

after, while another traces shifts in the country's regional policy since 1978 and divides it into six distinct phases. Others look specifically at (i) what really occurred militarily at Cuito Cuanavale, (ii) Mozambique after Samora Machel's death in mid-1986, (iii) South Africa's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 435 and the Namibian independence process from the mid-1980s and (iv) developments within Lesotho subsequent to the Jonathan coup in January 1986.

In the section on labour the articles focus on the 1985-1988 debates and developments within Cosatu (the relationship between trade unions and the national liberation struggle), the significant 1988 amendments to the Labour Relations Act, and 1987-1988 industrial trends in union membership, worker militancy and strike rates. More specific contributions consider the General Motors and Ford disinvestments in 1987-1988, labour attitudes towards the domestic housing crisis, home ownership on the mines, employee share ownership schemes and industrial unionism in the food industry.

The six articles in the section on rural politics explore a number of the most important processes which affected rural political mobilisation during the 1980s. Issues addressed include forced removals and upgrading, the May-August 1986 struggle against independence in KwaNdebele and the violence in Natal. The section concludes with an interesting and well-written if somewhat one-sided analysis of Inkatha by Mare and Ncube.

As said above most of the articles roughly span the years 1987 to 1989. Because of the far-reaching domestic political changes since then many have unfortunately dated rather quickly. The collection — in spite of its implicitly radical or critical social science orientation — remains nonetheless a useful reference work for researchers and teachers over a wide field.

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None of this, however, detracts from the overall impact of the study. It is altogether a masterful and pioneering work. Exactly how advanced it is can be gauged from the fact that although it took six years to be published it has not become outdated — which is probably an indication of both how pioneering it was in 1984 and how relatively unexplored the field of medical history is in this country. It is to be hoped that members of the Archives Commission will speedily follow up the publication of this work with the publication of Elizabeth van Heyningen's 1989 study on poverty and public health in Cape Town, which was also submitted as a Ph.D. thesis at the University of Cape Town.

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GUSTAV S. PRELLER (red.). *Joernaal van 'n trek: uit die dagboek van Erasmus Smit*. (Ingelei en versorg deur Merwe Scholtz.) Tafelberg: Kaapstad, 1988. R39,95 (eksklusief). ISBN 0624 0267 79.

Waar die 150ste herdenking van die Groot Trek gekenmerk word deur die relatiewe skraal oes aan geleentheids- of herdenkingspublikasies, en te midde van die feitlik algehele afwesigheid van noemenswaardige histories-wetenskaplike werke, het die bekende literator Merwe Scholtz vorendag gekom met 'n persoonlike 'huldeblyk aan die Groot Trek' en wel in die vorm van 'n heruitgawe van die dagboek

van Erasmus Smit, een van die belangrikste eietydse bronne oor die epogmakende landverhuising van destyds.

Scholtz se werk is eintlik 'n verwerking van Gustav Preller se geredigeerde weergawe van die dagboek wat in 1930 gepubliseer is. Met behoud van Preller se kort verklarende inleiding het Scholtz sy eie toeligtig in die afdeling 'Die dagboek en sy skrywer' gegee. Waar Preller baie beknopt en formeel-saaklik agtergrond oor veral die herkoms van die teks gee, evalueer en voer Scholtz veral die interne kenmerke van die dagboek-inskrywings terug na die persoonlikheid en ingesteldheid van Smit. Smit se relatiewe onbetrokkenheid en gematigde uitsprake en aantekeninge word raakgesien, so ook sy periodieke aanvoeling vir die komiese, sy stemmingsvolle en by tye aangrypende maar tog eenvoudige skryfwyse. Op 'n keer verwys Scholtz na Smit se 'Kanaanse welsprekendheid' (p. 28).

Inderdaad vind Scholtz, wat self in die eerste afdeling van die uitgawe en grootliks op gesag van die Smit-biograaf, P.S. de Jongh, nie sagkens met Smit se karakter omgaan nie, in die dagboek baie versagende omstandighede en selfs sterk karaktertrekke. Hy verwys hier na veral Smit se inskrywings wanneer gevare en die dood die Trekkergemeenskap bedreig (pp. 24-25) en na sy waardige en objektiewe verslaggewing wanneer hy sake rakende sy amp en pligte aanstip (p. 25). Scholtz bespeur ook 'sigbare voldoening' by Smit as hy verslag doen van gebeure waar hy, soos Scholtz dit stel, aktief die geskiedenis betree (pp. 27-28).

Scholtz erken dat hy vir sy kort inleiding oor Smit se vroeë lewe (pp. 3-18) baie swaar geleun het op De Jongh se uitvoerige biografiese studie, maar dit wil tog voorkom asof Scholtz nie heeltemal saamgaan met sy krasse veroordeling van Smit nie. Sy eindoordeel, sê Scholtz, val 'oortrepend gunstig' uit en woorde soos 'merkwaardig' en 'merkwaardiger' word gebruik om Smit se optrede te beskryf (p. 33). Ook sy aangehaalde 'teks' vir 'n Smit-grafskrif getuig positief: 'God heeft een kranke rank gevonden / En so zijn warme muur gebonden' (p. 32).

Gemeen aan die eise wat egter aan bronnepublikasies gestel word, vertoon die Scholtz-annotering van die joernaal maar baie vaal. Scholtz slaag wel in sy doelwit om 'n 'ronder' beeld van die Trekkerlewe te gee, maar net ten dele.

Die afwesigheid van plan en sisteem, van 'n bepaalde 'beleid' of norme wat die annotering ten grondslag lê, asook die omvang (getalsgewys uitgedruk) van annotasies (vanaf p. 155 tot p. 157 is daar byvoorbeeld net twee, een waarvan boonop uit Preller oorgeneem is) is seker die grootste gebreke van die joernaal.

Sake waaroor die leser geredelikewys, in die lig van ons hede-kennis oor die Groot Trek, meer toeligtig sou wou gehad het, sluit in die verdeeldheid onder die Trekkers oor trekrigtings; Andries Pretorius se besoek aan die Trekkers, einde 1837 (voordat hy self getrek het); Gideon Joubert se sending na die Trekkers, einde 1838; die wegbreekaksie van A.H. Potgieter na die slag by Italeri; en die eerste strafekspedisie teen Mzilikazi, einde 1837 (verklaring onder meer vir Maritz se teenwoordigheid by Suikerbosrand, soos opgeteken in Smit se dagboek).

H. PHILLIPS. 'Black October': the impact of the Spanish Influenza Epidemic of 1918 on South Africa'. *Archives Year Book for South African History* 53(1). Government Printer: Pretoria, 1990. 291 pp. R10,00 (inclusive). Illus.

ISBN 07970 15809.

In September 1918 the world-wide pandemic of influenza struck South Africa. It lasted through October and was the worst natural disaster in the country's history. In less than two months probably more than a quarter of a million South Africans died. Until recently this influenza epidemic hardly featured in historical writing in South Africa. Readers of the *Journal of African History* and the University of Cape Town's *Studies in the History of Cape Town* will be familiar with some of the aspects of the epidemic. Now, with the publication of Howard Phillips' 1984 Ph.D. thesis, the history of this momentous event is available to a wider audience.

It is a wide-ranging study, covering the hectic events of the 'flu epidemic and related matters. The first part charts the course of the epidemic at various local levels. This is mainly narrative and focusses on four urban centres (the Rand, Cape Town, Kimberley and Bloemfontein) and one rural area (the Transkei). Other rural areas are also discussed, but not in the same detail. The second part deals with the national response, analysing the activities of the Public Health Department. The third part covers fundamental contemporary questions, exploring medical and lay opinion on the nature of the Spanish 'Flu and popular and religious explanations. The final part examines the results at the national level, exploring the consequences and significance in considerable detail. There are also 27 tables, three maps and three illustrations.

Phillips has produced a comprehensive and lucid account of the whole saga. It is described in detail, analysed and related to the broader national and international context. Phillips has mastered a truly impressive array of archival, published and oral sources (including such exotic specimens as the *Mataiele Mail* and school magazines) to produce a scholarly and balanced work. His sensitivity to developments in social, medical and urban history renders his work all the more useful. There can be few areas in South Africa that were not visited by the Spanish 'Flu in 1918. Historians interested in local or regional history will find this a useful work in placing their localised episodes in the wider context. Perhaps more significantly, it is a major contribution to the medical and social history of South Africa.

Someone reading the study with a critical eye could note that some of the tables (such as Table 1) could have been rendered more readily comprehensible in the form of graphs and that the illustrations, particularly the photograph of the Influenza Epidemic Commission, do not all do justice to the rich social history theme. Could no photographs of the mass burials, cartloads of dead or urban slums be found? Also, the chapter on the Transkei, although it includes other rural areas for comparative purposes, is sometimes a little confusing. It is not always clear, especially with generalisations, whether the areas discussed are in the Transkei or not (e.g. p. 81 and p. 84).