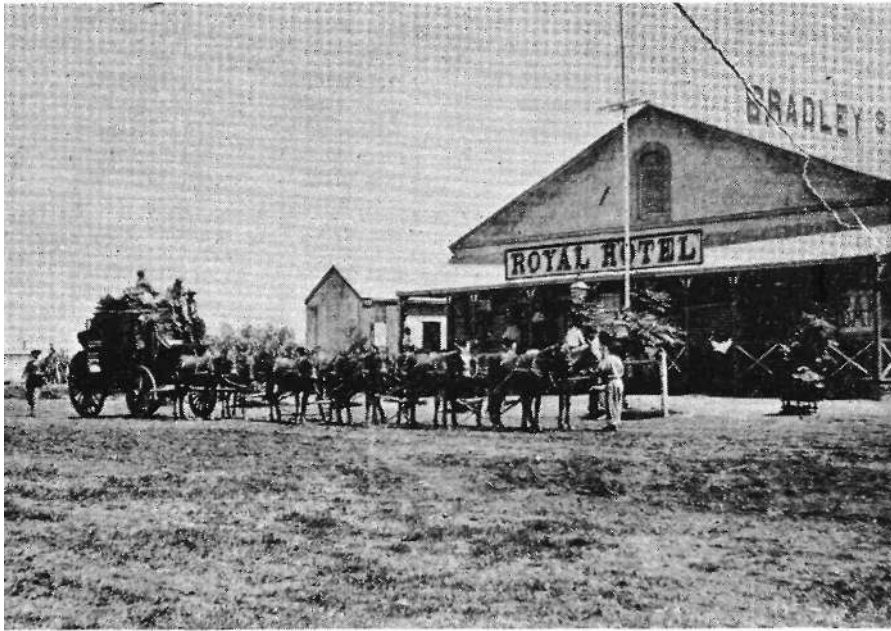
The first loan from sources other than the Government was a Government guaranteed loan of £2,000 from the Bank of Africa at 7 % interest in October 1900.

There must have been a considerable amount of termite destruction in the town for in December the Board "resolved to offer a reward of two shillings and sixpence, for every Queen Ant produced at the Board's Office and proved to the Inspector to be taken from the precincts of the Township". After a few months, however, the award was discontinued.

## 1901 —1902

In 1901 the effects of the Boer War were being felt by the citizens of Gwelo in a more marked degree. This was emphasised by the departure of Major Hurrell and others to join Kitchener's Fighting Scouts, and the consequent departure of Mrs. Hurrell and family for England. Mr. Bradley took over the Horseshoe Hotel with Mr. Branscombe as manager.

The uncertainty of this period did not however, prevent the inhabitants from enjoying Mr. Bradley's successful Fancy Dress Ball in the Stock Exchange Hall.



The Royal Hotel Gwelo 1899-1902.

The first successful growing of grapes v/as accomplished by Mrs. Bagnall who reaped 120 lbs, from seven vines.

In March the Gwelo Golf Club was constituted and permitted the use of the ground for which they applied which was "eastward of Livingstone Avenue and along the southern bank of the river".

In February the first Roman Catholic services were advertised with Father Stemfel officiating and using the same facilities in the Court House as the other denominations. This was followed later in the year by the arrival of the Dominican Sisters. "It was one of Mother Patrick's cherished dreams to found a convent and school at Gwelo, but she was not vouchsafed the consolation of seeing her dream come true. But shortly after her death, arrangements were made by her successor in office Mother Ignatius, to open a house in this small township.

Father Leboef, always ready to further the plans and aspirations of the Dominican Sisters, volunteered to go house hunting at Gwelo and carry out other business transactions in connection with the prospective foundation".<sup>1</sup> This was August 1901. As soon as he found something a band of sisters left Salisbury on the evening of 30th October. After journeying by rail to Umniati which was then the railhead they completed the journey a few days later in a cart provided by Meikle Brothers — arriving in Gwelo late one evening early in November. Mother Ignatius and the Sisters — Sister Aloysia, who was to become Mother Superior in Gwelo, Andrea, Philomena and Vincent, spent their first

1. *In God's White Robed Army*, p. 193.

night in the Metropole Hotel where the Catholic Father had been residing since his arrival. The following morning the nuns were shown their new home — two rented houses. These would be suitable for their present needs but needed a thorough cleaning before habitation. Without any further delay they set to work cleaning, scrubbing and whitewashing. After several days they were able to move in and prepare the school. Father Leboef had hired these buildings at £150 per annum from Mr. D. W. Finnie. Mother Ignatius spent £120 towards furnishing but as funds were low they purchased only the bare essentials though some "kindly disposed inhabitants" contributed many useful articles of furniture. The school was opened on November 11th with the first pupils being Master McCabe and the three Walshes — ten children had been enrolled by the end of the week.

Messrs. Livingstone and Co. were unfortunate this year as one of their animal-drawn vehicles destroyed one of the cherished gum trees planted in Livingstone Avenue and the Board demanded and received £5 compensation.

The Government threatened to reduce the annual grant from £400 to £200 but at a special meeting with the Administrator the latter stated that the Government would consider the £400 loan when the Board forwarded a detailed statement on the expenditure on public services such as metalling roads and tree planting, for the past two years.

In 1902 following a request by the Board the Government surveyed six stands on the south-eastern side of Lobengula Avenue, facing the park. The proceeds from the sale of which were to be devoted to the building of a Market Hall which would include the Sanitary Board offices. Tenders were then called for the erection of the Market Hall in a sum not exceeding £2,000.

A Mr. Golding presented a scheme to the Board for a street lighting plant, which was accepted subject to certain sureties.

The death of Cecil John Rhodes was a severe shock to the public of Gwelo. After sending a telegram of condolence to Dr. Jameson, the Board at a special meeting, decided that P. G. Smith and Mr. Ferguson would represent the town at the funeral.

Shortly after this the Board considered the celebrations to be held for King Edward VII's coronation and arrangements were put in hand for this occasion. The Board however was considerably perturbed by the action of Charterland Stores who having contributed to the Bulawayo and Salisbury festivities declined to do so in the case of Gwelo. This led the Board to refuse entertaining the local chiefs within the precincts of the township because of the lack of funds, the opinion being held that the loyal white inhabitants were more deserving of the funds available being spent on their celebrations.

An additional water supply was organised in the park with the installation of a windmill and piping. A water supply was piped to the site of the railway station with great emphasis being laid on the stipulation that the water pipe had to be laid below the surface of Allan Wilson Avenue.

Controversy arose between the Postmaster General and the Board over the installation of telephone lines in the town. The Board insisted that these

telephone lines be placed along the Sanitary lanes, but the Postmaster, who had laid out the scheme, wished them to be placed in the streets and threatened to withdraw the whole scheme unless the Board agreed to this. After considerable discussion and argument the Board agreed to the Postmaster's scheme insisting however that these lines be placed in the streets but well clear of the Board's trees.

The Board objected to a decision by the railways to survey the Railway Reserve on the eastern side of the line as this would curtail the possible expansion of the town between Allan Wilson Avenue and the railway line.

The rainy season 1901 to 1902 was particularly heavy, no less than 12-13 inches being recorded during the period December 26th to January 1st. The Gwelo river was in spate being some 200 yards wide in some places. A B.S.A.P. Scotch cart, drawn by oxen, was swept away in the torrent, the oxen being drowned but the native attendants fortunately escaping with their lives.

In February the Trinity Church School run by the Rev. Truscott became the Gwelo Public School which continued to be held in the Trinity Church free of rent. Truscott appealed to the parents for their co-operation. Realising how valuable the children could be at home especially on the farms, he urged the parents, however, to forego their help and avoid an uneducated and illiterate nation to follow.

A number of privately owned tennis courts were in use in Gwelo by this time, and the tennis courts at the Gymkhana Ground were now being renovated in the hope of reviving the defunct Tennis Club. Heavy rains however, continued to make things difficult with no less than 5½ inches being recorded in 9 hours on February 27th 1902.

March saw the return of Major Hurrell and some of the others from the Boer War.

The Gwelo Literary and Debating Society was formed in March, 1902.

The death of Cecil John Rhodes cast a gloom over the community and a memorial service was held. In spite of this however, a great relief was felt at the ending of the Boer War.

Ever since their arrival, the Sisters had been extremely busy. They had transformed the Albany Club House into a convent. "The counter was used as the altar for Mass and the first Eucharistic sacrifice was offered by all present in reparation for sins committed on that spot".<sup>2</sup> The first school concert which took place on the Easter of 1902, was a great success.

Having been postponed because of the King's illness, the festivities were finally held on his coronation in August and proved most enjoyable.

A milestone in Gwelo's history was the arrival of the railhead in Gwelo. This, strangely enough, was received without any celebration or ceremony to mark the occasion. The line was completed to Gwelo in June 1902 and work continued on the construction of the line towards Bulawayo and a branch line to Selukwe. The station building was erected in 1902 and is reputed to be the

2. *In God's White Robed Army*, p. 197.

only original station building still standing in Rhodesia. A wood framed, corrugated iron covered house which stood in Third Street between Lobengula and Moffat Avenues, and was recently demolished, was reputed to be the house used by the chief construction engineer and moved from place to place as the railway progressed from Salisbury. The railway contractors were Messrs. Pauling and Company.

The first bioscope ever screened in Gwelo was shown by a travelling company — Howard's Bioscope Company. They showed films on the coronation in Westminster Abbey, the eruption of Mount Pelee and other films on lighter subjects. The screening however was very poor, continually flickering and failing and the public did not think that they had received their money's worth.

### NADA

The Vol. XI No. 3, 1976 number of NADA is a large issue with fourteen articles, notes, correspondence and reviews.

In a Foreword, the Hon. B. H. Mussett, Minister of Internal Affairs, draws attention to the political importance of the journal in its descriptions of various aspects of the tribal system as well as its value in the recording of a vast body of "the history, customs and ways of thinking of the African peoples of Rhodesia".

There are articles on the history and customs of the Manyika; on the native tribes and chiefs of the Melssetter district; on the Watungwe of the Chibi district; on the selection and installation of two chiefs; as well as contributions on aspects of Shona law and the Shona novel.

An article on Kariba gives a brief historical background to the decision to build the dam and continues with a list of 33 features, islands and hills, giving the origin of their names and there are notes on the chiefs and headmen of the area.

Several of the articles are by African writers. Some colour plates illustrate a chief's succession and the front cover picture in colour is from a fine pastel picture of Senator Chief Chirau.

The annual is priced at \$1 from the Business Manager, NADA, Private Bag 7702, Causeway, Salisbury.

# The Pioneer Corps

## A Review Article

by C. Coggin

with Addenda by Robert Gary

(*The Pioneer Corps*, by Robert Cary. Galaxie Press, Salisbury, 1975, 142 pages. Illus., maps. Price \$8.00.)

This book has been needed for a long time. It provides the answers to the majority of questions one hears about the Pioneers. In the unlikely event of your drawing a blank, it is more than likely because the information just doesn't exist anywhere — not in any easily retrievable form, anyway. This much becomes plain when one sees the daunting array of sources Cary has used.

In essence the volume is a biographical dictionary of the Pioneer Corps and its hangers-on. To put this into context, however, there are a number of features that make equally interesting reading. The first is a chronology of events in Africa between 1869 and 1902 (it is not always consistent: sometimes precise dates are given, sometimes only the year). This is complemented by a succinct introduction to the situation in southern Africa in the thirty or so years leading up to the Occupation. There is a useful diary of the march, and a fascinating analysis of the Pioneers — their background, achievements and failures. Did you know that 43 per cent of them stayed on in Rhodesia after their disbandment? — a high proportion when considered against the background of hardship and bloodshed that would form part of their lot on occasions over the ensuing seven years. Admittedly, many of these died (mainly from fever) before 1902, but the figure is still surprising. Cary paints a picture of energy and success surrounding those who were able to develop their careers in Rhodesia.

Next there is a section entitled "The line of march". This is a nominal roll showing the disposition by troops of the men when they entered Mashonaland. Following this is a schedule of equipment and salaries. Did you know that a trooper in the Pioneer Corps was paid three times as much as a private in the British Army in 1940?

With the exception of 29 cases (where only basic information was traceable), the biographical section — the main part of the work — is a comprehensive record of the Pioneers. Service and career details are given about each man, as are reference sources for further reading, together with family data (marriages, children) right up to 1975. The last feature itself should lead descendants and relatives of Pioneers and early settlers to obtain the book. If you possess a copy of A. S. Hickman's *Men who made Rhodesia* you should get it as a companion

volume. If you're simply interested in Rhodesia, and want a better understanding of the events and men who shaped the course of its settlement, you should also buy a copy of Robert Cary's book. It's well worth the price.

C. COGGIN

Robert Cary continues:

Following the publication of my book, *The Pioneer Corps*, it was inevitable that certain errors and omissions would come to light, Since it is very unlikely that a second edition of the book will be published for a long time to come, I am anxious to put these errors and omissions on record so that the information on the Pioneer Corps shall be as up-to-date as possible.

**Bradley, Benjamin**

1860-1928 No: 141.

Attested into the Pioneer Corps, 7th May, 1890. Trooper. Appointed to 'C Troop, 21st June.

Born in Bootle, Lancashire, 1860, the son of an architect. Emigrated to Soith Africa (with father, mother, two sisters and brother, Charles) in 1880. Farmed near Kei River Mouth until 1886. On the Rand, 1886-1890.

Travelled from Beira to Cape Town, June, 1891, and returned by same route with a party sent by Rhodes to cut a road from Beira to Umtali. Prospected and mined in Penhalonga area. Carried despatches from Rhodes to Dr. Jameson during 1893 War. Subscribed, together with A. Tulloch (see below), £3 to the Umtali North Landowners' Association, 1895. Owned and settled Inyanga Slopes and Inyanga Valley Farms (with Tulloch and C. K. Bradley (see below)).

Captain in 1896 Rebellion. Took part in defence of Bulawayo. Left Rhodesia shortly thereafter and lived in Johannesburg for two years. Returned to Bulawayo, 1898, and lived there until end of Boer War. Moved to South Africa, 1902, and lived in Johannesburg.

Returned to England in 1908 and set up the Bradley-Williams Ore Extraction Company in Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Served as Major during First World War. Died at Henley-on-Thames, Middlesex, 1928.

Married Kathleen Fitzpatrick in Johannesburg in 1898. Had issue, one son, three daughters:

- (a) *Gerald* (born 1899)
- (b) *Jenny*, who married Eric Rosenthal, and lives at White Horses, 48 Hillside Road, Fish Hoek, Cape.
- (c) daughter
- (d) daughter

References: *The Umtali Advertiser*, 4/6/95, MISC/ED.4/1/1.  
*Rhodesiana*, No. 31 p.37, DA.6/1/1, ff 183-6.



**Crawford, John Lindsay**

Mr. Crawford's mother was named Anne Martha, and not Mary as stated in the book.

Cavin Ryss Crawford was born on February 2nd, 1944, and not February 2nd, 1940 as stated in the book.

**Darter, Adrian Albert**

From about 1930 onwards lived at Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire.

Died at Southampton, March 28th, 1955, and buried in Ramalley Cemetery.

**Edmonds, John Arnold**

In this entry there are two mis-spellings: (a) Mrs. H. S. Perry spells her name 'Drusilla' and not 'Drucilla'. (b) Her daughter's name is spelt 'Nicola', not 'Nicolla'.

**Elliott, George Frederick**

I believe that two persons of the same name and initials have become confused in this entry. The G. F. Elliott who was attested into the Pioneer Corps did in fact register the first mining claim in the Mazoe district on October 10th, 1890. However, as far as I can ascertain, nothing is known of him after that date. The G. F. Elliott who joined the B.S.A. Company's Police as a telegraphist some time after 1890 and who enjoyed a distinguished career in the Native Department, was a different individual altogether.

**Hoste, Henry Francis ('Skipper')**

No information was given in the book on the marriage and offspring of Mr. Henry James Hoste Wolton. The details are in fact as follows: Married Anne Veronica Thompson on March 30th, 1959. There were four children: Deborah Anne, born July 29th, 1960 in Salisbury: Richard Stuart Hoste, born March 27th, 1962 in Salisbury: Jacqueline Lorna, born April 8th, 1964 in Salisbury: Sarah Frances, born September 24th, 1966 in Salisbury.

**Palmer, John Walter**

The Mr. E. R. B. Palmer who raised the flag in Cecil Square in 1957 was not the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Palmer, who in fact had no children. He was Mr. Estcourt Raymond Buller Palmer, the second son of J. A. Palmer who was a member of 'A' Troop of the B.S.A. Company's Police in 1890.

# Sir Digby Burnett, K.B.E., J.P., M.I.M.M.

by R. Cherer Smith

Perhaps the name of 'Lonrho' will be remembered most in Rhodesia because of Sir Digby Burnett, who made such an impact on the life of the country during his lifetime. He was General Manager of the London and Rhodesia Mining and Land Company Limited from 1921 to 1951. He dominated the company and its subsidiaries for which he was responsible for the 30 years he was associated with the company. First, he was appointed as Sir Abe Bailey's agent in Rhodesia and subsequently as General Manager of the London and Rhodesia Mining and Land Company Limited, and finally he was elected to the board and became the Rhodesian resident director.

He had the full confidence and backing of his Chairman, Sir Abe Bailey, much of whose success was due to his choice of managers and being able to delegate to them responsibility for carrying out his instructions.

Sir Digby was a man of extremely wide interests and versatility, but he had a stubborn streak and insisted on having his own way, even when he knew he was wrong, but he admired anyone who would stand up to him and was prepared to overlook a lot of incompetence when confronted by one of his employees who was prepared to challenge him. He was a man of large proportions, with a forceful character. He had very big hands, but his legs were short for his size, which sometimes gave people the wrong impression of his stature.

Digby Burnett was born in 1875 at Caputh, Scotland, and was educated at Marlborough, Wiltshire. After training as a mining engineer, he came to South Africa in 1892 and worked for the influential mining company of H. Eckstein and Company with whom Abe Bailey was associated. It was during this time that Abe Bailey came to know him and assess his worth as a mining engineer. Later the two men were to collaborate for the best part of thirty years and it is true to say that Digby's life and career were to a very large extent shaped by Abe Bailey.

During his service on the Reef he worked on the City and Suburban and Crown Reef Mines, where he first went underground. Later he was employed as a metallurgist on the first slimes plant started on the Rand, under the direction of Mr. J. R. Williamson. In 1899 he was appointed Reduction Officer to the Durban Roodeport Reef Limited, and in 1902 he became the Cyanide Manager to the New Heriot and Jumper's Deep. Two years later he was Reduction Officer at the Crown Mines.

Digby Burnett became involved in political intrigues that were going on soon after his arrival at the Rand and no doubt was inspired by Abe Bailey who

served on the Reform Committee. He was one of those who joined Jameson's Column in 1895 as it approached Johannesburg on its ill-fated mission. Digby was captured by the Boers, but managed to escape and thus missed being charged for high treason.

During the Anglo-Boer War he served with the Railway Pioneer Corps and was also a correspondent for the *London Times*. It was during this period that he met Winston Churchill and A. S. Amery who were also war correspondents in South Africa.

He left the Rand in 1906 to take up an appointment with the Edmund Davis group as superintending engineer and manager of some mines on the West Coast of Africa, considered then to be the white man's grave. He only remained there for three years and returned to South Africa to take up an appointment as General Manager of the Pigg's Peak Development Company Limited that owned a mine in Swaziland. This company owned a mine that was named after William Pigg who discovered the reef in 1879. There was a small town with a few shops and a somewhat desultory market place attached to the mine.

Digby first came to Rhodesia in 1912 to manage the Bushtick Mine and act as consulting engineer to its owner, Mr. R. R. Hollis. Four years later he moved to Salisbury as loco superintendent for the Railways. Soon afterwards Sir Abe Bailey asked him to become his agent and consulting engineer for his group of companies in Rhodesia. This perhaps could be regarded as the turning point of his career, for in the long association that was to follow he was to benefit greatly from the ability and influence of his master, and because Sir Abe was involved in so many other interests, he was prepared to leave much of his business affairs in Rhodesia to Digby, who thus had a free hand to do what he liked, provided it proved successful.

Sir Digby joined the Southern Rhodesia Volunteers soon after his arrival in Rhodesia and was commissioned a Lieutenant in August 1912. The following year he was made a Justice of the Peace for the district of Bulawayo, but after his removal to Salisbury his jurisdiction was extended in 1921 to cover the whole of S. Rhodesia.

His duties as Justice of the Peace were "to keep and cause to be kept all laws, ordinances and proclamations for the good of the public peace and the preservation of the same, and for quiet rule and government of the people and to chastise and punish all persons that offend against those laws, ordinances and proclamations . . ."

He was also given powers to apprehend and detain persons committing certain offences of public violence.

In 1921, Digby was appointed General Manager of the London and Rhodesia Mining and Land Company Limited in succession to Mr. E. C. Pulbrook. He also acted as Sir Abe Bailey's Deputy Chairman of the Mining and Finance Company Limited — the company which was primarily concerned with Sir Abe's land interests. Subsequently this company had its name changed to the Union and Rhodesia Mining and Finance Company Limited, and to which Sir Digby was appointed as Vice Chairman.



Sir Digby Burnett.

He was responsible at this time for about thirty farms in various parts of Rhodesia and grew tobacco on an experimental basis for Sir Abe at Rhodesdale Estate near Que Que.

However, Sir Digby was mainly a mining man and concentrated on the gold mines for which he was responsible, since he believed they were vital to the well-being of Rhodesia. It was largely due to his engineering skill and Sir Abe's faith that the Cam and Motor Mine, where the ores were refractory and difficult to treat, was developed on a large scale and turned into the largest gold mine in Rhodesia and into one of the largest in the world. He was made a Director of this company and retained his position as consulting engineer.

He was a Director of the Sherwood Starr Gold Mining Company Limited near Que Que, and of the Rezende Mines, both of which he looked upon as his particular responsibilities.

He had great faith in the mining possibilities of Rhodesia and wrote an article for the 1926 edition of the *Rhodesian Annual* in which he reviewed the prospects of mining generally and painted a picture of the industry which he described as "bright in the extreme".

As an indication of the high regard in which the employees of the Rezende Mine held him, they presented him with an illuminated address on the occasion of his retirement as General Manager and Consulting Engineer in January, 1951.

The address was signed by the entire mine staff as well as a number of prominent citizens and civil servants of Penhalonga, the township where the mine was located.

Sir Digby always demanded the best from his staff and did not suffer fools gladly, but on the other hand, he treated his staff fairly and took a keen interest in the material welfare of both European and African employees. The company's conditions of service were of the best in the country and its leave conditions compared favourably with those of the civil service.

Sir Digby sat on many boards of the 'Lonrho' group of companies, but he also held positions on companies and organisations outside the group. He was appointed chairman of the board of directors in most instances, and among the most important companies upon which he served, apart from those already mentioned, were the North Charterland Exploration Company (1937) Limited, the North Kariba Coal Mining Company Limited, Arcturus Mines Limited, Homestake Goldmining Company Limited, Falcon Mines Limited, Rhodesia Brick and Potteries Limited, Premier Portland Cement Company (Rhodesia) Limited, Porters Cement Industrial Limited, and Art Printing Works Limited.

In 1927, the Government granted a monopoly for the export of beef from Rhodesia to the Imperial Cold Storage Company Limited of Cape Town, with the object of removing from the local market the surplus cattle that, for several years, had had a depressing effect on the cattle industry. The agreement provided for the Government to expropriate the business after ten years if it wished to do so.

In 1937, the Government exercised its right under the agreement and the first Commission was appointed to take over the undertaking.

Despite his busy life, Sir Digby found time for numerous other interests. He tried to improve the cattle ranching industry in which his company was deeply involved and his work in this direction was recognised by the Government when it appointed him the first Chairman of the Cold Storage Commission, the four other commissioners being Messrs. M. Chennels, H. G. Payne, A. L. Millar and Major J. P. Perrins.

A few years later Sir Digby had a disagreement with the Minister on the appointment of a civil servant as the sixth member of the commission. Sir Digby, being a man who liked to get things done in a hurry, and in an unconventional manner, had a natural antipathy towards civil servants and objected violently to the proposal.

The Minister was unmoved by his protestations and Sir Digby submitted his resignation at the end of a month. Under the Act, he was obliged to give one month's notice, and he thought the Minister would have second thoughts about the matter. But the Minister was prepared for such an eventuality and surprised the country and Sir Digby by publishing a Government Gazette Extraordinary the following day, appointing Mr. A. L. Bickle of Matabeleland as his successor.

Sir Digby took a keen interest in the activities of the Chamber of Mines. He was appointed President of the Salisbury Chamber in the days when there

were two Chambers in the country, the Matabeleland counterpart being called the Rhodesian Chamber of Mines.

He often advocated the amalgamation of the two Chambers, which was eventually achieved in 1939 by the passage through the Southern Rhodesia House of Assembly of a Private Bill which provided for the liquidation of the existing Chambers of Mines and the incorporation of the Chamber of Mines of Rhodesia. After the Chambers were amalgamated, he served as Deputy President under Mr. G. A. Davenport, who later became Minister of Mines in the Rhodesian Government.

Sir Digby always pleaded the case for the mining industry and he emphasised the necessity for keeping the taxation of the industry as low as possible to enable the lower grade ores to be worked and the higher grades to be conserved against the time when international currencies would become stabilised after the depression years of the early 1930's. He always expressed his confidence that gold would continue to be the basis of international exchange, but he realised that when stabilisation of currencies was achieved, working costs would be increased with the result that only high grade ores would be profitable. He therefore appealed for taxation to be as low as possible to encourage the expansion of the industry and was therefore a great supporter of the gold premium that the Rhodesian Government was paying to gold producers at this time.

### **RHODESIAN PREHISTORY**

In the December 1975 issue of this journal of the Prehistory Society of Rhodesia, an article, "Solomon, Sheba and Zimbabwe" by Dr. Thomas N. Huffman points out that although the basic outline of Zimbabwe's history has been known for over 70 years there are still many tantalising "mysteries" surrounding Zimbabwe. What do we know of the people who lived there, their way of life, their trade and agriculture, their religion and, most intriguing of all "how was gold discovered in the first place".

Other articles deal with the rock painting at Mucheka cave; an Early Stone Age site in the Wedza district; excavations at Norton; a new furnace type from the Darwendale Dam basin; and Chipukuswi ruin.

# The Beginnings of the Goetz Observatory

by W. F. Rea, S.J.

## I

The letters that follow describe events that led to the setting up of the earliest observatory in Rhodesia. It is perhaps surprising that the suggestion should have been made so soon in the country's history and that it should have been made by missionaries. It was as early as May 4th, 1891 that the project was first mooted, less than eight months after the Pioneers had reached Fort Salisbury, and it was made by Fr. Victor Nicot, a Jesuit missionary who was at Macloutsie on the edge of Matabeleland, looking after the welfare of the Dominican Sisters who were waiting to trek on to Salisbury. The letter in which he made the suggestion was to Fr. Schomberg Kerr, the Superior of the Zambesi Mission. It was a long one and only a small part of it concerned meteorological observation. The passage ran as follows:

"I join with you completely as to observations. My chief wish in going to Cape Town was to be recognised as fit for the work and to ascertain what I could undertake. The permanency of this place as a camp is not enough to make me wish to establish anything for astronomical work. But I think it good to propose this idea. The expense of a set of instruments for meteorological observations, including the screen, tables and forms for reports would be for the government a question of a few pounds, the time required for me to manage the thing would be at most  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an hour every day, and it seems to me it would be interesting to know accurately what the climate is, and how fever is getting on at the hospital by connecting with atmospheric variations. I may be mistaken but it seems to me that if the thing were proposed to Cdr Bower and the Governor, they would be thankful to us for undertaking the thing. Of course I mean that the Government is to supply everything, getting for instance the set, tables and forms and screen from Cape Town University. I leave you the idea to suggest it, if you think it good, at Cape Town."

So the idea was put forward. Had the early missionaries not been Jesuits, it is possible that the matter might not have been raised, for astronomy had been a Jesuit interest since the days of Clavius who, nearly four hundred years ago, helped to draw up our present calendar, and since Matteo Ricci and Johann Schall were able to use their knowledge of astronomy to bring and maintain Christianity in China's forbidden Empire. At the time when the letters that follow were being written the Jesuits were in charge of observatories at Georgetown in the U.S.A., at Manila in the Philippines and at Stonyhurst in England. As a rule they were in charge of the Vatican Observatory, though at this particular

time they were not. However they were to return there in 1906 and Fr. J. G. Hagan, who is mentioned in these letters, became its Director. The letters show that it was the missionaries who took the lead in Rhodesia. Others followed, Rhodes petulantly, the B.S.A. Co. somewhat tardily but willingly, and George Pauling, Rhodesia's railway contractor, generously.

All the letters here published are in the Jesuit Archives in Salisbury, and all, except that of Fr. Nicot, already quoted, and two others, were written by Fr. Richard Sykes, S.J., Superior of the Zambesi Mission and later the first Prefect Apostolic, to Fr. Edmund Goetz, the first Director of the Observatory that bears his name. They are contained in the bound letter-books of Fr. Sykes, whose voluminous correspondence ran to 1000 pages. The two exceptions were written by Fr. Alphonse Daighault, who had first suggested to Cecil Rhodes that Dominican Sisters should come with the Pioneer Column to look after the sick. In 1902 he was in England on mission business and he took the opportunity to further the foundation of the Observatory.

The letters, as far as the Observatory is concerned, are reproduced as they were written. Only irrelevant material has been omitted. I must express my gratitude to Mr. C. B. Archer, Head of the Advisory Services Board of the Meteorological Department, who clarified obscure points, and steered me clear of pitfalls into which I would otherwise have fallen.

## II

In spite of Nicot's suggestion the proposed observatory does not again enter the correspondence for ten years. But, as is clear from the letters below, the matter had not been forgotten. In 1896 Daignault had interested Rhodes in it, and in this first letter Sykes deals with Goetz's training and with the raising of the necessary money.

Bulawayo, Feb 5 1901

"My Dear Fr. Goetz, P.C.

I am much obliged for your long, detailed interesting and important letter of Dec. 16th.

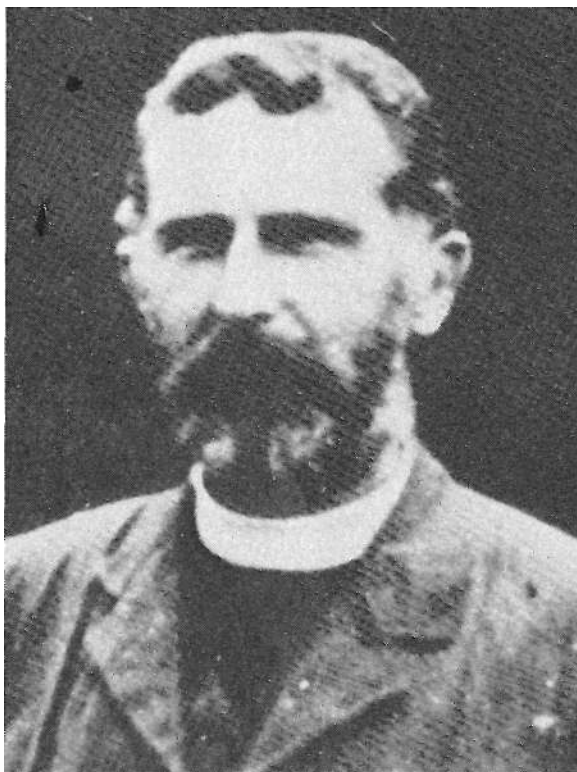
"First of all, hearty congratulations on taking your Licencie es Science Degree, which is exceedingly creditable to you and will be very useful here when you are established, as I trust some day you will be, as "Astronomer Royal" of Rhodesia."

*Here follow some lines which do not concern the proposed observatory.*

"1. We recognise how important it is for the name of the Society to have in Rhodesia a well equipped observatory, directed by one of our Fathers. Therefore all encouragement will be given to its establishment on the part of the Superior of the Zambesi Mission.

2. Owing to the importance of geology out here, it will be well to pass your examination in this subject between the end of your Tertianship and December. If you have an opportunity of attending other lectures in the Paris University





Father Goetz.

which are likely to be useful you might make arrangements, though not with a view to examination.

3. A year with Fr. Hagan at Georgetown is approved."

*The rest of this paragraph does not concern the observatory.*

"4. Your devoting yourself to some special branch of astronomy is also approved. What we want is that the results should be useful to this country, so that we may have a claim on its government for support of observatory staff, upkeep of the buildings, purchase of new instruments, etc., etc.

"5. As to the purchase of telescopes etc., involving outlay of money. I cannot say I regard Fr. Hagan's advice to you about the way of securing the fine instrument as ideal. You acted prudently in the matter and you must continue to do so in matters involving the outlay of money. The only money, or rather its equivalent, which is in hand for the observatory in Rhodesia is £100 worth of instruments got in London with a donation from my slender purse. That represents all I can do. I had a half promise from Mr. Rhodes of something towards an observatory, but so far nothing has come. However, we are just going to make a determined attempt to get £1000 from him; but it does not do to reckon too confidently upon this source. If you can get permission to beg for money in America for this purpose I am willing to give my sanction; but it is a matter requiring prudence. You have my permission to spend upon the purchase

of instruments any money given you for this object; but I do not want any transaction entered into for part payment or purchase, and the rest to follow later on, unless you have the money in hand. I need not say how necessary prudence is in a matter such as this is. If we receive any money for the observatory you shall have word of it at once. £1000 will only buy one decent instrument, and much more will be required even to start the thing. We shall see what the government (The Chartered Company) is willing to do.

"6. If Fr. Provincial sanctions it, what money comes to you on your renunciation you may employ on instruments for the observatory."

The next letter describes Sykes' disappointment in Rhodes and the measures he consequently intends to take in order to raise the necessary resources.

Bulawayo, April 21 1901

"Dear Fr. Goetz, P.C.

I am sorry to say that I have been much disappointed by the action of Mr. Rhodes in giving a subscription towards the proposed observatory here in Rhodesia. About four and a half years ago, just after I had come out to South Africa, Fr. Daignault wrote from B'wayo to me, while I was still in the Colony, laying before me the advisability of establishing an observatory here, and assuring me that Mr. Rhodes would help materially, as he had promised to do so. It was on the score of these representations and on Mr. Rhodes' promise that I sanctioned your preparing yourself for the post of astronomer in Rhodesia. The other day Fr. Daignault, on his way to England called on Mr. Rhodes at Cape Town and asked him for his promised contribution. Mr. R. did not take the request well, and gave with a very bad grace £200. It is true that since his promise he has had a very large amount of expenses, partly connected with his political schemes, and is not as well off as he was.

"I have put this matter plainly before you so that you may know the situation just as it is. I have asked Fr. Daignault to press the Board of the Chartered Company in London for some assistance. I do not know what they will do. We shall make application on receipt of Fr. Daignault's letter to the Administrator of the Chartered Company in Salisbury, but it is not likely that he will do anything unless the Board at home sanctions his doing so. So we cannot build with any certainty on this source.

"However I do not propose to give up. Nothing is done without much difficulty especially at the beginning. The £200 from Mr. Rhodes I propose to keep as a nucleus of a fund for building the observatory. If the Chartered Company gives another sum this will help. We shall need at least £500, I should think, for the necessary buildings. Then there is the question of your support. I do not know if the Chartered Company would give anything towards this. They might. But the Co. will soon go, and the Imperial Government would not do much. The big question of the astronomical apparatus remains. £1000 would go in the purchase of one good instrument. That sum we should absolutely need. How is it to be got? I have given £100 and I can give no more. It has been spent

on the purchase of instruments in London, of which I enclose a list, so that you may know what we have. If Fr. Provincial sanctions your going to America, I am afraid that you will have to try and get some money there. But for this you will need proper sanction, and you will have to be very careful how you do it. If you could raise £1000 I presume we could make a start.

"Then there is the question of the *development* of the work, when once it was started, such as additional instruments, building, etc., for which money will be required, which should come from some permanent source, which is at least doubtful. You see the way is not quite plain, but I wish to go on with the idea, and I trust to your securing a substantial sum in America. Any further development you shall hear of."

*The rest of the letter does not concern the observatory.*

In the next letter Sykes makes a direct appeal to Milton, the Administrator of Southern Rhodesia, for help.

Catholic Church, Bulawayo. Dec. 18 1901.

"Sir,

With reference to the question of establishing a meteorological observatory in Bulawayo, on which subject I made a communication to Your Honour on the 13th inst, I should wish to make the following suggestions."

*He then gives the substance of his letter to Goetz of April list, describes Goetz's training in astronomy and his own disappointment in Rhodes.*

"The proposal which I respectfully but urgently lay before Your Honour would be this: that we erect a meteorological observatory in the suburbs of Bulawayo, where we have stands, the property on which we are at present not being suitable on account of the throbbing of the electric light works engine which would upset the magnets in the observatory. This meteorological station would be well supplied with instruments: and, as time went on and means became available, it would naturally develop into an astronomical observatory in connection with the Cape. The Father in charge could also undertake most useful work in connection with the geological survey of Rhodesia for which he is amply qualified."

*The next paragraph repeats part of what he had said in his letter of April 21st to Goetz.*

"My request to Your Honour as representing the Government of Rhodesia is extremely modest. I would ask that an annual grant of £100 be conceded as part support of the Father in charge of the meteorological station and that the sum of £300 be given towards the cost of defraying the cost of the erection of a small house for the Father and a room or rooms for his instruments. I am doing all I can to enlist the sympathy of friends in the scheme at home, but as the work would be undertaken for the good of the country, I cannot think that the Government of Rhodesia would fail to assist such an excellent object."

The next is a letter of thanks to Milton for granting his request.

Catholic Church, Bulawayo. Jan 10 1902

"Dear Sir,

I am much obliged by the letter dated the 3rd inst. of the Under Secretary in which he intimates that Your Honour is prepared to place a vote on the Estimates for the next financial year towards the cost of providing the building of the observatory and for the actual maintenance, to the amount asked for in my letter of December 18th, the latter to be continued at the pleasure of the Administration and the Legislative Council.

"I beg to thank Your Honour most cordially for this intimation and to say that the Administration will be supplied with such reports and information as it may from time to time desire as long as the usual grant is continued."

With assured support of financial support for the observatory Sykes is able to write more to Goetz about equipping it.

Bulawayo, Jan 15 1902

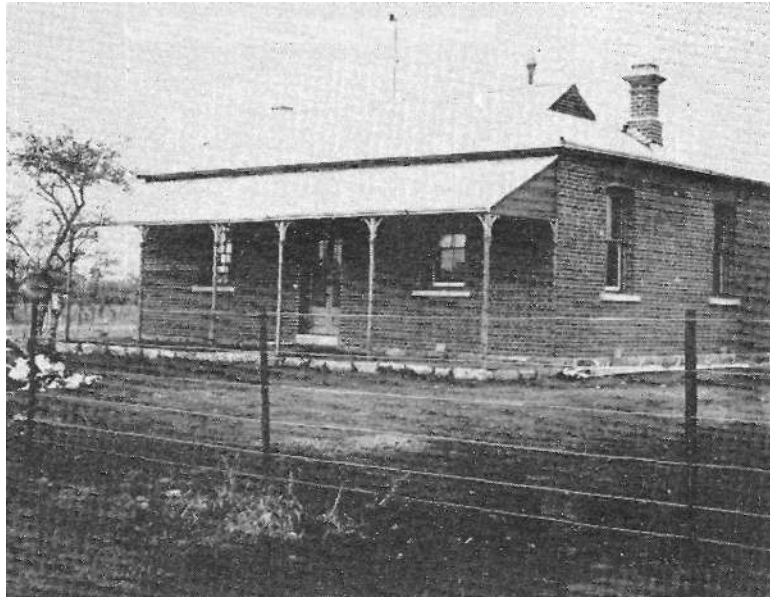
"Dear Fr. Goetz, P.C.

I am much obliged by your letter of Dec 18th. With regard to the 8 in. equatorial, I presume that it is a thoroughly reliable instrument and that it is sufficient for very important observations. As it seems to be a good bargain, you may, provided it fulfils the conditions mentioned in the previous sentence, offer \$800 for it, or even \$1000 if the owner will not part with it for less.

"With regard to the building in which to place it, I may say that £500 goes in the most modest house — two rooms — in this country, owing to the exorbitant price of material and wages. Masons get 30/- a day for eight hours work. You will see that with our modest means We have to be most sparing. Consequently we shall have to be content with the cylinder you speak of, and I should like you, at your early convenience, to send me a plan of same, with dimensions and sort of material. You will have received and answered my previous letter, in which I asked you for a sketch or plan of the room — dimensions and everything else, for keeping the meteorological instruments in. I presume the same room would do for the sidereal and the other clocks and instruments you mention. If they would necessitate any change, please let me know. I presume you will be coming out here by or before the end of the present year, and I should like to begin all necessary building as soon after the rains as possible, that is about April. At present the price of building material is prohibitive, but I hope the war will be over one day, and prices will be lower.

"Do not purchase any other instruments, such as transit, or latitude, or clocks until you hear from me.

This is the first of the two letters written by Daignault from England, and in it he expresses confidence in the financial help which will be provided by George Pauling.



The Goetz Observatory.

St. Mary's Hall, Stonyhurst, 7/2/02

"My Reverend and Dear Fr. Superior, P.C.

I received yours of Dec. 17th and Jan. 8th. Mr. Pauling has promised me to give £200 of his own money and to get £200 more from his friends for the proposed observatory. I have this in writing. When the money is actually wanted I think that nothing else will be necessary but that Your Rev. should write to Mr. Pauling and ask him whether it would be convenient for him to give the promised gift. Mr. Pauling has always done more than he actually promised so I cannot anticipate any difficulty."

Sykes writes further to Goetz about equipping the observatory.

Bulawayo, June 10 1902

"My Dear Fr. Goetz, P.C.

I am now in a position to reply to your letters of January 29th and March 31st. I have waited until I could consider your different suggestions in their final stage, instead of answering before your recommendations were complete. I will put down as clearly as I can my answers to your different suggestions.

"1. Nothing will be built until you come except a house for you.

"2. It will be best to have the thermometer-screen and the observatory dome etc. built here as we have a good carpenter and railway rates are very high in South Africa.

"3. I put at your disposal £300 for the purchase of instruments, viz. the meteorological you speak of, the Clark 8 in. lens and the 7¼ in. London, transit

or latitude instrument and the chronograph. These are the chief if not all that you mentioned as wishing to buy, and £300 will more than cover the cost, but there is the freight and carriage to be paid. In this offer I am going to the fullest limit of expense possible according to our means. I have only £200 in hand for the observatory; your own house will cost £300 at a modest computation, other necessary buildings are at least £150; so that £750 will be incurred by the purchase of the above instruments with the buildings just mentioned and there will be incidental expenses.

"4. Your and Fr. Hagan's suggestion of cataloguing the variable stars approved on condition of loan of 12 in. telescope and clock as mentioned in your letter. Please convey my thanks to Fr. Hagan for his efforts on this point, which I hope will be successful. It will be a good work, and one honourable to the Society, especially in South Africa, if we carry it out.

"5. About an assistant for the computations. This question must remain over for the present. To support a man up here is expensive; but as he would not be wanted for some twelve months after you begin your work, it may be possible meanwhile to suggest ways and means.

"Fr. Nicot is very anxious that we should develop the meteorological department as soon as possible. I think this will be well, as we should have something more important in this line at our observatory than is the case at the different little stations scattered up and down Rhodesia.

"Fr. Nicot is also much in favour of something being done in the matter of magnetic survey and observation. He suggests visiting Kew Observatory for a day or two on your way back, when in London to pick up what information you can get there. We have a unifile\* magnetometer from Kew. I quite see the force of your objection about having a superficial knowledge of many things instead of deeper knowledge of fewer. Still I think Fr. Nicot's suggestion a good one."

This is Daignault's second letter. The hopes placed in Pauling had not been entirely realised, but Pauling himself promises more than he had done at first.

St. Mary's Hall, Stonyhurst 19/12/02

"My Reverend and Dear Fr. Superior, P.C.

I have written to Mr. Pauling, he answers as a man who has forgotten almost everything about the matter. However he says that long ago he spoke to some friends, but could not interest them in the matter, as for himself he says that of late he has not made any money, but however he will give £250. He has been away in Greece, he is now away in France, so I have to wait as these matters are not easily settled by letter. I consider the £250 as certain, and I hope to get more; but Your Rev. is mistaken in writing that Mr. Pauling has promised £300. It was only £200 that he promised and £200 more from his friends. With the £200 given by Mr. Rhodes it came to £600."

\* Sykes actually wrote 'unifile'. It should be 'unifilar'. I owe this emendation to Mr. C. B. Archer

In this last letter Sykes thanks Milton for providing a site for the observatory, agrees to Milton's conditions, and asks that the money promised may be paid quickly so that he may be reimbursed for what he has spent.

Catholic Church, Bulawayo. Feb 2 1903

"Dear Sir,

I am much obliged by Your Honour's communication of January 28th and beg to thank you for the offer of stands in the suburbs of Bulawayo to be occupied for purposes of the observatory.

"I beg to state that I accept the terms on which the grant is conditioned, viz. that the building to be erected on the stands shall be used for the purposes of the observatory, and should the Jesuit Order at any time relinquish the work, the stands and buildings shall be handed over to the Government of Rhodesia, should the Government desire it, on the understanding that reasonable compensation be given for outlay upon the buildings.

"I should like to have Your Honour's authorisation to erect the astronomer's house and the other necessary buildings connected with the observatory, even if formal transfer has not taken place, as the Father in charge is practically ready to come and accommodation is wanted immediately.

"I should wish furthermore to request that the contributions kindly promised by Your Honour, viz. £300 in part payment for the buildings and £100 for the first annual grant towards the support of the astronomer be entered upon the forthcoming estimates.

"If Your Honour approves it would be a great consideration shown us, if the first £100 for the expenses of the astronomer could be paid at the end of the present financial year, which I understand ends with February or in March, as a heavy outlay has been incurred in connection with the Father's travelling expenses, necessary instruments, purchase of reports and scientific books etc. as well as his studies in an important university in the United States."

### III

It only remains to add that the Observatory duly came into existence with Fr. Goetz as its Director, a position which he kept till 1926 when the Jesuits left Bulawayo and the Observatory was handed over to the Government. Fr. Goetz's telescope formed the base of the instrument which was used not long ago when studies in astronomy were begun at St. George's College, Salisbury and it continued to do service till 1975.

# Muslim or Arabic Navigations on the East Coast of Africa

A letter from V. L. Bosazza

*(In our last issue we published an article by R. W. Dickinson on "Angoche and the Sofala Shoal". Mr. V. L. Bosazza of 39 Barkly Road, Parktown, Johannesburg, follows this up in the following letter.—Editor)*

I have just received the March 1976 volume of *Rhodesiana* and the paper by Mr. R. W. Dickinson is of great interest and importance to me. For some years I have been working on a project "Lead Line, Latitude and Look-out on the East Coast of Africa". This starts with the reputed Neccho Phoenician Expedition of 611 B.C. and continues through the Muslim Navigations to the Portuguese and ends in 1870 with the accurate charting of the East Coast of Africa by the Hydrographer to the Navy.

His paper is just what I require on the Muslims or Arabic Navigations. They are not quite the same as there were Arabic sailors before the rise of the Muslim Religion. There are a few leads I would like to follow up and I shall deal with these as follows:

## **The 16th Century Portuguese Map from the Atlas of Diogo Homen 1568**

Last year the British Library supplied me with a photographic copy of the southern part of a map by Antonio Sances made in 1623. (British Library MSS No, Add 22874). This is a younger map than Homen's but it shows the same features of the Sofala Bank and the Chesterfield Shoal off the coast of Madagascar south of Cape St. Andre (Andrew). Comparing this map with later charts by Horsburgh (compiled by Captain Peter Heywood in 1809), from a diagrammatic point of view the Sofala Shoal and the Chesterfield Shoal do not appear as outstanding navigational hazards as they do on the Portuguese map. Of course in the interval, much greater progress had been made in the manoeuvrability of sailing vessels. There was a better knowledge of the delineation of the coast and the currents were better known.

The greatest achievement had been made, namely the fixing of longitude at sea. Nevertheless this charting at such an early stage was an outstanding achievement, for the following reasons:

- (i) The Banco de Sofalas, as the *Africa Pilot*<sup>1</sup> calls it, can be delineated by three contour lines, (a) the 10 fathom line, (b) the 20 fathom line, and (c) the 100 fathom line.

1. *Ritchie, G. S.* (1967) *Africa Pilot* Volume 111 comprising the South and East Coasts of Africa from Cape Hangklip to Ras Hafum. 12th Ed. Admiralty Lond. p. 190.



- (ii) The "probable line of soundings" of the Chesterfield Shoal off Cape St. Andre, however, is greater than 50 fathoms and seems to be about 100 fathoms.

It does not follow even on a printed Atlas, that the data are all contemporary with the date of the Chart, since any good engraver could insert at a later date new data in complete harmony with the draughtsmanship of the older work. This was particularly so when the reproduction was done by means of copper plates. Indeed, I have had this done to a map of mine published by the Portuguese Government in 1954. I wanted to add some positions to a zinc plate of a map I had drawn some months previously. Before printing the engraver, without any delay, simply added the new data.

However, this does not detract from the Portuguese effort in charting as an outstanding piece of work. The outline of the Bank or Shoal conforms with the later chartings on Admiralty Chart No. 648 Delagoa Bay to River Zambezi, of 1929. This chart was first published in 1828. Now soundings down to 20 fathoms (40 metres) took time when a vessel was under sail and under way. Such soundings were not usually done from long-boats nor cutters but from the surveying vessel, usually doing a running survey. But soundings of 100 fathoms were a very different matter and not only took much longer but were more difficult to do.

The position of the sounding had to be determined and while in the case of a running survey, the start and the end of the run were sufficient this was no easy matter as regards longitude or, what was even more important, distance from land. Except around Bazaruta the navigational hazards only start from the 20 fathom line, that is 40 metres. This varies from 30 to 40 nautical miles from the coast, which is a low-lying one and without features from which an offshore position could be determined with any accuracy. I think, therefore, the Portuguese navigator must have done a running survey from Cape Bazaruta to Angoche (Angoxa), sounding as his vessel proceeded along a more or less north-east heading. However, this is not so easy to do in the case of the Chesterfield Shoal. I think that in the long modern age of mathematical fixing we forget that men could and did find their way at sea without any navigational aids other than a compass and dead reckoning. I recall one cruise from Milford Haven to Lymington with an old trawler skipper as pilot and he told me that when he first went to sea in Brixham trawlers they put out to sea and made their buoy in Brixham, with only the aid of a compass and an estimate of progress over the bottom. I saw him on many occasions estimate the counter flow of a tide in the channel, which tables plus other methods proved to be accurate to a knot.

There can be no doubt, however, from Captain W. F. N. Owen's charting of the Port of Sofala that it was not an easy one to make under sail, in any form of vessel. Probably the Arab vessels with a lateen sail and shallow draught plus their superb knowledge of navigating shoal waters, made the passage an easier one than for the Portuguese.

I am confident, that what Mr. Dickinson suggests namely that underwater archaeological investigation might reveal remains of earlier settlements, is accurate. However, I do not think that there are any shallow water ports or

harbours of a buried "Atlantis" type. I think that just as the Kyrenia vessel was found in about 30 metres of water, about a mile offshore, that in the channels into Sofala stone anchors, amphora, etc. even a vessel, might be found.<sup>2</sup> There can be little hope of timber remaining unless it has been protected by sediments against Toredos.

Sofala may have been much smaller than Quiloa, Mombasa and Lamu but it is the southernmost point of Arabic penetration we know of, and as such is of the greatest importance. It should be noted that many of Captain Owen's observations<sup>3</sup> although only made in 1821-1823, are relevant. For example, he recorded the following on p. 74:

"The boats at Delagoa Bay and Fisher's River are counterparts of the Masoola boats of Coromandel and Malabar, but on a smaller scale; they are flat bottomed and wall sided; their planks being sewed together against a wadding of tow, sufficiently elastic to keep them tolerably tight."

Such vessels have been known in Lamu until recent times.<sup>4</sup> Mariun Kaplan photographed one on the beach at Salalah in Oman in 1975<sup>5</sup>

Although not raised by Mr. Dickinson the question of whether or not the Arabs in the pre-1500 period rounded the Cape of Good Hope, is related to his researches. Rochlin<sup>6</sup> concluded that they did not while the late Dr. Jeffreys thought they had.<sup>7</sup> On additional and independent grounds to Rochlin, I do not think that Arab sailors could have rounded the Cape before 1500 nor even, in fact, in their vessels at a very much later date. Therefore, even less could the Phoenicians in one and only one attempt have succeeded.

#### **Mr. R. W. Dickinson comments on the above letter:**

One hopes that when the present difficulties have diminished it will be possible to resume investigations of Sofala. Indeed, the new government in Mozambique may well be far more interested in the history of pre-Portuguese folk trading from inland and from across the Indian Ocean and mingling on the coasts of S.E. Africa. The particular obstacle at Sofala is the constantly changing sandbanks which can be seen on the surface to cover or uncover the stone fort ruins as the moods of the ocean dictate: the bottom must suffer similar cycles. One would therefore depend on the evidence of fishermen to alert the archaeologists of profitable search.

I agree entirely that we are most unlikely to find substantial buildings representing pre-Portuguese Sofala. Due to lack of good building stone along

2. *Bass, G. F.* Editor (1972) *A History of Seafaring based on underwater Archaeology.* Lond. Thames and Hudson. See article by M. L. Katzev p. 50 onwards.
3. *Owen, W. F. M.* R.N. (1833) *Narrative of Voyages to Explore the Shores of Africa, Arabia and Madagascar, performed in H.M. Ships Leven and Barracouta.* London. R. Bentley. Vol. 1. p. 74.
4. *Prins, A. H. J.* (1965) *Sailing from Lamu.* Assen. van Gorcum. 320 p.
5. *Kaplan, M.* (1974) *Twilight of the Arab Dhow.* National Geogr. Mag. 146(3), 330-251.
6. *Rochlin, S. A.* (1958) *Early Arab Knowledge of the Cape of Good Hope.* *Africana Notes and News.* Johannesburg. Vol. 13 (1): 32-47.
7. *Jeffreys, M. D. W.* (1959) *Arabs and the Discovery of the Cape.* *Africana Notes and News:* 13:237-240.

this coast, the buildings were probably all mud-walled under thatch which could entirely disappear in low-lying areas. But remains of ships and their cargoes could be important evidence for the historians of the medieval trade in the Indian Ocean.

#### **ANGOCHE AND THE SOFALA SHOAL: REFERENCES**

- Mr. R. W. Dickinson points out that references and abbreviations were omitted from his article in *Rhodesiana* No. 34, March 1976. These were:
- ALPERS, E. 'The Mutapa and Malawi political systems' in *Aspects of Central African history*, ed. T. Ranger, London, 1968, pp. 1-28.
- D.P.M. *Documents on the Portuguese in Mocambique and Central Africa, 1497-1840*, National Archives of Rhodesia, Salisbury, and Lisbon, Portugal, 1962-1969, 6 vols.
- J.A.H. *Journal of African history*, London.
- R.S.E.A. G. M. Theal's *Records of south-east Africa*, Cape Town, 1898-1903, 9 vols.

#### **MOUNTAIN CLUB OF RHODESIA JOURNAL**

In December 1976 the Mountain Club of Rhodesia celebrates its 21st birthday and to commemorate this event the 1976-77 number of the journal is, as Walter Krog the editor describes it, "a bumper issue".

There are over twenty contributions and 28 photographs plus some humorous line drawings. There are descriptions of new climbs in Rhodesia and reminiscences of well-known ones. Among other articles are — Mountain rescue in Rhodesia; Outward Bound; and what a climber should do when he discovers a prehistoric site. Rhodesian climbers travel widely in pursuit of their passion and there are articles and pictures about Rhodesians climbing in Malawi, Angola, East Africa, the Andes, Himalayas and the French Haut-Alpes.

The technical skills, toughness and dangers of mountaineering are not over emphasised but rather the enjoyment of adventuring with like-minded companions and being in close touch with particularly wild nature.

There is a lot of interest here for the general reader as well as for the many "armchair mountaineers".

This is the 8th publication of the club since its beginning and it is obtainable at Kingstons for \$1,00.

# Some Buildings and Sites near Bulawayo connected with C. J. Rhodes

by C. K. Cooke

This short account does not purport to be a history of the buildings, but rather a preliminary article on those sites and buildings with which Cecil John Rhodes was intimately connected.

The earliest one now extant is one of a group of three rondavels in which Mr. Rhodes resided on some of his visits to Bulawayo (Plate 1). This is in the grounds of Government House, Bulawayo.

The original Government House (Plate 2) was built during Rhodes's time but was subsequently burnt down during the Matabele Rebellion of 1896. The present house was designed by the same architect who was responsible for the modern Groot Schuur in Rondebosch, Cape.

The grounds of Government House also contain the stables and Coach House with a horse trough outside. The stable fittings were imported from Scotland and consist of iron saddle racks, feeding troughs and stall fittings. The horse trough, the supports of which represent the legs of a Shire horse, was also made by M. MacFarlane and Co. of Glasgow. These fine examples of Victorian ironwork illustrate the amount of care and attention lavished on the horse, the most important, indeed the only means of transport of those days, other than the Railways.

The Bulawayo Club, of which Rhodes was a foundation member, no longer exists. It was a *Papier Mache* building (Plate 3) on the corner of Main Street and 6th Avenue, the stand on which the British Empire Service League later built the Empire Club. Rhodes later granted the club two stands on the corner of 8th Avenue/Main Street on which the club buildings were erected during 1896; the incomplete building was used as a barracks for troops during the Rebellion and was much damaged by them. The building (Plate 4), finished in August 1896, was used by the club until May 1935 when it was transferred to its present site.

Rhodes's original office in the Bulawayo township was on the site now occupied by the O.K. Bazaars on the corner of 9th Avenue and Abercorn Street. This was a small wood and corrugated iron structure.

Outside Bulawayo he had rondavels built on his Westacre Estate on the outskirts of the Matopo Hills (Plate 5) where he also had a large thatched shelter which was used as a summer-house and dining-room (Plate 6). This same shelter was the resting-place for one night of the gun-carriage and coffin containing the remains of our Founder on its journey to the burial place on the hill



Plate 1

Rhodes's Rondavel, Bulawayo.



Plate 2

Original Government House, Bulawayo.

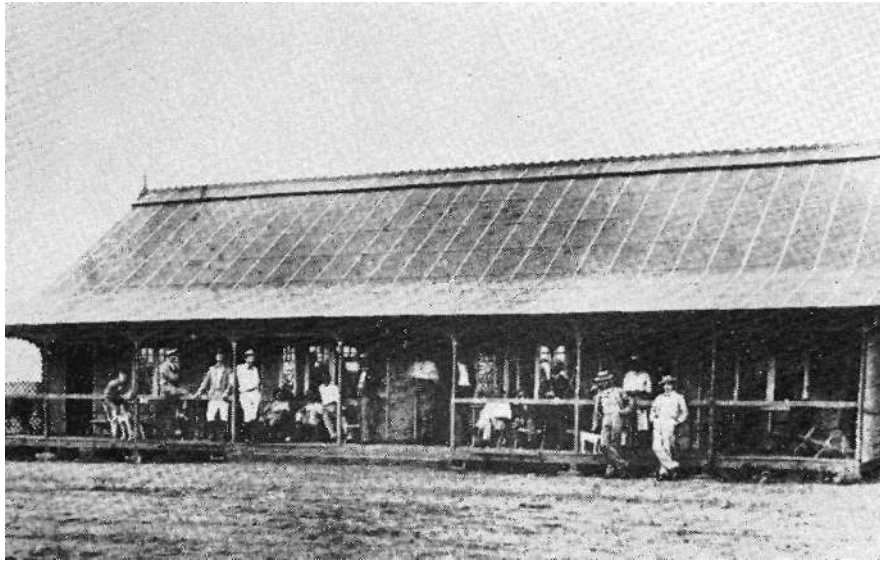


Plate 3

First Bulawayo Club.

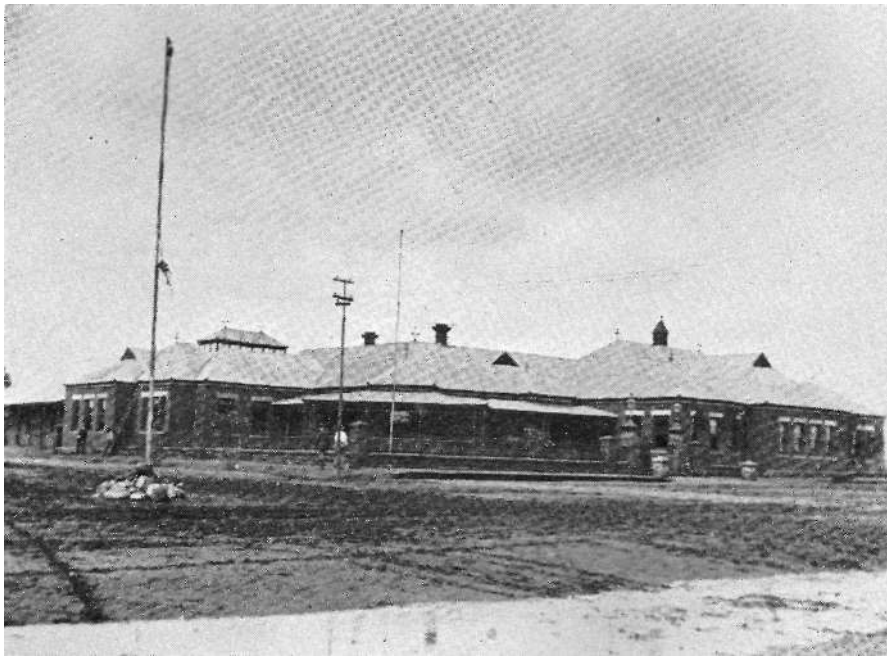


Plate 4

Second Bulawayo Club.



Plate 5                      Three Rondavels — Westacre Estate.



Plate                      6                      Summer-house — Westacre Estate.

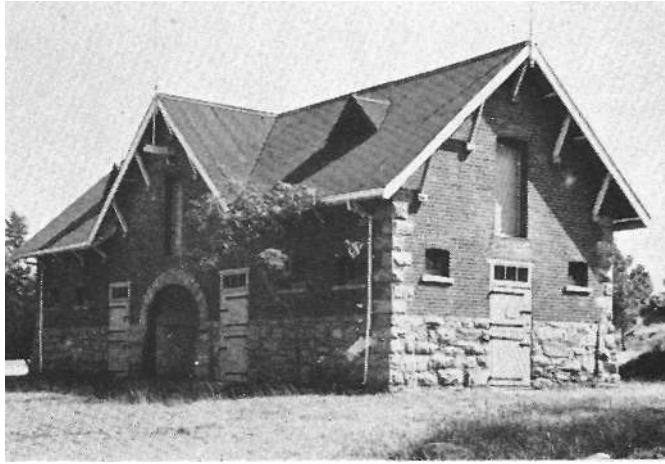


Plate 7

Stables — Westacre Estate.

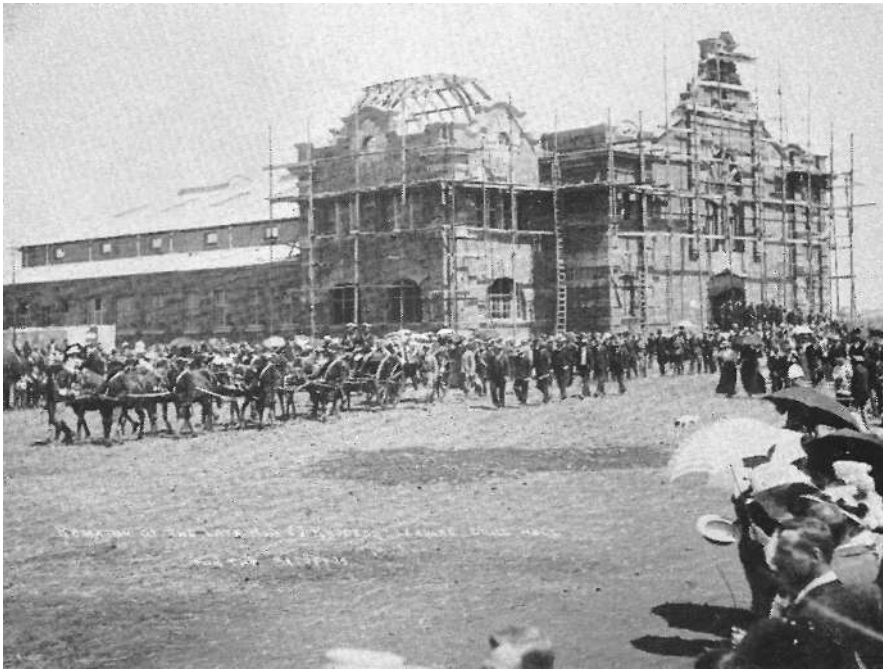


Plate 8

Rhodes's Funeral Cortege leaving Drill Hall, Bulawayo.



known as a View of the World. Stables (Plate 7) on the farm were erected on his orders, but were built after his death in 1902.

Probably the most far seeing of Mr. Rhodes's schemes was the building of a dam wall on a tributary of the Maleme River. The reservoir, when full, impounds 2 430 million litres of water. This water may be used to irrigate 200 hectares of land, but the lake also makes a most valuable recreation area for the people, of Bulawayo. Mr. Rhodes defrayed the whole cost of this work, £30 000, from his private purse.

The last building (Plate 8) with which he was associated was the Drill Hall, He laid the foundation stone and before the building was completed his remains laid in state in the unfinished building prior to his burial in the Matopo Hills.

### MAMBO PRESS PUBLICATIONS

In addition to the volume on the Shona peoples reviewed in this issue, two smaller booklets are to hand from the Mambo Press, Gwelo.

In the Missio-Pastoral Series, No. 7 is — *St. Peter's Harare: Portrait of an African Town Parish* by Anthony Bex, S J. It gives an account of the multifarious duties, problems and experiences of pastoral work in a large African town. *Myths about Africans* by M. F. C. Bourdillon discusses and exposes what the author refers to as "misconceptions" that white people commonly have about Africans. He deals with European ideas of African "primitiveness", of their belief in witchcraft, of the status of African women and of the African's reaction to urban life.

# Major F. R. Burnham, D.S.O.:

## A Vindication

by J. P. Lott

*{Several books published during the last few years about the 1896 Matabele War, the Shangani Patrol and about the Rebellion of 1896 have cast some doubts on two of Major Burnham's exploits as described in his autobiography — "Scouting on Two Continents". It has been implied that in 1893 instead of Burnham and his two companions, Ingram and Gooding, being ordered by Allan Wilson to go back and seek help from the main body of the Patrol, they actually deserted. Further, it has been stated in some published material that Burnham claimed to have killed the high priest Mlimo who had stirred up the Rebellion of 1896.*

*Mr. J. P. Lott (of 8490 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90069), a student of Rhodesian history, a friend of the Burnham family and a keen collector of objects of Rhodesian interest, has sent the following letter refuting published statements that impugn the character of Burnham and clearing up the confusion about the Mlimo incident.*

*(The Books of Rhodesia reprint, with a Foreword by P. Emmerson, was reviewed in our last issue.—Editor)*

The purpose of this letter is not to refute point by point the mass of published attacks on Major Frederick Russell Burnham, D.S.O. I will do that in the future when time and space permit. I do, however, appreciate this opportunity to say a few words in behalf of the Major and in this spirit also speak for his son Roderick, who will soon be 90, and his wife Gayle. If, as I believe, Burnham is a *bona fide* hero, then the torrent of hostility directed from certain quarters will rebound in a wide spray.

The latest manifestation of the anti-Burnhamites comes from Peter Emmerson's foreword to the reprint of Burnham's 1926 autobiography, *Scouting On Two Continents*. (Books of Rhodesia, Bulawayo, Silver Series, Vol. 4, 1975.) I am tempted to add, but won't, that these would have preferred the title to read, "Shouting On Two Continents"! Although Emmerson did not write an official Archives view of Burnham, his former status as a Rhodesian archivist gives great credibility to his views. Unfortunately Burnham cannot defend himself, which he never lacked the mental or physical ability to do in his prime. However, his passing in 1947 was historically recent, so that numerous individuals are still alive who knew him and abundant documentation exists in my and other possession to support him.

Writers and historians such as Hole, Ranger, Ransford, Emmerson and now O'Reilly, book reviewers, and even the late Government publication

*Rhodesian Commentary*, and now its replacement, *Focus on Rhodesia*, join the anti-Burnham cabal; the latter with good intentions by repeating support for unsubstantiated allegations along with praise. A typical example of the uncritical use of petty personal hostility to discolour Burnham's image is that on page 38 of O'Reilly's *Pursuit of the King*. Quoting one Berthond: "A few years or so back", Collier's had an account, "the most grotesque lie I've ever encountered . . .". "All the penny dreadful junk imaginable . . .". "This America's the greatest land of boast and Burnham was all of it. . .". "Fancy he did not write this book (*Scouting*)." Berthond adds he knew the magazine story was "ghost written". I have in my possession, taken from the Major's scrap-book of published clippings, a copy of the article. It is dated Oct. 19, 1935 and written by W. B. Courtney. Its title is *Great Scout* and is headed by a fancifully lurid illustration which suits the grossly lurid text. Nowhere in it is one word to indicate Burnham's participation or authorization. In short, Berthond owed Burnham an apology, but of such stuff is made a large part of the anti-Burnham effort. Another example is this published statement: "Serious doubts were cast on this claim by Gooding who, according to the lawyer J. C. Coghlan, confessed on his deathbed that "he, Burnham and Ingram were not sent back by Wilson at Shangani but they cleared off on their own accord". Doubts were not "cast by Gooding", but by Coghlan who wrote in his letter to Jack Carruthers that "A very reliable man informed me that Wools-Sampson told him." This is not quite the same thing and Coghlan does not name the "reliable man". In fact he cautions against using this as "evidence". This hardly adds up to "serious doubts" and Emmerson pointed this out. I would add that to impugn Burnham on the basis of it can only reflect on those who do so. If Gooding made such a deathbed "confession" did he do so to explain his own departure with Burnham and Ingram after Ingram had replaced him at Burnham's request (p. 184 of *Scouting*)!

{Mr. Lott next mentions the Mlimo incident.—Editor}

The following misquote of Burnham appeared on the jacket fold (of the Books of Rhodesia reprint) and in some reviews concerning the killing of the Mlimo: "By this action he had 'done Rhodesians a stupendous service by exploding the myth of the cave and destroying the Mlimo's power'." Burnham actually said (p. 254, *Scouting*) "Armstrong was only a boy at this time and was a character of most peculiar moods, but with boundless nerve and loyalty to the settlers' cause. He did Rhodesia a stupendous service by exploding the myth of the cave and destroying the M'limo's power". This does not equate with the boastful connotation of the former version.

Whereas some reviewers were influenced by Emmerson's jaundiced views, many drew their own conclusions as did "C. J." of Bulawayo's *Sunday News*: "That may be. But if Burnham had blotted his copy book in Rhodesia, it is curious that he returned so readily to Southern Africa at the time of the Boer War and even more surprising that Lord Roberts should have chosen him to be his Chief of Scouts".

To those who think Mary Nixon Everett, who "elicited", actually edited, *Scouting*, wrote it for Burnham, I can assure them he did write it and it conforms to the style of his letters and speeches which I have. Though with but one year of schooling he was attracted to leaders of men and his language and habits were influenced strongly by a very literate class of Englishmen.

Although the Coghlan letter does not sustain the view that the trio deserted Wilson, Emmerson and O'Reilly attempt to support such a conclusion. Emmerson in his foreword tries to prove Burnham exaggerated the number of Matabele in *Scouting*. "Fifteen hundred warriors, at the Inquiry, became 7 000 to 8 000 when talking to the South African historian S. J. du Toit, and "thousands" in *Scouting on Two Continents* (p. 176). Scarcely audible conferences between the officers of the Party at the Court of Inquiry become a clearly remembered set of statements of doom . . ." Not so. Burnham gave the men dialogue to make his book more readable and in substance it did not conflict with his testimony. At the Court of Inquiry Burnham referred to the number of Matabele engaged against Wilson. He does not say "thousands" but quotes an induna on page 202. Burnham's 1 500 warriors agrees with most estimates of the number of warriors finally against Wilson. The larger figures agree with the total number with the King, against Wilson, following the scouts and against Forbes.

Emmerson suggests reasons for the "desertion" view thusly: "Would Wilson at such a crucial time have reduced his forces still further from their already meagre level?" O'Reilly on p. 75 of *Pursuit of the King* says, "Wilson would have expected Forbes and understandably would have sent a scout to find the Patrol and expedite its passage through the forest; but only if there were no undue risk (*sic*) to the men's lives. Perhaps two would have been necessary, but why Trooper Gooding?" Can one seriously suggest that Wilson would not try to save his men and not try to complete his objective? Would he not logically send Burnham, his personal scout? Would he sent him alone? Hugh Marshall Hole's view that Burnham and his companions left during confused fighting is refuted by native witnesses. It is known that the trio were seen to leave during a lull in the fighting after Wilson withdrew to his final position. The Matabele had been repulsed and were waiting for Gambo's reinforcements. A desertion at this time would have been stopped with bullets.

*Focus on Rhodesia* in its first edition as a Government publication replacing *Rhodesian Commentary*, states: "There is one school of historians which believes he was a courageous soldier who performed a great service for Rhodesia, and another which brands him a coward who deserted his comrades-at-arms when the Shangani Patrol of Allan Wilson was massively out-numbered". No genuine historian could build a "school" of thought on such a letter as written by Coghlan.

Disbelief in Burnham's version of the 1896 "Mlimo" episode is more logical. Ranger does credit Burnham with killing the "High Priest" of the southwestern shrine, but relied largely on the research of the American scholar Richard Werbner in the Mangwe area. Recent research has confirmed that indeed Burnham killed the rainmaker (Iwosana) of the tribe (Makalanga) who

was Hobani or Tshobani (Sindebele), fourth son of Banko's family. Burnham relied on Armstrong's information as to the priest's status and the Administration believed it and gave Burnham an engraved watch for his part. The subsequent fighting at Thaba-zi-ka-Mambo led by Mkwati, led Hole and others to cry "fraud", but Mkwati was not part of the Matoppos-centred hierarchy of the Mwari priesthood. The Administration thought the Rebellion was directed "a la Mahdi", through the "Mlimo" (Voice of God). Burnham was equally deceived by this view as was Hole, who after Tshobani's death concluded that since Mkwati was leading heavy fighting near Inyati, thus he was the "Mlimo". Of course, the Mlimo is not a man, but "The Voice of God" which can only be heard by the hereditary priests or Isiosana.

Armstrong was not forced to resign from the Native Administration due to his role in the Mlimo incident, as Ranger, Summers and Pagden state. He resigned over a series of disputes with the Administration as his letters in Archives reveal. According to Emmerson, the Watermeyer Inquiry favoured Armstrong, and I would agree, based on my study of the papers of Armstrong and his subsequently being awarded a gold watch like Burnham's which he refused, saying "This is an afterthought". Armstrong apparently requested the Inquiry to clear his name. Emmerson wonders why Armstrong confided his information with Burnham, a curious question in view of Burnham being an Intelligence Officer as Chief of Scouts on Gen. Carrington's staff.

Fear of the closure of Mangwe Pass was another factor in Tshobani's killing. As a pre-emptive strike it had a deterrent effect by proving the mortal status of one who was reputed to be capable of immunizing warriors against bullets.

As for Emmerson's statement that Burnham was "loud, brash, boastful and conceited", no support for this comes from his superiors or those like Baden-Powell who rode and scouted with him. Such a person would be avoided and denied promotion and acceptance among the aristocratic leadership such as continued to promote, rely on and fraternize with Burnham to his dying days. The war correspondent Richard Harding Davis states: "In manner he is quiet, courteous, talking slowly but well, and while without any of that shyness that comes from self-consciousness, extremely modest. Indeed there could be no better proof of his modesty than the difficulties I have encountered in collecting material for this article, which I have been five years in collecting." In 1903 the *East African Review* said: "Should East Africa ever become a possession for England to be proud of, she will owe much of her prosperity to the brave little band that has faced hardships and dangers in discovering her hidden resources. Not the least like a hero is the retiring diffident little major himself, though a finer friend or a better man to serve under would not be found in the five continents."

The Burnham described by some writers cannot be the same Burnham I know through his papers and interviews with those who knew him. Based on ample proof of his character, it can be said that cowardice and fraud were out of character for Major F. R. Burnham, D.S.O. Too many military and civilian

leaders admired him and enjoyed his friendship. These included Allan Wilson, Forbes, Carrington, Baden-Powell, Jameson, Rhodes, Tyrie Laing, the Hon. Maurice Gifford, Lord Gilford, v.c., Lord Roberts, John Hays Hammond, "Teddy" Roosevelt, Rider Haggard, Bobby Charles and Harry White, Arthur Cummings, Pete Ingram and the great Selous. Burnham's aristocratic and powerful friends, his honours, his publicity, land grants, financial success and *Scouting* doubtless triggered jealous and hostile reactions among the less favoured.

From letters written from Mexico in 1913 to his son Roderick are these excerpts. He had founded a settlement on the Yaqui Delta and Mexico was seething with rival bands of revolutionaries in the anarchy following the rule of the dictator Diaz. "You may not hear from me for long time as wires and Ry. is in bad shape — bridge burned at corral — but big steel bridge still in shape — situation far south very bad — I fear I cannot possibly go to London or N.Y. until things quiet down or our settlers are in good shape, or out." Shades of 1896. In a second letter: "Bring down some .30-30's and 20,000 rounds, rockets, caps, fuses and dynamite. We have nothing to fear from Insurrectos or Federates, but the Yaquis (Indians) are out and the bandits thick. Bring plenty of grub — get John Blick (his brother-in-law, of Gifford's Horse, 1896). Have made arrangements for runners to wire ends and to Empalme. Yours ever, Goodbye, Pater." The real Burnham speaking, not to his public readership, but privately to his son. After Mexico, Burnham in 1917 volunteered to recruit and take a regiment of southwestern frontiersmen to France under Roosevelt's command, but Wilson refused Roosevelt.

From the dust and confusion created by inaccurate writing and unworthy allegations, always emerges the real Burnham. His affection for Rhodesia and his place in Southern Africa's history is secure despite such attacks.

### **BACK NUMBERS OF RHODESIANA**

Only the following back numbers of *Rhodesiana* are in stock. Copies can be bought from the Hon. National Secretary, Rhodesiana Society, P.O. Box 8268, Causeway, Salisbury, Rhodesia, at a cost of R|3,00 per copy. Remittances from outside Rhodesia must be for the equivalent of Rhodesian currency.

*Rhodesiana* No. 17, December 1967.

*Rhodesiana* No. 19, December 1968 onwards, two issues a year, up to the present number, *Rhodesiana* No. 35, September 1976.

# Annual General Meeting 1976 and other Society Activities

## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1976

The Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Rhodesiana Society was held in the Leander Room, Jameson Hotel, Salisbury, at 5.15 p.m. on Wednesday, 24th March, 1976.

*Present: R. W. S. Turner (National Chairman) in the Chair, C. W. H. Loades (Honorary National Secretary) and over 50 members of the Society.*

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting and a number of apologies, including one wishing the Society success from the President and Mrs. Wrathall.

### 1. *Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting*

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting had been printed in *Rhodesiana* No. 33 and copies were available at the meeting. — They were taken as read, confirmed by the meeting and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

### 2. *Chairman's Report*

The Chairman presented his report on the Society's activities during the previous year. — A copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

### 3. *Balance Sheet*

The Balance Sheet was presented and discussed. The desirability of including stocks of the Journals and medals as assets had been raised by the Matabeleland Branch. The exclusion of these was defended by Mr. Bent of Manicaland who had, at the request of the National Committee, advised our Accountants on the form of presentation of the Society's financial circumstances in a way which could be easily understood by the layman. It was agreed that the Society's Accountant should give the matter further thought. After discussion, the Balance Sheet was adopted. It was suggested that, to avoid the expense of postage, Salisbury residents be asked to collect their copies of the Journal.

### 4. *Amendment to the Constitution*

The following amendment to Clause 3 (2) of the Society's Constitution, submitted by the National Committee, was considered —

That Clause 3 (2) of the Constitution be deleted and the following substituted; —

"3 (2) Annual Subscriptions shall be due and payable on the 1st January each year and shall be fixed by the National Executive Committee who, in determining the amount of the subscription, shall pay regard to the Society's income and expenditure.

Provided, however, that the subscription for individual members shall not exceed \$8, the subscription for family members shall not exceed \$10 and Life Membership shall not exceed \$125."

The Secretary read a letter from the Matabeleland Branch which opposed the determination of the subscription by any procedure but a resolution at an A.G.M. or Special General Meeting. — He also reminded the meeting that a resolution in similar terms had been defeated at the 1974 A.G.M. The matter was discussed at considerable length and a number of alternative solutions to the Society's financial plight canvassed. Eventually it was proposed by Dr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Maltas that the above amendment be adopted. — This was carried with no dissenters.

#### 5. *Election of Officers*

CHAIRMAN: Mr. R. W. S. Turner was proposed and seconded. — There being no other nomination, he was declared re-elected.

VICE-CHAIRMAN : Mr. M. J. Kimberley was also re-elected without opposition.

HON. NATIONAL SECRETARY: After an enthusiastic description of his achievements by the retiring Secretary, Mr. G. J. Storry was elected as Honorary National Secretary.

MEMBERS: The following were duly proposed and seconded for the seven vacancies as Committee Members —

C. W. H. Loades	W. V. Brelsford
B. Lovemore	G. H. Tanser
E. E. Burke	B. W. Lloyd
H. R. E. Howman	J. M. Leach

Mr. Howman asked to be allowed to withdraw his candidature and the remaining candidates were declared elected.

#### 6. *Any Other Business*

It was suggested that the matter of Junior Membership be investigated by the incoming committee.

The meeting closed at 6 p.m.

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, R. W. S. TURNER, FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 1975**

The Rhodesiana Society, in common with many other organisations with virtually fixed incomes, is going through a period of some financial stress. The ever increasing costs of printing and other services are adversely affecting the cost of production of our magazine, *Rhodesiana*, and our costs of administration. Furthermore, and this is another sign of the times, there is going to be a sharp drop in advertising revenue. These factors have forced the Society to utilise some of its carefully accumulated reserves; in this regard the situation will be worse in 1976.



Your Committee has given thought to these problems. There are a number of courses that could be taken: the cost of publishing *Rhodesiana* could be reduced by reducing its quality, by reducing its size, or by publishing it only once a year. Your Committee was unanimous in believing that every effort must be made to avoid lowering our standards if this was at all possible. Alternatively we could strive to increase our membership and this would have the effect of putting our printing run on a more economical footing. Finally, we could recommend that members' subscriptions should be increased. It seems clear that we should endeavour to employ a combination of these courses.

First, a membership drive was initiated during the year: all members of the Pioneers' and Early Settlers' Society were sent an invitation to join the Rhodesiana Society; all members of the Rhodesiana Society were also sent application forms and requested to please endeavour to recruit a new member. These two exercises have so far resulted in some 90 new members joining our ranks and the Society is indeed grateful to Mr. B. Lovemore in his capacity of Secretary of the Rhodesia Pioneers' and Early Settlers' Society, and to all those members of the Rhodesiana Society who have helped with the recruiting drive.

Arrangements have been made to send our invitation to join the Society to all subscribers to *Africana Notes and News* as well as to the 1 800 subscribers to the South African Library Association *News Letter*. I am hopeful that interesting results are likely during the next few months from these drives. Building up our membership is, of course, an ongoing task and I would appeal to all those members who are able to do so to please miss no opportunity of enrolling a friend or an acquaintance. Ample stocks of application forms are available for all who may require them.

One of the highlights of the year was the presentation of the Society's Gold Medals to two of our members who have made an outstanding contribution to furthering the aims and objects of the Society: Mr. M. J. Kimberley and Mr. H. A. B. Simons. The presentation was made by the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Hon. B. H. Mussett, and was witnessed by some 300 members and their friends. I would like to express the Society's thanks to the Minister and to Sir Athol Evans and his Board of Trustees for permitting the ceremony to be held in the National Gallery of Rhodesia.

As has been the case for a number of years, apart from the production of *Rhodesiana*, the main activities of the Society have devolved upon our enthusiastic Branches. The Matabeleland Branch has kept the Rhodesiana torch burning brightly, and at the same time it has contrived, through excellent management, to make a profit out of its many activities. The Matabeleland Branch, apart from numerous outings and expeditions, organised the Society's Annual Dinner which I was privileged to attend: it was in every way a magnificent and delightful occasion. I would like to, on behalf of the Society as a whole, thank Mr. H. J. Vickery, the Chairman, and the members of his Branch Committee for their great work which has a ripple effect throughout the country.

Likewise, Mr. M. J. Kimberley and his Mashonaland Branch Committee are worthy of the highest praise for their splendid work during the year. The

outstanding series of lectures that the Branch organised in the National Gallery were much appreciated by all who attended them. And, as you know, the Branch has an exciting and ambitious programme organised for later this year.

Compared to the Matabeleland and Mashonaland Branches the Manicaland Branch is a relatively small organisation and understandably so. Nevertheless, I have complete confidence in Mr. H. F. T. Went and his Committee. Mr. Went lives and breathes Rhodesiana; he is, as many of you know, a first cousin of Kingsley Fairbridge, and an ex-Mayor of Umtali. His Branch will be the Society's hosts at this year's Annual Dinner that will take place on Saturday the 28th August, 1976. Apart from the dinner the opportunity will be taken of visiting places of great historic interest and unsurpassed beauty during Rhodesia's springtime. For example, Devil's Pass and Mount Zonga on the old Rusape-Umtali Road will be visited. Incidentally, both these places were painted in late August 1894 by Alice Balfour, the sister of the British Prime Minister, and this will give you an opportunity of judging how accurate was her brush.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay a special tribute to Colonel A. S. Hickman, a former Chairman of the Society and, as you all know, one of our illustrious gold medallists. Colonel Hickman has indicated that he does not want to stand for re-election to the National Committee. On your behalf I would like to wish him well and thank him for his great service to the Society.

Lastly, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasant task to thank a number of people: Sir Henry McDowell who very kindly arranged for back-numbers of *Rhodesiana* to be stored free of charge in a Barclays Bank strong-room. I have also to thank the National Deputy Chairman, Mr. M. J. Kimberley, and all members of the National Executive Committee for their unfailing support, with a special thank you to our worthy Editor, Mr. W. V. Brelsford, who is so ably assisted by Mr. E. E. Burke.

The Society's thanks are also due to our Honorary Secretary, Mr. C. W. H. Loades, who regrettably will be retiring this year, and to Mr. D. L. Playford and Mrs. E. J. Scott of our firm of accountants for the careful administration of the Society's finances and affairs.

#### **MASHONALAND BRANCH. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1976**

The Chairman, M. J. Kimberley reported:

*Committee:* Ten members, including Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and six other members were elected in March, 1975. (*The names appeared in the September 1975 and March 1976 issues.-Editor.*) I am grateful to all of them for their hard work, enthusiasm and support during the year.

#### *Activities during 1975*

Early in August 1975 the Branch organised a walk down Manica Road from Kingsway to Angwa Street. A number of historic buildings which still

exist in this part of Manica Road were looked at and interesting talks given by Mr. W. D. Gale, Mr. G. H. Tanser and Mr. T. F. M. Tanser. Due to the bitterly cold weather on the Sunday morning in question only about 50 members attended this function.

The highlight of the year was the series of lectures organised by the Branch during September and October at the National Gallery in Salisbury. The lectures dealt with different aspects of the theme Rhodesia 1896 to 1923.

The speakers and their subjects were:

Mr. G. H. Tanser, *The Beginning*, 1896: Mr. J. G. Storry, *The Stewards*: Mr. A. F. H. Baxter, *The Carriers*: Mr. H. R. G. Howman, *The Guardians*: Mr. W. D. Gale, *The People*.

The attendance at each lecture exceeded 100 persons and the Branch Committee is in the process of arranging for the text of the lectures to be published in a small booklet which will be on sale during the next few months.

I am grateful to Messrs. Leach, Franks and Rosettenstein for organising this extremely successful series so efficiently and to the several speakers for the quality of their lectures.

#### *Finance*

The long established policy of the National Executive Committee of the Society is that each Branch should be self-financing. In this regard I am pleased to report that the financial position of the Mashonaland Branch is extremely sound and the Branch is able to operate without financial assistance from the National Executive. As you will see from the accounts the accumulated funds of the Branch amount to about \$500.

### MATABELELAND BRANCH ACTIVITIES

#### *Annual Sundowner Party, Friday, 13th February, 1976*

Once again the branch started its activities for the coming year with a sundowner party.

One hundred members and guests attended the party which was held in the St. John Ambulance Hall. It was a gay and enjoyable affair and much of the chatter was about forthcoming outings and 'post mortems' on those of last year.

#### *Annual General Meeting, Sunday, 15th February, 1976*

Ninety-seven members (five apologies) attended the A.G.M. which lasted just over an hour and during which the debate was of a high standard.

There was general regret at the loss of four Committee Members of long standing who were not able to stand for re-election — Mrs. Monica Waddy, Mr. L. W. Bolze, Mr. E. T. Hepburn and Mr. G. Zacharias. The Chairman paid tribute to their services to the Society.

Mrs. Joanna Sharland and Mr. George Green were elected to the Committee.

*Outing to Mayfair and Upper Ncema Dams, Sunday, 21st March, 1976*

The weatherman was very kind on Sunday, 21st March in giving the Branch a clear sunny morning to visit the new Mayfair Dam. Heavy rain had fallen continuously on the two preceding days and nights.

In two buses and six cars about 120 members and guests gathered at the Mayfair Dam wall some 97 km from Bulawayo and off the Fort Victoria road.

Mr. R. S. Lemmer, the Assistant Engineer at the dam, gave a very interesting talk on all aspects of the dam, the largest in Matabeleland, demonstrating a number of points on the functional model. Following the talk members walked the length of the wall to the spillway and generally explored the site.

After lunch the party journeyed homeward stopping at the Upper Ncema Dam near Essexvale where Mrs. Joanna Sharland, a Bulawayo City Councillor, gave an excellent talk embracing the history of the Essexvale area, the story of the dam and its role in the series of Municipal dams in the area which supply Bulawayo with its water.

The weather turned at the Upper Ncema dam and after a talk on the wall under a canopy of umbrellas Mrs. Sharland gave the second half of her talk from inside the one bus and it was relayed through the Branch's home made loud speaker system to the second bus, an experiment which has given the answer to future wet outings!

The Society is most grateful to the Municipality of Bulawayo and the Ministry of Water Development for making this most interesting and instructive outing possible.

*Outing to Mambo Hills, Sunday, 27th June, 1916*

Over 60 members turned out before 7 a.m. on a cold, grey morning to embark on the bus for the drive to the Meikles Ranches about 50 km beyond Inyati Mission. There lie the beautiful Mambo Hills, in which are the ruins of the last Mambo stronghold and the cave which played an important part in the Mlimo, or Mwari cult during the 1896 Rebellion.

Fortunately the weather improved considerably during the day, and members gathered in warm sunshine at the foot of the citadel hill to hear Mr. E. T. Hepburn's most interesting and informative talk about the tribal history of the area.

Before the Matabele came the dominant tribe was the WaRozwi, whose paramount chiefs, the Mambos, ruled from hilltop strongholds, the last of which crowned the cliffs above the audience.

The last Mambo, vanquished by the warriors of Zwangendaba, plunged to his death over those same cliffs.

After the talk most of the members, including several of the older ones, climbed up to the ruins and admired the magnificent view which unfolded.

After lunch, Mr. H. Simons talked about the cave from which the priests spoke as the oracle of Mwari, in similar fashion to those at Njelele and other centres of the cult.

Mgwati, the priest at the time, wielded considerable power during the Rebellion, and the Mambo hills became a stronghold of the rebel forces, until they were attacked and defeated by a strong column led by Major Plumer.

Mr. Simons described the approach of Plumer's column, and the battle which took place. When it was over, a large quantity of loot, identified as the property of murdered settlers, was found in the cave.

Having enjoyed Mr. Simons' lively talk from the comfort of their chairs at the picnic site, members walked, or were driven in the farm lorry, to the cave kopje, and again cheerfully set out on the climb to the cave, quite a strenuous undertaking for the older members.

All were most grateful for the help given by Mr. G. L. Dando, of the Meikles Ranches, and for the protection promised by the rifle he carried as a precaution against leopards — and other dangers.

### **MASHONALAND BRANCH ACTIVITIES**

*Outing to the Midlands, Saturday/Sunday, 29th and 30th May, 1976*

On Saturday, 29th May, 102 members of the Mashonaland Branch left Salisbury in three coaches to visit the Midlands.

At the Iron Mine Hill, between Umvuma and Lalapanzi, the party was met by Mr Dick Fuller, Mrs. Angela Hurrell and others from Gwelo, and after a brief introduction by the Branch Chairman, Mr. Mike Kimberley, was addressed by Major Bob Davie, who, before dealing with events in 1893, described the situation in the country since the disbandment of the Pioneer Column in 1890 and the background to the Matabele War of 1893.

He spoke of the formation of the Salisbury and Victoria columns, their composition, weapons and transport and their movements towards Iron Mine Hill where it was intended that they would meet before proceeding into Matabeleland.

He referred to the leaders of the two columns and difficulties which arose out of their different personalities and qualities — Major Patrick Forbes, in charge of the Salisbury Column, an Imperial Army Officer and Magistrate in Salisbury since 1890, and Major Allan Wilson, in charge of the Victoria Column, a man of considerable experience in native wars, a gifted "bush fighter" and commander of men.

From the Hill, the party went on to Mrs. H. E. Corbett's Woodlands Farm and to the site, 3¼ km as the crow flies from Iron Mine Hill, where on 16th October, 1893, the two columns had met and laagered.

Here Major Davie spoke of the meeting of the columns, patrols in the vicinity and the decision that instead of combining the two units into one, the columns would march separately, each cutting its own route approximately 300 yards apart.

Major Davie spoke also of the first casualty suffered by the Salisbury Column in Captain John Campbell, who was badly injured in the hip in a

skirmish with the Matabele. An emergency amputation was performed in the camp by three doctors, including Doctor Jameson, but Captain Campbell died and was buried by Bishop Knight-Bruce, who had just joined the Salisbury Column.

His grave, along with that of a member of the Victoria Column who died of fever, are at the site of the laager.

After a picnic lunch, the party went on to Mr. Edington's farm between Lalapanzi and Gwelo to visit Fort Gibbs, described as one of the best built and preserved of the pioneer forts. This was built in June, 1896, to protect the Fort Charter-Gwelo road, and here Major Davie spoke of events in the country between 1893 and 1896, and the building and short period of occupation of the Fort.



The Matabeleland and Mashonaland Branches of the Rhodesiana Society met at the site of the Battle of Bonko on the Shangani River on a cold, windy and overcast day. Left to right: H. J. Vickery, Matabeleland Chairman; R. W. S. Turner, National Chairman; M. J. Kimberley, Mashonaland Chairman.

After spending the night in two hotels in Gwelo, the party met up on Sunday morning at the Shangani River, in a drizzle and cold wind, with approximately 80 members of the Matabeleland Branch who had travelled up from Bulawayo in two coaches and a mini-bus.

After a welcome to the Matabeles by Mr. Mike Kimberley, Major Davie described the march of the 1893 Salisbury and Victoria Columns to the Shangani River and the Battle of Bonko on the morning of 25th October, 1893. From the vantage point of a hill overlooking the river and the site of the combined laagers of the two columns, Major Davie painted a graphic picture of the attack on the laager by the Matabele regiments, pointing out the various physical features which figured in the battle.

From here the two parties travelled the 24 odd km to Nalatali Ruins, situated on top of a stony kopje, where Dr. Tom Huffman, the Curator of Antiquities at the Queen Victoria Museum in Salisbury, gave an address. Drawing attention to the attractive and varied patterns in the main walls of the ruins, which he described as being part of the post-Zimbabwe era, he gave an outline of the economic and administrative role which the ruins were likely to have played in relation to Zimbabwe. He likened Nalatali to a District Commissioner's station.

Mr. Richard Franks thanked Major Davie and Dr. Huffman for their most interesting and enjoyable talks, and Mr. Robert Turner, the National Chairman, concluded by expressing his pleasure at this joint outing of the two branches of the Society.

After lunch, in and around the buses at the foot of the hill, in continuing drizzle, the parties separated for the return journeys to Salisbury and Bulawayo.

Apart from the enjoyment of the weekend, one's main impression of the two days was of the standard of the talks given by the two speakers and the amount of their preparation, particularly in the case of Major Davie, whose talks at the various places occupied almost three hours in all.

# Some Recent Additions to the Library of the National Archives

Compiled by C. Coggin

*(International Standard Book Numbers are given as an aid to identification.  
The list does not include books reviewed in this issue.)*

*Dark companions: the African contribution to the European exploration of East Africa*, by Donald Simpson. London: Paul Elek, 1975. 239 pages. Illus., maps. ISBN 0 236 40006 1. \$14,74.

This book describes the part played by Africans in the exploration of east and central Africa between the 1840s and 1890s. As porters, interpreters, guides and, in some cases, courageous leaders working on their own initiative, they managed the carrying and protection of equipment and food, hacked out paths, and endured all sorts of physical hazards. The author, Librarian of the Royal Commonwealth Society, makes the point that, without the support of such men, the Europeans could not have penetrated so easily or deeply into the heart of the continent. A most useful feature of this important work is a biographical guide to 110 Africans who played a significant role in the story.

*East Africa and the Orient: cultural syntheses in pre-Colonial times*, edited by H. Neville Chittick and Robert I. Rotberg. New York: Africana Publishing Company, 1975. 351 pages. ISBN 0 8419 0142 2. \$30,00.

Although concentrating on the effect on East Africa of Arabic, Indian and Chinese influences, this work includes references to the early history of south-east Africa, including present-day Rhodesia. Topics investigated include the peopling of the east African coast, Chinese knowledge of the area, the Arab geographers, connexions between the lake-dwellers of the hinterland and the coast, and the origin and spread of various domestic food plants. On the subject of "ancient" mining, it is asserted that "the techniques of gold-mining in Rhodesia . . . were probably derived from India".

*Historical Association of Zambia. Pamphlet series*. Lusaka: National Educational Company of Zambia.

Number 2 in the series is *The word of Khama*, by Q. N. Parsons (1972, 36 pages, illus.). The author calls it an "intellectual history" of the man who ruled the Ngwato kingdom in Botswana from 1875 to 1923, in that it relies to a large extent on the actual recorded words of Khama. Parsons takes the line that Khama, while friendly to Britain, "opposed all forms of white settlerdom".

Number 4 in the series is *The ruins of Zimbabwe*, by P. S. Garlake (1974, 51 pages, illus.). In the form of a handy pocket guide, it uses the results of



prehistoric studies to give a "chronological account of the development of the builders and set this in its economic, political and social contexts".

*Historical Simon's Town . . .*, edited by B. B. Brock and B. G. Brock. Cape Town: Balkema, 1976. 231 pages. Illus., maps. ISBN 0 86961 055 4. \$4,93.

Simonstown and its strategic importance figure prominently in the news from time to time, especially in southern African coverage. Its significance in terms of naval strategy in fact springs from the latter half of the eighteenth century, with the fierce rivalry between France and Great Britain. In this work a "variegated and essentially humanized" picture of the fascinating town is presented. Rich in illustrations, it describes naval mutinies, royal visits, local defences, docks and shipways, together with biographies of personalities, administrators and benefactors. Simonstown saw visits by many hunters and explorers who visited the interior and, as an "association" item, is interesting in its allusions to such men as Stanley, Livingstone, Rhodes and others familiar to Rhodesians.

*Die Kaap tydens die Eerst Britse bewind, 1795-1803*, by Hermann Giliomee. Cape Town: H.A.U.M., 1975. 378 pages. ISBN 0 7986 0193 0. \$12,75.

In 1795 the Cape fell, for the first time, under British control. This work is the first comprehensive history of that occupation, and deals, *inter alia*, with the clash of cultures between the Dutch colonists and British victors, border confrontations, and the interrelationships of the old order with the new.

*Life under a Zulu shield*, by H. C. Lugg. Pietermaritzburg: Shuter and Shooter. 119 pages. Illus. \$2,22.

H. C. Lugg, for many years a Native Commissioner in Natal, is well known as the author of *Historic Natal and Zululand*. In his latest work he recounts his own observations of Zulu tribal customs, religious beliefs and history. According to the publisher's blurb, some aspects of Zulu religious beliefs presented here have never been published before. Modestly produced, with a limp cover, the book is an interesting contribution to the study of Nguni anthropology.

*The lion's share: a short history of British imperialism, 1850-1970*, by Bernard Porter. London: Longman, 1975. 421 pages. ISBN 0 582 48103 1. \$14,60.

A general descriptive and explanatory history of British colonialism in its "final phase" (from the middle of the nineteenth century to present times), the book delineates imperialism for Britain as a symptom not of her strength, but of her decline in the world. The author sees Rhodesia as "a last rallying point for some of Britain's old imperialists, a sole surviving altar at which those of the old religion whose faith was most resilient could worship still".

*The story of South African painting*, by Esme Berman. Cape Town: Balkema, 1975. 271 pages. Illus. ISBN 0 86961 067 8. \$17,85.

The author's *Art and artists of South Africa* won instant acclaim as an indispensable guide to the subject. *The story of South African painting*

complements that work, tracing the development of South African painting since the 1800's, and analyzing local individual styles in the light of contemporary trends and techniques on the international scene. Printed on high quality paper, but lacking the over-shining glossy finish which so often mars "de luxe" productions, it is profusely illustrated with colour and half-tone reproductions of the paintings under discussion.

*Thomas Baines: his life and explorations in South Africa, Rhodesia and Australia, 1820-1875*, by J. P. R. Wallis; with captions and a new introduction by F. R. Bradlow, Cape Town: Balkema, 1976. 255 pages. Illus. ISBN 0 86961 0597. 121,25.

This work is, in fact, the second edition of Professor Wallis's biography published in 1941. Being a wartime publication, the original was a low-budget production, and contained only thirteen illustrations and two maps as examples of Baines's talent and energy.

This new edition goes a long way to remedying those defects. It reproduces the original text in double columns on excellent paper of a generous format, and numerous reproductions of the artist's sketches and paintings provide a lively visual commentary on Wallis's narrative. In his introduction Bradlow says that "pencil and water-colour drawings have been used for illustrating this present book because . . . they have both an immediacy and a documentary character that make them especially good material for illustrating a biography". A few colour reproductions are included in the selection.

The work is intended to be the first of a two-volume set on Thomas Baines. The companion volume, also compiled by Frank Bradlow, will contain numerous reproductions of Baines's paintings and will presumably constitute a comprehensive catalogue of his work, a need emphasized by Wallis in his biography.

*A view from the ridge*, by John Wentzel. Cape Town: David Philip, 1975. 112 pages. Illus. ISBN 0 949968 50 1. \$7,15.

The beginnings of Johannesburg, like those of all Rhodesian cities, are a world away and yet, in the surviving older buildings and landmarks, within easy nostalgic recall — for any one who takes pride in knowing the cradle days of his home town. The author of this charming book writes with childhood's sharply observant detail of the robust days on the Rand in the first quarter of the century, the excitement for a small boy of the 1922 Revolt (the year of neighbouring Southern Rhodesia's referendum), his pleasure in music hall and early talkies, and a hundred and one other features of life in the burgeoning city. Like the other titles in the series (*South African yesterdays*), the work is set out and illustrated in a manner which helps capture the very atmosphere of the account.

# Periodicals and Articles of Interest

A survey by Carol Leigh

## **Botswana Notes and Records** (*Gaborone*)

T. Tlou's *Documents on Botswana history: how Rhodes tried to seize Ngamiland* (Vol. 7) reproduces the original Bosman Land Concession, later rescinded, by which King Sekgoma Letsholathebe handed over Ngamiland to the British South Africa Company. The author contends that most treaties during the climax of European imperialism were generally fraudulent.

## **Central African Journal of Medicine** (*Salisbury*)

*African labour conditions and health in the Southern Rhodesian mining industry, 1898-1953* is the title of a two-part article by Ian Phimister (Vol. 21, No. 10, and Vol. 22, No. 4). Part one deals with the housing provided for African miners and part two with their diet. Both the latter were spheres where the mine employer sought to cut down costs, obviously to the detriment of the labourer's welfare.

## **Geographical Journal** (*London*)

In Vol. 141 part 2, Helen Luckett gives a concise, biographical account of Thomas Baines, laying particular emphasis on his abilities as "an accurate and scientific geographer" and on his connection with the Royal Geographical Society.

## **Journal of African History** (*London*)

In his article *The making of an imperial slum: Nyasaland and its railways, 1895-1935* (Vol. 16, No. 1) Leroy Vail puts forward the contention that the British government's motive behind the construction of the Nyasaland railways was primarily to protect British commercial interests rather than to promote Nyasaland's economic growth. He goes even further than this and maintains that the cost of the railways led to the stagnation and distortion of the Nyasaland economy and resulted in the migration of large numbers of labourers from Nyasaland to work in the mines of Southern Africa.

## **NADA** (*Salisbury*)

In the Vol. 11, No. 3 issue Frances McCallum probes the subject of trees, paying particular attention to their association with African tribal customs, beliefs and superstitions.

## **Quarterly Bulletin of the South African Library** (*Cape Town*)

*Notes and extracts relating to Francois Le Vaillant* by J. C. Quinton (Vol-30, No. 1) contains a number of references and extracts about Francois Le

Vaillant which reflect some eighteenth and nineteenth century views, both French and English, on the explorer, and on "the content and authenticity of his books of travel".

Continuing his research into the life and work of Thomas Baines, Frank B. Bradlow describes in the Vol. 30, No. 2 issue his trip last year to King's Lynn and the Okavanga Delta. He also includes details of two Baines "finds" hitherto unknown to him.

The first, a steel engraving of Baines by William Mackenzie of Glasgow, part of the Rex Nan Kivell collection in the National Library of Australia; and the second, a volume entitled *The Net cast in many waters. Sketches from the life of the missionaries for 1868*, edited by Anne Mackenzie and containing two illustrations by Baines.

#### **Rhodesia Calls** (*Salisbury*)

No. 95 features a brief, but well-illustrated description, by John Tearle, of the museum in Rhodes's stables at the Rhodes Inyanga Hotel.

#### **Rhodesia Science News** (*Salisbury*)

Vol. 10, Nos 5 and 6, contain an article of considerable interest on a similar theme to that dealt with by Frances McCallum in NADA. By R. W. Petheram, it is entitled *Trees — and a little history*. Referring to trees of historical significance the author writes "There are many such trees in Rhodesia with associations of the most diverse nature; trees connected by the lengthening thread of years to the trials, tribulations and triumphs of early Rhodesians, trees subsequently planted to commemorate those eventful times, trees which witnessed the struggles and accomplishments of earlier adventurers, trees feared or revered by a relatively primitive people because of size or shape or rarity". He makes mention of such trees as the Indaba tree of Penhalonga, the Flag tree on the outskirts of Bulawayo and Bvekenya Barnard's baobab at Manyanda Pan.

#### **Rhodesian History** (*Salisbury*)

*History as it was taught and written at the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, 1957-1963* by E. T. Stokes (Vol. 5) recalls the days when the History department at the University of Rhodesia was first established, and the "Notes, documents and revisions" section includes two interesting items — the history and mis-spelling of the Shona word Munhumutapa and an account of a meeting with a two-toed man of the Vadoma tribe in the Zambezi Valley.

The latter finally lays to rest the theory that the whole Vadoma tribe are two-toed. Instead, it would seem that it is only certain members of one family of the tribe are afflicted with this deformity. The note includes extremely interesting photographs of the deformed feet.

**Rhodesian Prehistory** (*Salisbury*)

In Vol. 7, No. 14, Thomas Huffman investigates the Arabian, as opposed to the African, origins of the Zimbabwean civilization by raising the question "Did Solomon, and the Queen of Sheba live at Zimbabwe?"

**Zambezia** (*Salisbury*)

Vol. 4, No. 1 features a sociological study by G. C. Kinloch in which an analysis of the political attitudes and values of Rhodesian whites is attempted. Material for the formulation of this analysis is drawn randomly from some 2 500 editorials published in leading Rhodesian newspapers from 1892 to 1968.

J. HASKINS & SONS

The name Haskins, now so well known in Botswana, was for many years also associated with Rhodesia. James Haskins arrived at Tati in July 1897 and established a trading and mining company which later made its headquarters in Francistown. James became a personal friend of Chief Khama. The firm gradually extended trading interests along the Hunter's Road to Kazungula and the Victoria Falls and trading and farming activities into Rhodesia. These lasted for many years until the difficulties caused by World War Two caused a withdrawal from Rhodesia. The fourth generation of Haskins is now in the company and the Chairman, also James, is a Minister in the Botswana government. An interesting, but short, company history has been produced illustrated with some historic photographs of early Botswana including some of Haskins Street, the first street of Francistown.

# Notes

## "PROFILES OF RHODESIA'S WOMEN"

"Women in Rhodesia have played a significant part in the development of the country from the very beginning when the intrepid wives of pioneers suffered immeasurable hardships . . . in a wild and often hostile land".

With these words Mrs. Jonah Woods, National President of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women of Rhodesia, introduces a new book with the above title.

There have been several published lists of notable Rhodesian women. Jessie M. Lloyd's compilation, *Rhodesia's Pioneer Women* (1859-1896), was published in 1960. A new edition with the same title, revised and enlarged by Constance Parry, was published by the Rhodesian Pioneers' and Early Settlers' Association in 1975. In 1953, to celebrate the Rhodes Centenary, the National Council of Women produced *Women of Central Africa* which not only featured individual "women who had made their mark in the first half of the 20th century" but described the aims and activities of many of the womens' organisations.

Now, to commemorate International Women's Year, 1975, the National Federation decided to produce a new volume dealing with the years in Rhodesia alone since 1940. It brings up to date the stories of no fewer than 41 of the womens' organisations and gives the profiles of 162 women, of all races, who have played a significant role in the social, economic and governmental development of the country since that date.

The field is wide and embraces almost every aspect of public life. It covers activity "through voluntary community endeavour" in a variety of charitable services and organisations. It tells of the individual achievements of women in business, in the professions, in health, education, the church, in local and central government and in the arts. The profiles include women who work for the handicapped, the blind, the aged and the young. Portrayed here, sometimes with a picture, are doctors, teachers, veterinarians, welfare workers, writers, poets, artists and the few women Members of Parliament. There are women who work in "the man's world" of business, engineering, architecture and, in our particular circumstances of today, "women in the front line".

These profiles are a revelation of the depth, variety and complexity of life in Rhodesia today. The book is a fascinating panorama of contemporary social history and will become a valuable piece of Rhodesiana.

## ALOE 75 CONGRESS

An event of some historical significance and of special interest to the Rhodesiana Society, took place in 1975. The world's first Aloe Congress was held in Rhodesia for three weeks in July. There were delegates from the U.S.A.,

Australia, Spain, Monaco and Greece as well as from South Africa, South West Africa and Malawi.

The whole country rallied to this historic occasion. An Aloe 75 commemorative issue of six Rhodesian postage stamps was made; the National Gallery put on an exhibition of drawings of aloes; the National Archives mounted an exhibition of historical botanical books and prints; the Mashonaland Philatelic Society a display of botanical stamps; and the Mashonaland Photographic Society organised an International Succulent Plant Photographic Competition. H. M. Barbour Ltd. staged a High Schools' Succulent Plant Art Competition. Over thirty commercial, industrial and finance organisations gave financial support to the Congress and there were civic receptions in Salisbury, Bulawayo and Umtali.

The Rhodesiana interest is that Mr. R. W. S. Turner, our present National Chairman, was the convenor of the Congress and the assistant convenor was Mr. M. J. Kimberley, one of our Gold Medallists and who was a very long-serving Hon. Secretary of the Rhodesiana Society. The Congress was opened by Mr. G. H. Tanser, then Mayor of Salisbury, who is an ex-National Chairman and one of the founder committee members of the Rhodesiana Society.

Mr. R. W. S. Turner, writing about the coming Congress in the special coloured supplement to the September-October 1974 issue of *Rhodesia Calls*, points out that the aloe, which is the outstanding flowering succulent of the continent of Africa, forms a most striking part of the wild flora of this country. Rhodesia occupies a key position in a kind of inter-tropical botanical convergence zone and it was possible to show delegates not only the unique Ewanrigg National Park but some very fine private aloe gardens as well as shows of magnificent aloes growing in their natural, wild environment.

The 5th issue, July 1975, of *Excelsa*, the Journal of the Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society of Rhodesia was a Special Aloe 75 Congress number and comprised the texts of some of the 18 papers that were to be read at the Congress, thus giving delegates opportunity to study them beforehand. There were papers on the medicinal and other uses of succulents by Rhodesian Africans; Rhodesian aloes and their environment; plant protection legislation in Rhodesia; papers on succulents in France, South Arabia, North-east Africa, Chili, the Cape and Malawi; as well as papers on general, scientific and botanical aspects of the species.

The Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society of Rhodesia was founded in 1969 and now, with about 1 000 members is, it was stated at the Congress, the largest society of its kind in Africa.

### **MZILIKAZI AND THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS**

Dr. R. Kent Rasmussen who wrote an article *The Orthographic Odyssey of Mzilikazi*, in *Rhodesiana* of September, 1975, giving 324 different published spellings of the name, writes as follows: "You might be interested to learn that I sent a copy of the article to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, and I have

just heard that the 324 spellings of "Mzilikazi" will be listed as a "world record" in that book's 15th edition. (This should amuse Rhodesian trivia buffs.)"

### **RHODESIA BEFORE 1920**

The outstanding Exhibition "Rhodesia Before 1920", held in the National Galleries at Salisbury and Bulawayo in November 1975 is well remembered by all who visited it. Those who were unable to see the Exhibition are reminded that the brochure, illustrated with pictures of great historic interest and giving the background story and details of the various sections of the Exhibition, is still available. The brochure also contains the opening speech by H.E. the President, a Foreword by the Director of the National Gallery and an Introduction by the President of the Historical Association. It can be obtained from The National Gallery, Kings Crescent, Salisbury, P.O. Box 8155, Causeway, Salisbury for 60 cents.

### **"THE LEGEND OF LOMAGUNDI"**

Under this title Colin Black has written an absorbing account of the Lomagundi area right from the early days of Portuguese probings in the 16th and 17th centuries through the travels of the hunters Piet Jacob, Hartley, Selous and others in the 19th century up to the present day. He tells of the first mission enterprises, of the miners as the vanguard of European settlement and then of the farmers who set seal on the area as "the granary of Rhodesia".

Lomagundi, which took its name from that of a local chief, covers the areas of the Rural Councils of Banket/Trelawney, Karoi, Raffingora, Umboe/Doma and of the Town Council of Sinoia. It is a vast district of flourishing farms and some not inconsiderable mining activity — Mangula, Alaska, Miami, Mtoroshanga are still names of current significance — although many of the mines first worked, and whose often romantic histories are related here, have had their day.

Colin Black tells many a good story about the pioneers of the district, men like Marcel Mitton, French chef turned miner (later head of Radio Ltd. in Salisbury) and Rawson of Darwendale, hunter, miner and renowned farmer who recouped cattle lost in the rinderpest by trekking new herds from as far north as Iringa in what was German East Africa. He gives character sketches of many later personalities such as Ken Fox, "Mr. Raffingora", Major Lewis Hastings, "the Lion of Lomagundi", miner, hunter, farmer who even "dwindled" for a time to being a Rhodesian M.P. He resigned to take part in World War Two becoming a military correspondent, broadcaster for the B.B.C. and the author of books about Rhodesia. A man of many parts who features here is C. T. C. Taylor, a farmer for nearly four decades in the area who was one of the prime instigators of the Ayreshire Theatre in the Lomagundi district, the only rural theatre in the country. He wrote a history of drama in Rhodesia and campaigned enthusiastically for years in the cause of the preservation of old buildings in Salisbury.



The importance of the area agriculturally is emphasised in the stories of the 1945 Karoi Settlement Scheme for Ex-service men and of the Tengwe Land Settlement Scheme for young Rhodesians in 1961, schemes that were eminently successful.

There is hardly an aspect of the life of the district that is not covered. Local government, social services, old peoples' homes, agricultural shows, pubs and country clubs, transport and tales of the B.S.A. Police. An endless list of names of "characters" and what they are known or remembered for flows through the book — Gertrude Page, novelist, Pat Wise of Banket, midshipman at Jutland, Bert Hacking whose family was closely associated with Rhodes and which once had one of the biggest tobacco farms in the world, Mrs. "Joe" Carlsson, S.R.N., for 24 years community nurse for the Ayrshire Rural Council.

All this is written in lively style with interest centred on people and personalities in short, snappy sections. There are vignettes of people and specific places with plenty of photographs, old and new, and line sketches. In this pot-pourri format interest is maintained throughout and a tremendous amount of information has been packed into less than a hundred wide double-columned pages.

Published by the North-Western Development Association it is on sale in limp cover at \$3.00. One hundred specially bound copies are available as a collector's item from P.O. Box 173 Karoi. All proceeds will be given to charities.

#### THE BAINES CENTENARY: ERRATA

In a description of the Baines Centenary exhibitions in our September 1975 issue it was stated that Baines was the first person to obtain a mining concession from Lobengula. Professor Edward C. Tabler, of West Virginia, U.S.A. points out that this is wrong. He writes — "Levert and Elton of the London & Limpopo Company obtained the first mining concession from Lobengula on 29th April 1870; this was the Tati Concession, and the land it included was under the control of the Matabele at that time. Baines's concession to the Northern Goldfields was not granted until 29th August 1871. Of course Baines had an earlier, verbal permit from Lobengula to mine gold between the Gwelo and the Hunyani rivers.

#### VICTORIA FALLS REGION HANDBOOK

*Mosi-oa-Tunya: A Handbook to the Victoria Falls Region*, edited by D. W. Phillipson (Longman, Rhodesia) is a welcome and timely new publication.

Two earlier editions, entitled merely *Victoria Falls Handbook*, the 1st edited, by Desmond J. Clark in 1952 and the 2nd, in 1964, edited by B. M. Fagan and both published by the National Monuments of Northern Rhodesia, are now out of print. The new volume is a commercial, not a government, publication.

This attractively produced volume covers the whole region around the Falls on both banks of the river and thus has a wider scope than the earlier volumes. The scientific chapters, such as those on archaeology by (now Professor)

Desmond J. Clark and Joseph O. Vogel incorporate discussions of discoveries and theories of later dates than those of the earlier volumes. The Select Bibliographies of the chapters on Flora (D. B. Fanshawe), Mammals (Reay H. N. Smithers), Birds (R. J. Dowsett), Reptiles and Amphibians (Donald G. Broadley), Fishes (Graham Bell-Cross), and Insects (Elliot Pinhey) all reveal that up-to-date information and research has been incorporated.

The editor, D. W. Phillipson, contributes four chapters — a general picture of the region which includes a detailed description of the Falls, their discovery and early visitors: a history of European penetration into this area of Central Africa: an interesting early history of the first European settlement, the Old Drift, on the north bank of the river and of the town of Livingstone: and the final chapter of the book on the conservation of the Falls environment in which he criticises tourist and commercial developments close to the Falls on both banks which, he says, "far exceed that which should ideally have been tolerated."

Other chapters are on the geology and formation of the Falls (G. Bond), traditional history and ethnology (K. Mubitana) and traditional carving and the curio trade (Per B. Rekdal).

The book is profusely illustrated with some beautiful colour plates of the Falls, of fauna and of insects, and with numerous black and white photographs covering all the subjects, with maps, historical and new, with sketches, plans, diagrams and with numerous drawings, particularly scientifically accurate outlines of fish, insects and archaeological and ethnographical objects.

This fascinating volume gives a most comprehensive coverage of one of the best known and most lovely areas in Central Africa and one which is revealed as being not only particularly rich in human and historical associations but also remarkably varied in its flora and fauna. Most of the chapters can be enjoyed by the general reader and the scientific chapters, erudite and authoritative as they are, can be easily appreciated by the layman interested in the subject.

In stiff coloured cover, 222 pages, the book sells at \$7,50.

# Correspondence

## THE WILLIAM THOMAS BROWN FAMILY

Sir,

I am busy writing a short history on the William Thomas Brown family and the descendants and have reason to believe that some of them were in Umtali. I wonder if any of your readers can help me or tell me to whom I can write for further information on this family?

W. T. Brown came out with the 1820 Settlers and he married Jane Stewart. It is said that they had nine sons and a daughter. I have only been able to trace six of the sons and the daughter! The eldest son's only surviving child (Ethel Lasselles Brown) married James Needham Wynne and they had four children: Eric Stewart, Arthur Lionel, Cecil Douglas and Elaine Florence who married a Crombie in Umtali, so I would like to know more about that man and his family, if possible . . . and I do not know where to find out . . . The Rhodesian Archives tell me that Florence Crombie did not die in Rhodesia, but her three brothers did . . . There is an Alex Crombie here in P.E. and he told me there is a Memorial Gate to Alex Crombie in Umtali, but no relation to him. So I feel sure it must be connected with my family, especially with a name like Alexander.

I do hope you will be able to help me or tell me where I can find information . . . the firm the men worked for, etc., and perhaps there are even some of the relatives living in or round Umtali.

Yours etc.,

MRS. E. M. BARNES

23 Amsterdam Hoek, P.O. Swartkops, Port Elizabeth 6210.

## EAST AFRICAN CAMPAIGN, 1914-18 WAR

Sir,

It was with great interest that I read the review by G. H. Tanser in your *Rhodesiana* No. 34 on *The Battle of the Bundu* by an American, Charles Miller. I agree with him about the rotten leadership and lack of military skill displayed by the Generals of the Indian Army. And I also agree that a great many of the British army leaders were little better. General Smuts, who was considered a great guerilla in the Boer War, was outwitted by Von Lettow-Vorbeck on many occasions, and when he left East Africa to take up a position in the British army in England, it was felt by many that he had been greatly overrated as a General.

The attack on Tanga in the early part of the war was an outstanding example of military ineptitude. I think that Mr. Miller in his book greatly underestimated the difficulties faced by the British in East Africa. The country over which we fought in 1915 was desert country, thick bush and no running water in the rivers. We had no transport to speak of, except for A.T. carts pulled by two oxen. These carts, slow and cumbersome, were in short supply.

We also had native carriers who carried loads on their heads. They were in short supply also, and on patrol, and other movements, the infantry had to carry their rations, anything up to four days' supply, in their haversacks. The rations consisted of tins of bully beef and army biscuits. We were allowed to carry a blanket too if wished. There were only enough carriers to carry water and ammunition as a rule and we were always short of water on these operations, one water-bottle full for twenty four hours and this in the heat, marching and working, and often fighting, at the equator.

The Germans had another great advantage over us. They knew the country so well that they could lead us into the most impossible spots and then stand and fight. The spot would be fine for them but often not so good for us. After the arrival of the South Africans, who always seemed to have plenty of transport, the food position improved for us. Also the water position was better as the waterpipe from Buraugh hills many miles in the rear was completed to Mactau and the railway which we had been building as we went along from Voi was able to distribute large tanks of water to different points at the front.

After we had captured Saliata and pushed the enemy over the border at Latema Reata into German Territory the going was easier as we had been able to get some maps of the territory.

Mr. Miller says that when the armistice at the end of the war was signed the Germans under Von Lettow were undefeated. That is right but they had been pushed out of East Africa and were just hanging on. They had lost all of their railways, ports and towns and were living on a small patch in Northern Rhodesia. They were still an army in being but no one could say that they were in position to take any further part in operations.

Von Lettow-Vorbeck was a very fine general: he outclassed most of our generals in the field. The white Germans were very well trained and we were always at a disadvantage in the bush.

When the South Africans began to arrive in 1916 with their ox wagons, lorries and lashings of good food we thought that it would just be a walk-over. But we were mistaken. The South Africans, like ourselves, in the past, had much to learn about bush fighting and, like us, they had to learn it the hard way.

I hope you will excuse the general untidiness in this letter. I have now reached my ninetieth year and am not as spry as I was.

Yours etc.,

H. J. LUCAS

ex- No. 1218, E. Company, 2nd Rhodesia Regiment.  
Room No. 9/14 Oceanic Hotel, North Beach, Durban.

#### **RHODESIAN SCHOOLBOYS AND THE COPPERBELT**

Sir,

In early 1926 Captain R. E. Costigan of the Rhodesia Congo Border Concessions Limited (Manager: Raymond Brooks) wrote to the Headmaster of

Prince Edward School (Mr. A. J. Somerville) and asked him to recommend ex-pupils to him for field survey work in Northern Rhodesia. The work was in connection with electrical prospecting work in the 58 000 square mile concession of the Company.

The pay offered was good (in those days), £22 10s. Od. per month and camping equipment supplied.

Despite the fact that the late Bill Collier had pegged Roan Antelope, Chambishi and Bwana Mkubwa in 1902, the latter was the only mine in production.

Nchanga Mine had been discovered in 1923 by Osterberg and Beaton, and Moir and Bell had discovered Mufulira in the same year. Work had started on Roan Antelope and Nchanga. Nkana in 1926 was merely a Manager's house and few huts with some potholes. Kansanshi had been pegged by George Grey in 1899 and had been worked in a smallish way, development was being done there when we worked near there in 1927.

The urgent need was for more prospecting. The real value of Nchanga, Nkana, Mufulira and Roan Antelope had still to be shown.

As this happened 50 years ago (the first party of ex-schoolboys arrived at Kashitu siding on 5th June 1926) I thought it may be of interest to some to record these details.

The following ex-Prince Edward (and Boys' High) School who left Salisbury were:

\*F. I. Maritz, \*R. W. Hill, \*C. W. Kerr, \*Ted Green, A. J. Liebenberg, P. G. Lendrum, W. A. Gordon, N. M. Airey.

They were joined later by the following ex-pupils from Milton School, Bulawayo:

W. D. Penny, C. F. A. Dennison, \*A. Mackenzie.

Another late 1926 arrival was E. L. Palmer (Les) from Chaplin School, Gwelo. He had been schoolboy heavyweight boxing champion of Southern Rhodesia (1924-25). He joined the staff at Nchanga Mine. I believe he died at Mufulira in 1942.

On their first assignment they were placed with the following geologists sent out by A. Broughton Edge (who had perfected the use of equipotential methods in geophysical prospecting):

\*J. C. Ferguson (later Director, Geological Survey Department, Salisbury).

S. H. Shaw (retired as Director, Overseas Geological Survey, London).

J. H. Taylor (retired as Consulting Geologist, Rand Mines Ltd., Johannesburg).

D. Williams (retired as Dean of Royal School of Mines, London).

C. W. Scrymgeour, ex-Bulawayo, had just started with this unit at this time, later to be joined by W. M. Pickering.

\* *Denotes 'since died'.*

But it is of the S. Rhodesian ex-schoolboys of whom I am writing. These were the first to be employed as a group by a Northern Rhodesian copper mining and exploration group.

They were split into two parties and carried out their work of following geophysicists with compass and tape surveys over the following areas (under canvas):

Munshiwemba (now known as the Mkushi Block); Nchanga; Luano; Mimbula; Solwezi (Dumbwa Hill); Kipushi —  
and during this time one party was sent down (for a few months) to S. Rhodesia to work around the Copper Queen Mine.

The group had an early effect on rugby in N. Rhodesia. A match was soon arranged against Broken Hill, the newspaper that week carried the headings — "S. Rhodesian Schoolboys make their mark in N. Rhodesian rugby."

However, my main reason for writing is to record this departure of young men from Southern Rhodesia fifty years ago, to pay tribute to those who were with me at that time.

Yours etc.,

N. M. AIREY

6 Strathdale, 1 Salisbury Drive, Marlborough, Salisbury.

# Reviews

*Raiders and rebels in South Africa*, by Elsa Goodwin Green. (Books of Rhodesia, Bulawayo, 1976. Rhodesiana Reprint library, silver series, Vol. 9. (xii), xi, 209, (iv) pages. Illustrations. Price \$10,35).

It is a curious thing that not very much is known about the author of this book. She was a qualified nurse, she had a husband in Johannesburg and she arrived in Cape Town from England in late 1895 following him. It springs from her writing that she was young, educated, vivacious, kindly, and very enterprising. In no way does she fit the popular concept of the Victorian miss, but perhaps that concept was always wrong and its image never existed.

This coincided with the Jameson Raid and when nurses were needed in Johannesburg Mrs. Green was one of them; they found themselves serving the temporary hospital in Krugersdorp where the casualties of the Jameson Raid, both British and Transvaal, some forty in all, were being attended to.

But the major part of the book deals with Rhodesia; she came here during the 1896 Rebellion as a member of a hastily organised nursing team, from Durban to Beira and Umtali, then to Salisbury.

Her book is partly her own experiences and partly what she heard of Rebellion incidents from others and reflects the daily details of a woman's life at that time. Here is a vivid re-creation of the period. Well worth reading — a happy choice for a reprint, from the original of 1898.

E. E. BURKE

*African Law and Custom in Rhodesia* by Bennie Goldin and Michael Gelfand (Juta & Co. Ltd., Cape Town. 1975. 325 pages. Price R17,50).

It may come as a surprise to some readers to learn that in many legal actions the aspiring litigant from the larger section of the community has before him a choice of two systems of law available for his needs. For in Rhodesia there is a growing and complex body of law stemming from the customs of African tribes. Undoubtedly the interpretation of this system is properly the field of lawyers, despite the attractions African customary law apparently has for the anthropologist and social historian in his study of customs generally. In this book, an eminent Rhodesian judge and a student of African customs, whose proven ability in this sphere is so well known as to need no further comment, have collaborated and the result is undeniably the best of both worlds.

The interests and learning of each of the authors is understandably different and this they have sensibly recognised. So that, at the risk of some overlapping, they have each contributed chapters and then arranged them in a manner that allows one to flow from the other. The outcome of this approach is a very thorough exposition of African law and custom as it exists and is developing in Rhodesia.

The chapters written by each author are easily separable and whereas the anthropologist and social historian will probably derive most benefit from Dr. Gelfand's grassroots tradition and the customary behaviour within families and tribes that may lead to litigation, the legal practitioner (and from the lawyer's point of view this is essentially a practitioner's book) will benefit enormously from Mr. Justice Goldin's clear statements of the way in which customary law is practised. This author's chapters constitute a very lucid commentary on the law, which is only marred by a failure to translate the section and chapter numbers of statutes to which reference is made to accord with the Revised Edition of the Statute Laws of Rhodesia, brought into effect only two months after the book was published and certainly available before the preface was signed in September, 1975. Unfortunately, this failure does tend to detract from the book's practical usefulness. Clear too are the passages on how the law has developed through the courts, and is continuing to develop through its modification by statute and its interpretation by judges whose background is from a different legal system. For the layman it will be of less interest perhaps but this is an important subject in the proper understanding of Rhodesian society, and thus one in which the layman could take a beneficial interest. All in all, this is a bold venture and a book to be highly recommended.

J. G. STORRY

*The Shona Peoples* by Michael Bourdillon. (Mambo Press, Gwelo, Rhodesia. 1976. Soft covers. 399 pages. Illustrated. Map. Price \$6,80).

Surprisingly, no authoritative monograph has been published on the Mashona. Dr. Bourdillon's latest book was possibly written to fill this gap but was, so he tells us, also compiled to foster greater understanding by White Rhodesians of this country's largest ethnic group.

Apart from his chapter on their Kinship system which Dr. Bourdillon himself admits with disarming frankness is a horror the rest of the book contains a lot of fact, simply and clearly described so that it can be easily assimilated by the average layman. It is therefore all the more disappointing that the author has allowed his own emotionally held views to intrude from time to time. This is particularly noticeable in his chapters on the evolution from subsistence to cash economy; in his treatment of the educational system and his dissertation on the institution of Chiefship. Here he has permitted a certain amount of patronising liberalism and his own religious background to intrude into what should be an objective thesis.

Having said this let it be clearly stated that this is a good book and offers a wealth of information. I found the author's treatment of the religio-magical and the politico-religious aspects of Shona society very amply described. It is important for the non Shona reader to realise how completely the lives of the Shona people are dominated by their religious and magical beliefs and how these beliefs intrude into almost every aspect of Shona life. Dr. Bourdillon illustrates this not only in the chapters which deal with Traditional Religion and with the Shona Views of and Customs pertaining to Death, but he deals thoroughly with



witchcraft beliefs and also demonstrates how through the process of culture contact these beliefs have been absorbed into and modified by the emergent African separatist Churches; the dynamics of culture change and the process of urbanisation.

Chapters 6 to 11 deal almost exclusively with Shona beliefs in the supernatural in all its different facets. One can find little to criticize in his treatment of the subject except a pedantic query as to why he spells "*nganga*" (diviner) as "*n'anga*" ?

I commend this book to be read by all White Rhodesians despite the limited reservations expressed in my first paragraph. Perhaps the most succinct description of the Shona mentality or psyche is made by the author on page 174.

"The Shona believe that their well-being depends on their relationships with Spirit Guardians who *control their lives* (my italics). Any persistent trouble or anxiety is likely to be interpreted in terms of this relationship and in terms of tensions and ill-will within the . . . community . . . Whenever there is unease . . . a diviner (agent) in touch with the spiritual powers is consulted . . ."

If by reading this book White Rhodesians develop some understanding of the truth of this statement and its dominant effect on the social organisation and psychology of the Shona and thereby develop a greater understanding and tolerance of their fellow Rhodesians Dr. Bourdillon's efforts will not have been in vain.

C. J. K. LATHAM

*Old Rhodesian days*, by H. M. Hole. (Books of Rhodesia, Bulawayo, 1976. Rhodesiana Reprint Library — Silver series, vol. 8. [12], 142 pages, illus., map. Price \$10,25).

Hugh Marshall Hole (1865-1941) is better known for his authorship of the first authoritative history of the country — *The Making of Rhodesia* (1926). He was in a peculiarly suitable position to write this, which took the story, north and south of the Zambesi, up to the end of the 19th Century, for he had been closely associated with some of it personally.

*Old Rhodesian days* (first published in 1928) is a companion to *The Making of Rhodesia*, giving a lighter side of the story, with anecdote, conversation, incident and atmosphere within the period from 1891 to the end of the rebellions in 1897, a period that was rich for the author's purpose and when he himself was light of heart.

Hole came to South Africa in 1889 and worked for A. Caldecott, a solicitor who acted at times for Rhodes in the early days of the British South Africa Company and thus came to know Rhodes — he includes a chapter of personal reminiscences of him. In April 1890, when the Company opened an office in Kimberley, Hole joined it as a clerk. In the next year he went with the Company's secretary, Rutherford Harris, on transfer to Salisbury and shortly afterwards became Jameson's private secretary when Jameson succeeded Colquhoun as Administrator, and from 1893 to 1913 he held various senior posts in the Administration.

This book has some delightful stories and one could pick at random — I like the incident that ended with the arrival the next morning of a note:

"Dear Jim,

I think I left my hurricane lamp at your hut last night. Please send it back by the bearer.

Yours, George.

P.S. — I am returning the cage containing your parrot."

It is nevertheless a serious social document, necessary reading for an understanding of the country's formative years. Hole himself says in some notes in the National Archives (Hist MSS HO 1/6/1): "Admitting that I have in my book tried to paint our early life in Rhodesia with a light brush, I am anxious that my account should not be regarded as imaginative or even highly coloured . . . The picture is not exaggerated. Life in Rhodesia of the 'nineties of the last century was a strange mixture of tragedy and comedy. It has seemed to me a duty to depict both sides, and the book is more serious than might at first appear."

New material in this reprint is a Foreword by W. D. Gale and a portrait frontispiece.

E. E. BURKE

*Themes in the Christian History of Central Africa*, edited by T. O. Ranger and J. Weller. (Heinemann Educational Books Ltd., London, 1975. 285 pages. Illustrated. Maps. Price \$6,50)

This is a ponderous book, consisting of papers give at a "Workshop" held at Chilema Lay Training Centre, Malawi, in 1971. For those concerned with ecclesiastical affairs it propounds questions in depth and assembles a wealth of historical material designed to assist the Christian churches in their decisions about African beliefs, customs and institutions. However, as far as Rhodesia is concerned, the subject has already been covered in more readable form by the writings of Dr. M. L. Daneel.

For those readers with a more general interest in history there are quite fascinating accounts of the Nyau secret societies of Malawi whose operations on so many Rhodesian farms make them familiar here; of the well-known Mwana Lesa movement of Zambia which spread into Rhodesia as the Watch Tower of the 1920s; and of local institutions in the shape of Epworth Mission and the Ruwadzano Womens Organization.

The professional historian, being selective in terms of a "theme" he is pursuing, has his own reasons for choosing his materials. The unremarkable being elevated to the remarkable is shown in the account of experiences of heathen worship in Marandellas. The odd behaviour of a persistent poetic crank in the person of the Rev. Shirley Cripps is described as emulation of St. Francis of Assisi rather than as a pain in the neck to the many equally devoted but more balanced people he came into conflict with. The chapter on Cripps recalls that one "exculpated official" died, concealing the fact that a highly respected official committed suicide in the face of the foul allegations made by Cripps and his

associates. The historian is apt to go astray when he touches on anthropology . . . instead of Cripps becoming "much more than some kind of Shona prophet", it would be more compatible to argue that strange behaviour such as his was attributed to possession by a *Shave* spirit.

The beginnings of the conflict between Christianity and traditional religions are brought out; how religious history has been shaped by Christian successes and failures; what contributions can dispassionate historical analysis make towards the ministry of the Churches. But, one is driven to ask if "The Encounter of Today" is not well out of date? The new independent Africa is powerfully challenging Christianity with politics. Worried people turn away from mission churches — "for most of whom the age of miracles and exorcism was dead" — for satisfaction and relief in spirit cults, faith healing and witchcraft or magical rites. Islaam is spreading. Even socialist dogma, exalting the State, has, in some countries, substituted a criminal code for the lazy and unemployed — a crime against the State. Such ruthlessness connotes an attitude or policy very different from the "gospel of work" which one historian acidly censures as "economic self-interest dressed up in sententious references to the dignity of labour". Does Christian regard for the individual soul face a bleak future?

The book will make you think.

ROGER HOWMAN

*Emil Holub's Travels North of the Zambezi*, 1885-6. Translated by Christa Johns and edited by Ladislav Holy. (Manchester University Press for University of Zambia. 1975. 317 pages. Map. Sketches. Price £9).

This volume fills a gap in the corpus of English translations of early travels in central Africa and is very welcome. It contains 12 chapters (out of 18) from Volume Two of *Von der Capstadt ins Land der Maschukulumbwe* by the Czech traveller, Dr. Emil Holub. It comprises the Zambian section of Holub's last, tragic expedition.

He was breaking into unexplored country in an idealistic attempt to journey from Kazungula on the Zambezi to Lake Bangweulu where the hero of his youth, David Livingstone, had died.

He was the first European to enter the country of the Ila, or Mashukulumbwe as they were then called, and his reception was immediately hostile because he had come from the Zambezi, the homeland of the hated Lozi who regularly raided the Ila for cattle. His party was harassed, robbed and attacked and porters deserted. The climax came on August 2nd, 1886. Holub and his wife had been lured away from the camp at Galalonga by a story that a Portuguese lived a short distance away. Holub became suspicious after a time and returned to find the camp had been attacked and Oswald, an Austrian companion, killed. All Holub's equipment, diaries, and clothing were scattered and food and calico stolen. Holub rescued some of his precious diaries and the party, Holub and his courageous wife and two Austrians, all that remained out of six Austrian

companions that had joined in Austria, began their retreat across the Kafue to Kazungula. It is a harrowing story. They had to fire on shadowing Ila and cross the Kafue in a storm in a canoe that could only take two persons at a time. They had no shoes and the only food was what they could find in native gardens. It took them twenty days to reach the Zambezi and succour. Holub tells the story in a staccato, cold style but it does not disguise the horrors of the retreat.

Throughout the bare ten weeks foray into Ila country Holub entered in his journals his observations on and drawings of Ila life and customs. He had rescued enough of them to enable him to give the first personal and scientific record of this tribe unique, in physical characteristics and customs, in this part of Africa. In this respect, the lively and detailed drawings in the German edition, obviously made by a professional to Holub's descriptions, are much more informative, both of the journey and of Ila characteristics, than are Holub's own cruder drawings reproduced in this volume.

Apart from its anthropological interest this book is a story of incredible bravery, hardship and peril, especially as a woman was involved, and it must rank among the most exciting of true African adventure narratives.

W. V. BRELSFORD

#### GENERAL

*African Music: A People's Art* by Francis Bebey. (Harrap. 1975. 184 pages. Photographs. Price £4,50).

There are many similarities between western and African music, says the author. The same categories of instruments are used — strings, wind and percussion; "the same notions of instrumental and vocal music — low or high pitch, long or short, sustained or staccato notes" are found in both; and music plays a similar role in life — an accompaniment to dancing, religion, war, love and so on. In spite of this, African music is little understood by Westerners and the author's intention here is to describe, in non-technical fashion, the role of music in African life and the wide variety of instruments used.

He emphasises that in the West music is an autonomous, independent art with pure art forms such as the symphony or sonata. But in Africa music is always associated with something else — poetry, the dance, rituals, spiritism, magic or medicine. The aim of the musician is not to combine sounds in a manner pleasing to the ear but "simply to express life in all its aspects through the medium of sound". He does not attempt to imitate the sounds of nature although he takes natural sounds and incorporates them into his music. To the uninitiated the result seems to be cacophony but to the African each sound has a particular meaning.

The book describes African music within the context of traditional African life showing its all-pervading importance in the society's ceremonies and way of life. There are professional musicians, at chiefs' villages for example, also wandering troubadours and even salesmen singing the praises of their wares.

The field covered is West and Central Africa as far south as the Transvaal. There are nearly a hundred excellent illustrations of performers and their instruments.

The book is free of sociological jargon and of musical technicalities, is full of lively illustrations and written in such a style that the general interested reader can peruse it with pleasure.

W. V. BRELSFORD

*Ivory and Slaves in East Central Africa*, by Edward A. Alpers (Heinemann, 1975, limp cover, 296 pages, illustrations, maps. Price £2,80).

This revisionist book is concerned with the reasons for the underdevelopment of East Central Africa, with particular reference to the economic dynamics of three tribes — the Yao, Maravi, and Makua.

The author suggests that this under-development stemmed not from colonial intrusion but from the involvement of these communities in the mercantile capitalist systems existing prior to 1800.

Until that time, Alpers asserts, the trade of this area was directed and underwritten by non-western capital, and at first dominated by the Arabs coming from Oman. It was subsequently continued and sustained until the 1870's by the introduction of capital from Mozambique, India, France, Brazil and the United States. All these trading systems, the author continues, were profit-motivated and without concern for the orderly development of East Central Africa.

The trade in this area until the 1870's was almost totally confined to slaves and ivory. Its advantages accordingly were heavily one-sided. The traders amassed fortunes, but the African communities gained very few advantages from the ruthless exploitation of their natural and human resources. Tangible repayments came in the form of brandy, trinkets of little value, and western weapons of destruction in the shape of ancient flint-locks. On the debit side were depopulation, the barbarities associated with the slave trade, early subordination of indigenous societies to capitalist economies, and their long deprivation of basic decision-making regarding developmental paths to be followed.

The only Africans who derived any benefit from the trade were the Chiefs. For however unsophisticated their guns might be, they nevertheless provided the means to increase both personal and dynastic power. Accordingly when the colonial era dawned, only the Chiefs opposed it, since the newly acquired power was threatened. Their subjects, lacking motivation for resistance, instead passively accepted the imposition of new white masters.

Mr. Alpers has marshalled a formidable armamentarium of facts to support his main thesis that non-western capital was the factor which hindered the healthy economic, social and political development of East Central Africa. It is refreshing to find some system other than colonialism cast in the role of villain, but it is unfortunate that Alpers refrained from seeking other possible causal

factors for this mal-development. He does not for instance consider that responsibility may have lain in chronic malaria, chronic helminthiasis, or even in the difficulty African communities experienced in working harmoniously together. Nor does the author lay sufficient stress on the fact that the despoliation of East Africa by the slave trade during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries depended largely on the co-operation of innumerable African chiefs and entrepreneurs. Mr. Alpers fails also to indicate the remarkable symbiotic relation of ivory trading to slave-hunting. Tusks could be bought cheaply in the African interior but could only be disposed of profitably at the coast provided it was carried there cheaply. In the absence of navigable rivers and the presence of large tsetse-infested areas transport was limited to human carriers, and these were only cheap if they were slaves existing on a near starvation diet who could be ultimately disposed of for cash at the coast.

Regrettably Mr. Alper's mandate was not extended to consideration of African communities south of the Zambezi. Had it done so, no doubt the author would have indicated the significantly different trading pattern of this area. For many places were fly-free and large quantities of ivory could be moved cheaply by ox waggons. The thrust of capitalist mercantile expansion accordingly came not from Mozambique but from the south. And because of natural obstacles its impact was delayed in time.

South Central Africa accordingly enjoyed a breathing space from capitalist exploitation while Europe digested the benison of the 'enlightenment'. When commercial initiative did reach the area it tempered the imposition of alien rule with a compensatory exchange of technology and aspirations for a more advanced social order.

*Ivory and Slaves* is an important book not only for its scholarly content but as a reminder of the more fortunate circumstances of South Central Africa, and that its prosperity can only be continued if the guide lines laid down by our founders and the early missionaries, who entered the regions with the traders, be constantly reviewed and followed.

O. N. RANSFORD

*Africa: Hope Deferred* by John Biggs-Davison, M.P. (Johnson Publications, London. 1972. 166 pages. Map. £2).

A book dealing with affairs in Africa, particularly during the present age of turmoil, is bound, admits the author, "to be outpaced by events". And so has this book. But not noticeably so, except in the case of the Portuguese territories. One chapter is entitled — "Portugal Remains".

The author gives a most useful resume of the colonisation of Africa, especially of French North and West Africa, as well as of German and British areas. The period of decolonisation and the emergence of *Negritude* is described and the influence of Roosevelt's anti-colonising policy after World War Two is emphasised.

The events of the explosive nineteen fifties and sixties are examined including the Nigerian war, U.D.I, and other significant happenings such as the

advent of Russia and China into Africa. (The author points out that China's contact with Africa is an old historic link. Chinese ships used to winter south of Sofala in the 15th century whilst waiting for the monsoon to blow them home).

So, although some aspects of the book are dated, it has a value in that it covers a wide spectrum of African history in a very readable fashion with a good many sidelights and published quotations that do not generally appear in the more academic works on the same subjects.

W. V. BRELSFORD

*Contemporary African Arts and Crafts: On-site working with Art Forms and Processes* by Thelma R. Newman. (George Allen & Unwin. 306 pages. Illustrated in monochrome and colour. Map. Price £5,95).

As the title indicates, the author is not concerned with traditional African arts but with the crafts and forms that are being practised today. There is not a complete break. In spite of some assimilation of modern technology and some crossing of the border into a new era there is continuity from African traditional art.

The author covers all the crafts of sub-Saharan Africa — pottery, basketry, textiles, leatherwork, woodwork, metalwork, beadwork and other forms. She describes the working processes and illustrates them in numerous serial photographs, taken in the field, of craftsmen actually at work. She traces the "flow of style" resulting from migration and trade in early years and then the later influence exerted by European goods.

Most of the crafts are indigenous. The Ashanti, for example, claim to have learned weaving with fibres from watching spiders.

Southern Africa does not feature prominently. The Zulu are stated to be among the greatest of artists with beads and there is an illustration of an Ndebele apron of beads. But the author equates Ndebele with Zulu.

In addition to the "working" pictures there are some lovely pictures of finished articles.

W. V. BRELSFORD

*Notes on South African Hunting* by A. J. Bethell (Rhodesiana Reprint Library, Bulawayo — Silver Series, 1976. Price \$7,75).

This book comprises a small collection of articles which first appeared in "The Field", and, in its original paper covers, is of considerable rarity. The soft cover design has been incorporated into the text of this reprint. The original edition was published in 1887.

The author joined the Bechuanaland Border Police as Adjutant in 1885. His older brother, Christopher, had been adviser to Chief Montsioa at Mafeking and Intelligence Agent for the High Commissioner in the Cape. He was killed in 1884, defending the kraal against a Boer attack.

Details of this incident are found in the informative Foreword, written by Mr. E. E. Burke, Director of the National Archives of Rhodesia. The reader is

provided with the necessary historical background against which Mr. Bethell's adventures take place. Other new material comprises five pages of illustrations.

As befits one of the earliest practical guides to game-hunting in Africa, we are given tips on clothing, armaments, transport and supplies; the author's estimated cost of an eight-month trip is approximately £565!

After a brief but humorous description of life in the diggings at Kimberley, and a trenchant comment on the African chiefs in the area, the bulk of the book deals with his excursion to the Falls.

He and a companion, Trooper Ayton, took leave from the B.B.P. and light-heartedly set off for the Zambezi. Their horses collapsed and they walked for the last 100 miles. They were delighted to discover a trader and a missionary living in a hut on the river's bank, and "passed the day in gothic feasting and revelry!"

They were then about 2½ days' journey from the Falls. Shooting pheasant en route "(one always shoots them on the ground, and, if possible, when they are not looking)", they were guided to the Falls, which they found a splendid and breath-taking sight.

Their return trip was almost their last; their horses collapsed through lack of water and they walked to Linokane. From there they sent messengers the 150 sandy miles to Shoshong. They were rescued by Trooper Woods, who drove them back to "civilization" in an ox-wagon. Trooper Ayton died shortly after their return; the author went home to England, where, the following year, he wrote his "Notes". He made light of the hardships and near-disasters inherent in African travel, and his tongue-in-cheek observations on the Boers are devastating.

This pleasant and hitherto little known book is a welcome addition to the Silver Series of the Rhodesiana Reprint Library.

ROSEMARY KIMBERLEY

*Transition in Africa: from direct rule to independence* by Sir James Robertson. (C. Hurst, London. 272 pages. Maps. Illustrations).

Sir James Robertson was one of the most distinguished of Colonial Office civil servants in the 1950s during the run down of Britain's colonial empire and the creation of independent states.

He entered the Sudan Political Service in 1922 and the early chapters of the book describe his life as a District and Provincial Officer in the period between the two world wars, the "halcyon" period of African colonial administration. All the fascinating facets of the life of a District Officer, the intimate contacts with the inhabitants, Moslem and pagan, of a huge country, are described, rather primly perhaps, but with a few light-hearted stories. He became Civil Secretary in 1947 and from then until 1953 was engaged in preparing the Sudan for self-government and then independence. He admits that the task was rushed: there was too rapid Sudanisation: and it was not made easier by the fact that the Sudan was a condominium, Egypt as well as Britain, having a say in constitutional developments. But, Sir James maintains, as elsewhere, the results of withholding



and delaying the grant of independence would have been worse than the conflicts that did occur in so many newly independent countries.

He left the Sudan in 1953 to serve on a Constitutional Commission to British Guiana and then to become Governor of Nigeria leading that country also into independence. Again, he says the transition was too fast. Nigeria gave the impression of unity but it was superficial and tribal animosities were merely overlaid. And, he comments, the African politicians seemed to have little regard for the necessity of day to day administration.

These are not sentimental memories of the British Raj but form detailed, factual descriptions of the countries and events of the period, with interludes of personal happenings. Sir James has left an invaluable eye-witness historical record of the transition from colonial status to independence of two of the largest countries in Africa.

W. V. BRELSFORD

### **Rhodesian History, Vol. 5, 1974**

There are six articles in this latest, to be published, issue of the Journal of the Central Africa Historical Society. E. T. Stokes tells, in light vein, of the start of the teaching of history at the University in 1957: T. O. Ranger examines the meaning of the name, Mwari: S. I. Mudenge discusses the relationship of the Rozvi with the Karanga: M. D. D. Newitt in "Towards a History of modern Mozambique" points out that it is "the only country of Africa whose history has never been written": I. Henderson writes on the economic origins of decolonisation in Zambia: and G. C. Kinloch analyses the changing reactions of educated Africans in Rhodesia to the white "colonial" elite revealed in letters in African newspapers from the 1930s onwards.

There are four lengthy notes, including two on the "myth" of the two-toed Vadoma of the Zambezi valley. Two review articles are — "Towards a History of Insurgency in Rhodesia" and "Toward a History of Rhodesia's Armed Forces". There is also a lengthy reviews section.

### **Zambezia**

Two numbers of the Journal of the University of Rhodesia are to hand. Vol. 3, No. 2. December 1974 is still subtitled "A Journal of Social Studies in Southern and Central Africa". The editor states that the subject range of articles has become much broader than the subtitle indicates. For instance, in this number are two articles on African music and two on Shona literature and poetry. Other articles concern developing class structures in the Msengezi African Purchase Land: certain social relations among the Eastern Korekore: and a Socio-Geographical Survey of Rhodesia.

So, the subtitle of Vol. 4, No. 1., December 1975, becomes merely "The Journal of the University of Rhodesia". It will still cover the same area and articles on any aspect of the region are welcomed.

The December 1975 issue is a special number devoted to papers on "The Scientific Management of Resources" given at the Third Rhodesia Scientific Congress in September 1974. Papers were given on management of the nation's minds, of population numbers, of human resources, of education, of transport in Salisbury and of the nation's behaviour by the law. There is a paper on the changing attitudes of Rhodesian whites as defined by the press and two other contributions referring specifically to South Africa.

In both volumes there are Research Reports and lengthy reviews sections.

*Zambezia* is an annual published at R\$2,50 and is obtainable from the Publications Department, University of Rhodesia, Box MP45, Mount Pleasant, Salisbury.

### **National Museums and Monuments Publications**

#### *Arnoldia: Miscellaneous Papers*

No. 22 is "Excavations at Musimbira in the Bikita District" by D. F. Muro and C. W. Spies. Musimbira is a small Zimbabwe-phase ruin with a distinct architectural style. It represents the spread of the Zimbabwe culture by Zimbabwe people and is not an imitation.

No. 24, Vol. 7, is "The Living Site of Adam Render" by L. E. Hodges. (The exact site of Render's burial has not been located.) The paper is a description of Chigaramboni Hill in the Victoria District where Adam Render lived from 1868 to 1872 and Carl Mauch with him from 1871 to 1872. A large collection of artefacts — pottery, beads, pots, bowls and other implements and utensils — was made there. The writer concludes — "Chigaramboni Hill is an interesting part of Rhodesia's early history and it is archaeologically important because the collection of artifacts is firmly dated by Carl Mauch's journals."



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