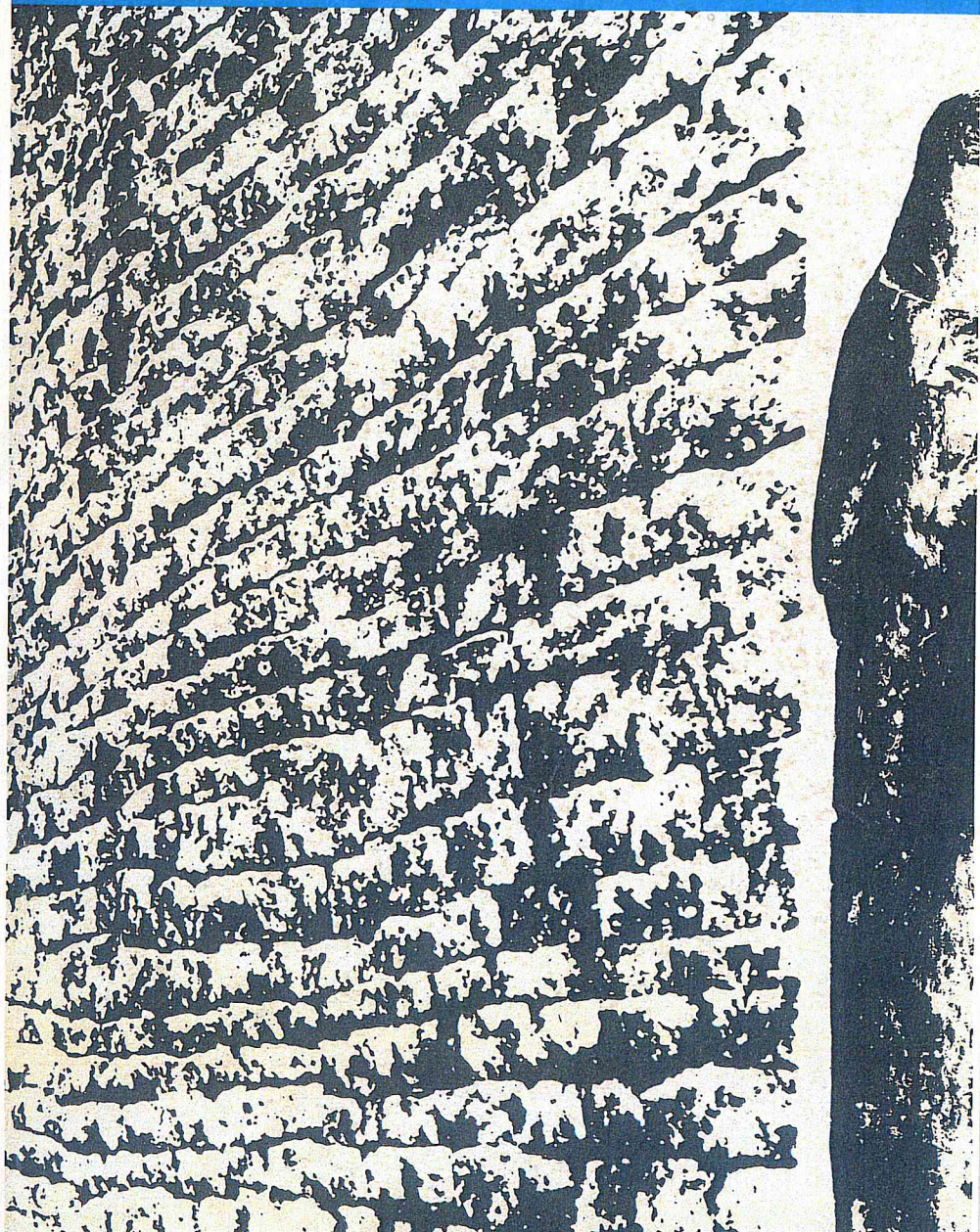


# HERITAGE

PUBLICATION No. 1

1981



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THE HISTORY SOCIETY OF ZIMBABWE  
Salisbury  
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*Edited by*  
**W. E. ARNOLD**

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COVER DESIGN — *Front*: Zimbabwe Bird, from a cast in the National Archives of the soapstone original which was removed from Great Zimbabwe by the archaeologist Theodore Bent in 1891; masonry from a passage wall in the Great Enclosure, Zimbabwe (photograph c. 1904). *Back*: Masonry with chevron decoration, from the outer wall of the Great Enclosure (photograph c. 1894); Conical Tower (photograph c. 1930) National Archives.

# The History Society of Zimbabwe

The Society exists to promote 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 Zimbabwe and neighbouring territories.

There is no entrance fee. The annual subscription is: for individual and institutional membership — Z\$5; for husband and wife membership — Z\$6. It entitles paid-up members to any issues of *Heritage* published during the year. The fee for life membership is \$75.

For further information and particulars of membership please write to the National Honorary Secretary, History Society of Zimbabwe, P.O. Box 8268, Causeway, Zimbabwe.

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# Introduction

This is the first issue of *Heritage*, a new journal published by the History Society of Zimbabwe with the object of providing our members and other supporters throughout the world with information about the history of the new independent state of Zimbabwe and neighbouring territories.

Although the journal is new, it replaces a journal entitled *Rhodesiana*, 40 issues of which appeared during the years 1956 to 1979, and which contained articles about the history of the former country of Rhodesia and its neighbours.

Not only is the journal a new publication but the society itself is also in some ways a new society, for in March 1980 the Rhodesiana Society, which had celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 1978, changed its name to the National History Society. This was not its first change of name, for when founded in 1953, it was called the Rhodesia Africana Society.

During 1980 the Society, in its first year under the new name, welcomed to its membership all the members of the National Historical Association and Heritage of the Nation. These two voluntary associations are fairly new in establishment and relatively small in numbers, and have done sterling work in connection with the recording of oral history and the preservation of old buildings. Our society welcomes the members of these two organisations and is confident that the larger unified society can only grow from strength to strength.

*Heritage* No. 1 is intended to offer something of interest to everyone — not only to the historian both professional and amateur but also to the ordinary Zimbabwean and man in the street who is interested in the history — past, present and future — of our land.

The future of our new journal depends on a steady supply of suitable articles for publication and an ever-increasing membership. Accordingly, I appeal to Zimbabweans of all races to contribute articles and to join our non-political society without delay.

Michael J. Kimberley

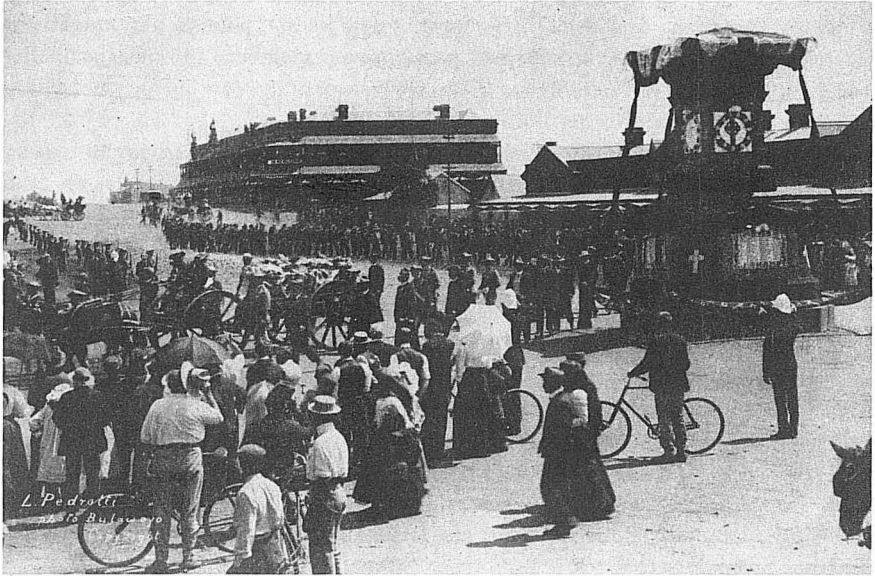
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN 1980-81.

**Heritage is the journal of The History Society of Zimbabwe. It replaces Rhodesiana, the journal of The Rhodesiana Society the name of which was changed in 1980 to The National History Society (formerly the Rhodesiana Society).**

**Since the annual meeting in 1980, the society merged with two other organisations with similar objects, The National Historical Association and Heritage of the Nation. It was therefore considered appropriate to make a further change by dropping the words in brackets “(formerly The Rhodesiana Society)” and adding the words “of Zimbabwe” and deleting the word “national”.**

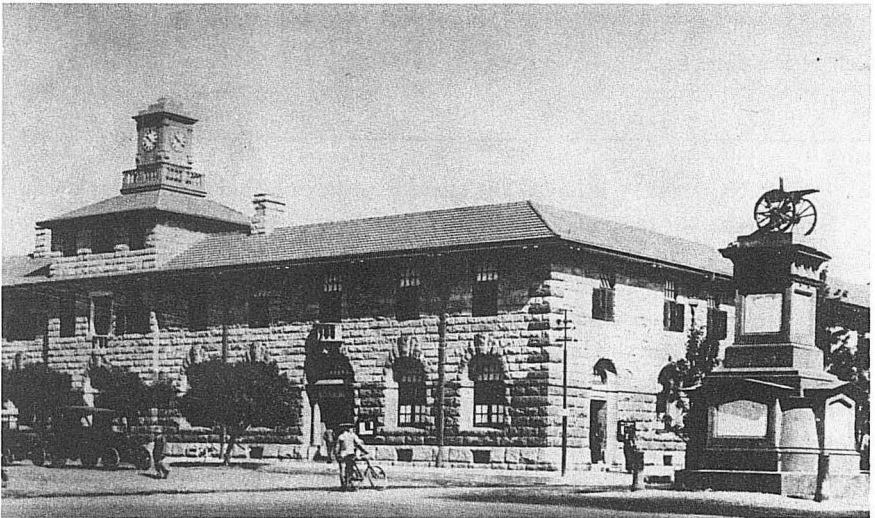
**This issue would have appeared in 1980 but production was delayed as a result of the death of the editor, Mr W. V. Brelsford. Heritage No. 2 will appear later in the year.**





Above: Williams Building seen in the background of this picture of the funeral procession of Cecil Rhodes in 1902 passing through Bulawayo. *Photo — City of Bulawayo Records.*

Below: Municipal Building and Post Office, corner of Main Street and Selborne Avenue 1914-1940. *Photo — National Archives*



# The Offices of the Municipality of Bulawayo

by Mrs. J. L. Sharland

The first office of the Bulawayo Sanitary Board from 1894 was a small iron building on the stand now occupied by Exchange Buildings. Later on it was transferred to the Market Hall.

On 26 October, 1897, His Honour William H. Milton, the acting Administrator, declared the township of Bulawayo to be a municipality under the provisions of Section 7 and 12 of the Municipal Law of 1897. The first municipal election was held in November 1897 and a declaration of poll was issued from the Magistrate's office on 24 November, 1897, signed by Ll. Powys Jones, returning officer and Resident Magistrate. Nine councillors representing three wards were elected.

The first seven meetings of the newly formed Council, from 24 November, 1897, to 29 December, 1897, were held in the Market Hall building. The minutes of the Council meeting of 6 December, 1897 record that Clr C. T. Holland was asked to look into the possibility of renting seven rooms in Williams Buildings. At the Council meeting of 13 December, 1897, it was resolved not to accept the offer of accommodation from Williams Consolidated Co. for a tenancy of the seven rooms at a cost of £500 per annum, but to await an offer from Willoughby's Consolidated Co. On 20 December, 1897 it was resolved to accept Willoughby's offer of accommodation for a period of six months in their wire-wove building which was near the Grand Hotel, at a rental of £30 per month.

In an early Bulawayo directory reference is made to Allport's Patent Wire-wove Bungalows at 128 Main Street E. Mr W. Douslin, who was one of the registered architects, was the agent. A street map of the period shows Stand No. 128 as being at the north-east corner of Main Street/7th Avenue, where Asbestos House now stands.

At this same Council meeting of 20 December, 1897 the then Mayor, Clr I. H. Hirschler, was asked to approach the Government for a grant of a plot of ground "similar to those given to other public bodies in order that proper municipal offices could be erected". On 28 February, 1898 Clr S. Lewis "moved that competitive designs be called for municipal buildings and pointed out that the sum presently paid as rent and which would in the near future probably be doubled, was equivalent to 5% on a capital sum of £5 000. The Mayor stated that there was some doubt whether the Council could borrow any considerable sum on the assets they had. On the motion of Councillor S. Redrup the matter was postponed.

It is clear from reading the early minutes that the new municipality was existing on a shoestring. In order to continue operating it was agreed unanimously at the second Council meeting of 25 November, 1897, to accept the Government's proposition to take over the remainder of its loan made to the Sanitary Board. This amounted to £9 765 at that date. "The Council must have money to keep the town going, there could be no stoppage in certain works". The municipal officials continued to work in the wire-wove building over the

next six months, while the Council met at different venues. As already mentioned, the first seven meetings of Council were held in the Market Hall buildings. The following nine meetings from 4 January, 1898 to 28 February, 1898, inclusive were held at the High Court, as were the following nine meetings from 14 March to 2 May, 1898 inclusive. The meeting of 7 March was held at the Caledonian Hall — no reason for this change of venue is given in the minutes but one can conjecture that the High Court was probably in session on that particular Monday.

After the beginning of May the next 13 ordinary and special meetings of Council were held in the Public Library buildings from the meeting of Monday, 9 May to Monday, 18 July, 1898, with the exception of the meeting of Monday, 20 June, 1898, which was again held in the High Court. No reason is given for the various changes of venue, but Councillors must have been glad to find a permanent home for the next fifteen and a half years when the municipal offices were transferred to Williams Buildings in July of 1898. A lease for a period of six months from 1 July, 1898 was signed by the Chairman, Dr. Sauer, as the Acting Mayor, at the Council meeting of Monday, 6 June, 1898.

Williams Buildings stood on the corner of Fort Street and Selborne Avenue, and were only demolished a few years ago to make way for more modern development. The first Council meeting was held in the board room of Williams' Consolidated Co. on Monday, 25 July, 1898. Council meetings were held weekly on Mondays with special meetings held, where necessary, on Thursdays.

In the minutes of the Council meeting of 3 October, 1898, it is reported that an offer of rooms in the new market building for Council offices had been made by the Bulawayo Market & Office Co. It was resolved however, to remain in Williams Buildings "until such time as a more advantageous offer was made".

In 1914, the municipal offices were transferred to a new site on the corner of Selborne Avenue and Main Street. These buildings are still in existence today, occupied by various Government departments.

The design of these buildings was the subject of a competition throughout South Africa. Nineteen designs were submitted: First prize went to Gibson & Robertson of Pretoria; Second to Hawke & McKinley, Cape Town; Third to Stanley G. Hudson, Durban.

Building commenced in the mayoral year of Councillor Alex Fraser 1911-1912 by Hannen Holland and Cubitts Ltd. The buildings were officially opened by the Administrator, Sir William Milton, on 27 January, 1914, when Councillor Fraser was again Mayor.

The cost of the municipal offices was £14 651.10.2 and the Post and Customs Offices £24 139, making a total of over £38 000 for the whole block of buildings.

An interesting note is that the tenders for the furniture and fittings ranged from £874.9.0 in Rhodesian teak to over £1 000 for Indian teak, or mahogany. The contract was awarded to Messrs. Cubitt & Company who made the fittings and furniture in Colonial style from the designs of the architect in charge of the building, a Mr Robertson.

By the year 1936, the value of the municipal portion of the building was estimated at £35 000 but Government were not prepared to pay more than £28 000, which offer was accepted, subject to the approval of the ratepayers. At a meeting of ratepayers in the McMurray Hall on Wednesday, 13 March, 1936, a practically unanimous vote in favour of the proposed sale was passed. Councillor C. M. Harris, J.P. was Mayor at that time.



**Bulawayo City Hall buildings, Fife Street, before the addition of the top storey.**

*Photo — Bulawayo City records*

In 1937, the joint architects, Messrs MacGillivray & Son and Messrs Robertson & Peel Nelson produced sketch plans and designs for the proposed municipal offices and town halls complex but the estimated total cost of £102 500 including furniture and fittings was felt to be too high. On 4 May, 1938, the Council received revised plans and the estimates of cost were then £42 000 for the municipal offices and council chamber and £49 000 for the town hall and minor hall. The total cost of £91 000 included £2 000 for the proposed new morning market buildings on Grey Street. These are at present used by the Jairos Jiri Shop and the Art Gallery. In his survey of the work of the Council for the year ended 31 July, 1938, the then Mayor, Councillor D. Macintyre, J.P., M.P., regretted that a final decision on the question of erecting both municipal offices and town hall had not been reached because of other projects, particularly the N'cema water augmentation scheme, then under way. However, the Council did decide to invite alternative tenders for (1) the combined scheme, and (2) separate tenders for the town hall portion and the municipal offices respectively.

In the following year's report, Councillor T. A. E. Holdengarde, the Mayor, said that the majority of the Council favoured proceeding with the combined scheme and tenders were duly received and accepted in the sums of £36 497 for the town hall and £38 363 for the municipal offices, a total of £74 860. The two complexes, although a combined scheme, were erected by two different contractors, Messrs Ross and Hannah for the Town Hall and Messrs F. McGregor Ltd. for the municipal offices. The foundation stone of the building was laid by His Worship the Mayor of Bulawayo, Councillor T. A. E. Holdengarde.

The commemorative plaque also recorded:

Members of the Council:

H. R. Barbour, J.P.	D. Macintyre, J.P., M.P.
A. J. Butler	C. M. Newman, O.B.E., M.C., V.D., J.P.
S. C. F. Cooke	C. F. Redrup, R.R.C., M.B.E. (Mrs)
E. J. Davies	F. J. Shacklock
W. H. Eastwood, M.P.	R. O. Taylor (Mrs)
D. W. Young — Deputy Mayor	A. C. Thornton, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E. — Town Engineer
H. J. Cooke — Town Clerk	F. McGregor Ltd.
MacGillivray & Son	Ross and Hannah Ltd. Builders
Robertson & Peel Nelson Associated Architects	

June 14th, 1939

It is situated in the north-western corner of the building. On the same date a foundation stone was laid on the east of the entrance to the Large City Hall by His Excellency the Governor of Southern Rhodesia, Sir Herbert James Stanley, G.C.M.G.

These ceremonies were attended also by the Mayor and Mayoress of Salisbury and the Mayor of Que Que. Councillor Holdengarde went on to invite suggestions for re-naming the Market Square on the occasion of the jubilee celebrations of the founding of the Colony to be held the next year.

Councillor Holdengarde served a further year as Mayor and in his report of 31 July, 1940, he referred to the coming opening of the Town Hall by the Governor Sir Herbert Stanley on 3 September. This was, however, postponed due to the war situation — that is, the Second World War. In fact, the Town Hall and municipal offices have never been officially opened! It had been intended to combine the official opening possibly with peace celebrations, but this did not occur.

As for the re-naming of the Market Square, suggestions received were — Rhodes Square, Memorial Square, Stanley Square, Pioneer Square, Bishop's Stortford Square and Coghlan Square — but I have been unable to find any further reference to this proposal.

On 4 November, 1940, Lady Stanley was asked to unveil the bronze plaque depicting the Rhodes Indaba Scene in the Matopos at the conclusion of the Rebellion in 1896. The plaster models were executed by Prof. F. E. Armstrong and the casting and finishing of the bronze was carried out by Signor R. Vignali of Pretoria. The model was despatched in four pieces and the bronzes were welded together under the supervision of Prof. Armstrong. At that time it was the largest bronze plaque ever cast in Southern Africa. Mr. Vere Stent, the only surviving European member of the indaba party, was present at the unveiling and also five old Africans, who were present at the Indaba of 1896.

The town clock and chimes (known as the Elwyn Chimes) were presented to the people of Bulawayo as a Jubilee Gift by Mrs E. L. Wynne, a resident of Bulawayo since 1898. The striking arrangement consists of five bells, the chime of four bells being Westminster Chimes. The town clock and chimes were set in motion by the donor on 4

November, 1940, after Lady Stanley had unveiled the Indaba Scene plaque referred to above.

The cost of the clock was £558.9.2 and the bells £1 555.2.0. Normally the chimes are at the hour, half and three quarters, but in deference to residents of neighbouring hotels and because of concerts in the City Hall, they have now been set so as not to chime from 8.00 p.m. to 6.15 a.m.

The makers were Gillett & Johnson Ltd. of Croydon, England.

The gift is commemorated by a plaque in the foyer of the municipal offices which reads:-

“In commemoration of the Gift to the  
Town of the Tower Clock and Bells by  
Mrs. E. L. Wynne of Bulawayo  
on the occasion of the  
Fiftieth Anniversary  
of the Occupation of the Colony.  
Jubilee Year 1940.”

In 1941 permission was granted to the Sons of England Patriotic and Benevolent Society to plant and maintain a memorial rose garden consisting of three beds in front of the main entrance to the Town Hall.

The design for a new layout of the gardens in front of the west side of the municipal offices was prepared by the architects, Messrs. McGillivray & Son. This included the pond and an illuminated fountain as a memorial to the 1893 Columns Society (now the Pioneers' and Early Settlers' Society). The assent of Mrs Chennells, daughter of Sir Charles Coghlan, was obtained to the removal of the Coghlan Statue to Main Street. I understand it was situated nearer to the old Market Hall.

The municipal offices with Large and Small City Halls are on the site of the laager of Rebellion days. The old well which was the beleaguered township's only water supply was filled in and all trace of it disappeared in later years. An extract from the records of 1896/97 states:

“There was no water supply for hundreds in laager so a well was sunk by an engineer named Issels; at about 50 to 60 feet a good supply of water was found for the laager. At first a bucket and rope was used and the work was long and laborious but a windmill was put up by Issels (F. G. Issels) and worked successfully.”

The well was rediscovered in 1951 after a determined search and has now been put back into use to supply the fountains. A shelter was initially erected to house a pump but during the redesign of the City Hall gardens, the pumping plant was re-sited and an ornamental well head with winch placed on the well. The fountains were installed in 1967.

In December, 1960, a brass plaque to the memory of the Rev. Robert Moffat and John Smith Moffat was presented to the Council by the Rhodesia Pioneers' and Early Settlers' Society. This was originally in the Library Building, Fort Street, and was unveiled by Sir Herbert Stanley in 1937. It is now situated on the right hand side of the left entrance to the Council Chamber.

In the early 1950s, the problem of space in the municipal offices had become acute. In 1948, when Dr Hugh Ashton was appointed as Director of African Affairs, his office was a

little shack on the roof, reached by a spiral staircase from the cleaner's room. This staircase is still in place today, leading out of what is now the office of the Mayor's secretary. Other Nissen huts were placed on the roof to accommodate portions of the City Engineer's department. Some members of the Town Clerk's Department were accommodated in what was known as "the stables". This was the area now occupied by the Mayor's Parlour, robing-room and kitchen, and it was divided into four cubicles for the committee clerks. It had been Committee Room No. 1.

It was decided to put an extra storey on top of the municipal offices, and this, together with the alterations in the former committee room and elsewhere in the building, cost £33 458.10.0 — almost as much as the cost of the whole of the municipal offices in 1939.

The original Mayor's Parlour is the present Town Clerk's receptionist's office and the present Mayor's office was the Mayoress's Parlour. However, it was found that the Mayoress scarcely ever used her parlour and at the time of the pressure on accommodation, it became the office of the chief assistant.

For some years, the Mayor had no office and his secretary occupied a very small office next to that of the Town Clerk. During the mayorship of Alderman Goldwasser 1968-1969, alterations were made to put a door through into the erstwhile cleaner's room from the former Mayoress's Parlour. Thus the present convenient arrangement evolved.

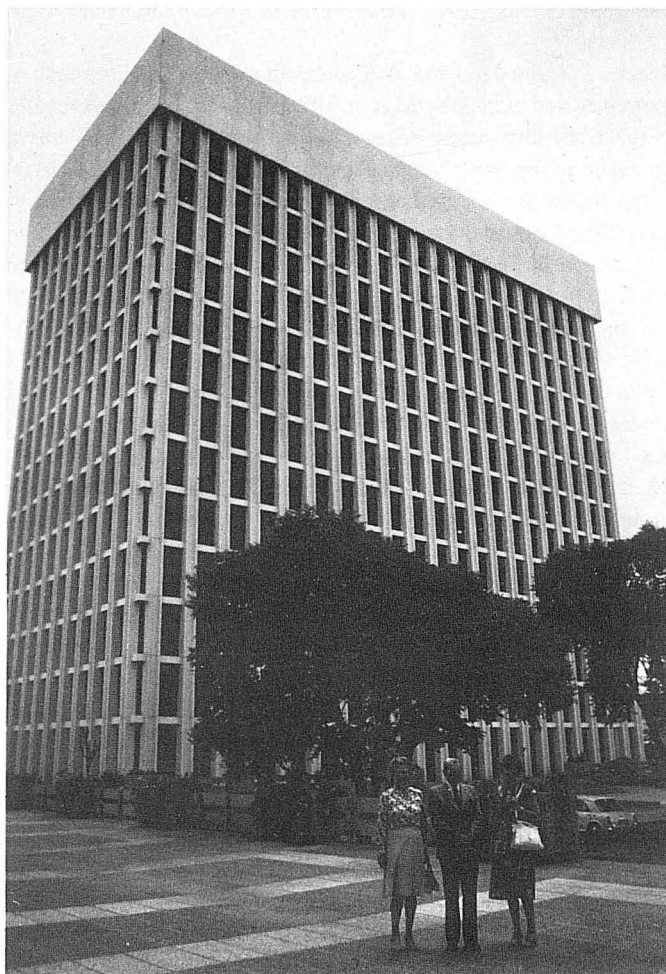
The fifth home of the municipal offices is the present Revenue Hall and Tower block. This is part of the scheme to provide new municipal offices occupying a site extending from Selborne to Eighth Avenue and from Grey to Borrow Street, including a part of Wilson Street. The entire area, in extent approximately 2,7 ha will eventually house all the municipal offices, the mayoral offices and suites, committee rooms and council chamber. Below the revenue hall and the podium, on-site parking is provided for 210 cars. The various buildings will be separate but inter-connected and will stand in landscaped surroundings. This is intended to provide a place of relaxation for the public, free from vehicular interference within the busy business area and an eventual vista from the present City Hall gardens right down to Central Park, with the demolition of the old market buildings and completion of the scheme.

At the time of the pressure on space in the 1950s the possibility of erecting new municipal offices was considered, but shelved as accommodation in other new office buildings was available and the City Engineer's Department, with ancillary functions and departments, was accommodated in 1960 in Sanlam Building. However, there were advantages in having the administrative staff of all departments in close proximity both for the public and for the smooth running of the municipal machine. It was also considered that the complex should focus the attention of the citizens on civic pride and dignity in its spacious grounds.

Various sites were considered over the years including —

1. The Market Square with demolition of the present complex.
2. The old Memorial Hospital site on the Fort Street/10th Avenue block.
3. In Princess Park which is part of the Central Park on the corner of Borrow Street and Selborne Avenue.
4. The present site where the Municipality owns practically all of the stands in the area.

The first concept was to have an initial block containing the City Engineer's and the City Health Departments with a second block containing the Town Clerk's and City



**Tower Block, March 1978. In the foreground the then Mayor of Bulawayo, Mrs J. L. Sharland; the City Treasurer, Mr J. A. Higginbotham; and Mrs D. I. Baart, the Mayor's sister.**

*Photo — L. W. Baart*

Treasurer's Departments, together with the Mayoral suites, committee rooms and Council Chamber, etc.

In the final overall plan it was decided to erect the buildings in phases.

Phase 1 — the Revenue Hall and certain sections of the City Treasurer's Department.

Phase 2 — the Tower Block, housing the remainder of the City Treasurer's Department, the City Engineer's Department, Building and Amenities Department and the City Health Department.

Phase 3 — The Town Clerk's Department and the Council Chamber.

Phase 4 — Additions to the building erected in phase 3 if necessary.

Phase 5 — A possible further tower block on the Grey Street/8th Avenue corner, at present occupied by the Standard Butchery.



This last phase would only come into being if pressure on accommodation again became a reality.

This project was revived in 1965 and has continued steadily since then with Phases 1 and 2 now completed and opened by March, 1978. In 1969, it was felt that the site should not be too close to the city centre because of increasing traffic problems and the City Engineer was asked to prepare a rough sketch plan showing how the old memorial site could be developed. The idea of rebuilding on the Market Square was finally abandoned at this time. However, an alternative site in the vicinity of 8th Avenue, Borrow and Wilson Streets was suggested in January 1970. On 3 June, 1970, Council agreed to appoint Messrs. Harvey, Bufé and Partners as architects for the scheme, after a ballot. The next year or so was spent on detailed discussion on the composition of the buildings and of the exact site. In April 1971, the Town Clerk informed the Secretary for Local Government and Housing that the best site for the scheme would be a portion of Bulawayo Central Park, known as Princess Park, on the corner of Borrow Street and Selborne Avenue. Soil tests were made but it was found that the site was unsuitable and it was therefore abandoned. On 27 July, 1972, the special committee formed to investigate all matters concerned with the new civic centre met and agreed that the Town Clerk should discuss the town planning aspects with Professor Mallows. As a result of this meeting, the existing site, namely the two blocks straddling Wilson Street between Selborne and 8th Avenues, was chosen by the Council on 17 August, 1972. Some purchases of land had to be made in this area although the Municipality already owned certain stands. The cost of the new purchases was in the region of R\$700 000.

The revenue hall was the first building to be erected on the new site. Certain existing structures had to be demolished and the contract for the demolition was awarded to Eagle Construction on 3 August, 1973, at a cost of R\$4 998. It was decided to construct the hall in two stages, namely — the parking and podium structure would be built subject to one contract and the hall itself subject to another. On 19 September, 1973, the contract for the parking and podium structure was awarded to Roberts Construction Co. (Rhodesia) Ltd. at a final cost of \$282 750, and the site was handed over to the contractors for the hall on 7 June, 1974. On 16 May, 1974, the contract for the erection of the revenue hall itself had been awarded to J. Sisk & Son (Rhodesia) Ltd. with a completion date of 31 July, 1975.

The foundation stone of the hall was laid by the then Mayor, Councillor E. D. Gordon, on Friday, 19 July, 1974. The following items were placed behind the stone:-

1. New Rhodesian bank notes and coins;
2. A booklet giving the history of the Rhodesian currency;
3. Two fuel ration cards and coupons;
4. A copy of the Chronicle, dated Saturday, 20 July, 1974, which recorded the ceremony of the laying of the stone.

The revenue hall was officially opened by the Mayor at that time, Councillor C. M. Scott, on 27 June, 1975, a month ahead of schedule, and at a cost of approximately R\$1 090 000, thus the total cost was approximately R\$1 375 000.

Meanwhile, on 5 March, 1975, the final form of the tower block was accepted by Council and authority granted for the invitation of tenders for its erection and completion. On 17 December, 1975, the contract was awarded to Roberts Construction Co. (Rhodesia) Ltd. at a cost of R\$2 686 009 and to be completed by 1 October, 1977. This completion date was extended to 1 November, 1977, because the site was given to the

contractor after a month's delay. The foundation stone was laid by the Mayor, Councillor E. Hoyle, on 22 July, 1977. The building was, however, not completed until mid-December, 1977, one and a half months late, and the final cost was approximately R\$3 200 000.

The tower block accommodated in 1978 over 320 officials, with room for expansion as, at the official opening date, one and a half floors were not occupied.

The various departments moved into the completed building over a period —

1. The City Treasurer's and the Valuation Departments between 16 and 22 December, 1977.
2. The City Engineer's Department on 16 December, 1977.
3. The Building and Amenities Department on 19 December, 1977.
4. The City Health Department on 9 January, 1978.

The tower block was officially opened by the then Mayor, Councillor Mrs. J. L. Sharland, on 10 March, 1978.

It is hoped that the third phase of the civic centre complex will be undertaken in the not too distant future, so providing a lasting and final home for the municipal offices of the city of Bulawayo.

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1897, 1898, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940 & 1941.

Minutes of meetings of Council, City of Bulawayo:-

1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1965, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977 & 1978.

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Mr. F. A. (Sonny) Knight.

Mr. L. W. Bolze.

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### OPERATION RHODESIA RHINO

*Bushlife of a Game Warden* by Nick Steele (T. V. Bulpin Publications, Cape Town) deals with the lives and adventures of rangers and game guards in the Hluhluwe and Umfolozi Game Reserves in Zululand.

The men seem to lead rather more exciting lives than their counterparts in this country. The animals and their behaviour are equally as fascinating but much of the work in Zululand is done on horseback and there is a more general use of helicopters. There also seems to be a higher percentage of poachers, villains and adventurers to provide excitements.

The main interest for Zimbabwean readers will lie in the descriptions of the capture and re-allocation of game, particularly of the black and the white rhino. At the end of 1966 and beginning of 1967, in what the author calls "Operation Rhodesia Rhino", no fewer than 74 young white rhino were captured and transported to stock reserves in this country.

The book is well illustrated with photographs and line drawings and sells at R9,60.

# Rhodes, "More an Agent Than an Initiator"

by S. B. Stevenson

Early writers on Cecil Rhodes, Michell, Williams and Marshall Hole,<sup>1</sup> created an image of an idealist who almost single-handedly added vast territories to the British Empire. In their view the Imperial Government was either weak, ignorant or indifferent to the aggrandisement of the British Empire. This view of a Rhodes dominating Imperial policy in southern Africa has been maintained and even embellished in the work of modern historians, in particular in that of Robinson and Gallagher, Galbraith and Flint.<sup>2</sup> Rhodes has become larger, more domineering, and in Galbraith's view more bad-tempered and the Imperial Government more feeble and faint-hearted. I should like to suggest that the British Government was by no means as ineffective as these historians maintain, and that the picture of a powerful, forceful Rhodes, depicted, largely for financial reasons, by the press of the time, was one that, for political reasons, suited the Imperial Government. It suited them that Rhodes should take credit for the advance into the interior of south central Africa. It does seem on the face of it a rather illogical assumption that at the height of British Imperial expansion the Government and the higher civil service, socially cohesive, highly educated and essentially professional, should have been as craven as these historians claim, in the face of a politician comparatively unknown in the 1880s outside the Cape.

Almost all the writers claim that Rhodes secured the road to the north for the Empire,<sup>3</sup> but as Flint maintains, Rhodes was not an imperialist but a colonialist.<sup>4</sup> His intention was to secure the road and the interior for the Cape Colony, and in this he failed. However much he was able to "exhort, cajole, browbeat" and "bludgeon" the Imperial Government,<sup>5</sup> he was quite unable to persuade the Cape Government to annex Bechuanaland either on its own account or in collaboration with the Transvaal: "the effort was in vain, the House would have none of it".<sup>6</sup> Later, he himself declared that little thought had been spent upon the interior by the Cape Parliament, "but by a fortunate accident it was not lost to the Colony. The Home Government stepped in, and the road to the interior is now all right".<sup>7</sup>

If Sir Hercules Robinson was largely responsible for preventing the Transvaal acquiring the road, it was Chamberlain, as leader of the forward party in the British Cabinet, who took the initiative in sending the Warren Expedition to secure Bechuanaland for the Empire,<sup>8</sup> in the interests of Imperial strategy; to prevent, that is, any alliance between Germany in South West Africa and the South African Republic which would threaten British supremacy in South Africa and hence, it was feared, Britain's valuable trade route to India and the East. In the early '80s, however, Cape control of Bechuanaland would have been acceptable to the British Government: the Cape was regarded as being more favourably inclined to the British connection than the Boer Republics and an enlarged, and perhaps enriched, Cape Colony would further enhance British supremacy, but twice, in 1884 and again in 1885, the Cape refused to take on the

expense and the responsibility. Rhodes' influence in the Cape Parliament in the early '80s was not therefore particularly successful, and in fact he made no very strong impression on the members of the House.<sup>9</sup> Indeed, if Rhodes had been the visionary he was later claimed to be he could have secured South West Africa for the Cape.<sup>10</sup> The Cape Parliament was slow to reply to Lord Derby's urgent message on the subject of Germany's intentions, and, Williams writes, Rhodes was not exempt from blame. Rhodes and Merriman failed to "express their zeal on the Cabinet", but from Williams' account their zeal was not very ardent.

It is evident then that Rhodes was not a dominating figure in Cape politics nor was he a free agent in the Cape either then or later as Robinson and Gallagher claim.<sup>11</sup> He did not succeed in winning Bechuanaland for the Cape nor in excluding the Imperial factor from South Africa. Michell quotes Sir Charles Dilke as saying that when Rhodes first took to politics he belonged to the anti-Dutch party, but that he modified his views with the lapse of time.<sup>12</sup> He became, that is, less of a Jingo and more of a Colonialist and by 1886 he was actively seeking the goodwill of Jan Hofmeyr and his Afrikaner Bond. It was this association that made Rhodes useful to the Imperial Government.

The Bond, meaning alliance, was founded in 1879 by a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, the Rev. S. J. du Toit, to bring together all Afrikaners, that is every Englishman, Dutchman and German who recognized Africa as their fatherland and who would work together for the good of a United South Africa. Britain would be allowed to keep Simon's Town as a naval base, but she should give the rest of South Africa to the Afrikaners. In 1883 Hofmeyr was successful in amalgamating his own political association with du Toit's Bond, and his determination to retain the British connection and the British flag eventually prevailed over du Toit's stand for complete independence. Hofmeyr was not concerned with sentiment but with sound practical common sense. The Imperial Government provided and paid for the defence of the South African colonies, and Hofmeyr thought South Africa was in no position to withstand a hostile foreign power on her own. In his view unity should come first and independence would inevitably follow. Hofmeyr and the Bond had at first sought expansion to the north jointly with the Republic, but when the Volksraad turned down proposals for railway and free trade projects with the Cape and seemed ready to act alone to acquire the north, Hofmeyr came round to Rhodes' view of Cape expansion,<sup>13</sup> which was that the Cape "must hold the interior and must and shall be the dominant State in South Africa".<sup>14</sup> Which was precisely the view of the Imperial Government.

This alliance with Hofmeyr was sealed in 1890 when Rhodes became Premier of the Cape. It is interesting to note that he was not the Governor's first choice. Hofmeyr was the obvious choice but he was always unwilling to take high office; J. W. Sauer was the next choice but he was unable to form a government so, in Michell's words, the Governor "fell back on Rhodes".<sup>15</sup> Rhodes accepted when he was assured of the support of Hofmeyr and the Bond on the understanding that his government would pursue policies in keeping with Bond principles.<sup>16</sup> The dependence of each on the other from the start was mutual. Rhodes supported Bond policies as to native administration, trade and agriculture and Hofmeyr supported Cape expansionist policies, especially as regards the railway. Rhodes was never therefore in a position to dictate to the Cape Government any more than he was in a position to dictate to the British Government. Hofmeyr's biographer maintains that in fact

Rhodes was more dependent on Hofmeyr than Hofmeyr was on Rhodes, as nearly all policy was initiated or vetted by the leader of the Bond.<sup>17</sup>

It was not Rhodes alone but Rhodes in association with the Afrikaner Bond who was important to the Imperial Government. As J. H. Hofmeyr asserted, the approval of Downing Street having been obtained for the Charter, it was no less important for Rhodes to secure the assistance of Hofmeyr and the Bond: "One may doubt, in fact, whether the former would have been conceded without at least the prospect of getting the latter".<sup>18</sup> And he suggested that had Hofmeyr decided to oppose the Charter he would easily have carried his followers with him. Rhodes' known sentiments, Hofmeyr continues, made it legitimate to assume that the government of the new land would be carried on in the best interests of the Colonists. And here is the whole point of "Mr Rhodes' Charter": it was on the face of it Colonial not Imperial. There was, however, another, non-political, aspect of the Charter.

Gladstone's Liberal Government had not been anxious to take over more responsibility in South Africa in 1883-4, but in response to public opinion and High Commissioner Robinson's persuasions it had insisted in the London Convention of 1884 that Transvaal's western boundary should not include the road to the north. Trade along this route was already quite considerable, about £250 000 a year in cotton, woollen and hardware goods, tea, sugar and coffee.<sup>19</sup> Not even an anti-expansionist Liberal Government would stand in the way of British trade,<sup>20</sup> and the Cape was offered the chance of developing it. In 1886, however, gold was discovered on the Rand and another banket reef was confidently predicted beyond the Limpopo. To the strategic importance of South Africa was now added an economic importance, and British concern for Cape expansion faded away.

By 1888 Rhodes' wealth was assured and he was already looking to the interior for mineral and especially railway investment opportunities, but he was not alone in this. All writers on Rhodes acknowledge that other companies were in the field seeking concessions, and that some of them represented big financial interests in London — at that time the financial capital of the world and uniquely concerned with overseas investment — but in the historians' view they all supposedly succumbed to the Great Amalgamator. Only S. Samkange shows a London agent successfully challenging Rhodes.<sup>21</sup> This was E. A. Maund who represented Lord Gifford's and George Cawston's Bechuanaland Exploration and Exploring Companies which were backed by the very considerable wealth of (Sir) Edmund Davis, a London financier who seemed to have had great influence in London financial circles, but who chose to keep very much in the background.<sup>22</sup> Samkange suggests that by mid-1889 the British Government had become a party to the questionable stratagems of the British South Africa Company's promoters in Matabeleland; I suggest that from about the middle of the previous year the British Government had been actively but discreetly supporting London companies in the struggle for Matabeleland, and that they welcomed Rhodes into the charmed circle of London finance and politics in order to further both commercial development and imperial strategy. The four late-nineteenth century charters were all granted to commercial associations in areas where direct Imperial involvement might have caused diplomatic difficulties: "Chartered Companies have proved invaluable for tentative or experimental efforts because . . . they can advance boldly where it is not expedient for the national flag to venture".<sup>23</sup> Direct annexation of the supposedly rich interior by the Imperial Government would have at once alienated Boer and Afrikaner alike. But what could have been more suitable than a Chartered Company

with a managing director actively engaged in Cape politics with the invaluable support of the influential Afrikander Bond?

In the first stages of the contest for Matabeleland the Cape took the initiative. J. S. Moffat, an Imperial officer, had been sent to Bulawayo at the end of 1887 by the High Commissioner, Sir Hercules Robinson, and in February of 1888 he secured a treaty of amity between, in the first instance, the Cape — not the Imperial — Government and the Matabele Chief. It was presented to the Imperial Government as a *fait accompli*. The Colonial Secretary, Lord Knutsford, with the concurrence of Lord Salisbury, recognized it within a matter of weeks. In July of the same year, however, Rhodes' and Robinson's request for a charter to develop and administer the territory was turned down.<sup>24</sup> London companies — Gifford's Bechuanaland Exploration Company for instance — were also interested in the interior. In September a Royal Charter was granted to a British commercial association to develop and administer a strategic region further north in east Africa, and in the same month Lord Gifford was corresponding with the Foreign Office on the subject of Mashonaland and was offering to find capital to develop Northern Zambezia.<sup>25</sup> The following month Cape hopes of northward expansion were dashed when a member of Lord Salisbury's Government declared in a public speech, much to the dismay of the High Commissioner, that the Government was not after all going to hand over the interior to the Cape,<sup>26</sup> as the Cape had been led to expect by the previous Liberal Government.

Cape interests regained the initiative when in November they secured a comprehensive mining concession from the Matabele Chief,<sup>27</sup> but that initiative was then blocked by the failure of the Imperial Government to recognize the concession. It was then Gifford's turn to ask for a charter, and the High Commissioner, on being asked for his opinion, declared that as the Exploration Company's concessions were either temporary, under consideration or non-existent, the question of a charter was premature.<sup>28</sup> The position reached however was not that of stalemate:<sup>29</sup> the initiative remained with London as long as the Rudd Concession was unrecognized. At the end of the year Gifford's agent, Maund, left Bulawayo for London with two of Lobengula's *Indunas*, and it seemed highly probable that he had obtained concessions from Lobengula<sup>30</sup> which might supersede Rudd's unratified concession. This would explain the High Commissioner's attempt, on behalf of Rhodes' Cape interests, to prevent Maund's return to London. But it became known that Colonial Office suggestions for an amalgamation of London and Cape interests had been mooted<sup>31</sup> and Maund was allowed to continue. With an unratified concession Rhodes had little choice but to join the London companies who clearly had the ear of the Government, as the first message from the Queen to Lobengula demonstrates.

It is doubtful if Rhodes was financially in a position to dictate to London interests. His De Beers trust deed giving him power to develop and colonize the interior had been challenged in the Cape courts and it was not until the end of January 1889 that the case was decided in his favour. He thereupon bought out or "squared" various Cape interests and left immediately for London. The Queen's first message to the Matabele Chief advising him to give an ox not the whole herd was despatched as he arrived. Michell calls this letter mischievous and Galbraith cannot reconcile it with the second message from the Queen which advised Lobengula to agree with one approved body of whites, and he explains it as a failure of communication in the Colonial Office,<sup>33</sup> thus underlining its inefficiency. But it seems rather to have been an indication that the Colonial Office was demonstrating its

support of the London companies against Rhodes, who was claiming in effect to have acquired the whole herd. Once it was clear that Rhodes was prepared to negotiate there was no urgency about the delivery of the message, and it is significant that the Rudd Concession was not recognized by the Imperial Government until Lobengula's whole herd had been appropriated by that one approved body of whites, that is the combination of London and Cape financial interests constituted in October 1889 in the British South Africa Company.<sup>34</sup> The formal request for a Charter was made by Gifford, not Rhodes; Rhodes, writing on the same day, offered to "co-operate cordially" in the scheme.<sup>35</sup>

In the process of magnifying the dominance of Rhodes, not only the British Government but the Imperial authorities as well have to be correspondingly diminished: they become Rhodes' "creatures", and the High Commissioner "almost Rhodes' tool".<sup>36</sup> But Sir Hercules Robinson was regarded by Lord Kimberley as the ablest man in the Colonial service,<sup>37</sup> and was described by a member of the Colonial Office as one of the greatest of Colonial Governors sent out by Britain in the nineteenth century. He was Governor of the Cape from 1881 to 1889 and throughout that time, that is from before Rhodes' rise to fame, he fostered the idea that a cordial union between British and Dutch was the real foundation of peace and progress in South Africa.<sup>38</sup> His sympathy with Afrikanerdom and the Cape, as opposed to British imperialism in South Africa made him a popular Governor with the Colonists. There is no need to see him as a tool of Rhodes; quite the contrary: Rhodes needed the co-operation of the High Commissioner to further his plans for a push to the north — he could not on his own account have made a treaty with the Matabele Chief — and equally, Rhodes' plans fitted well with Robinson's ideas of Cape expansion. As in Hofmeyr's alliance with Rhodes, so in Robinson's co-operation with Rhodes there was a close identity of interest.

If, however, it is claimed that Rhodes dominated both the High Commissioner and the British Government alike, what is one to make of Robinson's resignation in May 1889 before Rhodes had acquired either a company or a charter?

In his final speech before leaving Cape Town Robinson reiterated his long-held belief in the policy of Cape extension and the eventual handing over of the native territories of the interior to the Cape and Natal.<sup>39</sup> Lord Knutsford explained in the House of Lords that Her Majesty's Government could not give the High Commissioner that concurrence and support which he desired and his resignation had been accepted.<sup>40</sup> The Imperial Government, that is to say, was not prepared to concur in Robinson's scheme for the development of the interior by the Cape — that is by Rhodes and the Consolidated Mining Company. The appointment of his successor emphasized the Imperial Government's view: Sir Henry Loch was a staunch Imperialist. The Government had made their decision in response to financial interests in the capital, and in spite of Robinson's efforts and the extravagant claims made for Rhodes, London, not the Cape, was to be responsible for the development of the interior.

It was proposed at first that there should be a Cape board of directors as well as the London board but the scheme fell through.<sup>41</sup> It is clear from the Colonial Office minutes that the effective authority in the Company's territories was not Rhodes.<sup>42</sup> Whatever was said publicly by Rhodes or on his behalf seemed to have had little effect on Colonial Office deliberations; policy was determined by the British Cabinet and the Colonial Office with frequent private interviews and discussions between the Colonial Office and the directors of the Company's London board. Rhodes' concurrence, as in the 1894 peace settlement,

was conscientiously sought as a matter of policy, but he certainly did not dictate the terms of that settlement as so many writers affirm.<sup>43</sup> In 1894 the Colonial Office did seriously consider Imperial administration of Matabeleland,<sup>44</sup> though not of Mashonaland, but it was the evident success of the Company's forces and, more important, possible Cape and Afrikaner Bond reaction to direct Imperial rule which decided the Cabinet in favour of continued Company administration, not feebleness in the face of Rhodes' blusterings. It seems clear, too, that the filibustering activities of Company officials and agents up to and including the Matabele War were disregarded by the Imperial authorities, not from timidity or weakness but as a deliberate policy.<sup>45</sup> The Company to be a financial success needed a port or access to a port; to be a legitimate administrative body it needed jurisdiction. The Imperial Government deliberately refrained from interfering while the Company attempted to acquire both, an attitude reminiscent of Elizabeth Tudor's orders to one of her sea captains that any action he should take against a foreign vessel was to appear "to come of his own head and of himself, as though he had no commission therefor from the Queen".<sup>46</sup> And Rhodes was there, larger than life, to take any credit for success — or blame for failure.

The title of this paper was taken from Flint's review of South African Studies of Imperial involvement in South Africa, in particular those of van der Poel and Marais. The implication of these works, Flint concludes, is that Rhodes was more an agent of the Imperial Government than an initiator of policy.<sup>47</sup> That this was so is confirmed in a Colonial Office minute written in 1891 when the High Commissioner, Sir Henry Loch, anxious about the Company's dangerous lack of jurisdiction in the event of trekking Boers and other interlopers crossing the Limpopo, suggested direct Imperial rule in the Company's field of operations. Fairfield wrote:

But even if Mr Rhodes were willing to stand aside and allow Sir Henry Loch to take on his work such a change would revolutionize the situation in South Africa . . . All South Africa is convinced that the Chartered Company means Mr Rhodes and so long as he can satisfy them as to the orthodoxy of his "Afrikanerism" the sober elements of the community are in favour of giving him a fair trial. But if they are to understand that the Chartered Company is only the financial support of a Crown Colony or a Protectorate form of government . . . our administration would at once become the target for the enmity of almost all South Africa . . . We should be entering on a hopeless struggle for the maintenance of that 'Imperialism' for which Sir Hercules Robinson declared that there is no room in South Africa. The scheme of the Chartered Company was a design well adapted to avoid the dangers involved in such imperialism, and at the same time to win what advantages might be obtained from Mashonaland for the Empire.

In other words Rhodes, as the apparent directing authority of the Chartered Company, was an agent of British economic imperialism and an instrument of Imperial strategy.

#### FOOTNOTES

1. Sir Lewis Michell, *The Life of the Rt. Hon. Cecil J. Rhodes* (London, Arnold, 2 vols, 1910); B. Williams, *Cecil Rhodes* (London, Constable, 1921); H. M. Hole, *The Making of Rhodesia* (London, Macmillan, 1926).
2. R. Robinson and J. Gallagher, *Africa and the Victorians* (London, Macmillan, 1961); J. S. Galbraith, *Crown and Charter* (University of California Press, 1974); J. Flint, *Cecil Rhodes* (London, Hutchinson, 1976).



3. J. E. S. Green, *Rhodes Goes North* (London, Bell, 1936), 52, claims that the "honour and glory" of securing the road belonged to the Rev. J. Mackenzie; D. M. Schreuder, *Gladstone and Kruger* (London, Routledge and Kegan Paul), 388, claims convincingly that the honour belonged to Sir Hercules Robinson.
4. Flint, *Rhodes*, 230.
5. Robinson and Gallagher, *Africa*, 246, 252.
6. Michell, *Life*, I, 174.
7. *Ibid.*, 251, 23 July 1888.
8. Chamberlain memo for the Cabinet, 1 Oct. 1884 in J. Agar-Hamilton, *The Road to the North, 1852-1886* (London, Longmans, 1937), 359.
9. Michell, *Life*, I, 93, 174.
10. Williams, *Rhodes*, 76, 77.
11. Robinson and Gallagher, *Africa*, 253.
12. Michell, *Life*, I, 210.
13. J. H. Hofmeyr, *The Life of Jan Hofmeyr* (Cape Town, van de Sandt de Villiers, 1913), 195ff, 357.
14. Michell, *Life*, I, 255.
15. *Ibid.*, 287: "I fear the new Government with Hofmeyr outside acting the part of a candid friend, will not be very strong or lasting. He has the power and he ought to take the responsibility, and it should be forced on him. The last is the third Ministry he has put out . . . I wonder Rhodes did not refuse to take office without him", Robinson to Michell, 24 July 1890.
16. Hofmeyr, *Hofmeyr*, 374ff, 489ff.
17. *Ibid.*, 374; Sir James Molteno, *The Dominion of Afrikanerdom* (London, Methuen, 1923), 80: "Rhodes had owed everything political to Hofmeyr and the Afrikaner Bond and without Hofmeyr and the Bond, Rhodes would have been a rich man only, not a world-name and an empire-builder. Just as De Beers was the foundation of Rhodes' enormous fortune, so were Hofmeyr and the Afrikaner Bond the basis and foundation of the political power of Rhodes. Without Hofmeyr and the Bond Rhodes would never have been Prime Minister, and without them he could never have founded and established Rhodesia".
18. Hofmeyr, *Hofmeyr*, 382.
19. *Parliamentary Debates*, CCLXXVII, 705, W. E. Forster, House of Commons, 16 March 1883.
20. As Lord Granville, Gladstone's Colonial Secretary, explained when granting a Royal Charter to the North Borneo Company: "If a case should present itself which promised great advantages to our political and commercial interests with an absence of reasonable ground for apprehending military and financial burdens, it would be the act of doctrinaires not statesmen, to refuse to go into an examination of such a case", *Par. Deb.*, CCLXVII, 714, Lord Granville, House of Lords, 3 March 1882.
21. S. Samkange, *Origins of Rhodesia* (London, Heinemann, 1968), 85ff.
22. Sir Edmund Davis was reputed to have been at one time on the Boards of 39 companies dealing in chrome, nickel and asbestos in Zambesia. Details of his career are difficult to discover, but he was known to be extremely wealthy. I am indebted to Prof. Ray Roberts for this information.
23. A. S. White, 'Africa and the European Powers', *Harper's Monthly Magazine*, (1891), LXXXIII, 927.
24. C[olonial] O[ffice] C[onf]idential] Print, Afr[ica] S[ou]th 358/12, CO to F[oreign] O[ffice], ratifying Moffat Treaty, 20 April 1888; CO Conf. Print, Afr. Sth 372/2, Knutsford to Robinson, refusing charter, 21 July 1888.
25. CO Conf. Print, Afr. Sth 369/54, Encl., FO to CO, with extract from Gifford to Sir Christopher Hill at the FO, 13 Sept. 1888.
26. Parliamentary Paper 1890, Further Correspondence Respecting the Affairs of Bechuanaland and Adjacent Territories, C 5918/4, Encl., Reuter report of public speech by W. H. Smith, MP, 9 Oct. 1888, to Superintendent, Mafeking.
27. C 5918/38, Encl., C. D. Rudd to Imperial Secretary, 23 Nov. 1888.
28. CO Conf. Print, Afr. Sth 372/7, Robinson to Knutsford, Confidential, 6 Feb. 1889.
29. As Galbraith suggests, *Charter*, 79.
30. Michell, *Life*, I, 262; Frank Johnson, *Great Days* (London, Bell, 1940), 88.
31. CO Conf. Print, Afr. Sth 372/105, Cawston to CO, 1 July 1889.
32. Michell, *Life*, I, 183-7.
33. Galbraith, *Charter*, 83; C 5918/70, Queen's message to Lobengula, 26 March 1889.
34. C 5918/128, Knutsford to Loch, announcing the grant of a Royal Charter to the BSA Company; C 5918/129, Encl., Queen's message to Lobengula, 15 Nov. 1889.
35. C 5918/82, Gifford to CO, 30 April 1889; Michell, *Life*, I, 266, Rhodes to CO, 30 April 1889.
36. Flint, *Rhodes*, 76, 99.

37. B. L. Blakely, *The Colonial Office, 1868-1892*, (Duke University Press, Durham NC, 1972), 119.
38. C. A. Harris, *Dictionary of National Biography*, vol. XXII, (London, Smith, Elder, 1909), 1172-72.
39. *The Times*, 20 May 1889.
40. *Par. Deb.* CCCXXXVI, 1169, 3 June 1889.
41. CO Conf. Print, Afr. Sth 469, S. Olivier, Memo on the Origins and Operations of the BSA Chartered Company, 13 Oct. 1892.
42. The journalist Sidney Low quoted Rhodes as saying to him at a private interview in 1892 on the subject of his armed police: "Why, I can't do a thing without having to consult the Colonial Office. If we want to put up a station-house or a telegraph-hut we have a sheaf of correspondence with Downing Street. You may take it from me that we couldn't move our police *en masse* a mile without the British Government wanting to know all about it". Sidney Low, 'Personal Recollections of Cecil Rhodes', *The Nineteenth Century*, (1902), LI, 828.
43. On the Draft Memo respecting the peace settlement "prepared in the Colonial Office with comments and alterations by Bouchier Hawksley [the Company's solicitor] on the instructions of the Board of Directors and by Lord Ripon [Colonial Secretary]", Hawksley wrote to S. Buxton, the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies: "I am much obliged to you for your letter of today and for the friendly way in which you have dealt with the points raised in the Memo. I shall by tomorrow's mail write to Mr. Rhodes with a revise as finally settled in London and advise him that all here accept it. I am sanguine he will also approve but I will explain that if he desires alterations some of the provisions now settled in our favour may also be altered. I shall ask for a telegraphic reply . . . I do not imagine that the criticisms which Sir Henry Loch is bringing home will necessitate any substantial alteration in the Memo as now settled". P[ublic] R[ecord] O[ffice], CO, Africa South Original Correspondence, CO 417/136, BSA Co. to CO, 22 March 1894.
44. PRO, CO 537/127, HC Loch to CO, Immediate, Conf., 17 Oct. 1893, Minutes by F. Graham, E. Fairfield, R. Meade, S. Buxton, Lord Ripon, 19-30 Oct. 1894. Galbraith, *Charter*, 329, is incorrect in saying that the Colonial Office in the first weeks of the Matabele War "apparently firmly decided" that Matabeleland would be brought under the control of the Crown. No decision was reached "as so much depends on what becomes of Lobengula", but the question of Crown administration was discussed in considerable detail.
45. S. B. Stevenson, 'The Colonial Office and the British South Africa Company: Imperial Collaboration in the Founding of the Rhodesias and the Establishment of Company Rule' (University of Rhodesia, unpubl. D.Phil. thesis, 1978), 38ff.
46. A. Plowden, *Danger to Elizabeth* (London, Macmillan, 1973), 70.
47. Flint, *Rhodes*, 236, on J. van der Poel, *The Jameson Raid*, (Oxford University Press, 1951); and J. S. Marais, *The Fall of Kruger's Republic* (Oxford University Press, 1961).
48. PRO, CO 417/58, HC Loch to CO, Conf., 25 May 1891, Min: Fairfield, 16.6.91.

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## SOCIETY OF MALAWI JOURNAL

The July 1979 issue contains five articles. Gadi Ngomezulu gives a long survey of the progress of archaeology in Malawi, an identification of the main problem areas and makes suggestions for future research with reference to archaeology in other parts of Africa. C. V. Dudley writes about the decline of the larger mammals in the lake Chilwa basin; Gerhard Kubik on *Kwela* music; and Barbara Lampport-Stokes on interesting facts about Malawi seventy years ago compiled from Government Gazettes and the Blue Book of 1909.

Zimbabwe readers would be interested in a review article of Graham Williamson's *The Orchids of South Central Africa* (Dent. 1978).

# Cecil House, Salisbury

by R. S. Roberts

*On 7 April, 1978, I officially opened Cecil House and, following continued requests for copies of my opening speech, I have now edited it for publication with a brief introduction and epilogue.*

## INTRODUCTION

The Cecil House complex, on the corner of Second Street and Central Avenue, Salisbury, contains one of the most modern and functional office buildings in Zimbabwe, with its acoustic ceilings, fire-control system, built-in sonic alarms, and underground parking. Yet in front of this modernity stands the original Cecil House. Built in 1901 as the office for De Beers, this tiny building has had a somewhat chequered career. De Beers, finding that its various gold claims and its diamond concession were not going to emulate the Rand or Kimberley, retrenched its Rhodesian operations and leased the building to the British South Africa Company in 1903. The offices were then shared between the Resident Commissioner and the Commandant of the recently re-formed British South Africa Police. After five to six years these illustrious tenants moved and the building seems to have gone into a decline, confirmed in 1920 when it was purchased from De Beers and converted into a rooming-house. This it remained until 1975 when the Mining Industries Pension Fund bought it and the stand behind it.<sup>1</sup>

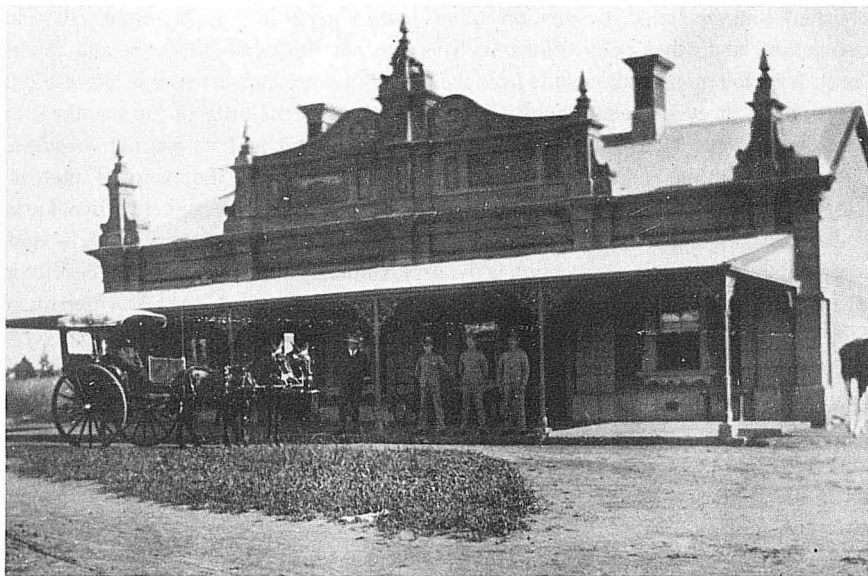
The enlightened decision was then taken to preserve Cecil House itself and build the new office block behind it; consequently Cecil House was declared a national monument in October 1976,<sup>2</sup> and has been restored and refurnished with period pieces, many of them donated by mining concerns such as De Beers, the Globe and Phoenix, and Consolidated Goldfields. The new building was completed in early 1978 and was officially opened on 7 April.

## OPENING SPEECH

Mr Chairman, Ministers, Mr Mayor, ladies and gentlemen, it was with unfeigned pleasure and a real sense of honour that I received, and have accepted, the Mining Industry Pension Fund's invitation to open its new office building today.

But, as you all know, this is not the opening simply of the *new* building behind me: it is to mark the conservation — and restoration to use as an office — of what is (in Rhodesian terms) a very *old* building, the original Cecil House that is behind you.

And it is for this particular reason that the audience which I am addressing is more varied in composition than is usual at such formal opening-ceremonies, including as it does: Sir Keith Acutt, representing De Beers, which built Cecil House in 1901; the Commissioner of Police, representing his predecessors who used Cecil House as offices in the early part of the century; Mr G. H. Tanser, who has done so much, on the City Council, in his writings and The Heritage of Rhodesia project, to awaken interest in the buildings and early history of Salisbury; and Mr E. E. Burke and Mr R. W. S. Turner, the former and



**Cecil House in 1903, offices of the Commandant of the British South Africa Police.**

*Photo — National Archives*

present Directors of the National Archives, to whom everyone interested in Rhodesian history is indebted more than can be briefly said.

So it is that what we are celebrating today has a twin aspect — not only the new but also the old, not only the present and future but also the past.

Cecil House has attracted considerable attention in the press and in R.B.C. programmes; and no doubt you have all learned something of its history from Mr A. M. Spencer-Cook's splendid pamphlet (which has proved so popular that it is now sold out, but will soon be reprinted, with some useful additions).

I do not intend to detain you with a lengthy disquisition on the history of Cecil House, for you can read that at leisure for yourselves; nor will I describe in detail the interesting and valuable collection of historical items that Mr Spencer-Cook has assembled therein, for these you will see for yourselves on the guided tour as soon as the opening ceremony is completed. I would, however, like to detain you briefly on the subject of history in general. Confronted by the restoration of Cecil House, someone is bound to ask, 'Why? Why go to all this trouble and expense?'

Such philistine questions are not easy to answer, but the brief response is that history — our desire to know more of it, get nearer to it — is something that we carry within us. As mountaineers want to climb a peak simply because it is there, so must human beings, at some time or another, feel the need to find their roots — as Alex Haley has recently done with such outstanding success<sup>3</sup> — in order to identify with their past, and to understand the State, the society and the environment, simply because they live in it. Witness the predominance of history, historical novels, and political biography in any bookshop, and indeed, on television; witness the enormous numbers of tourists at Zimbabwe, visitors to the National Archives and our museums; witness the prolific growth, in so small a country, of historical societies such as Rhodesiana, the Pioneers and Early Settlers, the Central Africa Historical Association, the Prehistory Society, each with its own regularly

published journals (not to mention other bodies such as the National Historical Association, and other publications such as *NADA*, Books of Rhodesia and Pioneer Head). And you must not conclude from the nature of these names that this interest in the past is solely or even predominantly European; the vast majority of the members and subscribers to the Central Africa Historical Association and its journal *Rhodesian History* for example, is African. I never cease to be amazed by the extent of interest in history; only last week, while waiting at the reception desk of a Government office, I asked the African messenger what he was so busily writing in an old exercise book — and it turned out to be a history of the Mutasa dynasty; similarly at the rest camp at the Victoria Falls, one of the domestic workers, hearing who I was, brought me his hand-written history of the Nambiya people; and I am sure that no other head of department at the University receives so many letters from ordinary members of the public asking questions about his discipline.

Thus, just as interest in history is both deep-seated and widespread, so our interest today in Cecil House is not particularist; it is but part of our desire to conserve everything that is illustrative of the past of this country of ours whether it be a rock-drawing, a *zimbabwe* ruin, or a Pioneer building.

Having disposed, satisfactorily, I hope, of the question, 'Why restore such a building', I think you would be interested to learn something of how it was done.

The Mining Industry Pension Fund is now in its twenty-fifth year, and in effect we are celebrating its silver jubilee today, although that is but a happy coincidence; but the Fund has roots in Rhodesian history that go back much further than twenty-five years, for it bought out the Bulawayo Stock and Transfer Agency (whose plate is in the wall behind you) which is the third oldest company in Rhodesia and still holds what must be the oldest liquor licence, dating from 1895.

About three years ago the Fund took over its own administration from the Chamber of Mines and began to look for its own offices. Thus it came about that this site was acquired and the decision taken to build a new office block that would blend in with Cecil House, which was not to be knocked down, as in other office developments, but restored to use, as offices for the Fund's Principal Officer. This is better than preservation; it is conservation in the true and best sense of the word. And the new building that stands elegantly before you really does blend with the old — and I use the word 'blend' exactly for it is no mere copy. The original Cecil House was built in a fairly straightforward Victorian-Palladian style, but perhaps rather ornate for present-day taste, particularly in view of the small size of the building. But what Mr G. Mills, the architect of the new building, has done is not to elaborate upon it, but to capture the true essence of the Palladian style — harmony and balance — in a very clean-looking facade which, with its five gable-like pediments, has something both of Renaissance and Dutch Colonial style. It also provides a graceful backdrop for the old, which by its simplicity retains something of the human scale so often lost in modern architecture. I hardly need add — and you will see it for yourselves — that behind the simplicity of the facade lies thoroughly modern and functional office accommodation for which there have been more applicants than there is room.

Thus ladies and gentlemen, I have told you not only how this has all come about but also something of the quality of what we are here to celebrate. But I must remind you that quality does not just happen; it has to be worked at, it is the final result of application, conscientiousness and enthusiasm. And I would not be fulfilling my obligations this

afternoon if I did not express my appreciation of the indefatigable work of Mr Spencer-Cook, the Principal Officer of the Fund. Much of the original idea, the planning and its final execution are due to his energy and enthusiasm. It is not inappropriate to say of him, 'Si monumentum requiris, circumspice'. And when you carry out your tour of 'circumspection', both of old and new, you will see the happy product of his attention to detail. See, for example, the section of the old stable floor which he has preserved and put in the garden to my right. In particular, you will be struck by the period furniture and fittings in the old building. And it is a mark of his enthusiasm that many of the fine pieces that you will admire were donated by people and institutions infected by the spirit of what he was achieving. The result is a suite of offices that is not merely a remainder of the past (and is certainly not a museum piece), but is a pleasant, comfortable and efficient place in which to work — again intelligent conservation rather than mere preservation.

Thus we have buildings and furniture, old and new, that will be admired and commented upon by generations of future pensioners and visitors who call here on business; facades that will be admired by ordinary citizens of Salisbury as they go about their daily business; and plans for flood-lighting at night that will make it a point of interest for tourists.

Salisbury is at a stage when, with a much hoped-for, more certain political and economic future, great changes will soon take place to the fabric and sky-line of the Inner Business Area; but I am confident that these two buildings will strike a note of modest, harmonious balance and restraint that no human society can afford to ignore.

Therefore, Mr Chairman, I, as a practising historian, wish to register my own personal appreciation, and that of the other guests, to the Trustees of the Fund for their broadminded and imaginative forethought in harnessing the past for the use and enjoyment of the present and future. That indeed is what the past is for, and if it did not exist we would have to invent it (as some other countries tortuously try to do); but what the Fund has done is better than invention; it is the conservation of something living and real. And that you have made it a functional and paying proposition is as it should be for a Fund which sustains the workforce of an industry that will be more important in the future than even it has been in the past for the economy and well-being of this country.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I have saved until last some factual information that may well be news to you, as I am sure it is for the audience. Most of what I have said this afternoon is opinion — and for all that I happen to believe it, it is no more than my own personal belief — but what I now tell you is fact. It is a fact of life that when one does good, achieves something estimable, it will be imitated. And I have just learned that Lonrho, stirred I do not doubt, by your example, is planning to restore the old Lonrho Building, opposite the Salisbury Club, on lines similar to what the Mining Industry Pension Fund has done here; thus, it is to be hoped, a link with Salisbury's business history will be retained in Baker Avenue where its erstwhile neighbour, the Goldfields Mashonaland Limited Buildings, was lost to us in 1972. Imitation *is* the sincerest form of flattery. So, today you have, I believe, begun a process of active, practical conservation by business bodies that will succeed where other schemes, protests and complaints failed — as in the case of the Castle Hotel in Albion Street (1972), the Masonic Hotel and Theatre in Pioneer Street (1972), the old Meikle's Hotel (1974) and the Grand Theatre at the corner of Stanley Avenue and Fourth Street (1977). Nothing I have said, or can say, is as significant as this new development.

Thus it is, ladies and gentlemen, that, with the sincerest pleasure, I now take up these scissors to cut the tape and so formally declare open Cecil House — the old and new.

## EPILOGUE

Since that speech two years ago, the Art Printing Works Building in Stanley Avenue and the old Post Office in Kingsway have recently been demolished;<sup>4</sup> the Market Hall in Victoria Street, Salisbury, has still not been proclaimed a national monument nor been restored; the preservation of the Lonrho Building has not yet progressed beyond feasibility studies; the scheme of the Heritage of Rhodesia (now Heritage of the Nation) to re-erect demolished buildings in a Street of Memories at Warren Hills or Cleveland Dam has not been implemented, with the consequence that some of the stored materials from Stewart Meikle's 'Ivanhoe' have deteriorated; Jameson House in Samora Machel Avenue has been sold for development but will, it is hoped, be saved in some way by its purchaser, the Reserve Bank; and Asbestos House in Bulawayo is up for sale, but may be saved if it can be acquired by the National Gallery. Definite achievements are few but the more welcome for that: the 1917 chapel in Rhodesville has been restored by the Parish Council of St Luke's; and R. S. Fairbridge's 1897 home in Umtali, 'Utopia' has been donated by its owners, the Went family, to the Trustees of the National Museums and Monuments, who have had it proclaimed and are restoring it, prior to opening it to the public.

It is significant that both of these recent instances of restoration — like that of Cecil House in 1978, and of the Murray MacDougall Homestead in 1975 in Triangle, like the more modest maintenance of the facades in the Manica Road area (India House at the north-west corner of the Victoria Street junction, the butcher's shop at the south-east corner of the Salisbury Street junction, Arnold's Building and others near the junction of Kingsway) and like that of Lonrho House and Jameson House that we hope to see — derive not so much from public, as from private goodwill, initiative and resources. There is, therefore, a need for greater public awareness and organization, and it is hoped that the new title of this journal and the amalgamation of the former Rhodesiana Society with the Heritage of the Nation will help provide this. Mr Spencer-Cook's plan of a Tony Tanser Memorial Walk, for which the Municipality has agreed to place explanatory plates in the pavement in front of 38 buildings in Salisbury, should arouse interest and could be copied elsewhere.<sup>5</sup> Much is also expected of the new Historic Buildings Advisory Committee set up to advise the local Directors of Museums on recommendations to be made to the Board of Trustees of National Museums and Monuments. These committees, by virtue of their local representation, should be able to devise new, worthwhile public uses for superseded buildings (like the old Town Houses in Bulawayo and Salisbury), and, more importantly, work out policies that look beyond individual buildings and so plan in wider terms of the character of particular areas (like the Post Office — High Court sector of Bulawayo; the Government buildings, Post Office and Police Station around the Old Fort at Fort Victoria; Manica Road, Salisbury; and, indeed, a whole township like Umvuma and Penhalonga if it is not too late).<sup>6</sup>

In addition to all this, however, Government financial support and a tightening of the legislation are required. Without financial support, the Trustees of the National Museums and Monuments can achieve little, for the Minister is unlikely to proclaim a building in private ownership threatened by development as a national monument unless the Trustees can compensate the owner for the consequent loss of development value; and the sums

involved can run into hundreds of thousands of dollars, even for modest buildings and sites not in the very centre of town, as is the case with the attractive, unchanged house of 1923 at the corner of Second Street and Montagu Avenue in Salisbury that ought to be preserved. Without changes in the legislation such buildings erected after 31 December 1909 will remain outside the scope of the National Museums and Monuments Act [Chapter 313]; far preferable and more logical than this arbitrary and fixed date, that can be changed only by legislation, would be a sliding rule that brings in any building built more than, say, forty years before. In this way preservation could be achieved for relatively modern buildings, which, lacking any conventional 'historical associations', attract little attention but are nevertheless important because of their position in the architectural record of the country; good examples of this are some of the innovative houses built between the wars in the Second Street Extension— East Road area of Salisbury, and Livingstone House in Samora Machel Avenue, Salisbury, which was one of the first high-rise buildings in Zimbabwe and has interesting architectural and structural features. It might be possible to obtain a preservation order under Section 31 of the Regional Town and Country Planning Act [Chapter 22] for buildings such as these, but, as far as I know, this has never been tried. Also the planning process itself could be adapted, as it has been in some of the largest cities of the Western world, by encouraging developers and owners of property to retain cultural amenities — whether in the form of theatres or facades of buildings or of whole streets — in return for concessions on height or density of buildings.<sup>7</sup> Only in this way, probably, can we hope to retain what is left of the inner areas of Salisbury and Bulawayo.

Ironically, White Rhodesia, after the initial uncontrolled treasure hunting at Great Zimbabwe, has done more to protect pre-colonial monuments than its own.<sup>8</sup> Let us hope that Black Zimbabwe takes a firmer and more enlightened view towards its architectural inheritance (as is beginning to happen in Kenya and Moçambique). A good start would be for the new 'majority rule' Salisbury Council to press ahead and have the Market Hall proclaimed and restored, not simply in its fabric but also to its proper function. The crowds of people who throng the bus-station area would welcome the facilities of an organized market-place for vegetables and other foodstuffs. This would have advantages over the Street of Memories approach, laudable as that is, by virtue of being economical, practical conservation for the people, and not mere preservation for tourists and the few. Similarly, many existing national monuments should be developed to incorporate 'education points' for the people, as is being done at some places in Moçambique, and not remain mere sites or sights. The Zimbabwe Ruins could become a major educational centre; Zimbabwe as a whole, with its rich diversity of monuments (proclaimed and to be proclaimed) should be a constant educational and cultural experience for us all as we go about our daily life.

#### FOOTNOTES

In doing this I have greatly benefited from discussions with Mr A. M. Spencer-Cook, the National Museums and Monuments, and Mr R. J. Adams.

<sup>1</sup>These, many other details and photographs are to be found in a commemorative booklet by the Principal Officer of the Mining Industries Pension Fund : A. M. Spencer-Cook, *Cecil House : A Victorian Restoration : Some Notes* (Salisbury, The Mining Industries Pension Fund, 2nd edit., 1978); copies may be had from the Fund.

<sup>2</sup>Rhodesia, *Supplement to the Rhodesia Government Gazette*, 8 Oct. 1976, Rhodesia Government Notice No. 877 of 1976.



<sup>3</sup>A. Haley, *Roots* (London, Hutchinson, 1977).

<sup>4</sup>*The Sunday Mail*, 30 Mar. 1980; *The Herald*, 17 Nov. 1979.

<sup>5</sup>*The Rhodesia Herald*, 29 Dec. 1978; *The Sunday Mail*, 11 Feb. 1979.

<sup>6</sup>Everyone, no doubt, has his own list of buildings that should be preserved: the most obvious perhaps are The Drill Hall, Salisbury; the Magistrates' Court, Gwelo; and the Residency, Umtali.

<sup>7</sup>See J. Barnett, *Urban Design and Public Policy : Practical Methods for Improving Cities* (New York, Architectural Record books, 1974); I owe this reference to Mr R. J. Adams.

<sup>8</sup>The first legislation (Protection of Ancient Monuments Ordinance, No. 23 of 1901) was refused assent by the Imperial authorities as being too wide in scope and severe in penalties and its replacement (No. 9 of 1902) also had to be amended. The number of European buildings declared is very small: a few on the Rhodes Estate and in Bulawayo connected with Rhodes; a few pre-1890 missionaries' and traders' houses (or the ruins thereof); Mother Patrick's Mortuary, and the Fort buildings at Fort Victoria (several forts of 1896-7 are proclaimed but these are mere sites, rather than buildings); See C. K. Cooke, *A Guide to the Historic and Pre-Historic Monuments of Rhodesia* (Salisbury, National Museums and Monuments of Rhodesia, 1972). Since the publication of this booklet, a few more buildings, as mentioned in the text, have been declared: The Murray MacDougall Homestead in Triangle (Rhodesia Government Notice No. 86 of 1975); Cecil House; and 'Utopia' (Rhodesia Government Notice No. 720 of 1977).

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# The Railway Mission

by Paddy Vickery

Prompted by the headline "END OF THE LINE FOR RAILWAY MISSION" (The Sunday News, 13 April, 1980) I was curious to know what it had been like at the beginning of the line, when the Railway Mission opened in this country. I was very fortunately placed to satisfy my curiosity because in the Zimbabwe Rhodesia Collection which is the Bulawayo Public Library's Historical Reference section housed in the City Hall, and of which I am the Archivist, there are a few copies of *Mashonaland* the quarterly paper of the Mashonaland Mission Association. That seemed to be a likely mine of information. It was! I struck gold with a letter from the Rev. Nelson Fogarty dated Church House, Bulawayo, 14 September, 1897. In it he says:

"On Thursday I am going off down the line to Palapswie (sic), to hold services on the road. We do sadly need a priest to be always on the line. The line will run from here to Mochudi, and we shall have to try and go up and down once a month. The distance will be about 360 miles. It is a terrible thing to think of all the gangers' cottages along this line — miles from any church — children brought up without any religious instruction. There is a great need that a man should be constantly travelling up and down, holding services at every place, and visiting every cottage along the line."

In the next issue of the *Quarterly*, February 1898, a letter from Fogarty to Mrs. Knight-Bruce, in which he described the trip, was printed in full. The following is an extract:

"After dinner at Francistown I got into the guard's van of a goods train and started off at 7 p.m. for Palapye. The guard was most kind and gave me rugs and made a bed for me on the floor of the van as comfortable as he could. The van was an old one, and one of the doors would not shut, so we had plenty of draught. After a very tedious journey — the shaking was too great to allow of sleep — we arrived at Palapye siding at 7 a.m. on Saturday morning."

The Palapye magistrate, Mr Ashburnham, sent a trap for him and put him up overnight and there were morning and afternoon services in the new African church on the hill, and an evening service in the hotel dining room.

"It was a wonderful service, very unlike the cathedral service of English cathedrals, but none the less reverent or hearty. The room was packed with men of the station mostly in shirt sleeves, and some with very black faces, having just come off from their work at the cleaning room. We had no organ; I had to do all the singing.

"Monday was spent at the station looking after all the people there. Celebration in a tent at 7 a.m. I had made up my mind to leave in the evening, but a little child died, and the parents asked me to stay and bury the child. In addition to a funeral I baptized two children of one of the police of the railway.

"On Tuesday morning my train was to have left at 7 a.m., but owing to some

breakdown it did not leave until 12. This was very annoying as I wanted to have service at Francistown on Tuesday evening. We arrived at Francistown about midnight, and the guard very kindly allowed us to sleep in the carriages. I was up at 6 on Wednesday morning, and made my apologies to the church people for not being there the night before for the service. They quite saw that it was not my fault and were ready to forgive me. At 11 a.m. I had to leave to come up to Fig Tree. One had to travel in a truck sitting on the top of rails and luggage. This was certainly the most awful part of the journey. We left at 11, and did not get to Matlopo siding until 3 a.m. on Thursday morning. There were several men on the train, and as it was too dark to go about looking for a house, we made a big fire in the veldt, and then rolled ourselves up in our blankets and slept. It was bitterly cold. The train for Fig Tree was due to leave at 11, but again owing to some breakdown it did not go until 4 in the afternoon. At last I arrived at Fig Tree siding at 5.30 and then had two miles to walk to the store, where I was going to sleep."

The next morning Fogarty discovered that the coach he had hoped to catch to Bulawayo had gone the day before, so nothing daunted he borrowed a bicycle and rode the 28 miles into town, glad to get back to "our little house, and to my very hard bed." However, he had come to the conclusion that there was indeed a great opening along the line for work — "if only the Bishop can get the right man to take it up."

Bishop Gaul obviously knew a good thing when he saw one, because four months later the Rev. Nelson Fogarty was given "temporary" charge of the Bechuanaland Railway line, with a sphere of work from Vryburg to Bulawayo, nearly 600 miles, and "later on when the line goes to Tanganyika, up to the Victoria Falls another 250 miles."

"For our work we have applied to the company to give us a special coach, as the church van to be used by the priest who is working the line," so he wrote in June, 1898. "With a coach like this we shall be able to have it put off at any spot on the line, and spend a few days with the people. The sidings are about 60 miles apart, so it will mean that we have to do a great deal of walking to visit the Gangers' cottages. I hope to have a library fitted up in the van so as to supply the people with books and papers," and he appealed to friends in England to send out any papers and periodicals every week. Old books would also be useful.

The next instalment of the saga appeared in the November 1898 issue as part of the Bishop's Letter, 24 September.

"The Railway Mission takes shape. The church rail coach given by the Cape Government is being fitted up free of expense and the Bechuanaland Railway are kindly allowing us to run up and down free. We shall have a lending library on board, and a little snugger for the chaplain, Mr Fogarty. He is now down the line and will hold services at Francistown, Mochudi, Palapchwe, and other places and sidings."

It would seem, however, that things took time to happen in spite of the confidence and optimism. By the end of the year the Bishop can only report in a P.S. "I have just heard that Mr Fogarty has got a temporary railway coach for his line work." And Fogarty himself on 27 December is expecting the special coach daily!

Then on Easter Eve, 1899, he writes: "The coach, which the Cape Government Railways have given for the use of the chaplain, has arrived. It is a very comfortable house indeed, and now the journeys instead of being burdensome, are most delightful. The coach is fitted up with a bed and a lavatory, easy chairs, tables, cooking stove and cupboards, etc. I

have had shelves put in on the sides, and on them I have the library books, now about 350. I have 100 subscribers to the library, and allow each man to take out two books. My object is now to travel every month on the pay train which stops at every cottage on the line, and then I am able to change the books for the gangers. I cannot say how much the library is appreciated by the men. Poor fellows, many of them never had a chance of getting books, and now they are so keen, and take such very great care of the books I lend them. The papers too, which friends send me from England are most acceptable, I have now a great bundle to take down on Monday for distribution."

August 1899 — and the front cover of *Mashonaland XXIX* paper is taken up with the photograph of the coach in all its glory. Inside the magazine Mr Fogarty details his activities in a letter to the Editor, 1 July, 1899:

"With regard to the railway work, I must say that this year so far, I have travelled over 7 000 miles, and held services at all the places on the line.

"The library is well patronised. I have now 129 men railway servants as subscribers, and we have now 650 books.

"May I also thank all the kind friends who have sent out papers and books. I shall always be glad to get such papers as Daily Graphic, Scraps, TitBits, Answers and the monthly magazines. I wish we could get some school teachers to come out from home for the railway line." (Plumtree School — then only a glint in Fogarty's eye!)

In September 1899 the redoubtable Archdeacon Upcher took a turn down the line. "We stopped every five miles at the gangers' houses, a good many of them take books from the library, some want money put in the savings bank, and some to draw out money, and so on. I hope to be back in Bulawayo by Sunday. I feed myself on the train, have a zinc stove — everything is conveniently fitted up and one can sleep comfortable, as fortunately we do not go 'Grande vitesse', so the coach does not joggle *very* much."

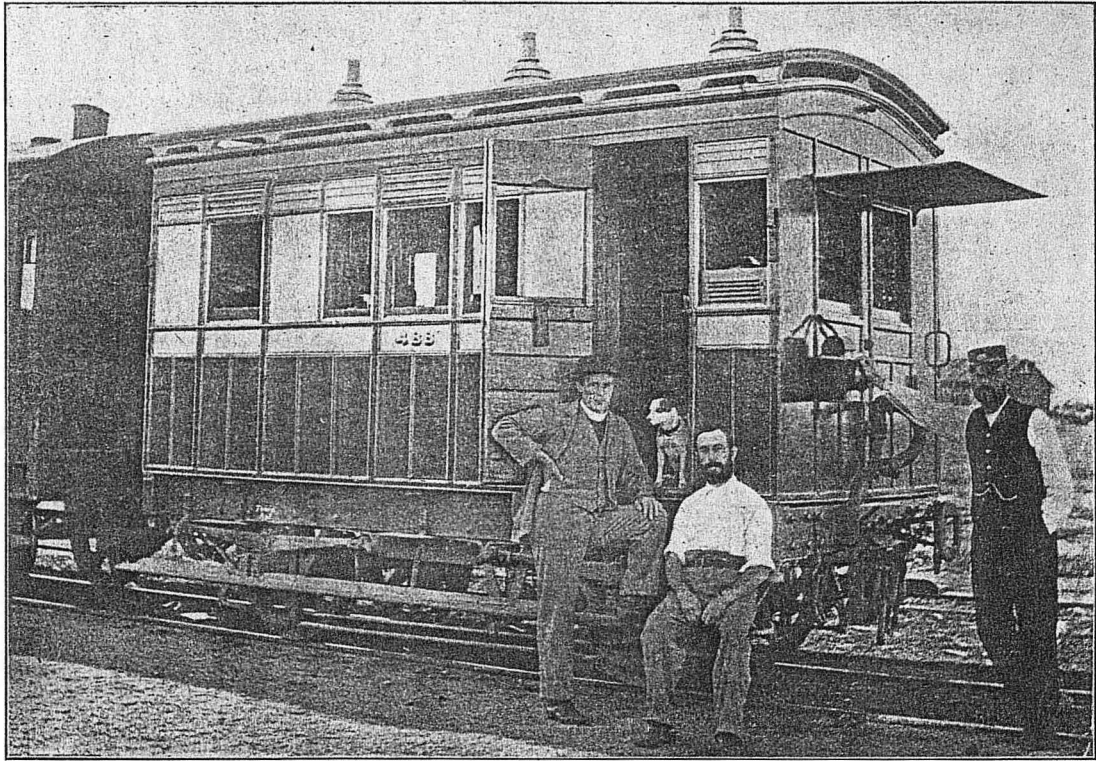
While Archdeacon Upcher coped with the cooking Mr Fogarty had been down to the Colony to be married. He and his wife returned to a house in the Railway Camp in Bulawayo "amongst my own people", although he would spend about 18 days a month away from home up and down the line. He was delighted to have a gramophone, kindly lent by a gentleman in Bulawayo and one gathers that his far-flung services were considerably enlivened.

Then came the South African war and in January the Rev. N. W. Fogarty, accepted as a chaplain to the forces, went down with the armoured trains to Mochudi. The Bishop himself only just got back to Bulawayo on the last train before the lines were torn up!

However, the rails cannot have been torn up for very long, because by August 1900 the Rev. John Hallward was writing that he was to be trusted with Fogarty's special work, the Railway Mission while the chaplain was away on leave in England for six months. "He is going to introduce me next week. He has offered me the spare berth on his mission coach, and we are to journey from here to Mafeking and back, stopping, so he tells me, at every place on the way."

Hallward's experience "on the line" was chronicled by a fellow clergyman of St. John the Baptist's Church, Bulawayo. This was the Rev. J. S. Wimbush, and he wrote a letter to the editor on 11 March, 1901, in which he says:

"I hope Mr Hallward, the chaplain of the Railway Mission, has written to you himself. Men talk of 'roughing it in South Africa'. Well, he's the man who roughs it without



Bechuanaland Railway Mission Coach and Chaplain (Rev. N. W. Fogarty).

talking about it. When he has a mission coach of his own which he can tack on to the tail of any train between here and Vreiburg, (sic) it must be bad enough, and discomfort sufficient to satisfy the most ascetically minded; but when Lord Kitchener takes poor Hallward's one ewe-lamb (his coach) to assist him to catch De Wet, and Hallward has to make shift as best he can, travelling three weeks out of every four in an ordinary compartment which he has to share with every chance comer, and when he does this gladly and as a matter of course, month after month, without talking about it, then indeed, we can feel that we have before us a real live example of the triumph of the spirit over the flesh. All the same, we hope Lord Kitchener will soon give us back our coach."

Eventually peace and the coach both returned, and amongst the many and varied activities of the railway missionary was the task of giving encouragement to the school project at Plumtree. Fogarty's hopes had borne fruit. Between 1899 and 1902 Bishop Gaul secured a block of ground on the railway line 60 miles from Bulawayo for a school chapel; he appointed Mr. E. Lloyd to teach the handful of children, and as there were no buildings, Mr Wadeson the Customs Officer allowed them to use his office as a classroom. Then, in December 1902, in his regular letter, the Bishop wrote:

"At Plumtree the furniture of our boarding house for children had arrived, bought in Cape Town by Mrs Gaul, from a fine gift of £100 from the Rhodes Trustees. Six children had arrived too. The splendid huts built by Mr Lloyd and Mr Hallward looked the picture of neatness. Miss Musson's handiwork was everywhere, and with a helpmeat for her in the shape of a lady fellow-worker, I prophecy great things for this school."

He was a great Bishop and a good prophet too.

Meanwhile, Mr Fogarty was on his way to becoming Bishop of Damaraland, and my sequence of *Mashonaland* papers is sadly broken. By February 1904 when I struck the reef again, the Rev. E. J. Parker was writing from Francistown on 25 November of the previous year:

"I returned last week from a trip lasting sixteen days, during which I covered 1 200 miles (twice the length of the British Isles, isn't it?). Fourteen of these nights I spent in different places, sleeping usually in the little mission coach. You must not suppose that I work much amongst the natives. My life lies mainly among English, Irish, Scotch, Dutch, Germans, Jews, Greeks, and a few dozen other nationalities . . . You may like to hear some of my experiences last trip. I must put them shortly:

"Monday, November 2nd. I got put on to the 7 p.m. passenger southward from Francistown, travelled all night, invited an acquaintance into breakfast in the coach, but made him help to cook it. He hadn't much appetite, being unused to the train, though I had. New stove, it actually burns. Porridge boiled over; great mess. At 10 a.m. we passed Artesia, reaching Mochudi (the home of oranges) at 12. There I came off to marry a Dutch ganger, six miles back on the line. The ganger had not received my letter, and failed to turn up. General uncertainty; heard afterwards that he was seen at Artesia just after we left, twenty miles away, and was there informed by friends that his marriage was going to take place that afternoon. The poor fellow was much perturbed. He had been waiting for me for three months, and supposed his last chance was now gone. However, we only postponed it a day. Meantime, I cycled eight miles down the line to the next cottage to baptize a child, and back by moonlight.

"Wednesday, 4th. Trolled six miles up to Shaw's cottage, starting at 7 a.m. and safely

tied up the expectant pair. A trolley is some beams put across wheels; it runs on the rails, you sit upon it, and the native boys push. If it is a steep incline (we keep no tunnels), it is most exciting, and you may go as fast as forty miles an hour. I p.m. proceeded another hundred miles, meeting acquaintances all the way, who sarcastically professed to suppose I had been dead, my last appearance having been so long ago. Amid a howling hurricane I came off in the dark at Ramatlabama, fifteen miles out of Mafeking, and spent the evening with one of the siege families, an old Yorkshire ganger, who came out in the 70's and whose children come to my boarding school.

"Thursday, 5th. Returned thirty miles to Lobatsi, one of the Boer strongholds against Plumer's Rhodesian Column. Four unexpected baptisms, one of the happy parents, a Dutch farmer, couldn't understand the service in English, and wanted to know whether 'it would count' all the same. Baptism out here wears a greater reality than at home; perhaps, because we have to take so much more trouble to secure it. Evening service in the hotel refreshment room.

"Friday, 6th, 7 a.m. Drove five miles to the repatriation camp in Captain Snow's mule cart to christen his baby. They are living in huts. Another Dutch baby turned up. In some districts the Dutch are actually refusing to take their children to their own ministers for baptism, and prefer to come to English priests. They say, and rightly, that the ministers abused their position; for they deliberately slandered the British in order to keep the war alive. Certain, it is, that some of them have refused Sacraments to those who fought with the British. A secession of the malcontents is probable. Politics from the pulpit is dangerous work, not in England alone. When I got back the only train was gone, so I started up the line by bicycle, intending to baptize a Coloured ganger, who had been awaiting me for four months. Remember, that we have no roads, only tracks; and somehow or other I lost my way up into the mountains. Rocks, sand, swamp, puncture, and finally the veil of night completed my discomforture. The paths are lined with mimosa bushes, grey with thousands of strong thorns, over two inches long, veritable spears. The veldt itself is vast, and absolutely solitary. Just as I was preparing to get off and dig a hole in the veldt to dream of blankets and supper, I found myself, to my great surprise, within sixty yards of the railway, having gone ten miles astray, and yet struck on the right track to return. The ganger was much astonished to see me, he was just going to bed, but was delighted to play the good Samaritan; and that night in the little wood and iron cottage (as so often) he received baptism.

"Saturday, 7th. Train again up to Gaberones. Trolled out seven miles in a scorching sun to baptize a Coloured ganger's wife and four children. She had been prepared for it twelve years ago in Kimberley, but they had moved away just before the day.

"Sunday, 8th. Terrific heat. A lazy Sunday. But you cannot have things going on all day when there are only twenty white people. But I got out to the camp, three miles away, to call on the Assistant Commissioner, gaoler, doctor, police, etc. Everybody at Gaberones is very cordial. They all came to evening service in the refreshment room, some riding in from the camp — twenty-three in all; collection £1 14s 6d. Two or three were old choirboys, and asked for carols.

"Monday, 9th. The pay-train appeared, and I went on behind. Steady progress all day, stopping at each cottage. Bags of meal, flour, potatoes, paraffin, bully, sugar, tea, etc., poured from the train. Pay-day for railway people is a holiday, and the great day of the month; for people out here are paid by the month, not the week. I talk to the people,

exchange their library books, arrange for schooling, etc. We stable for the night at Artesia. I have dinner with Pook, the pumper, who has been all over the world, and we argue for three hours on things theological. Mrs. Pook gives up after an hour, and retires to rest.

“Tuesday, 10th. We leave at 5.30; same programme. At 4 p.m. I got off with my bicycle to stop behind and marry a ganger. The cottage was one small tin room, and was filled up with the bed and a stool, so we had it outside; two baptisms to follow. Then came twenty miles ride along the line to catch up the train; the last part in absolute darkness, except for occasional flashes of sheet lightning. Twice I tumbled into culverts in the darkness to the imminent risk of my machine, and finally to reach Palachwe at 8 p.m. to get supper in the coach, and fall asleep in the top of it.

“Wednesday, 11th. Pay-train still; same programme. Today I had two matrimonial cases to try and straighten out. Infidelity is painfully common, as in all new countries, and the marriage laws sorely need loud and definite statement. 5 p.m. reached Francistown.

“Friday, 13th. Left at 5.30 p.m. Plumtree for the Sunday. I always stop at the Church ‘railway school’ there. The usual Sunday services and confirmation class. It’s always nice to be here.

“Monday, 16th. Up to Bulawayo, another five hours to get building additions to Plumtree School sanctioned. Three new rooms, to be built of strong poles and ant-heap mud, with iron roof. How strange it must sound to you! How familiar to us! But I have told you enough. Another time I must tell you of a grand Dutch wedding I took, and of the native work beginning here.

E. J. Parker.”

One last glimpse of the school before we leave the Mission. From Bishop’s Rooms, Bulawayo, 6 October, 1905: “St John’s Public School works on under many difficulties (St John’s was to become the new Milton School in 1910) and St Michael’s Railway School at Plumtree grows in numbers. Both schools have excellent reports from the Government Inspector, and cost the diocese nothing.”

And now the Railway Mission is no more. Its early ventures may have cost the diocese little or nothing, but what it had to give was of inestimable value. Truly a case of “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

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## THE SOCIETY’S BRONZE MEDAL

The Society’s Bronze Medal was struck in 1970 for sale to members and their families only. The total number struck was only 500 and a few are still left for sale. Each one is unique as it has a different serial number. As well as being a personal souvenir of belonging to the Society the medal forms a good investment. (The word investment is used advisedly as a number of the medals have made their appearance on sales of Africana in Johannesburg.)

The medals are slightly larger and thicker than a 25 cent piece and are in an attractive green velvet-covered presentation case. The price, including the case, is \$3,50.



# Frederick John van der Byl Hopley, 1883-1951

by Michael J. Kimberley

Frederick John van der Byl Hopley was born in Grahamstown on 27 August 1883. He was the eldest son of William Musgrave Hopley and Anne Hopley, née van der Byl.

His great great grandfather was private secretary to Lord Howe and was with him on the flagship "Queen Charlotte" in 1794 on the glorious First of June when the French fleet was defeated at Brest. He settled in the Cape in 1806. His son, William, who was John's great grandfather, was a midshipman in the Royal Navy and settled in the Cape after the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

John Hopley's grandfather, Frederick Hurlingh Hopley, was born and raised in Swellendam, and subsequently settled in Cradock where, like his father, he practised as a Government land surveyor. He married a Miss von Abo, a descendant of Toger von Abo, an admiral in the Danish fleet who had called at the Cape in 1780 during a voyage from the Dutch East Indies and married Maria van der Spuy of Cape Town. His son, Christian, who had fought in the Battle of Copenhagen, later settled in South Africa and also practised as a land surveyor at Cradock.

John's father, William Musgrave Hopley, was born in Cradock in 1853 where he spent the first seven years of his life. He was educated at St Andrew's College in Grahamstown and Diocesan College in Rondebosch, where he matriculated in 1870 and obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1872. He entered Pembroke College, Cambridge in 1877 and was called to the English Bar in 1878 and admitted as an advocate of the Cape Supreme Court in the same year. He practised as an advocate in Cape Town, Grahamstown and Kimberley from 1878 to 1885 when he was appointed Crown Prosecutor in Kimberley, serving in that post until 1892. In March 1892 he was appointed second puisne judge of the High Court of Griqualand West. In 1906 he was appointed a member of the Cape Supreme Court and remained there until his retirement in 1914. In August 1914 both Sir Joseph Vintcent and Mr. Justice Watermeyer died and the High Court of Southern Rhodesia was left judgeless. William Hopley immediately accepted an appointment to the Rhodesian bench and remained in service until his death in March 1919.

John spent his early years in Kimberley where his father moved in August 1883. He often visited Groote Schuur which was owned by his mother's parents, the well known van der Byls, who eventually sold the property to Cecil John Rhodes. He went to England for his schooling — to preparatory school at Eagle House and to secondary school at Harrow. At the former he played good cricket and soccer and continued his boxing, an interest which had begun in Kimberley in 1889, when he was coached by a former professional boxer who was in the British forces based there.

It was at Harrow that he first excelled at sport. He was a regular member of the 1st Cricket XI and played against Eton at Lords in 1901 and 1902. Of the 1902 match *The*

*Tatler* reported "F. J. Hopley, a young giant from South Africa, son of Mr Justice Hopley, who stands 6' 2" or thereabouts, showed some of the most spirited cricket that has ever been seen in a public school match for many a long day. He made 74 runs in forty minutes, much to the delight of the youthful dark blues". He also won the public schools heavyweight boxing championship in 1901 and 1902.

In 1903 he went up to Cambridge to read law. While at university, from 1903 to 1907, he excelled at cricket, boxing and rugby football. In fact his sporting record during this period was quite remarkable. A cricket blue, he also represented the MCC and on one occasion his 6 wickets for 37 runs against London County included the wicket of W. G. Grace.

He played rugby football for Cambridge and was in the XV against the New Zealand All Blacks in 1905. He represented several famous Rugby clubs as a lock forward, including the Barbarians (1906/1907), Blackheath and Harlequins, and was capped for England against Wales and France in 1907 and Ireland in 1908.

It was at boxing, however, that his ability was quite exceptional. He won the University Heavyweight Boxing Championship at Cambridge and became the British amateur heavyweight boxing champion.

Eugene Corri, the famous boxing referee and writer in *Fifty Years in the Ring* thought highly of Hopley's prowess: "We never knew exactly how good a boxer he was because only one of his opponents ever lasted three rounds against him and that was only by hanging round Hopley's neck most of the time. No other boxer, paid or unpaid, ever had such an amazing record as Hopley's. Because for years I refereed the Interschool Championship and the Army and Navy Championships, I believe I must have officiated at nearly all Hopley's serious contests and my unexaggerated estimate is that he ended nine out of every ten in the first round. A minute's sparring, a feint, a punch that travelled like a flash and landed like the kick of a mule — and that was another of Hopley's fights ended. It will be obvious that there is little point in my describing any of his contests in detail — they were too short and one-sided to be really exciting".

He was tremendously powerful and fast for his weight of fifteen stone and his height of 6ft. 3½in. Many believed that at his peak he could have beaten the negro heavyweight champion of the world at that time, Jack Johnson, also known as the Galveston Giant or Galveston Jack. He was regarded as the "white hope" and many implored him to turn professional and fight against Johnson. This never happened, however, as he was strongly opposed to professionalism in sport.

On one occasion in the Interschool Championship he met one Sheepshanks of Oxford. The knock-out occurred in the first round as usual but it was an hour before his opponent recovered. In the meantime doctors were called and alarm spread in whispered rumour around the hall that Sheepshanks was dead. This was definitely not the case but the possibility so upset Hopley that he resolved never to fight again.

He kept his promise though during the First World War he agreed to spar three short rounds with Billy Wells who was an instructor at Sandhurst. Wells had been a professional champion and had always maintained that no amateur would ever hold his own against a good professional. After the spar Wells commented "I take back everything I said about Hopley for he could put up a good show against any pro. He must be a wonder, fit and well. I've seldom been hit so hard in all my life".

In 1908 he joined his parents in South Africa and for a while worked as his father's



John Hopley.

registrar in the Cape Supreme Court. An adventuresome spirit caused him to seek new pastures and in 1910 he settled in Rhodesia and began cattle farming in the Marandellas/Wedza area.

From the outset he involved himself in Rhodesian sport. He represented Mashonaland at cricket and played an active role in developing the game in the Province. He played rugby football for Rhodesia and was in the 1914 Currie Cup side. He was invited to the Springbok trials at Newlands in 1912 and many expected him to be appointed captain of the 1912/1913 touring side to the United Kingdom and thus earn the distinction of representing two countries at rugby football. In the event he was selected as a non-travelling reserve.

After the outbreak of the First World War and shortly after his marriage in 1915 to Joyce Pitout, he returned to England and was commissioned in the Grenadier Guards. He served in France and was awarded the D.S.O. and mentioned in despatches for bravery in the field. After being wounded at the Battle of the Somme, he became officer in charge of physical training at Sandhurst. While there he was appointed an honorary aide-de-camp to King George V. His younger brother, G. W. V. Hopley, interrupted his law studies in England in 1914 to serve his country in the Grenadier Guards. He was wounded in the arm and thigh in February 1915, and taken to hospital in France, where he died of his wounds a few months later.

Returning to Rhodesia in 1918, John resumed farming operations on his farm "Fair Adventure" where he remained until ill health forced him to move to Salisbury in 1949. He served for some time as Director of Physical Education in the Education Department.

He died in Salisbury on 16 August 1951. He was survived by his wife Joyce and his two daughters, Mrs Joan Mary Lister and Mrs Constance Mea Hayes (now Lane).

In March 1956 his widow, Mrs Joyce Hopley, presented the John Hopley Trophy in memory of her late husband, to be awarded annually to the sportsman or sportswoman, who by his or her example, performance and contribution did most to advance the cause of amateur sport in the country during the year. The trophy has been awarded annually since 1956 and the recipients have been —

- 1956: Margot Boileau (hockey)
- 1957: Hilton Morgan (hockey)
- 1958: Terry Sullivan (athletics)
- 1959: Gary Hocking (motor cycling)
- 1960: Terry Sullivan (athletics)
- 1961: Ronnie Hill (rugby)
- 1962: Godfrey Lawrence (cricket)
- 1963: Adrian Bey (tennis)
- 1964: Jim Redman (motor cycling)
- 1965: Colin Bland (cricket)
- 1966: Ian Bond (rugby)
- 1967: Jack du Preez (cricket)
- 1968: John Love (motor racing)
- 1969: John Keyter (swimming)
- 1970: Artwell Mandaza (athletics)
- 1971: Mike Procter (cricket)

- 1972: Mike Procter (cricket)
- 1973: Gay Erskine (squash)
- 1974: Dave West (hockey)
- 1975: George Harvey, Dennis Watson (golf)
- 1976: Ian Robertson (rugby)
- 1977: Dave Westerhout (pistol shooting)
- 1978: Teddy Webber (golf)
- 1979: Simon Hobday (golf)
- 1980: Ann Grant (hockey)

John Hopley was a handsome man. He carried an aura of goodness about him and his great charm and friendliness brought out the best in those with whom he came in contact. Children in particular found him irresistible. An indication of his popularity comes from a friend who wrote "when I die put this on my epitaph — John Hopley was my friend".

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- The Rhodesia Herald
- The Sunday Pictorial
- The South African Law Journal
- Personal notes from Mrs. C. Lane (née Hopley)

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#### BACK NUMBERS OF RHODESIANA

Only the following back numbers of *Rhodesiana* are in stock. Copies can be bought from the Rhodesiana Society, P.O. Box 8268, Causeway, Salisbury, Zimbabwe, at a cost of Z\$3,00 per copy, which includes surface postage to any part of the world. Remittances from outside Zimbabwe must be for the equivalent of Zimbabwean currency.

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**Facsimile Reprints** of Nos. 1-8 (1956-1963) of the Journal can be obtained from Books of Zimbabwe (Pvt.) Ltd., P.O. Box 1994, Bulawayo. Members of the Society are entitled to a reduced price of \$15,30 per bound volume of the set of eight Journals or \$10,60 for a set of eight loose, unbound Journals.

# The Early History of Bulawayo's Electricity Undertaking

by F. W. Bamber

*(The following is a précis of the earlier portion of a long, detailed and complete history of the undertaking by Mr Bamber, City Electrical Engineer. — Editor.)*

At the outset tribute must be paid to a past City Electrical Engineer, Mr J. N. Jones, for his enthusiastic research into the history of the Bulawayo Electricity Undertaking and to Mr Robert Sibson for the support he gave during the compilation of Mr Jones's notes.

The events leading up to the introduction of electricity supplies in Rhodesia were typical of the pioneering spirit which prevailed throughout the country in those early 1890s, and the foresight and enthusiasm of the people concerned are to be greatly admired.

Following the establishment of Bulawayo in 1893 and the commencement of the railway line from Mafeking, three enterprising young men, Messrs William Napier, Percy Vipont Weir and Charles Jefferson Clark were obviously of the opinion that the supply of light and water to the town would become a much sought-after and lucrative business. They applied to the local representative of the B.S.A. Company for the right to supply the town of Bulawayo with water, electric light and power. This was granted subject to certain modifications of the draft agreement in August 1894.

In terms of the final agreement, the three applicants undertook to form what was to be the Lighting Company and to establish a central station and a complete system of outside conductors to be commenced by 10 November 1895, and to be completed by 10 February 1896, a very tall order considering the road journey of some 560 miles from the railhead at Mafeking. Incidentally the B.S.A. Company retained the right to purchase the proposed undertaking after 50 years.

The tariff permitted was 2d per 16 candle-power lamp per hour — about 2/6d per kWh — and tariffs had to be revised every three years. Clauses in the memorandum of agreement specified the overall size of installation, i.e. 3 000 lamps of 16 candle-power each, inclusive of street lamps, all burning at the same time, and to increase as necessary, penalties for non-payment of account, illegal consumption and unsafe wiring, and the provision of supply to consumers in 'isolated' houses.

An extract from the report of the Civil Commissioner (Mr E. Ross-Townsend) for the year ending 31 March, 1898, is of interest at this point in showing prices current at the time.

Paraffin was 7/- per gallon, candles 2/- per lb (and whisky only 8/6d per bottle). It is not hard to see why electric lighting was "superseding other modes" since, even at 2/6d per unit, a tickey's worth of electricity gave the same light for the same time as 6/- worth of candles.

Penalties for failure of supply were severe: 5/- per householder per night, with a limit of £12.10.0 per week for the Municipality as a consumer, and 5/- per night per lamp not lit

in the case of street lights, on which a special tariff of cost + 10% only was chargeable. The street lights were to be lit not later than 15 minutes after sunset, and were to burn for a minimum of six hours a night for 250 nights in the year.

The maximum demand possible with 3 000, 16 candle-power lamps was about 190 kW — assuming 250 candle-power = 1 kW.

Although the agreement refers to a direct current distribution system, early advantage was taken of the “more economical method” of alternating current, as the initial installation records two 90 kW *alternators*.

It appears that the three concessionaires did not do much with their concession, and, on 17 August 1897, they ceded their rights to Willoughby’s Consolidated Company, who, in turn, ceded them to the Bulawayo Waterworks Company on 4 September 1897, some



**The original Bulawayo power station, 1897-1923. The damage seen in the picture was caused by a bursting flywheel following an engine overspeed.**

two weeks later. Two years after that, on 1 September 1899, the B.S.A. Company ceded their rights to the Municipality, which had just come into being.

Early records of Willoughby’s show that the introduction of A.C. was a momentous decision, since it was only introduced in London in 1885, some ten years earlier. I quote:

“The alternating system was adopted by the company, using 125 cycles per second, transmitting at 2 200 volts and transforming down to 105 volts for use by the consumer. This system of alternating current, but with certain very important modifications, has become the universal standard, the main differences being the adoption of three-phase instead of single-phase and of standard frequency of 50 cycles per second.

“The difficulties of transporting the machinery, particularly for the electricity undertaking, were consequently stupendous. The earliest consignments were loaded into ox-wagons at Mafeking, 560 miles south, and the journey through the wild country, with rivers often impassable during the rainy season, frequently occupied three months. In addition, during 1896, as mentioned in connection with the Company’s gold mining undertakings, the whole country was struck with an epidemic of rinderpest and the transport oxen died in such numbers along the route to the north that ox transport had to be abandoned for a time. In spite of all these difficulties of transport, most of the water and electrical equipment had reached Bulawayo before the railway was completed and a public supply (i.e. available to private consumers) was made available in June 1898, a period of but five years since Bulawayo existed only as the chief kraal of the last of the Matabele kings, Lobengula.”

From the same records, the following extract is of considerable interest:

“Of the two services, it turned out that the water supply gave the most anxiety, arising through the uncertainty of climatic conditions as to the incidence of the rainy season and its duration. In one instance, a well-intentioned provision turned out a bad disappointment. This was when the Waterworks Company had constructed a new dam, much wanted at the time, to augment the supply of water, but the rains were over earlier than forecast and the dam was exposed for an undue length of time to the parching sun, with the result that, when the next rains came, the retaining wall gave way before the dam was filled and this caused a delay of a year in the programme. (It is believed that the name of the engineer responsible was expunged from the foundation stone.) The Waterworks Company, under the management and administration of Willoughby’s, gave supply until July 1924, when it was bought out by the Municipality for the sum of £117 000, a figure settled by arbitration.

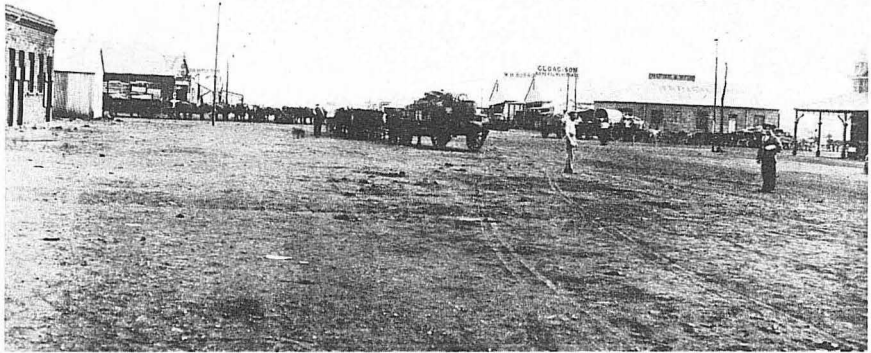
“With its pioneer character, with the groping of the experts to find the right system, the stupendous distance from railhead and the small number of possible consumers, the sums involved in the undertaking never earned a just reward and were only reimbursed to the extent of about 40 per cent when the Municipality took over the business. In point of fact, the number of inhabitants of the town did not justify a public utility undertaking of this character and the enterprise was only able to render a good account of itself after the lapse of many years, during which the town developed. It has been said that this was not the only instance of this popular Colony being provided with facilities which, for the size of the population, were not justified but, such was the confidence in the future prosperity of the Colony shown by those who had turned their attention to it, that a large amount of capital was embarked with no immediate prospect of reward.”

A further extract from the report of the Deputy Administrator for Matabeleland (Capt the Hon. A. Lawley) for the year ending 30 September 1898 reads:

“A large two-storied building in Main Street, built of red stone, is lit throughout with electricity and electric light, carried over to the suburban side of the town, is a great boon to the community. The whole of the Government offices, hospital, jail, police camp and Government House, which is three miles out of town, and most private houses are lit by electricity.”

Although it is recorded that the installation was completed on 1 December, 1897, the late Harry Issels stated that as a child he was taken by his father to see the lights which lit the railway terminal the night before the arrival of the first train in Bulawayo on 3 Novem-





**The first street lamps to be erected in Abercorn Street in 1896. They are on wooden poles.**

ber 1897. This is confirmed by the news item in the *Bulawayo Chronicle* of 4 November 1897, which read as follows:-

#### THE ELECTRIC LIGHT

“The electric light was turned on for the first time last evening. As the mysterious illumination suddenly took place one could almost fancy a subdued and prolonged ‘Oh!’ reverberating through the town, as when a large crowd of children witnessed a discharge of varied skyrockets.”

In 1898, Mr John J. Kiddy was appointed Electrical Engineer to the Council, and an extract from his first report to Council reads as follows:

“Three Babcock & Wilcox water tube boilers, rated 104 horse-power each.

Two Dean duplex donkey feed pumps.

Two McIntosh & Seymour horizontal singular cylinder high speed E engines of 140 I.H.P. each.

Two General Electric belt driven alternators of 90 kilowatt capacity each.

Two Edison type shunt wound exciters, belt driven.

One switchboard with switches, instruments and rheostats for controlling and recording the public and private lighting.

“I have made between September 1898 and July 31, 1899, some 153 inspections of electric light installations, and I have pleasure in informing you that with very few exceptions they passed the necessary tests, and were installed in accordance with the Municipal Bye-Laws. The few old installations which have come under my notice I have had examined and put in good repair.

“It has been decided by the Bulawayo Waterworks Co. to purchase additional machinery to meet the growing demands for electricity, and the following plant has been ordered. On account, however, of the engineer strike in England, this has been greatly delayed, but is expected very soon:

“One 300 I.P.P. high speed inverted marine type compound engine.

“One Johnson & Phillips alternator, 180 kilowatts capacity, direct coupled to engine, with exciter on end of alternator shaft.

“One 65 I.H.P. belt driven set with General Electric alternator.

“One complete condensing plant.

“The cause above mentioned has occasioned the delay in connecting the two new street circuits, which it was found impossible to supply with the existing plant.”

Again it is interesting to note that the first regulations regulating the employment of electricity were instituted in September 1898 and signed by Mr Kiddy.

In the following 13 years the installation's capacity of the station had increased to 362,5 kW and the metering of individual supplies had been introduced. With the advent of the additional generating capacity, the number of consumers had risen from approximately 500 up to 1905 to 1030 in 1914.

By 1910 the new proposed tariff for the three years, April 1911 to April 1914, was described as being higher than that previously obtaining and was, in fact, a sliding scale of 2/6d per unit for the first 25 units per month, 2/3d for the next 25, 2/- for the next 50 and 1/9d thereafter, with a flat 1/9d rate for consumption over 300 kWh. (The tariffs were valid for three years at a time and subject to the approval of the Municipality.) A monthly minimum of 10/- was imposed. In 1909 and 1910, the average domestic consumption was just over 13 units/household/month and the average account £1.12.6d. per month.

In 1918, in spite of difficulties, the changeover of the old 125 cycle system to the standard in Europe of 50 cycles was begun, and, in 1922, as recorded by Mr Hadley, the three-phase system giving 115/200 volts was adopted.

After various inspections, valuations and re-valuations, the Bulawayo Municipality purchased the undertakings of both water and electricity in 1924 for a total sum of £117 000. The take-over date was 1 July 1924.

# Maize in Zimbabwe

by R. Cherer Smith

Maize production in Zimbabwe has broken all records during the 1980/81 season. The estimated crop this season is expected to be in the region of 2 million tonnes, which is a far cry from the annual 5 000 tonnes grown during the first decade of the century.

Maize has become the most widely grown crop in Zimbabwe, and is second only to tobacco as a cash crop; it is unlikely ever to be superseded by any other grain crop. It is the staple article of diet for the majority of the population, and is the most commonly used grain food for livestock and poultry, contributing almost the entire carbohydrate part of the ration.

It is believed that our modern varieties of maize originated from the Americas from a wild form of the plant (*teosinte*) which is widely distributed in the region. Archaeological evidence in New Mexico suggests that primitive man cultivated a variety of maize as long ago as 3 000 B.C., which itself may have been brought across from Asia during migratory incursions into America from that continent.

Maize was found under cultivation when Columbus discovered America and had attained a high level of development many centuries before. It was held in such high esteem by its earliest growers that it was regarded by them as a gift of the gods, and played a prominent part in their religious life.

Maize was originally brought to Africa by the Portuguese. It was first grown on the island of St. Thomes and from there taken to Ghana. It reached southern Africa shortly after the arrival of the first Dutch colonists. Seed was sent to the Cape from Amsterdam on 25 October 1655. Further supplies of seed were received from New Guinea three years later, and once its culture was established it became rapidly distributed throughout all parts of the interior.

It is not definitely known when maize was introduced into Zimbabwe, but it was a very well-established crop when the first white men visited the country. It was most probably brought from the south by migrating and marauding tribesmen and also from the east by early Portuguese explorers.

The part played by the Africans in the early distribution of maize was undoubtedly a very important one and they were not long in acquiring a preference for maize as an article of diet, and it no doubt replaced sorghum and millet to a large extent. The maize grown by the Africans was a mixture of whites, blues, reds, yellows and comprised both dent and flint types. Some of these varieties are still to be found in the remote T. T. L.s and an attempt was made some time ago to preserve these strains for research purposes.

Although some of the first white settlers introduced ploughing as distinct from the African system of hoe cultivation, agronomic practices were carried out in a very primitive fashion. The ploughs used were single furrow, with a few heavier varieties named 'Jumbo' or 'Elephant'. Areas were stumped and cleared for cropping, but these were very small. Ploughs were drawn by oxen, mules or donkeys. In 1918, Mr. Pretorius of M'guta Farm, Mazoe, introduced the first steam-tractor ploughing unit, which drew the plough across the land by a steel cable wound around a drum. Another tractor reversed the procedure as the plough was drawn in the opposite direction.

The early white settlers, who mostly came from Natal or the Transvaal, brought with them or sent for seed maize from their home districts. Seed was also brought in from the United States. Amongst the better-known strains that were planted in this country were Natal White Horsetooth, Hickory King, and Boone Country (whites), and Golden Beauty, Golden Eagle and Chester County Mammoth (yellow). From these varieties various selections were made and Salisbury White became one of the most widely grown varieties along with Hickory King.

Production had by this time increased to a point beyond local needs and export markets had to be found. A co-operative society was formed to market the crop on the United Kingdom and European markets. Maize production reached one million bags by the end of the First World War, and although the crop was well established, the succeeding depression years saw the maize industry in serious difficulty. To assist the farmers the government intervened and in 1932 took over the marketing of maize through the Maize Control Board which was subsequently renamed the Grain Marketing Board.

Zimbabwe has been well served by its agricultural scientists and Mr. H. C. Arnold, who was in charge of the Salisbury experiment station, started a maize breeding programme as long ago as 1932. This work has continued to this day and a number of high-yielding hybrids are now in general commercial production throughout the country. Yields have increased more than threefold as a result of improved high-yielding varieties and other agronomic practices which have combined to place Zimbabwe amongst the world's most efficient maize producers.

The techniques of developing hybrid maize involve inbreeding varieties for about nine generations and then crossing these lines with others that have been similarly treated. Crossing such inbred lines produces the hybrid vigour that provides the higher yielding varieties. The resultant crosses are then tested for quality and yield and, if selected, are released to the farming community under a code number.

As far as is known, Zimbabwe was the first country after the United States to use commercially grown hybrids developed within the country itself. Economically the importance of hybrid maize is tremendous, and it is true to say that in Zimbabwe the dividend from hybrid maize runs into many millions of dollars, far exceeding the total input costs of research.

Perhaps one of the lesser-known aspects of our maize industry is that when the national crop was exported by the farming co-operative, the maize was sent by rail to the port of Beira from where it was shipped in vessels that had been chartered especially for the purpose. The most famous of these vessels was the sailing vessel *Kobenhavn* which at the

time was the largest of her kind in the world. During her voyages she carried a complement of cadets of the Danish Navy who did their naval training on board. When the vessel called at Beira she had to await a spring tide in order to negotiate the sand bar. The vessel continued to trade throughout the world until 1927 when with a full complement of officers and crew she sailed in ballast from Montevideo to pick up a cargo of grain in Australia. On this voyage she disappeared without trace whilst proceeding at full sail around Cape Horn.

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# Short Articles

## THREE STALWARTS

by

W. E. Arnold

Since the appearance of the last issue of *Rhodesiana* (now *Heritage*) in 1979 the Society has lost three outstanding members as a result of the deaths of Alderman G. H. (Tony) Tanser, at the time serving another term as national president; Mr W. V. Brelsford, who edited *Rhodesiana* with distinction for many years; and Mr W. D. Gale, a former committee member of the Society.

All three were historical writers. Mr Tanser and Mr Gale wrote about the origins and development of Rhodesia as it then was, and Mr Brelsford on Northern Rhodesian subjects. All three were members of the society for many years, Mr Tanser and Mr Brelsford being founder members. All three played a significant part in public life; Mr Brelsford was an MP from 1962 to 1965, Mr Tanser city councillor, Mayor and alderman of Salisbury and Mr Gale a member of the Marlborough Town Council before the creation of Greater Salisbury.

Tony Tanser was a teacher by profession and a magnificent proof of the truth of the adage that contact with young people keeps a man young in heart. He died in his 79th year but was as alert and active as many men 20 years younger. He was still hard at work on his many interests within days of the end.

He came to Salisbury from England in 1927 and was posted first to Prince Edward School. He used to tell the story that his interest in the history of the country was awakened soon after his arrival. Walking through Cecil Square he saw the statue of Alfred Beit in its original place and asked a passerby who Beit was. The passerby did not know so Tony decided to find out for himself. This was the beginning of a long career of finding out and publishing the results of his inquiries.

It was while he was at Prince Edward School that he wrote the first of his geography and history textbooks for school use. His son Tim, also a stalwart of the Society, says other teachers were always borrowing his father's excellent notes and finally suggested that he publish them in book form.

After his retirement from a senior post in the Ministry of Education he concentrated his research on the early history and growth of Salisbury. Two books came out of this work, *A Scantling of Time*, the history of Salisbury from 1890 to 1900, and *A Sequence of Time*, the story of Salisbury from 1900 to 1914. Both books were well received and are a mine of information. At the time of his death he was busy on the third volume of the Salisbury saga.

Members of this Society will remember him as one of its mainsprings. He was elected to the national executive at the inaugural meeting on 12 June, 1953, and he served continuously till his death in July 1979. He was national chairman from March 1973 to March 1975 and from March 1979 till his death. He was awarded the Society's gold medal in 1972.

He will always be recalled with admiration and affection for his part in many of the Society's functions: as the leader of a train expedition to Marandellas or of a tour of places

of historical interest in Salisbury where his almost boyish enthusiasm was infectious and where no detail was too small for its significance to escape him.

Vernon Brelsford was very much the cultivated man of letters and the bibliophile. He joined the Colonial Service from Oxford about 50 years ago and was posted to the then Northern Rhodesia where he served continuously until he was seconded in 1953 to the newly-formed Federal Government as Director of Information.

In Northern Rhodesia most of his service was spent in rural areas as a District Officer and then District Commissioner. He became an expert on the language and customs of the people and on the natural history of the country. He was a keen member of the Northern Rhodesia Society and edited its journal for some years. When he was posted to Lusaka to take charge of the Information Department he wrote a book on the tribes of Northern Rhodesia and another on the history of the Northern Rhodesia Regiment. Perhaps the most ambitious work with which he was associated was the *Handbook of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland*, a splendid reference book which he edited. Unfortunately, it was published only as the Federation was in its final stages and it never had the success it deserved.

His career in Parliament was cut short by the general election of 1965 at which he did not offer himself as a candidate, but he made a reputation in the House as a witty speaker who never took part in a debate unless he had something useful to contribute.

Like Mr Tanser he was a founder member of the Society and became its editor in 1968. He edited numbers 18 to 40 inclusive. He was working on this current issue when he was severely injured in a car crash in June 1980. His wife Wilma was killed instantly in the accident but he survived for another month. He was 73.

Billy Gale was not as closely identified with the Society as Messrs Tanser and Brelsford but was a committee member for some time and a loyal supporter of the Society. He came to Rhodesia from South Africa as a newspaperman and almost immediately became interested in the country's history. As a skilled reporter he made the most of the opportunities for meeting people who had played leading roles in the country's development and for getting to know almost every part of the country.

His first book, *One Man's Vision*, a history of the Occupation and succeeding years, was published in 1935. He later wrote a number of other historical books, a couple of novels and a great many shorter publications as well as a large number of articles about the country's history.

He left newspaper work in 1939 on secondment to the Government to become secretary to the committee organising the golden jubilee celebrations planned for 1940. The war reduced their scope to modest proportions but the Government retained his services as war-time Information Officer. After the war he remained with the Government as Assistant Director and later Director of Public Relations.

With the coming of Federation Mr Gale took charge of the tourist development organisation until his retirement in 1958. Since then he had several spells of work in newspapers and with the Inter African News Agency and also worked in publishing and public relations. His was a full and many-sided life which ended all too soon at the age of 74 not long before Christmas 1980.

## LIVINGSTONIA IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

by  
Mrs Hilda Ross

My late husband, John Brebner Ross, was Deputy High Commissioner at Rhodesia House in London during the years of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, 1953-1963.

While he was there he was able to acquire some very valuable papers, books, paintings and personal relics which had once belonged to David Livingstone. I think the story of how these were acquired for our National Archives is fascinating and thrilling.

John was told that a young girl, Diana Livingstone-Bruce, a great grand-daughter of Dr Livingstone, who had just vacated her home after the death of her father, was in possession of many of the doctor's historic mementoes. When first married, Diana's parents lived in what was then Nyasaland, but soon after Diana was born, the family moved and saw no more of Africa.

In later conversation with Diana, we gathered that her father became soured with Nyasaland, or perhaps Dr Livingstone was not a truly beloved or admired relation as Diana's father appears to have taken little interest in the collection of Livingstonia made by his wife, Dr Livingstone's grand-daughter.

Diana's mother died when she was three years old, but during her lifetime, her mother had acquired such things belonging to the family as the two gold medals — one from the British Geographical Society and another from the American Society, which had been presented to Dr Livingstone during his lifetime and of which Diana was aware.

The search was now on for Diana's new address. Fortunately information reached Rhodesia House that Diana had recently been in touch with a priest in Ireland, who might be able to help. A telephone call was made to him immediately, and he was able to supply Diana's new address in London. Within half-an-hour my husband presented himself on Diana's doorstep. At that stage she had been antagonised by a previous visitor from Rhodesia. However, considerable tact and not a little charm won the day.

When she was told that it was believed she was in possession of a considerable number of documents, her mind went back to the day she left her home. Just as the pantechnicon was leaving for London, the gardener, who had been with the family for 25 years, told her there was a black tin box in the woodshed, which had been there ever since he had started work at her home. He did not know what it contained, but had an idea there were documents inside it. She told him to stick it in the back of the van, and that she would look at it later. She decided this was the time to open it, the first time in all those years of being hidden away. You can imagine the surprise and astonishment of these two people when it turned out to be, not just an ordinary tin box, but a veritable Pandora's box.

It contained a vast collection of papers and books, as well as personal relics, such as Dr Livingstone's consular hat, two original diaries, family correspondence and many other documents, as well as many original paintings and sketches by Baines of the travels in Africa.

Some time later, Diana asked us to tea. Her dining-room table was stacked with the paintings and sketches by Baines, and she invited us to choose as many for ourselves as we wished. We were quite overwhelmed, and my husband hastened to tell her that there was no question of our having any of them for ourselves; his only wish was that these





**Miss Diana Livingstone-Bruce and Mr J. B. Ross examine some of the papers on Livingstone's second Zambezi expedition.**

documents and paintings should be presented to the Rhodesian Government. However, that didn't satisfy her, and she threatened to have everything sent to the Blantyre Museum in Scotland, a threat she had made on a previous occasion. The argument went on for some time, until my husband suggested a compromise — that we choose one painting each. After some further argument, she finally accepted this.

I now have two sketches by Baines — one of a canoe on the Zambezi, and one of a scene depicting a baobab tree in the same area. As you can imagine, they are now treasured possessions, of which I am very proud.

All the documents and the tin box are now housed in the Archives in Salisbury, thanks to Diana. She was later invited as a guest to Rhodesia, and of course her travels included the Falls, where as we all know, her great grandfather's statue stands so proudly.

My husband was presented with the complete set of the Oppenheimer Series in recognition of the part he played in acquiring these documents.

## **PERIODICALS AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

by

P. A. Francis

*AFRICA: JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN INSTITUTE* (London)

*Religion and authority in a Korekore community* by M. F. C. Bourdillon (vol. 49) is a short study of some Korekore chiefly succession rituals which shows that the people, by withholding their support from an unpopular new chief, can exercise a democratic check on his authority.

*AFRICAN AFFAIRS* (London)

H. I. Wetherell's article *Settler expansionism in Central Africa: the Imperial response in 1931 and subsequent implications* (vol. 78) describes the territorial designs of successive Southern Rhodesian governments on neighbouring countries, culminating in the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The author suggests that federation became inevitable, despite Colonial Office opposition to the scheme until as late as 1951, for two main reasons: firstly, the failure of the Colonial Office to devise a comprehensive development plan for the entire region which would have precluded that possibility; and secondly, the failure of the Secretary of State, Lord Passfield, to rule out amalgamation in 1931 in order to achieve an all-party consensus for his colonial policy.

*ARTS RHODESIA* (Salisbury)

The first issue of this annual publication by the National Arts Foundation appeared in 1978. It takes a wide-ranging look at the arts in Rhodesia, including articles such as *Rhodesian art — a general survey* by Patricia Wood, *Robert Paul* by Brian Bradshaw, *Rhodesian poetry of a decade or so* by Noel Brettell, *Ballet — Rhodesia should be proud* by George Hindley, *The development of symphonic music in Bulawayo* by John Wylcotes, *Experiences in metal sculpture* by Arthur Azevedo, *African creative writing* by Walter Krog and *Zimbabwe Ruins — a mystery solved* by Helmut K. Silberburg.

*Arts Rhodesia* is an attractive, well-illustrated journal which fills a void on the local publishing scene. It is therefore regrettable that although the second issue is ready for press, financial stringency prevents its publication.

*CENTRAL AFRICAN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE* (Salisbury)

In his article *The Shona generation* (vol. 25, No. 3), D. N. Beach suggests that provided sufficient genealogical data is available, it should be possible to date approximately the lifetime of an ancestor by counting backwards by generations from a descendant whose lifetime is dated. His study is based on 31 ruling Shona dynasties.

*MOHLOMI: JOURNAL OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN HISTORICAL STUDIES*  
(Roma, Lesotho)

This relatively new journal, published by the History Department of the University of Lesotho, features a number of articles of Rhodesian historical interest. The contents of volume 1 include *The Dominicans at Zumbo: an aspect of missionary history in the Zambezi Valley c. 1726-1836* by S. I. G. Mudenge and *Christianity and the Mhondoro Cult: a study of African religious initiative and resilience in the Mazoe Valley area of Mashonaland* by E. Mashingaidze. Volume 2 carries the articles *Ndebele politics during the scramble* by N. M. B. Bhebe, *Aspects of the Zimbabwe liberation movement 1966-1976* by S. V. Mubako and *Forgotten frontiersmen of Christianity's northward outreach: black evangelists and the missions' northern hinterland 1869-1914* by E. Mashingaidze which discusses early missionary endeavours in Southern Rhodesia.

*SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL BULLETIN* (Claremont, Cape)

Volume 34, No. 129 contains a report entitled *Test excavations at Chamabvefva, southern Mashonaland* by T. N. Huffman. The purpose of the excavation was to date the ruin, situated north of Shabani in the Runde Tribal Trust Land, and place it in the Zimbabwe Tradition sequence.

*SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. GOODWIN SERIES, No. 3*  
(Claremont, Cape)

Entitled *Iron Age studies in southern Africa*, this issue contains two articles of particular local interest. The first, *Test excavations at NaBa and Lanlory, northern Mashonaland* by T. N. Huffman concerns two sites which are noteworthy because of their affinity with cultures north of the Zambezi rather than with contemporary cultures in Rhodesia. The second, *Chisvingo Hill Furnace Site, northern Mashonaland* by M. P. Prendergast describes excavations at the site and concludes that neither it nor the Chisvingo Lower Site is associated with the nearby Chisvingo Ruin.

*ZAMBEZIA: THE JOURNAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODESIA* (Salisbury)

Notable items in volume 5, no. 2 are two essay reviews. *The thin white line: Rhodesia's armed forces since the Second World War* by P. McLaughlin describes the evolution of the present Rhodesian defence forces and reviews some of the literature available on them. R. Graham's *Poetry in Rhodesia* is a provocative, sometimes irreverent survey of Rhodesian poetry from the early days to the present.

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# The Annual General Meeting 1980

The Annual General Meeting of The Rhodesiana Society was held at the Ambassador Hotel, Salisbury, at 5.00 p.m. on Thursday 27 March, 1980.

*Present: M. J. Kimberley (National Deputy Chairman), in the Chair, J. A. Ogilvie (National Honorary Treasurer), Miss P. Burton (National Honorary Secretary) and 56 members of the Society.*

The Chairman welcomed those present.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting and stated that apologies had been received from seventeen members.

*In opening the meeting the Chairman referred to the passing of the Society's National Chairman, the Late Alderman G. H. Tanser, and those present stood for a few moments in silence as a tribute to his memory.*

## *Confirmation of Minutes:*

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, having been circulated in *Rhodesiana Issue No. 40*, were taken as read and confirmed. They were signed by the Chairman.

## *Chairman's Report:*

The Chairman tabled his report which was unanimously adopted. The report follows these minutes.

## *Financial Statement:*

The Honorary Treasurer presented the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December, 1979. These were unanimously adopted.

## *Amendments to the Constitution & Change of Name of the Society:*

The Chairman said he had been informed by both the Chairman of the Matabeleland Branch and the Chairman of the Manicaland Branch that their Committees were very much against any change of the Society's name.

Mr R. W. S. Turner then proposed the motions set out in Item 5 of the Agenda and Mr J. M. J. Leach seconded them.

The Clauses in the Constitution where the words "Rhodesia" or "Rhodesian" occurred were then read out and it was pointed out that for the most part the changes were of no significance but were consequential upon the change of the Country's name in the near future.

With the agreement of the meeting, the clauses requiring amendment in terms of the first motion were examined one at a time and the following was decided —

Clause 2 (1) (a) It was agreed to add the words "and Zimbabwean" between the words "Rhodesian" and "history"

Clause 2 (1) (e) It was agreed to delete the semi-colon after the word "Rhodesia" and to add "and Zimbabwe;"

- Clause 2 (2) It was agreed to delete “Rhodesia” and substitute “Zimbabwe”
- Clause 4 It was agreed to delete the word “Rhodesia” and substitute “Zimbabwe”
- Clause 5 (6) (g) It was agreed to delete the word “Rhodesia” and substitute “Zimbabwe”.

Mrs J. A. C. Fleming spoke on behalf of the Matabeleland Branch Committee on the second motion.

She said that if it was considered necessary to change the name of the Society, the Matabeleland Committee would accept as a new name “The National History Society”, especially if the words “incorporating Rhodesiana” were added in brackets.

Various members spoke, some suggesting alternative names.

Mr Morley Wright then proposed an amendment to the motion as follows—

That the words “The Zimbabwe History Society” be deleted and the words “The Zimbabweana Society” be substituted.

The amendment being duly seconded, it was put and declared lost.

Mr R. D. Franks then proposed an amendment as follows—

That the words “The Zimbabwe History Society” be deleted and the words “The National History Society” substituted.

The amendment was seconded by Mr R. A. Zeederberg.

Before the amendment was put, the Chairman asked Mrs Fleming if she felt this would satisfy the Matabeleland Branch Committee, and she replied that the Branch Committee was most anxious to include the words “incorporating Rhodesiana”.

The Chairman said if it was the wish of the Meeting, the Executive Committee would undertake to insert the words “Formerly The Rhodesiana Society” under the heading of the printed stationery and whenever the name of the Society was officially used. The Members indicated that it was their wish that this should be done.

The amendment was put and carried, with 12 members voting against.

Mrs J. B. L. Honey then proposed an amendment as follows—

That the words “The National History Society” be deleted and the words “The Rhodesiana Society of Zimbabwe” be substituted.

Mr J. M. J. Leach seconded the amendment.

After a brief discussion the amendment was put and declared lost.

The motion as amended was then put and carried by 35 votes to 12.

**RESOLVED** — That Clause 1 of the Society’s Constitution be amended by the deletion of the words “The Rhodesiana Society” and the substitution of the words “The National History Society”.

#### *Election of Executive Committee*

The following members were elected after being proposed and seconded individually—

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN	Mr M. J. Kimberley
NATIONAL DEPUTY CHAIRMAN	Mr R. C. Smith
NATIONAL HONORARY SECRETARY	Miss P. Burton
NATIONAL HONORARY TREASURER	Mr J. A. Ogilvie

MEMBERS — Messrs W. V. Brelsford, W. E. Arnold, E. E. Burke,  
R. D. Franks, R. W. S. Turner and J. M. J. Leach, and  
Mrs J. A. C. Fleming.

The meeting terminated at 6.42 p.m.

**ANNUAL REPORT GIVEN BY THE NATIONAL DEPUTY CHAIRMAN,  
M. J. KIMBERLEY, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH, 1980.**

**1. Death of the National Chairman, G. H. Tanser.**

Regrettably, our National Chairman, Alderman G. H. Tanser, passed away in July, 1979. The Society will remember Tony particularly for twenty-six years of continuous outstanding service on the Society's National Executive and for his participation over many years in the organisation of and talks at the Society's tours and visits. At the request of the National Executive, I have acted as National Chairman since that date.

**2. Branches:**

Apart from the journal and other publications and National celebrations such as the Society's Jubilee, a successful year for the Society is measured by the volume of activity in the areas under the jurisdiction of the Society's three branches. As always, Matabeleland have been active, while Mashonaland have had three successful and well attended functions. The activities of these Branches have been curtailed by the Rhodesian seven-year war. Manicaland, due to the more intensive war situation which has prevailed in that Province, has been inactive. Hopefully, with the new Prime Minister having achieved the peace which we have prayed for for so long, branch activities will increase and will again involve outings to the more remote and more interesting areas of the country.

**3. Journal:**

One issue of *Rhodesiana* appeared during the year under review. In this regard a shortage of funds and of suitable articles led to the decision not to publish the usual two issues of our journal.

We hope to resume our bi-annual publishing programme next year. A comprehensive index of the first forty issues of *Rhodesiana* is in course of preparation.

**4. Botanical Portfolio:**

Published as part of the Society's Silver Jubilee celebrations, this set of six antique botanical prints with text and in de luxe covers, has been an outstanding success. It has been favourably reviewed here and overseas, and only 100 of the 500 sets remain.

**5. Finance:**

On the year's operations, income exceeded expenditure by \$3 006,00. At the year end cash in the bank and in paid-up permanent shares amounted to \$6 708.

6. *Change of Name:*

With the imminent change of name of this country, the National Executive Committee recommends that the Society's name should also be changed. A proposal in this regard is on the agenda and will be debated this evening.

7. *Decade Medals:*

The Society produced 500 bronze numbered decade medals in 1970 and agreed to arrange similar mintings every decade.

Accordingly, an order has been placed for 500 1980 decade medals and these will soon be available for sale to members.

8. *Membership:*

Paid-up membership of the Society as at 31 December, 1979, was 1 024, of whom 740 were individual and institutional members and 284 were husband and wife members.

9. *Closer Association with Similar Societies:*

At the present time there are four or five societies in Rhodesia all involved in aspects of our history. Some are active while others are inactive. Most are in need of funds and a larger membership to make them more viable. Your Executive feel strongly that there would be merit in the amalgamation of or closer association between all or some of these societies. Accordingly, steps have been taken to meet with representatives of these other societies to discuss this subject.

10. *National Annual Dinner:*

The Society's thirteenth annual dinner was organised by the Matabeleland Branch and held at the Hotel Rio, Bulawayo, on Saturday evening, 1 December, 1979. The function was attended by over 100 members and their guests and the National Executive Committee as well as the Mashonaland and Matabeleland Branches were represented. The fourteenth annual dinner will be held in Salisbury towards the end of 1980. Hopefully in 1981 we will again have our National dinner in Inyanga.

11. *Storage:*

The Society is looking for one room in a private house in central Salisbury or the Avenues, to store surplus copies of the *Rhodesiana* journal. The journals would be insured and access would only be required about twice a year to replenish the working stock of journals. Can any member resident in Salisbury assist in this regard please? If so, the Society would be pleased to hear from him or her.

12. *Premises:*

The Society would like to have its own premises one day, where its assets could be stored, meetings held and a library established, and from which its products could be sold. The ideal place would be a house in the Avenues of Salisbury or near the city centre. If any member has any suggestions in this regard or contemplates a bequest or donation, the Society would be pleased to hear from him or her.

(The report of the 1981 annual meeting will appear in *Heritage* No. 2.)

# Society Activities

## MATABELELAND BRANCH

### **Annual dinner 1981**

Sixty-five members and friends attended the annual branch dinner at the New Royal Hotel on 27 February, 1981.

The chairman, Mr. H. J. Vickery, drew attention in his opening remarks to the appropriateness of the venue for a History Society function. The stand on which the hotel was built, No. 438, was one of those sold at the first sale in the newly laid-out Bulawayo township in March 1894. It was bought by a Mr Nimmo for £41. In partnership with a Mr Bodle he established the Masonic Hotel which was advertising its services as early as April 1894.

Proposing the toast of the society, Mr Brian Meikle had some entertaining things to say about the theatre and its development in this country. In response, Mr Peter Rollason had some anecdotes about early chemists in Bulawayo and stressed the importance of the role of the society in keeping alive the memory of what had been achieved in the past.

### **Annual meeting and outing**

There was a turn-out of only 43, including several visitors, at the annual general meeting held in the Education Technology Hall at the Teachers College on 1 March, 1981. When the item, Election of Officers, was reached four members of the outgoing committee offered themselves for re-election but the chairman and secretary indicated their wish not to be considered. Although many names were suggested no one was prepared to stand and a quorum could not be raised. To break the impasse the secretary agreed to stand and the five nominees were elected.

The branch paid tribute to the late Mr W. V. Brelsford and to the late Mr G. Green, a long-standing member and committee member of the branch.

When the meeting closed at 11.50 a.m. the members proceeded to Mabukuwene where the National Trust's representative in Matabeleland, Mr L. Brown, gave a talk on the work of the Trust, and especially a history of the development of Mabukuwene as a bird sanctuary, aloe garden, and place of delight for Bulawayo residents and visitors. Mr Tom Meikle's grave is still tended in an enclosure near the entrance gates.

After lunch a visit was paid to Douslin House in Main Street where Mr W. E. Alexander told us something of the history of the building which began as Willoughby's Buildings in 1901, designed by the eminent architect Mr. W. Douslin. Some interesting old photographs were provided by the Bulawayo Public Library's Historic Reference Collection showing the building and its surroundings from empty plot in 1899 when the foundations were laid to the present day, which helped to illustrate the talk.

The building was known as Asbestos House during the tenancy of A.A. Mines, and now, renamed Douslin House, and occupied by Government Departments such as Conex and Devag, it is waiting to be transformed yet again into Bulawayo's Art Gallery when the collection can be moved from its temporary home in the old Market Buildings in Grey Street.



## Chairman's report

Our activities for this past year were at a rather disappointing level largely owing to the unsettled political situation and deteriorated security outside the urban areas.

Following the A.G.M. we had a talk by your Secretary, Mrs Vickery, on the pre-history and flora and fauna of the Hillside Dams area and the building of the dam; after which we went there for a picnic lunch. Afterwards we went by bus to the National Breweries.

On 1 June we went to eSikhoveni Community Development Branch at Essexvale for an interesting talk by the training officer Mr Wozola in the lecture hall, followed by a walk around the many buildings and well furnished and comfortable administrative and dormitory blocks. The work done at this centre was an eye-opener to us all, and ended with tea and biscuits supplied from the immaculately clean kitchen.

Lunch was taken at the Homestead, Essexvale, where our old friend Mrs Stella Coulson gave us a talk on the Geology and Archaeology of the district and more delightful anecdotes concerning the more recent inhabitants of the area. On 17 August, 105 members visited Turk Mine by bus and car for a talk by the present owner, Mr Jack Muir, on the history of mining in the area, with a background of typical mining noise by headgear and coco pans; we even handled a gold button valued at \$26 000.

Lunch was taken at Mr Ray Huckle's farm and Mrs Paddy Vickery gave us a talk on the Khumalo dynasty from Matshobana and his wives through to Lobengula, illustrated with copies of sketches, photographs and records which she had brought.

Mr Huckle told us some of the stories he had heard of the great battle that had taken place on the spot where we were then seated.

A delightful tea provided by Mrs Huckle and family ended a most enjoyable day.

What promised to be one of the most enterprising and unusual outings for this Branch was arranged for Sunday, 2 November, 1980. Members were to have travelled in a special train to Plumtree where a talk would be given by the Headmaster on the history of the school which was started for the children of Railway employees. A special box lunch, dining cars, refreshments etc., were all laid on, then, three days after the final confirmation came its cancellation owing to the shortage of engines. This was a sad blow! All the effort for nothing; and all the organisation was for nothing; and our Branch had to pay for what had already been completed by the printers of the Brochure. Had this come to fruition the charge would have been borne by the National Breweries.

On 23 November we went by bus to the scene of Laing's Battlefield in the Matopos for a talk by Dr O. N. Ransford. A delayed start, bus breakdown, and violent thunderstorm all played their part in the morning hours of the trip. After a rather damp lunch we drove to the Antelope Road where your Chairman gave a talk on Hendrik Potgieter, his raid into Matabeleland in 1847, and the Treaty of Friendship later signed between the Boer Republic and Mzilikazi in 1853.

Mrs Theodosiou has done a fine job in keeping the Branch solvent during the past year, and I should like to thank her and Mrs Barbara Vickery who audited the Books. My thanks too to the members of the Committee and all who have given talks and helped in any way during the year, especially our Secretary on whose shoulders most of the work inevitably falls.

Special thanks to Mr Parry and Mr Butcher who have served so well on the Committee but are no longer available for re-election; and I must not forget our absent

member, Mrs Fleming, who represents this Branch so ably on the National Executive Committee.

### **Annual sundowner party 1980**

The Matabeleland branch held its annual sundowner party at the Bulawayo Country Club on Friday, 22 February, 1980. Sixty-five members and guests attended. In the latter part of the evening two films supplied by the Department of Information were shown. They were *No Mean City*, made at the time of Bulawayo's 75th anniversary, and *Sterling Pioneers*, an entertaining account of the development of Rhodesian banking and currency.

The projectionist, Mr W. F. N. Parry, a committee member, caused great delight to the audience by appearing in one of the films as a young soldier on a prize-winning float in the 1933 40th anniversary procession.

### **Annual meeting and outing**

The annual meeting of the branch took place two days later, 24 February, at the Teachers College with an attendance of 61. After the meeting, the Branch Secretary, Mrs P. Vickery, gave a short talk on the Hillside Dams area, including the 1915 Bone Breccia investigations conducted by A. E. V. Zeally; the building of the first Dam; Bushman's Haunt and R. N. Hall's novel *Bulawayo Jack*; and finally the work of Mr G. F. Talent which led to the proclamation of the area first as a Bird Sanctuary, and subsequently as a Natural Monument. Members and friends then boarded the bus which took them to Lower Hillside Dam for a picnic lunch.

At 2.00 p.m. the party left for the National Breweries where they were met by Mr Laurie Green the Production Manager, and taken on a guided tour enlivened with most informative talks on each stage of the process. The day was sultry and thunder rumbled ominously which made the sample of the Brew with which the tour ended most welcome. There was intellectual refreshment too, in the shape of an interesting and entertaining talk by Mr Leo Hallett spanning 5 000 years of the Brewer's art, from ancient Egyptian tomb hieroglyphics to the Rhodesian Breweries in Bulawayo's Grey Street, conveniently near the gaol in the 1890's, and the Pirate's Bottle Store in Abercorn Street where Pioneers could find home-made hop beer kept cool beneath wet sacks under the counter.

### **Matopos outing**

Sunday, 22 July — In spite of the weather prophets who predicted a maximum temperature of 18° C — was a perfect winter's day, and well over a hundred Matabeleland Branch members and their friends gathered at Gordon Park in the Matopos after a comfortable bus ride from Bulawayo, during which two white rhino were spotted not far from Sandy Spruit. Four of these animals were moved from the Mpopoma Game Park into the Circular Drive area of the National Park last year, where they now regularly and obligingly add interest to the scene.

The party gathered under a marula tree on the Knapman training ground to listen to Mr Jack Carlisle give a talk about Robert Baden-Powell and the formation of the Boy Scout Movement in 1908, which proved to be extremely interesting. A conducted tour of the developments in Gordon Park which was established in 1936 was followed by a picnic lunch in ideal surroundings — no flies, no wind, sunshine and shade to be mixed to suit individual tastes, sable on view in the adjoining vlei, and Scouts abseiling unconcernedly on a nearby rock face.

Soon after two o'clock the two buses and a number of private cars continued on the Circular Drive and then turned off through the Arboretum and across the Maleme River to the site of the old Matopos Railway Station and the Terminus Hotel. Here Mr Gavain Hart delighted his audience with his descriptions of the homestead and the store and Hotel as they were in the years immediately prior to 1924 when he lived there as a boy, and his father Mr Reg. Hart was the proprietor. The scenes and characters which he conjured up were both vivid and memorable.

A walk across the the reconstructed railway lines and platform with some pictures to give an idea of its former dimensions and buildings, completed the day's activities, and after a welcome "cuppa" in the golden afternoon light the buses returned the party to Bulawayo — all wishing that they could have lived up to Rhodes' intention that the Matopos should be enjoyed from Saturday to Monday, and not just for this most pleasurable, but all-too-short Sunday excursion.

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# Notes

## UNIDENTIFIED CONTRIBUTORS TO NADA

Professor R. S. Roberts of the Department of History would be glad of any help or advice in identifying any of the following contributors to *NADA*, the annual publication of the Ministry of Internal Affairs which has now been discontinued:-

"A.D."	MUNYAI
AUDACE	MUROMBO
BUNDU	MUSHOMA
DYKE NEUK	NDAU
HOMBARUME	PULA
KABVUTA	SENEX
MAKUMETE	SEPTIMA
MAPUNZARIMA	DOMINUS
MTWAZI	

Would anyone who can help write direct to — Professor R. S. Roberts, History Department, University of Zimbabwe, P.O. Box MP 167, Mount Pleasant, Salisbury.

## AN HISTORICAL DICTIONARY

Dr R. Kent-Rasmussen, a U.S.A. contributor to *Rhodesiana*, has written an *Historical Dictionary of Rhodesia/Zimbabwe*.

It contains some 1 199 entries covering every era of the country's history from the Stone Age to the guerilla war that was raging in 1979, the time of publication.

The many potted biographies include past historical figures, current African leaders as well as some living European controversial personages. All the European political parties of the past and present are described as well as the numerous, some ephemeral, African parties. There are nearly three pages about sanctions.

There are many entries that verge on the non-historical but useful nevertheless. Such are — geography (rivers and mountains); health services; economy and mining; religion (missions and African religions); languages and place names; and the arts.

Natural history is covered thinly and haphazardly, and considering its importance, agriculture is dealt with cursorily and the history of the organisation of farming with its various statutory and other bodies is not mentioned at all. Also, considering its influence on history, the army, past and present, is not covered with any great detail and some of the well-known units taking part in the guerilla war are not mentioned at all.

But these are minor criticisms of a book that so amply fulfils its function. It is encyclopedic in form and its numerous cross-references make it a most valuable reference work. It opens with a chronology and an historical introduction and at the end is a comprehensive bibliography not only of books but of journals, articles and papers.

It is a work of great scholarship and vast research. Dr Rasmussen is the author of two books on Mzilikazi and the Ndebele and his article on the 324 ways of spelling Mzilikazi (*Rhodesiana* No. 33. September 1975) reached the *Guinness Book of Records*.

An *Historical Dictionary of Rhodesia/Zimbabwe* is published by the Scarecrow Press of Metuchin, N.J., U.S.A. at US\$20. and is No. 18 of a series of African Historical Dictionaries.

## A SHONA URBAN COURT

In *A Shona Urban Court* (Mambo Press. 70 pages. Stiff cover. \$2,25.), G. L. Chavunduka, of the Department of Sociology of the University, describes the operation of the Makoni Tribal Court that is held every Sunday in St. Mary's Township, Salisbury. From a study of cases held there the author can show how Shona customary law adapts to the conditions, values and norms of an urban area.

The court has been in existence since 1962. It has no criminal jurisdiction and most of the cases concern disputes within families, between husbands, in-laws, boy and girl friendships, adultery, divorce and prostitution.

Crowds of sometimes over a hundred people attend the hearings, which are held in the open. Members of the public often participate, asking questions, expressing opinions and citing their own experiences during the course of a case. The presiding Chief or Headman sometimes appeals to the public to suggest a conclusion to the case. Even the court clerks and messengers may join with members of the public in an argument over a case.

The main conclusions refer to marriage in African society today. The Makoni court records show that five different types are acknowledged today. The *mapoto* marriage (from the English word "pot") meaning "cooking together" is an unregistered marriage in which the woman agrees to sexual fidelity in exchange for social and economic support; a customary marriage which is not registered in terms of the African Marriage Act; and three types of registered marriage. These three are — a customary marriage registered under the Act; a civil or Christian marriage; and a customary marriage that is only registered after a length of time.

By acknowledging variants to traditional marital unions the Court is adapting to an urban situation that is more confused and fluid than in a small, tightly knit tribal grouping.

## NOTES ON NEW CONTRIBUTORS

F. W. BAMBER was born in Preston, England in 1924. He was educated at St. Ignatius' Boys School, Preston and at the Preston and Salford Polytechnics. He received his training with the Preston Corporation Electricity Department. After serving with the Royal Navy during the war he came to Zimbabwe to the Bulawayo Electricity Department in 1952. He is now the City Electrical Engineer.

MRS J. L. SHARLAND served for many years on the Bulawayo City Council and was a member of a number of other organisations in the city. She was Mayor in 1977-78. She and her husband now live in retirement in the Cape.

MRS S. B. STEVENSON is a former student of the University of Zimbabwe in the History Department who now lives in Scotland.

MRS HILDA ROSS, who has been a member of the Society for many years, is the widow of Mr J. B. (Bobby) Ross who had a distinguished career in the Civil Service. He was a magistrate, Deputy High Commissioner in London and, before his retirement, chairman of the Public Service Commission in the Federal Government. He was a prominent Rotarian, having been a District Governor, and a member of a number of charitable organisations, in all of which activities he was ably backed by Mrs Ross.

## ATTRACTIVE BOOK OFFER TO MEMBERS

Mr. L. W. Bolze sends the following note:-

In October 1978 Books of Rhodesia Publishing Co. (Pvt.) Ltd. (now Books of Zimbabwe Publishing Co. (Pvt.) Ltd.) extended the benefits of its Book Club membership to the Rhodesiana Society as a whole. The effect of this gesture is that all members of the Society now enjoy all the privileges of Books of Zimbabwe Book Club membership, the main advantage of which is that books may be purchased directly from the Club at retail price less 33½% discount — *for cash purchases*. There is no membership fee or any other cost. Books are mailed to any address post free.

When extending this offer, Books of Rhodesia requested those members of the Society who wished to take advantage of it to submit their names and addresses to them so that these could be recorded and the discount conceded when they placed orders.

Over 100 members have availed themselves of this facility.

Books of Zimbabwe have again drawn our attention to their offer and reminded us that it is still open to those that have not yet acted on their invitation.

All that is required is that you send in your name and address to Books of Zimbabwe, P.O. Box 1994, Bulawayo. They will then give you a membership number, send you their catalogue and price list, and keep you informed of new books through their regular Newsletter. You may then order as many books as you wish, when you wish, choosing from their list. Their only requirement is that cash accompanies order as they do not run accounts for Society members.

Books of Zimbabwe have over 100 published titles on their list and bring out new books virtually every month. This is worth remembering when doing Christmas gift buying.

## CENTENARY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

On 2 September, 1879, a party of Jesuit Priests arrived in Bulawayo, thus marking the founding of the Catholic Church in Zimbabwe.

The Centenary was widely celebrated throughout the country with many special church ceremonies and services and with historical exhibitions.

Two books published during the year 1979 have a special reference to the centenary year. Elsewhere in this issue, in the Reviews Section, a reprint by Books of Zimbabwe, Bulawayo of the book *Journey to Gubuluwayo*, is reviewed. It contains the letters written by the missionaries who founded the Zambesi Mission.

Mambo Press, Gwelo, produced a full scale history of the Catholic Church in the country — *The Catholic Church and Zimbabwe 1879-1979* by A. J. Dachs and W. F. Rea, S.J.

The book has two objectives. Firstly to provide a record of Catholic missionary endeavour in Zimbabwe and, secondly, to analyse the changing methods and emphasis of missionary enterprise.

It was an immense task because the Catholic church, with its greater financial facilities, has large institutions and operations in more diversified fields than any other of the Christian churches.

Although 1879 marked the beginning of the establishment of the Catholic church in

Zimbabwe there had been forays into the country starting nearly 400 years before then. The story of the murder of Goncalo da Silveira in 1591 at the court of the Mwene Mutapa is well known. Later, some time after 1607, Dominican Friars based at Sena and Tete in the lower Zambezi valley spread some Christian influence in the north-east of what is now Zimbabwe. But in 1693 the Portuguese and the missionaries were driven from the Zimbabwe plateau and, although some missions continued along the lower Zambezi, Catholic missionaries did not enter the country again until 1879.

The authors tell the story of these early efforts and then deal in great detail with all aspects of mission work in the country since the establishment of the church here. They tell how the "mission farm" formed the core of the work at Chishawasha, Empandeni, Marianhill and elsewhere. On a solid base of agriculture and workshops, schools and clinics soon developed naturally.

The book goes on to deal with higher education and the establishment of hospitals. It describes the expansion into modern towns, it discusses race relations, new pastoral techniques, the relationship of church and state (an abrasive subject over recent years) and with the growth of the local church.

The authors state that this is not an official history of the Catholic Church in Zimbabwe and that it has not been submitted to any church authority for comment or approval. But both authors are of such academic distinction that the book can be regarded as an authentic and valuable piece of Rhodesiana.

It is a work of great scholarship, very well documented and with plenty of interesting historical photographs.

*The Catholic Church in Zimbabwe 1879-1979* is Vol. VIII in the Zambezian Series. In stiff cover. 260 pages.

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# Correspondence

JOHN HOPLEY

Dear Sir,

I was very interested indeed on the paragraph entitled "His wife and sons" in the article on Judge W. M. Hopley by Michael J. Kimberley, published in *Rhodesiana* No. 40 (1979). I knew John Hopley during the late 1920's when he was farming in the Wedza district. It was always said that he wished to fight Jack Johnson, the then world heavyweight champion but because of his father's antagonism he did not do so. However, that is beside the point, some three or four years ago Glendenning the B.B.C. commentator on boxing was asked on a programme who he considered the greatest heavyweight that had ever lived. He replied "I am going to surprise you all for I believe that the late John Hopley who never fought as a professional would have easily beaten anyone past or present".

Yours faithfully,

C. K. COOKE.

Sir,

Following on Brian Randles' article on H. H. A. de Laessoe in *Rhodesiana* No. 25, December 1971, my memory was stimulated while reading *A Life of Contrasts* by Lady Diana Mosley.

De Laessoe and his wife actually shared the preventive detention block in Holloway Prison with the Mosleys and Lady Diana speaks highly of both of them. "He was altogether an admirable person who in the first war had won the M.C. and D.S.O. Brave, intelligent and very kind, he was the salt of the earth. They put him in prison because he was a prominent member of B.U. (British Union of Fascists) and, like us, was against going to war unless to defend Britain or the Empire."

De Laessoe grew vegetables to augment wartime prison rations and, to quote Lady Diana again, his garden was "like the photographs in a seedsman's catalogue".

The Mosleys and the De Laessoes were released on the same day in November 1943. "Penniless and with nowhere to go or possibility of getting a job (they were in their sixties) they must have been desperately worried. However, a kind former 18B (Regulation 18B which allows Britain to hold prisoners indefinitely without trial), Iris Ryder, took them in."

Incidentally, Sir Oswald Mosley is described by his wife as very different from the rabble-rouser described by the press when I was a student at Edinburgh University. Perhaps the British would have been better disciplined than they are today had he prevailed.

Yours etc.

G. L. GUY,  
Bedfordview, South Africa.



Sir,

I am keen to research the life of my grandfather, Dr James Brown, who came from Scotland with a first in surgery to West Nicholson and died there of appendicitis in 1911 after seven years of practice. He was the "anonymous resident doctor" on page 1 of your September 1974 issue and I feel he has been rather neglected by historians.

I did interview the late Mr Bert Rogers who was a friend of his but it occurs to me that there may well be others who knew him or have been told by their parents about him.

A distinctive feature about his descendants is that none of us had or has less than two university degrees and so we have always been and are equipped to compete in the non-racial Zimbabwe.

I am etc.

DAVID T. T. FROST.  
P.O. Box 2286, Bulawayo.

## WANTED

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# Reviews

(*The Korsten Basketmakers* by Clive M. Dillon-Malone, S.J., Manchester University Press for the Institute for African Studies, University of Zambia, 1978. 169 pages, maps, illustrations. Price £7.50. Foreword by H. W. Turner.)

This work, dealing with an African religious movement, is based on a doctoral thesis presented to Fordham University, New York in February 1976.

Conspicuous in the public eye (in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya and Botswana) because of their production of tinware and basketry, their women equally conspicuous in their white dresses and head-cloth, the Korsten Basketmakers indeed warranted a close study because there is more to them than meets the eye. Clive M. Dillon-Malone undertook such a study with a thoroughness that leaves nothing to the imagination.

Johane Masowe's Apostles, Apostolic Sabbath Church of God, the African Gospel Church and the Gospel of God Church are all names of the Korsten Basketmakers movement. The assortment of names not only shows the essentially religious nature of the movement, but indicates that for survival from persecution it concealed itself behind a camouflage of names. This is part of the history of the group.

The Korsten Basketmakers movement derives its life and inspiration from its messianic and elusive figure, Johane Masowe who hid himself not only from the government authorities but from his own followers behind the names Jack Sithole or J. S. and Titus Muchuchu or T. M. and Peter Masedza or Shoniwa. Dillon-Malone's success in seeing through the camouflage of the leader's names and that of the movement is a commendable feat in itself. Johane Masowe was born in Makoni district near Rusape. His year of birth is however, shrouded in mystery. He went to work in Salisbury in 1920 before moving on to Norton where he either died and resurrected or saw a vision calling him to prepare the way of Jehovah. He was now in fact John the Baptist sent by God to the sons of Ham (Africans).

Clashes with the temporal arm over his doctrine and practices which the latter saw as nascent nationalism resulted in Masowe being restricted to his home area. Unable to bear official pressure he left for the Korsten district, Port Elizabeth, from which the movement derived its name. Here however, similar pressures were applied ultimately resulting in the deportation of the basketmakers back to Southern Rhodesia. The constant pressures applied on Basketmakers by the temporal arm served to confirm to them that in fact they were "the children of Israel". It also forced them into self-reliance and development of manual skills for which they are known. Finally the bulk of them settled in Zambia in 1964 while a big portion settled in Rhodesia. In very suspicious and indeed controversial circumstances Johane Masowe died on 13 September 1973 in Zambia.

In the blending of oral evidence, other primary and secondary sources, lies the strength of this book. Malone, aware of the limitations of all these sources of information extracted the positive aspects of the same to produce a commendable work particularly for the serious student. Although a Jesuit, Malone does not allow himself to fall into the trap of "white established churches [which are] often only too ready to dub as false or heretical any religious movement which might succeed in drawing away from their folds their hard-

earned African Christian".<sup>1</sup> The book clearly shows where and how this religious movement drew its strength in the "unique blending of traditional and biblical thought patterns" and in this, the charismatic figure of Johane Masowe is central.

The analogies between organisation of the church and the Shona traditional system though somewhat far stretched makes interesting reading. The author also amply shows the binding factor, Johane Masowe, is also its Achilles heel. With the death of Masowe that bond is gone. This explains the current crisis in the church.<sup>2</sup>

The author himself acknowledges the limitations (albeit major ones) imposed on him by the current crisis in the church thus forcing him to concentrate on the loyalists in the movement. More research among "rebels" in Zimbabwe would have gone a long way to rectify this. Based on an academic study it is understandable that the style and language is rather "heavy", commendable to a serious reader.

#### REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup>C. M. Dillon-Malone. *The Korsten Basketmakers*. p. 25.

<sup>2</sup>'Church dispute resolved'. *The Herald*, 20 September 1979, p. 3.

D. K. MUNJERI.

*A Town Called Victoria* by Katherine Sayce (Books of Rhodesia. p. 127)

This book covers the history of Fort Victoria from its founding in 1890 to 1915, when the author claims the town "died".

After telling the fascinating story of the town's beginnings and the first 25 years of pioneering, Katherine Sayce pulls down the curtains. Her justification for doing so is because the "Old Victoria" died during the First World War. She blames the railway and the motor car, which brought more travellers with the ensuing need for accommodation and the old "Thatched House" had to make way for a new Meikles Hotel. That was the last nail in the coffin of old Victoria, or was it? Perhaps it is a pity the story had to stop there, because much needs to be told how the town survived the post war depression years — notwithstanding the coming of the motor car and the railways.

Katherine Sayce has done a good job researching her subject, and her easy style provides the reader with a lively narrative capturing the country's early pioneering history.

She touches on such important historic visits as that of Mr and Mrs Theodore Bent, the well-known archaeologists; Lord Randolph Churchill; and Mother Patrick.

Much of the story centres around the "Thatched House" the local pub, and the miners who sought their fortunes on the claims in the district. Local dignitaries and other well-known pioneers and how they fitted into the fabric of the society of their day are brought to life and the reader is able to identify with their problems, sorrows and joys.

Numerous illustrations and a number of sketch maps and diagrams amplify the text. The book would be a good acquisition to any Rhodesiana library.

R. CHERER SMITH.

*Growing up in Shona Society* by Michael Gelfand (Mambo Press, semi-stiff covers, 228 pages, illustrations and an index, price \$6,14).

This book is by the well-known authority on Shona customs, Dr Gelfand. As its name implies it deals with childhood years in Shona society from birth to puberty and covers both the traditional upbringing as still widely practised in the Tribal Trust Lands and also

as modified by urban life. In the opening chapters there are case-histories of their upbringing narrated by teenagers from well-known schools in and around Salisbury such as Avila, Mufakose, Chishawasha, Highfields and St Ignatius. This is followed by stories told to children round the fireside, followed by what the author calls the three Rs of the Shona, Riddles, Avoidance Rules and Proverbs, and, finally, children's games and songs. One unusual feature is that all the latter are given in both the vernacular and in English.

Dr Gelfand is a good straightforward amateur anthropologist, albeit a little repetitive and a little romantic. His canvas depicts an almost idyllic society which of course is not the whole truth, for there is a darker side to the picture which the author either only sketches in lightly or glosses over entirely: as for instance the numerous taboos associated with the passages of life, the belief in "witchcraft" — the ability to cause death or other misfortune by non-natural means — and the treatment of twins and of children whose upper teeth erupt before their lower ones. Such beliefs cannot stand up to the scrutiny of modern scientific knowledge but nonetheless are still widely held.

On one subject there can be little dispute and that is that, in their traditional setting, Shona children are well brought-up children; they emerge from childhood well mannered, well disciplined, compassionate with their inferiors and with few psychological stresses and strains. The unwanted child is virtually unknown in traditional Shona society and broken homes are a rarity.

One interesting feature brought out by the author is the role that grandparents play in the upbringing of a child. Until he is weaned he lives in the closest proximity to his parents, sleeping with them at night and strapped to his mother's back during the daytime:

"Fretted by sallies of his mother's kisses,  
With light upon him from his father's eyes."

But all that changes soon after he is weaned for he is packed off to live with his grandparents and there he stays, at a most impressionable age, for three or four years. It is his first step into the outside world, the first move to loosen the bond between parents and child.

It is sad to think that with increased urbanization the upbringing of the African child will one day approximate to that of his European counterpart, with all its concomitant ills, such as unwanted children, battered babies, alcoholism, drugs, homosexuality, the whole sorry gamut of Western "culture". The Shona parent of tomorrow will, with the aid of this book, be able to look back on a golden age rendered even more attractive by the gentle bias shown by a benevolent admirer.

C. J. W. FLEMING.

*Call-Of-The-Marsh* by Jill Wylie (Published by Books of Rhodesia. Price \$11,50 in hardback, \$4,50 in paperback.)

This is surely a classic tale of life in the fringes of the Zimbabwean bush. The author, Jill Wylie, much travelled and with a diploma in mixed agriculture to her credit, has shared an experience with us that could not be bettered. Using exceptionally vivid imagery and showing a rare sense of humour, she tells her story with seemingly effortless simplicity.

While still a child her imagination had been focussed on owning a Basenji. She even had a name: Call-of-the-Marsh, evoking the sprawling marshes of the Nile, rich in game, the traditional home of the breed found mummified in archaic Egyptian tombs. From ancestral Byblos, to Bulawayo in the fifties — she acquired her Call, a few months before she had her son. Reality must have been sobering, even to the author!

Fiercely independent, almost cat-like — even to the extent that he washed himself and purred when pleased, with an unparalleled nose and an inbred herding instinct, Call was a revelation. Reading between the lines, one realises just how many months were spent in training so that, by a variety of softly whistled calls and hand signals, over 20 commands could be conveyed. Whisper, a bitch, was later given to the Wylies. It was when she was caught in a snare that Call was taught to indicate their presence. This knowledge was passed on to other dogs over the years, and the team, headed by Call, rescued many animals — mostly dogs — and discovered hundreds of snares. The story of their time together is compelling reading.

Snippets of family life, descriptions of the countryside and a series of homes, neighbours and “happenings” form the background to the engrossing study of the dogs, cats and the wild orphans. The habits and mannerisms of animals are carefully detailed with no sentimentality, but with a very real empathy that few are gifted with. The illustrations by Sue Ross are a sensitive complement to the text.

Books of Rhodesia has to be congratulated on their choice.

ROSEMARY KIMBERLEY.

*Down memory lane with SOME EARLY RHODESIAN WOMEN*, compiled by Madeline Heald. (Published by Books of Rhodesia. Price: Hardback \$8,20; Paperback \$4,00.)

This is a tribute to the women who followed their husbands into the unknown. Their indomitable spirit speaks to us still from the faded photographs, where they dimple and smile in their tight-waisted creations, always trim against the back-drops of bush and pole-and-dagga huts, or carefully posed on the shady veranda. Their world is unimaginable to most of us, who know only the blessings of instant communication, modern comforts and the luxury of fast roads.

They were pitchforked into an alien world, often of implacable loneliness; horizons blurred with heat or lost behind solid curtains of rain, of wild animals and a host of swiftly killing diseases. Most knew the bitterness of the question, “What do you know of sorrow, you who have not lost a child?” They fought with courage and humour to make homes for their husbands and to raise the family left to them. Armed with the bare necessities, they improvised and contrived as all pioneers must, and, on social occasions, shook the worst creases out of their best dresses and set forth with zest.

Mrs Heald’s collection of biographies is a brief testament to some of the women who made their home in the Rhodesia of 1897-1923. Her material was contributed by families, or by research into well-known personalities, and covers a wide spectrum of the experiences of early women from all fields of life. Although there is no index, the chapters are in alphabetical order, and the 70 photographs accompanying the 60 biographies are sure to interest even the casual saunterer down memory lane.

ROSEMARY KIMBERLEY.

*The Peopling of Southern Africa* by R. R. Inskip (Cape Town: David Philip. 160 pp.)

This book deals mainly with Africa south of the Limpopo but does not make sufficient mention of sites and industries in Zimbabwe. The text describes the sequence of man’s evolution in Africa, and his arrival in the southern part of the continent from the earliest known human times up to the Later Iron Age. A period which merges in with the industries of the modern indigenous populations.

The volume is divided into six discreet chapters each giving descriptions which are easily understood by the layman, but which are sufficiently detailed to be of use to the first-year student and the interested amateur archaeologist.

The first chapter deals with the landscape, its resources, its past fluctuations owing to changes in climatic conditions, geological features and also the landscape as it affects man himself.

The second chapter titled the "Earliest South Africans" deals with the evolution of man from the earliest hominid to *Homo sapiens* and life in the Lower Pleistocene. The use and manufacture of stone tools as long ago as 1,8 million years is one of the important factors postulated. The author goes on to discuss at length the development of stone tools and their technological evolution. This is a most valuable chapter for those interested in the Stone Age period and its continuous development. Readers, especially students, will find the problems of transition clarified and easily understood by the detailed excavation sections from a number of key sites. Other diagrams are the basis for the author's discussion of man's behavioural and living patterns.

The interpretation of archaeological material in new and more dynamic terms is a major theme of this book. The systematic and multi-disciplinary approach used would have been considered beyond the competence of archaeologists a few years ago, but one which is becoming more and more accepted by lecturers and students.

The brevity of the book makes it impossible for the author to discuss many crucial issues at length but nevertheless these are mentioned in sufficient detail for the amateur and provocative enough to make the student search for further information.

I found his chapters on the spread of languages interesting but somewhat confusing. The summary nature of the book may well account for my lack of understanding. However, the author himself is not fully convinced of the correctness of all his assumptions under this heading and describes some issues as "subject to revision".

The omission of references from the text with no feed-back to the suggested "Further Reading" detracts from the book's value to the student but makes for easy reading for the non-specialist.

The author in his 150 pages has covered a couple of million years and is to be congratulated that in such a slim volume he has been able in a clear and concise manner to present the present stage of archaeology in South Africa. It is felt, however, that the title is somewhat misleading because all the main chapters discuss little that occurs north of the Limpopo River.

This clearly written and handsomely produced volume fills a long-felt want for a summary of Southern African archaeology. This book written by someone who has spent a lifetime not only in the study of African archaeology but also in teaching, fills this need for the amateur if not entirely for the first-year student.

The author, editors and publishers are to be congratulated on the publication of this valuable piece of work which certainly sets a very high standard for those volumes which are to continue the series.

C. K. COOKE.

*The Farmers Co-op.* by R. Cherer Smith (Published by the Farmers Co-op.).

R. Cherer Smith, Chairman of the Society's National Committee, has written another book — *The Maize Story and the Farmers Co-op.*

The two subjects are naturally linked because the Farmers Co-op was formed in order to handle the maize crop of its members. The Co-op was founded in 1908 and made its first

export crop in 1909 of 10 000 bags of maize to the United Kingdom. Today, although the handling of maize is no longer in the hands of the producers, the Maize Control Board, which was formed in 1934 as the controlling and exporting body, still makes payments to members through the Farmers Co-op.

The Co-op also pioneered the marketing of other farming commodities, as well as maize, such as pigs, potatoes and cream, which are now handled by separate organisations.

The author traces the history of the Co-op, the ramifications of its many departments, the formation of branches, its financial structure and its holdings in other companies. By the 1920s it was the largest company of its kind in southern Africa and today it is one of the largest concerns in Zimbabwe with an annual turn-over of \$30 million.

Zimbabwe has been fortunate in having a large number of persons who were good businessmen as well as good farmers and Robert Smith gives biographies and character sketches of many of these well known men, describing their influence on farming generally in the country as well as their achievements in developing the Co-op.

As regards maize, the first European farmers obtained their seed from Africans, later, of course, keeping their own seed. It was not until 1932 that the breeding of improved seed began at the Salisbury Research Station and by 1949 22% of the maize crop was planted to a locally produced hybrid seed. Ten years later 88% of the acreage was planted to single hybrid seeds.

This is not a book for the casual, general reader. It is basically a detailed company history with some interesting sidelights. The individual farmers portrayed deserve a place in Zimbabwean history as the pioneers and builders of the country's most vital industry. And the book contains many odd snippets of agricultural history. For instance, 1903 was a germane year in which the Agricultural Department was placed for the first time in the hands of a specialist; the first experimental farms were established at Salisbury and Gwebi; and the Rhodesian Agricultural Journal began publication.

The book is a fine, specialised piece of Zimbabweana.

It is published by the Farmers Co-op in limp cover at \$3,00. There is also a limited, hard back edition signed by the author at \$10,00.

*Reaching the Peasant Farmer: Organizational Theory and Practice in Kenya* by David K. Leonard (University of Chicago Press. 1977. 297 pages. Maps and tables. Price \$13,30).

This is a book for specialists in African development problems rather than the general reader but for anyone concerned with the planning or promotion of agricultural progress who seeks some enlightenment on why food production in most of Africa is dropping with alarming consequences this is a book not to be missed.

Amid all the literature on the subject that has emerged since the naive 1960s when failure became characteristic of so much worldwide enthusiasm to raise peasant production Professor Leonard strikes out into a refreshingly new approach. Instead of inquiring into resistance to agricultural services he reverses the social microscope and looks at extension itself, asking systematic questions of Kenya's service which are based on management and organizational theory derived from American business studies to see how valid are the principles and propositions of structure, organization, efficiency, conflict of purpose and motivation at grass roots level where "demonstrator" meets up with food grower.

Administrators and agriculturists have long been aware of the difficulties of inspiring or compelling effective action at the bottom level of staff so this academic study is intriguing for the way in which it seeks out objective methods of assembling and measuring this shadowy field. Read it if you would like an answer to questions such as, "Why should

output of extension agents with secondary schooling be inferior to that of those with only primary schooling?”, or “Should extension agents focus on the few responsive farmers and leave out the unprogressives?”

Kenya seems to have been somewhat backward when reference is made to an experiment in 1974 with an organised group of farmers, which prompts the author to urge that group extension methods would be more effective than visits to individual farmers, and would provide the institutional framework currently lacking for farmers. He outlines tiers of functions upwards from a network of agricultural village committees. Rhodesia passed through this stage of thinking in the 1950s and reached the further stage of asking — which this book does not — what happens if not only Agriculture but every Ministry with an extension service (Health, Veterinary, Mass Education, Literacy, Home Economics) installs its own network of organizations and superstructures of tiers? An organizational professor gave the answer to Rhodesia in 1961 when he pointed out that agricultural expertise was not versed in all the sciences, particularly the social and that a vital point in organization is the proper role of Agriculture (and other Ministries) in relation to a Ministry of Local Government, with its functions of community organization and social techniques for breaking down communal resistance to change.

We need more understanding of a most intractable problem. This is a notable contribution towards an unexplored corridor in the maze of communication between technology and the peasant.

ROGER HOWMAN.

*In Limbo — The Story of Stanley's Rear Column* by Tony Gould (Hamish Hamilton, 1979, 269 pages, illus., map. Price \$8,95).

After the Mahdi overran most of the Sudan in 1884, one of Gordon's lieutenants, the so-called Emin Pasha, managed to retain control of the country's Equatoria province. For the next four years Emin was cut off from the world; then suddenly news reached Europe that he was, after all, alive.

England had lamentably failed to rescue Gordon from Khartoum; some amends could now be made by saving Emin Pasha, and a large relief expedition was hastily organised. It consisted of eight Europeans, 620 Zanzibari porters, 60 Sudanese soldiers and 12 Somalis. The expedition duly assembled at the mouth of the Congo during the February of 1887 and proceeded up river. Its commander was Henry Morton Stanley. Of his company only two hundred men were to return alive.

Stanley's plan was to move as far as possible up the Congo in a small fleet of steamers, and then march his column through the Ituri forest to Lake Albert where he expected to make contact with Emin. Unfortunately progress up river was slow, malaria struck the column and it only reached Yambuya, two thirds of the way to Lake Albert, by June. Impulsively Stanley decided to press on with the fittest men, and leave the sick carriers to recuperate at Yambuya. He would be back, he said, to bring the rear column on within four months. In fact, 14 months went by before he did return to Yambuya.

He found the camp then in a deplorable state. Of its Europeans only one remained to greet him. Of the 270 non-whites, a mere 60 remained alive.

The nightmare sojourn of Stanley's rear column at Yamburi provides the theme for Tony Gould's book. It tells of the constant quarrelling between the white men, of the bizarre events in the camp, and of the formidable difficulties which faced their commander, Major Edmund Barttelot. Barttelot, a regular officer, was an unstable martinet who ended up by being shot by a local chief. His only friend at Yambuya was the good natured James



Jameson who was to die on the river. Three of the other white men in the rear column were either sacked or invalided to the coast. Only the psychotic opium addict Sergeant Bonny, and the other men's journals, were left to recount the story of events in the death camp. Relations between the whites and blacks had been bad, and those between the whites even worse. Most of the Zanzibari and Sudanese died of fever before Stanley's reappearance, but several had been flogged to death and others executed by a firing squad.

Stanley naturally strained every nerve to blame the disaster on Barttelot, and Victorian Britain happily took sides in the newspaper dispute which followed.

But what turned out to be the most shocking event to the public was appalling evidence of Jameson's inhumanity, which was leaked to the press. It appeared that he had paid some tribesmen to organise a cannibal feast which he might witness. They duly tied a twelve-year-old girl to a tree, stabbed her to death, carved up the body, washed the portions in the river, and then sat round eating them. Jameson avidly sketched these horrific scenes and described them vividly in writing.

The story of the Emin Pasha Relief Expedition will always arouse great interest. Mr. Gould is to be congratulated on having given us a full account of the fate of its rear column, an episode which is referred to only cursorily in other records of the expedition.

O. N. RANSFORD.

*African Sculpture* by Ladislav Segy. (Dover Publications, New York. Stiff cover. 163 black & white illustrations. Price US\$3,00.)

African art, points out the author, especially that of West and Central Africa, is now recognised as one of the great artistic heritages of the world. African masks, wooden statues, ivories and bronzes had been filtering back to European museums since the mid-19th century as a result of explorations, trading and wars of conquest. But it was not until about seventy years ago, with the advent of Cubism and Abstract Art in Europe, leading to a new aesthetic approach to works of art, that African art was recognised as being in the line of a great art tradition that had been flourishing for centuries in the dark continent.

The author emphasises that traditional African carvings are not regarded as works of art by Africans but rather as "useful objects". They become the dwelling places of a wide variety of spirits — of ancestors or of natural powers — and they are the necessary symbolic accoutrements at religious and ritual ceremonies and at "rites de passage" — puberty, marriage and death.

Most wooden carving is cylindrical in form because it is carved from the branch or trunk of a tree. It is three-dimensional, the back being equally as important as the front and the left and right hand sides are symmetrical with the arms usually joined to the body.

No attempt is made to portray facial expressions in the sculptures. Spirits are different from human beings so the faces are rigid and cold in outline and the features are not particularly African. They are often purely abstract, the face being made up of lines and circles.

There is only one illustration from this part of the world. It is the last one in the book and is of a Makalanga head rest with symmetrical abstract designs which is in the Segy Gallery, New York.

The author is an acknowledged authority on African sculpture. He writes in five languages and his books are widely known.

W. V. BRELSFORD.

*African Designs from Traditional Sources* by Geoffrey Williams (Dover Publications, New York. Stiff cover. Map. 378 black and white linocuts.)

This book brings together a varied selection of African designs which could find many uses, in advertising, patterns for textiles or wall paper, and designs for dust wrappers of books.

The designs are those found on wooden or stone figures, in rock art and numerous African artefacts such as masks, shields, stools and combs. The objects are mainly of a carved art form so they are represented, not by photographs, but by linocuts executed so as to emphasise the designs.

The book is divided into sections such as — Simple Geometric motifs; Repetitive Designs; Animals and Mythical Figures; Human Beings; Masks; Abstract Designs and so on. Since the main aim is to display the design, editorial matter is minimal. Apart from a one-page preface and a lengthy blurb on the back cover there is no text. Each linocut has a caption stating what the object is and where it comes from. There is no written description or theorising.

The whole of black Africa is covered. Zimbabwe is represented by two Mashonaland rock paintings of mythical creatures, two Shona and one Karanga wooden headrests and two soapstone carvings of animals that were found at Zimbabwe.

W. V. BRELSFORD.

*Tales from the Dark Continent.* Ed. by Charles Allen. (Andre Deutsch and the B.B.C. 1979. 166 pages. Illustrated. Price £6.95.)

These tales are based on recordings made by the B.B.C. of the oral reminiscences of about fifty men and women who lived and worked in British African colonies in the days before independence. Most of the people are now in their 70s and 80s and comprise not only government officials and their wives but policemen, soldiers, traders, missionaries and others.

The stories are widely varied, some dealing with the hardships of life in undeveloped countries, especially for women, in lonely, tropical places often having to face physical dangers from rioting Africans or wild beasts. Others dwell on the more pleasant aspects — the joys of safari, the free life compared to the regimented city life. The book tells of a lost world of sundowners, clubs, and safaris but also of mosquito boots and blackwater. It also deals quite frankly with such subjects as “the sleeping dictionary”.

The order is roughly chronological and many of the post-war stories concern the struggles for independence on the part of the Africans and some serious critical comment is mingled with the lighter stories. The failure to build up an indigenous executive cadre was the greatest error of British colonial rule, says one ex-Governor, and the process of handing over independence was, in most cases, too slow at the start and too fast at the end.

Most of the tales come from West Africa, East Africa and the Sudan. There are a few from Zambia but only two speakers from Zimbabwe. These are Harry St Leger Grenfell, a well-known Director of the B.S.A. Company who was in Southern and Northern Rhodesia between 1938 and 1956 and W. F. Stubbs who was in the B.S.A. Police from 1921 to 1924 before transferring to the administration in Northern Rhodesia where he eventually became Secretary for Native Affairs 1954-7.

The colonial civil servant is now an extinct species, “the conservationists did not reach us in time”, comments one of them. But in spite of its generally light-hearted tone the book as a whole does reveal that British colonial rule was honest and benign. It not only did

not inflict oppression or cruelty upon the Africans but indeed often saved them from oppression and cruelty. While the British ruled Uganda there were no Amins.

The book is well and interestingly illustrated with contemporary drawings and photographs.

W. V. BRELSFORD.

*Farewell the Trumpets: An Imperial Retreat* by James Morris. (Faber & Faber. 1978. 576 pages. Illustrations. Maps. Price £9.50.)

This is the final volume of a trilogy relating the rise and decline of Queen Victoria's Empire. Each volume is complete in itself, this one covering the period from the Diamond Jubilee in 1897 to the death of Sir Winston Churchill in 1965.

This is not a dull chronological history text-book but a series of vivid, impressionistic surveys of significant events, wars, disasters, feats of exploration and adventure, pen pictures of remote, far-flung outposts of Empire and of lively character sketches of the more unusual people who contributed in some singular fashion to the building of the Empire.

The author says that the Boer War, when a nation of horsemen, hunters and pastoralists "cracked the British mirror", marked the beginning of the end of the British Empire. Never again did the British go to war with "the old Imperial eclat".

During the 1914-1918 war the Empire certainly attained a unity in conflict it never had before but Gallipoli was "the greatest reverse to British arms since the American Revolution". The vast slaughter in that war shattered the illusion of an invincible military empire and killed the spirit of aggressive adventure that is so necessary in building and preserving an empire.

Between 1918 and 1939 the grand idea and purpose of Empire was faltering. British naval supremacy was eroded, there was an economic decline and a loss of political influence as the old Dominions gained full independence.

The last war, says Morris, was "a swan song of some splendour". At the end, in 1945, Britain controlled more territory than she had ever before but victory was really a defeat in disguise. Britain was exhausted and the Pax Americana took over from the Pax Britannica. The end of the Raj in India in 1947 made the end of the Empire certain and when Britain abandoned Palestine in 1948 it was a declaration that never again would she fight to a finish to retain a colony.

Suez in 1956, "sad, misguided and untypical" left the British "numbed". It was the last retreat.

But the world had been changed by the drive of the rising Empire. It had acted, says Morris, as "a gigantic prod or catalyst, stirring dormant energies across the continents". The British, a chosen people, predestined to spread the faith of parliamentary democracy and the benefits of the new industrial society in vast areas of the world have left many monuments of that society that are indestructable.

Morris writes brilliantly and fluently and his anecdotal and episodic pattern, with selectivity of the more colourful events and characters, make the book compulsive and fascinating reading.

W. V. BRELSFORD.

*Some Recollections of a Rhodesian Speaker* by the Hon. A. R. W. Stumbles, G.L.M., I.C.D. Volume 3 of the *Men of our Time* series published by Books of Rhodesia (Pvt.) Ltd., Bulawayo.

Between this book and *The Reluctant President*, one is given a comprehensive survey of the political scene in the old Rhodesia for the 40 years up to 1978. And what years they were — the campaign for self-government in 1922, the fight for Federation in the early 1950s, and then the break-up 10 years later. Unfortunately, death intervened to deny both of them knowledge of the greatest political development of all — the advent of majority rule.

Born in the Eastern Province in 1904, Rubidge Stumbles came to Rhodesia as a child and spent his boyhood in Bulawayo in the days of picnics at the Matopos Dam and of the Model T Ford. He tells some interesting stories of motoring in those early days. Almost as interesting as his stories of the legal profession when, as probably the youngest attorney of his time, he became involved in legal cases.

He became immersed in party politics when he joined the old Liberal Party after the Second World War, and his account of the events that led up to Federation is all the more valuable because he was opposed to it. In 1954 he became Deputy Speaker of the Southern Rhodesian Parliament and 10 years later he resigned his seat in Parliament to become Speaker, a post he held with great distinction for the next eight years.

In this capacity he made the historic decision immediately after UDI to disobey the edict of Mr Harold Wilson that the Rhodesian Parliament was illegal because Britain, 6 000 miles away, no longer had power. He decided to treat the Order-in-Council as though it had never been made, and so Rhodesia continued to be governed by a responsible body. His decision saved Rhodesia from chaos.

Apart from politics, Mr Stumbles's main interests were the preservation of wild life and athletics. He took a keen interest in Operation Noah and vividly describes the Government achievement at Kariba when so many animals were saved from the rising waters of the Zambesi.

When he retired as Speaker at the end of 1972, Mr Stumbles became President of the Rhodesian Amateur Athletic Union. This involved him in battles with international bodies controlling sport, particularly the International Athletics Federation in regard to Rhodesia's participation in the Olympics at Montreal in 1976. He reveals the dominance of politics over sport.

*Recollections of a Speaker* has something for pretty well everybody. It is beautifully bound and produced and well illustrated, a worthy addition to the *Rhodesiana* bookshelf.

W. D. GALE.

*The Reluctant President*, Memoirs of the Hon. Clifford Dupont, G.C.L.M., I.D. Volume 2 of *Men of our Time* series published by Books of Rhodesia (Pvt.) Ltd., Bulawayo.

This is more than the memories of a reluctant president. This is also a warm-hearted biography of a most attractive character, and a nostalgic picture of the Rhodesia that used to be. Especially of life in a predominantly Afrikaans-speaking farming district in which he overcame the language problem as well as meeting the challenge of life in a remote area.

Then there was his introduction to Rhodesian politics and his joining the old Dominion Party, which was later absorbed into the Rhodesian Front. His account of the country's politics before U.D.I. is vivid and impressive and recalls some of the events of

those far-off days, when travel was not easy and voters were often separated by long distances. He was adopted as the candidate for the Charter seat in the Federal election of 1958, and won it.

His book reaches its height in his account of the events leading up to U.D.I. and his experiences as Officer Administering the Government. All is described with delightful humour and a light touch which makes reading it a real pleasure. And all the facts are there, also, so that it is also a useful reference book on a highly significant period of Rhodesian history.

Mr Dupont suffered great personal tragedy, especially when his children by his first wife were killed in the air crash at Benghazi in 1958. He merely mentions the incident and does not impose his grief on the reader. He also suffered great pain and in the latter part of the book are frequent references to visits to hospital for operations.

Mr Dupont wrote the narrative up to November, 1965, but could not manage the last 10 years during which he had been President of the Republic. The account of his last 10 years, therefore, was undertaken by Salisbury journalist Mr M. W. Bassett, who has done an outstanding job. He brings the story to an end by quoting in full President Dupont's Christmas message to the nation, which marked his retirement from office in 1975. Through his words shines the indomitable spirit of Clifford Dupont.

Books of Rhodesia are to be congratulated on the high standard of this production. The type is clear and the illustrations outstanding.

W. D. GALE.

## NATIONAL MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS

The following are three of the National Museum's recent (1979) publications:-

*Rhodesian Wild Flowers* by Margaret H. Tredgold and H. M. Biegel.

This is No. 4 of the Thomas Meikle Series and is a successor to a book with the same title published in 1953.

The frontispiece and 39 coloured plates are from paintings by Lady Tredgold, widow of Sir Robert Tredgold, and who, as Margaret Phear, illustrated the first book. There are 39 figure drawings in the text also by Lady Tredgold.

The great attraction of the book lies in these paintings which are made from living plants, not specimens, and show all phases of each flower from bud to seed.

This is a book for the interested layman and all the over 200 flowers described have been collected along main roads and at holiday resorts where they can be readily recognised and enjoyed.

The text in this edition is by H. M. Biegel.

There are notes for users, a glossary and an index of scientific names and of popular names. Each flower is described fully, its distribution is given, its time of flowering, in most instances the origin of the name and, when known, any medicinal or herbal value is mentioned.

Not only is this a most valuable book for the amateur botanist and flower lover it is a delightful book to browse in.

*Check List and Atlas of the Mammals of Zimbabwe* by Reay H. N. Smithers and J. V. Wilson is Museum Memoir No. 9.

This is a first separate list of the mammals known to occur in Zimbabwe. Earlier, Zimbabwe's mammals had been included in Roberts' book on *The Mammals of South Africa*, 1951. He was able to include 109 specimens as against the 190 known to occur at the present time.

In this volume each mammal has its own small distribution map and the text covers classification, distribution, habitat, habits, food, breeding, size and weight.

The introduction outlines the history of collecting and recording in Zimbabwe. There is a bibliography and indices of scientific and English names.

In stiff cover the price is \$12,00.

*Some Common Trees and Shrubs of Zimbabwe* by Graham Guy and Peter Guy with line illustrations by Terry Donnelly.

This mimeographed booklet is a practical key to the identification of 115 trees and shrubs. This is done by drawings of leaf shape and position, of fruit, flowers and such like detail, not of the whole tree or shrub.

The text gives general descriptions, amplifies the detail shown in the drawings and gives notes on habitat and uses. It also introduces some unusual methods of identification — the colour of the sap, the taste and smell of a crushed leaf or fruit and the feel of a leaf — hairy, rough, smooth etc. Characteristics of plants can be easily recognised, say the authors, if one is prepared to use at least four of the five senses.

In stiff cover the price is \$3,35.

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