

## *Book Reviews and Notices*

### **THE HLUBI CHIEFDOM IN ZULULAND-NATAL: a History**

by JOHN WRIGHT AND ANDREW MANSON

Ladysmith Historical Society, 1983.

Compared with other indigenous societies in south-east Africa the Hlubi have attracted considerable attention from historians. In no small measure this has been due to the dramatic manner in which they broke their allegiance to the Natal colonial government, whose protection they had accepted as refugees from Zululand in 1848. The merits of that 'protection', which proved at very least to be a two-edged sword, have been hotly debated ever since. Bishop Colenso was the first to suggest that Chief Langelibalele and his Hlubi people had good cause to flee the colony in 1873, as they had previously done from Zululand a quarter of a century earlier. His spirited defence of the 'rebels', published in 1875 as a British Parliamentary Paper (C.1141) under the title *Langelibalele and the Amahlubi Tribe*, earned the enmity of most white Natalians and foreshadowed his subsequent courageous efforts on behalf of the dethroned Cetshwayo. White colonial attitudes towards the 'rebellious' Langelibalele and his followers were more accurately expressed by, for example, T.J. Lucas in *The Zulus and the British Frontiers* (London, 1879) and by the contemporaneous pamphlet entitled *Atrocities in Natal — Letters and Extracts of Letters from Christian Ministers and Missionaries in Natal* (Pietermaritzburg, n.d.) The small white community's self-image was that of a beleaguered outpost of empire, staunchly maintaining the peace and extending civilised standards on a continent which was ill-served by the misguided, if not mischievous philanthropy of Colenso.

The Hlubi, more accurately their Chief Langelibalele, featured to varying degrees in several subsequent histories of southern Africa written during the course of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries but it was not until 1930 that B.C. Janse van Rensburg produced an empirical monograph on *The Langelibalele rising, 1873* (unpublished M.A. thesis, Natal.) The present reviewer's *Langelibalele: The Crisis In Natal, 1873-75* (Durban, 1976) re-examined the circumstances surrounding the Hlubi flight from the colony, in the light of further documentary research, and explored the implications of that episode for the policy of confederation which was then being promoted in the subcontinent. Norman Herd incorporated much of the latest research in his 'popular' version of the topic entitled *The Bent Pine; The Trial of Chief Langelibalele* (Johannesburg, 1976) which highlighted the many shortcomings of the legal proceedings brought against the captive Hlubi chief by Lieutenant-Governor Pine's Natal government. In

his article 'Why Langelibalele ran away' (*Journal of Natal and Zulu History* Vol. 1, 1978), N.A. Etherington drew upon the archives of the Berlin and Hermannsburg Missionary Societies in West Germany to expose the several misunderstandings between black and white which had immediately preceded the Hlubi desertion from Natal.

All this might suggest that little or nothing was left to be written on the subject. On the contrary, John Wright and Andrew Manson's *The Hlubi Chiefdom in Zululand-Natal* justifies its publication by placing the now well-known events of 1873-75 within the broader context of a clan history which probes back into early traditions and deep into the economic circumstances of colonial society. The originality of their work rests primarily upon information recently brought to light through C. de B. Webb's and J.B. Wright's publication of *The James Stuart Archive* (Vol. 2, Pietermaritzburg, 1979) and upon Manson's re-assessment of the Hlubi's post-1848 history in 'The Hlubi and Ngwe in a colonial society, 1848-1877' (M.A. thesis, Natal 1979.) While a synopsis of the latter was already available in article form (*Journal of Natal and Zulu History* Vol. 2, 1979), Wright and Manson's collaborative efforts have now given Hlubi history its fullest treatment to date. It is to be hoped that their example will further enrich knowledge of the Zululand-Natal region by inspiring similar research into the history of other chiefdoms. As for the Hlubi, it remains to be seen whether black historians will have more to add in the way of information or interpretation, drawing perhaps from oral tradition.

W.R. GUEST

### KILLIE'S AFRICA

by NORMAN HERD

Blue Crane Books, 1982.

For those who were fortunate enough to know Killie Campbell and partake of her bounty, Norman Herd's *Killie's Africa* is nostalgia indeed. The scents and sounds of Muckleneuk, the upstairs library, the research rituals, the ceremony of morning tea, the little lady herself — all are recalled faithfully and vividly. This is an enjoyable book; warm, human and gripping. One reads it with a deep sense of gratitude both to Killie Campbell for what she gave to South Africa's cultural heritage and to Norman Herd for reminding us of it.

Killie Campbell was an unassuming woman. In a letter to the University of Natal in January 1950 when she was to receive the degree of Master of Arts *honoris causa*, she described herself simply as a collector of historical relics, the creator of an Africana research library, the curator of an ethnological museum and a former member of the Historical Monuments Commission. Yet here was the essence of a remarkable achievement. It is the reason why she was again honoured by Witwatersrand University in 1953 with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. It earned her the friendship and acknowledgement of authors and artists world-wide. It gave her a place in the recent television series presenting six of South Africa's most famous women.

It could be argued that such blue-stocking activity is hardly the material for a biography with popular appeal. But Killie Campbell's life is of multi-dimensional interest. One should not underestimate the sheer fascination of a woman who, in the course of her life, grew up with Zulu playmates, hunted birds, snakes and animals, went to school at St. Leonard's, Scotland, moved freely with the country's leading politicians — Molteno, Sauer, Schreiner and Merriman, among others — befriended collectors of Africana such as David Don, William Jardine, Meiring Beck and Dorothea Fairbridge, scoured the bookshops of London annually, propagated bougainvillea, played commendable golf and received scholars and guests in her home in the tradition of Maria Koopmans de Wet. In the context of women's history, Killie's life is equally interesting. Born a Victorian, and an Edwardian in her twenties, she lived through two world wars into the sixties representing what was best in a woman of her era, yet daring to shed the trappings of traditional womanhood when these intruded upon her mission. Thus, for example, she fulfilled the womanly roles of home entertaining, volunteer nursing, and canteen and comfort work during wartime, but defied the norm, and her mother, by spending her dress allowance on books and hiding them under her bed. Then, as a member of a prominent colonial family in Natal, Killie's life is a window into the best of the colonial tradition. Wealth, public-spiritedness, benevolent paternalism: unpopular as these characteristics are in some quarters today, their value to Natal in the hands of the Campbell family cannot be ignored. The American historian, Barbara Tuchman, has described biography as "a prism of history"; Killie Campbell's life is surely a 'prism' of her times. It can only enrich the fabric of South African history for the lives of such individuals to be told.

Perhaps the strongest feature of this book is the clarity with which the endearing qualities of Killie Campbell's personality come through to the reader: her charm, vigour, enthusiasm, compassion and, above all, her generosity. Today, in an academic environment riddled with competition and self-interest, it is salutary to be reminded of one who gave her ideas, time and material so freely. Fumbling beginners and eminent scholars were welcomed equally. Many a first thesis was helped on its way by the knowledge that Killie was excited about it. And many a work of art owes its existence to her persistence and patronage. Through the bequest of her collection to the University of Natal, Killie Campbell's generosity continues for posterity.

It is not easy to establish the genre of this book. It is neither history, nor biography, nor journalism but a little of each. Some attention is given to sources in brief notes to each chapter at the end of the book, but a large proportion of the detail is derived from the author's personal acquaintance with his subject and from oral evidence. A great mass of information is presented, not without some local gossip, the occasional factual error, and a fair amount of digression. Nevertheless, this is a very pleasing account of a thoroughly pleasing person. As such Norman Herd has rendered a service to the cultural history of South Africa, and Natal in particular, by reaching a wider readership than a more scholarly work might have done.

SYLVIA VIETZEN

**JOSEPH BAYNES: Pioneer**

by R.O. PEARSE

Pietermaritzburg, Shuter &amp; Shooter and the Baynesfield Board of Administration, 1983. 331 pp., illus., maps. Price R29,95 + G.S.T.

As Mr Pearse states in his preface, to write a book about a man who left no diaries and only a handful of letters is not easy. That Baynes becomes a character one can at times respect, at other times not like at all and sometimes pity, shows the measure of success Mr Pearse has had with his work.

Born in the Yorkshire village of Austwick in 1842, Baynes came to Natal with his widowed father on the *Devonian* in 1850. In 1863 he purchased land on the upper Umlaas and spent the rest of his life adding to and improving this property.

There were three men who helped Baynes in his farming and business enterprises. They were John Grant, farm manager from 1899 until long after the death of Baynes, George Alexander, general manager from 1902 to 1916, and Francis Harrison, a close friend of Baynes and the man chosen by him to be the first Chairman of the Board of Administration to manage his estate after his death.

With Grant's help Baynes was able to establish one of the finest Friesland herds in South Africa. It was Alexander who assisted Baynes in establishing the factory at *Nel's Rust* where dairy produce from the Natal midlands was processed, and the Model Dairy Company in Durban through which these products were sold. Alexander also helped in founding the bacon factory at *Nel's Rust*.

By 1910 *Nel's Rust* was 24 000 acres in extent. In addition to this Baynes was also in control of the dairy and bacon factories there, a dairy factory and pig farm at Harrismith, and the Model Dairy Company in Durban. Harrison encouraged Baynes to amalgamate the last five into Joseph Baynes Ltd which soon burgeoned into an enormous concern. In 1920 failing health caused Baynes to sell his interest in the company.

Baynes' main contribution to agriculture in South Africa was the introduction of cattle dipping for the control of tick-borne diseases.

The Ixopo electoral division of Natal returned Baynes as their representative in six successive elections. This gave him fourteen years in office, during the last ten months of which he held the cabinet portfolio of Minister of Lands and Works. It was his idea to develop the Congella area of Durban Bay (Maydon Wharf). On resigning from the Assembly in 1904 Baynes was appointed to the Legislative Council where he served until Union.

In 1874 Baynes married Maria Hendrina Zietsman. Their two-day old daughter died on their first wedding anniversary. Maria died nine days later. His marriage to Sarah Ann Tomlinson lasted 45 years. A girl born to them in 1881 lived only ten days.

Towards the end of his life Baynes donated two adjacent buildings he owned in Pietermaritzburg to the Salvation Army for use as homes for men and boys. When he died in 1925 Joseph Baynes bequeathed his estate to the people of South Africa.

This is a well produced, readable book with good illustrations. The text displays evidence of fairly extensive research but unfortunately this has often been limited to secondary sources, an inadequacy which allows previous mistakes to be repeated. One of the numerous examples is the fact that Paul Anstie left Natal in 1855 and therefore could not have been operating his Natal Conveyance Company in 1857 as stated [p. 17].

Mr Pearse is wrong when, in the caption to photograph 31, he describes W.P. and E.W. Gibson as brothers; they were father and son. Photograph 36 which is supposed to show the dipping tank at *Meyershoek* in 1902 was taken recently by Dr Taylor, the present Managing Director of Baynesfield Estate.

Henry and Robert Nicholson farmed at *Moyeni* and *Illovo Mills* in the Richmond district, and were not early settlers of Underberg (p. 128).

The author is not clear about what happened on the afternoon in 1906 before Hunt and Armstrong were killed. By mistake the men had gone to Mr Ethelbert Hosking at Byrne instead of Mr Henry Hosking at *Trewergie*, and it was late before they reached their correct destination. Because of mist and approaching dusk Henry Hosking advised them to wait until morning before going to arrest Chief Majonga but they would not listen and confusion and death were the results (pp. 195-196).

It is misleading to give the impression that Frederick and Sarah Moor came to Natal as a married couple and incorrect to say that they rejected their allotment at Richmond. Moor farmed his allotted land at Byrne for two years before marrying Miss Ralfe, and they continued to live there for another three years before joining her parents who had moved to Estcourt (p. 206).

The statement that William Peel owned *Onrust* and *Meyershoek* from 1857 to 1902 is not true. Peel died in 1881 (p. 283).

All of this, coupled with an element of speculation which is unusual in a work of this nature, undermines confidence in the book but it is reassuring to know that members of the History Department of the University of Natal have checked through the chapters on the political life of Baynes.

B.M. SPENCER

## **THEY BUILT A CITY**

by RORY LYNSKY

Concept Communications (Natal) (Pty) Limited 1982.

This book presents a history of the Durban City Engineer's Department from 1882 (when the first Borough Engineer was appointed) until 1982. It will probably be of most interest to those who have 'grown up' with Durban and have had a personal stake in the Council's attempts to solve, with the help of its engineers, planning problems which often bore directly on their own water-supply and transportation arrangements. It opens, interestingly, in the really early days, forty years before the formation of a borough engineer's department, certainly before Durban knew that it was going to become a city, or indeed could have had any idea of what a modern city would be like. Perhaps by the same token we, in 1983, can hardly imagine the end result of another hundred years of accelerating change.

The first survey plan — intended to regularize occupational rights, and give title to the people who had put up shacks and palisades and settled in what is now part of the city centre — was drawn in about 1840. It is interesting to read that our early Durban forerunners 'bought' their first surveyed lots in 1840 but do not seem to have paid for them; — certainly an inexpensive way of acquiring sites in the area bounded by Aliwal, Smith, Gardiner and West Streets!

Bishop Colenso (himself in 'centenary' news at present) in 1855 was one of the early critics of the insufficiency and unhealthiness of Durban's water, supplied, as he observed, from shallow wells and 'abounding in decaying vegetables and worms'.

The 100 year record of the Borough Engineer's Department starts with the appointment of J.F.E. Barnes. The book gives us an impression of him as an engineer of considerable competence and cheerful perseverance. Water supply was only one of the urgent problems with which he had to deal and the town's first piped supply, from the Umbilo River at Paradise Valley, was opened in 1887. It provided 200 000 gallons per day from a 35 million gallon capacity earth dam, which amounted to about 90 litres per day of clear potable water per consumer. The total population figure seems to have amounted to about 16 000 in those days.

Barnes resigned at the end of 1887 and (after two or three interim changes) was succeeded by John Fletcher who held office from 1889 until 1918. For Fletcher too, an augmented water supply was an urgent need and by 1891 a new scheme, this time from the Umlaas River, was in partial operation. This was completed in 1895 and in combination with the Barnes-Paradise Valley scheme was able to provide over 2 million gallons per day for a population of 28 000. For the people of the day Durban's water problems seemed to have ended. The town had a supply of good water which was adequate for double its population. Unluckily, and ironically, it was not drought but floods which ended this happy state of affairs. In a storm at the end of May 1905 fifteen inches of rain fell in as many hours. Supply pipelines were washed away and the reservoirs severely damaged. Similar catastrophic floods were experienced in 1917, and again in 1959 when the recently built Shongweni Dam was endangered. Yet again in March 1976 Durban's 'worst ever' water crisis was caused by floods, this time with two of the four aqueducts from the Nagle dam in the Umgeni Valley being damaged. The book does not mention the present crisis, but this seems to have been the first time that Durban's water resources have been really threatened by drought and the failure of the catchment areas. Let us hope that the history of flood disasters doesn't repeat itself too soon after the end of the present drought!

Beach reclamation and maintenance problems have always been of interest to Durban residents, although no doubt the annual holidaymakers enjoy the beaches without knowing much about the delicate balances on which their availability depends. This aspect of Durban's engineering problems is given realistic cover in the book. We learn that no definite answer has yet been found and unremitting work, often makeshift and experimental, goes on to preserve the popular holiday beaches and the splendid surf.

Among the more recent developments, probably the most immediately spectacular and interesting to the general public has been the freeway system constructed during the '60s and '70s under the direction of Alec Kinmont's Special Works Department which was set up in parallel with the City Engineer's Department in 1964/5. Traffic circulates through Durban at present with commendable ease and rapidity and the book provides a readable account of the special measures necessary in those decades to bring Durban up to date and provide services to cope with all aspects of its exceptional growth. The latest population figure quoted in the book is 1 774 000 for 1982, a number which is expected to grow to 3 825 000 by the year 2000. To any reader whose interest has been engaged by the book this must give rise to some surmises. One would say that Durban, in Kinmont's phrase (p. 72), must again be 'a city in a hurry' if it is to cope with such a huge proportionate increase in so short a time. Twenty years is not long in terms of the conception, planning, design and construction of large and complicated engineering projects, especially in a crowded city environment.

The book has a 'coffee-table' format. Probably it is not the sort of publication that many people would read through with sustained interest. The style is rather staccato. It is written in very short, sometimes single sentence paragraphs and it often reads rather like strings of facts which require a stronger organization to make them properly cohesive. There are a few stylistic 'unguarded moments' — We read for example of priorities facing Donald Macleod when he 'stepped into the City Engineer's chair', and we are told that 'the city's traffic continually grows in size and volume and it demands that road development maintains a parallel course'.

The illustrations are of a high standard throughout. There are good reproductions of early drawings and an excellent selection of photographs which add considerably to the interest of the book from both the professional engineer's and the layman's points of view. If I had to choose one photograph to support this view I think it would be the one (on page 84) of the viaduct which links the Western Freeway with the central business area, taken with the central city buildings as its backdrop. An inadvertent touch of the comic is provided by the caption of a board-room photograph of Mr Macleod flanked by his deputies and heads of departments. These various gentlemen are identified in the picture by a left to right reading caption climaxed with 'H.B. Harrison (Administration) not present'.

R.H. WYLLIE

### **THE VIEWS OF MAHLATHI: Writings of A.W.G. Champion, a black South African**

edited by M.W. SWANSON

Pietermaritzburg, University of Natal Press, 1983.

A.W.G. Champion was a complex, ambivalent character. This is reflected both in his paradoxical career and in his attitudes and beliefs. *Mathlathi* provides us with a window into both. Swanson's concise, critical preface and Dhlomo's less critical biographical essay (or eulogy) highlight the main landmarks in Champion's career. His ideas are given expression in the many 'views', which make up the greater part of this book. These 'views' were

written by Champion during the later part of his life — the 1960s — and were originally published in a regular column in *Ilanga*.

The complexity and ambivalence that pervade Champion's life are discernible in many forms. During his early career he worked as a policeman in Johannesburg. By the late 1920s he himself was being looked upon as a dangerous agitator and had become a prime police target. With the advantage of hindsight, however, we can see that the contemporary official perception of Champion was largely exaggerated and mistaken. It is true that Champion worked for the removal of local African grievances by successfully challenging the Durban municipality in a series of court actions during the late 1920s (p. xix). It is also true that Champion acted as a spokesman for exploited Africans. This role enabled him to rise to prominence in the ICU and the ANC. However, in his political ideas and strategies he was generally cautious, and at times even conservative. He stopped short of advocating militant tactics to fight the oppression of Africans. He disavowed strikes, for instance. And in the late 1940s, his cautious stance led him to fall out with the ANC Youth League when it was planning a passive resistance campaign (p. xxiii).

Champion belonged essentially to the petit bourgeoisie. (Swanson, calls him a 'radical bourgeois' [p. xxv]). He thus could never play the role of militant activist or promoter of working-class interests. The capitalist system served as his paradigm. Capital accumulation and the private ownership of property held a high place in his value system. He saw these as means not only towards his own personal advancement but also towards the wider advancement of Africans. Champion was a 'lifelong entrepreneur', albeit one whose many business ventures seem mostly to have ended in failure (pp. 163-66). Whenever the opportunity arose he bought property, and encouraged other Africans to do the same. Clermont township, for instance, seems to have originated in this way (p. 23 n. 6, and p. 83). At various times Champion advocated the creation of a National Fund to help the poor (p. 45), the founding of a Zulu Bank (p. 83), and the establishment of the Bantu Investment Corporation (p. 87). He could even see some economic advantages for the African petit bourgeoisie in the government's apartheid policy: 'The beauty of this policy to me is in our obtaining a way to build up industries in the areas where we live'. (p. 80). He believed that Africans had to accumulate money if they were to gain any political leverage; and, rather naively, he thought such accumulation on a sufficient scale was possible. This preoccupation led Champion to neglect the potential for working-class mobilization or mass action.

Champion's petit bourgeois perspective gave him a vision of an expanding non-racial middle class, in which he, and others like him, would obtain their rightful place. Herein, though, lies another paradox. For Champion was not a straightforward modernist. His writings reveal in the late 1960s a deep admiration for the political order in Swaziland (p. 132). Although Swaziland was newly independent at the time, its power structure was heavily weighted towards the traditional royal family and chiefly order, and against the emergent middle class.

A Christian upbringing also seems to have contributed towards Champion's paradoxical character and attitudes. His 'views' are permeated with Christian beliefs; and he is often preoccupied with Christian issues. Yet



Champion is doubtful about the Christian impact on African society. At one point he writes, 'The Zulu nation was pure in body and soul . . . Then came the gospel . . .' (p. 159). Moreover, he could see nothing wrong with polygamy as long as the husband was able to support his wives (p. 132).

Swanson and his translators have performed a great service in bringing these writings to a wider audience. His preface and explanatory notes, apart from revealing the depth of his knowledge both of early Durban and of African politics, are of great assistance to the reader. It would, however, have been useful if each writing could have been given an exact date, as it would be helpful to know the particular context in which Champion was writing. And it was Lamontville, not Umlazi, that was constructed in the 1930s (p. xxii). These, though, are only minor criticisms of a work which will be of value to scholars and of interest to general readers. Let it be hoped that this is a foretaste of more to come: can we expect a biography of Champion or an edited collection of his earlier papers?

PAUL MAYLAM

### **ISICHAZAMAZWI I**

by A.C. NKABINDE

Pietermaritzburg, Shuter & Shooter, 1982. 125 pp. R4,15.

This is the first volume to appear of the first ever Zulu explanatory dictionary.

### **MENFOLK: the Speirs family**

by EUSTACE FAIRLIE SPEIRS

Johannesburg, The author, 1982. 24 pp.

This pamphlet relates the history of neighbours of the Fannins in the Dargle district, viz. Robert Speirs (1802-1879), of *Mount Park*, and his family. The Speirses arrived on the *Conquering Hero* in 1850. Besides detailing the story of Robert and his children, facts are provided about the family to the present generation.

### **FIELD GUIDE TO THE WAR IN ZULULAND AND THE DEFENCE OF NATAL, 1879**

by J.P.C. LABAND and P.S. THOMPSON

Pietermaritzburg, University of Natal Press, 1983. R9.

This is a second and enlarged edition of the work fully reviewed in *Natalia* 9. The authors have discovered new fortifications since their original publication and also studied and mapped the colonial defence system.

**HARVEST OF OPTIMISM: the story of Thomas Fannin and his family**

by NATALIE JUUL

Priv. print, 1982. 188 pp. illus.

Written by Thomas Fannin's great-granddaughter to fulfil a promise made to her father fifty years ago, this book records firstly the fortunes of Thomas from his birthplace, Ireland to the farm *The Dargle* in the Natal Midlands, with interludes in Liverpool, Cape Town and Namaqualand *en route*. In Namaqualand he was the manager of Baron von Ludwig's South African Mining Co., an undersubscribed and unsuccessful venture to open up copper-mining in the area. The last phase of Thomas's life from 1847 to 1862 was spent as a farmer and timber merchant at *The Dargle*.

A large section of the book is devoted to the life of Thomas's third son, John Eustace (land surveyor, Special Border Agent at Kranskop during the Anglo-Zulu War, later Resident Magistrate at Stanger, then Greytown, and finally Judge of the Native High Court), illustrated by quotations from his numerous writings.

Details are also given of Thomas and Ellen Fannin's other eleven surviving children and their descendants.

**CHRISTIAN INDIANS IN NATAL 1860-1911. An Historical and Statistical Study**

by J.B. BRAIN

Cape Town, Oxford University Press, 1983. 274 p. illus.

This study investigates the origins of Christian Indians who arrived in Natal between 1860 and 1911 either as indentured labourers or as 'passenger' immigrants. More than half the book consists of tables of statistics listing each and every Christian immigrant on each and every immigrant ship. The generally accepted estimates of the numbers of Christians among the Indian immigrants are challenged. The book also traces the history of the Missions opened by the various Christian churches in Natal.

**DIE GESCHICHTE NEU-HANNOVERS ZUM 125-JÄHRIGEN GEMEINDEJUBILÄUM (The history of New Hanover at the 125th anniversary of the Congregation)**

by H.G. HILLERMANN

Published by the Church Council, 1983. 108 pp.

In *Natalia* 11 we noted the appearance of publications marking the 125th and 100th anniversaries of Hermannsburg and Wartburg-Kirchdorf respectively. Now, 1983 marks the 125th anniversary of the New Hanover congregation, and therefore the existence of New Hanover as a centre of population. Mr Hillermann has compiled an interesting account of the origins and growth of the farming community and its church and school. It is illustrated with photographs, and includes a map of the district, showing 67

farms, with a key in the form of a list of names of the German settlers who owned them. The names of the original (mainly Voortrekker) owners are also given. Mr Hillermann's bibliography indicates the extent of his researches, and this is a book which carries on the worthy tradition of presenting the many-stranded history of our province.

**MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING IN PIETERMARITZBURG: the first hundred years**

prepared by E.N. MEINEKE and G.M. SUMMERS for the Pietermaritzburg City Engineer's Department.

Pietermaritzburg, the Department, 1983. Roneoed. 135 pp.

Described in this publication as one of Pietermaritzburg's two 'action' departments (the other being the Borough Police), the Engineer's or Works Department originally encompassed work now undertaken by other departments, e.g. Public Health, Market, Parks, Fire and Electricity. For this reason the book is more than just a history of the Department — it is largely a history of the development of Pietermaritzburg itself.

A major source for this book has been the minutes of the Borough Council, now housed in the Natal Archives.

**THE DEFENCE OF LADYSMITH AND MAFEKING. Accounts of two sieges, 1899 to 1900, being the South African War experiences of William Thwaites, Steuart Binny, Alfred Down and Samuel Cawood.**

edited by ARTHUR DAVEY

Johannesburg, The Brenthurst Press, 1983. 275 p. illus. R130

This beautifully produced book draws on the rich resources of primary material available in the Brenthurst library. The writers came from a variety of backgrounds and their diaries and letters give personal, rather than official, insights into the operations of the war. The book is liberally illustrated with evocative photographs and original pencil sketches by Melton Prior, one of the most eminent war artists of the late Victorian era.

**KING CETSHWAYO kaMPANDE**

by J. LABAND and J. WRIGHT

Pietermaritzburg, Shuter & Shooter and kwaZulu Monuments Council, 1983. 34 pp. illus.

This is the first of a proposed series of booklets on different facets of Zulu history. Though popular rather than academic in style, this account incorporates the latest historical research and paints a sympathetic portrait of the king.