



R.N. CURREY. *Vinnicombe's trek: son of Natal, stepson of Transvaal, 1854-1932*. University of Natal Press en Shuter & Shooter: Pietermaritzburg, 1989. 232 pp. Geïll. R37,95 (eksklusief). ISBN 0 86980 655 6.

In hierdie boek word die lewe en omswerwing van Thomas F. Vinnicombe in Transvaal en Natal uitgebeeld. Dit is saamgestel en geskryf deur 'n kleinseun, R.N. Currey, wat sy inligting verkry het uit nagelate gedigte deur sy oupa. Die inhoud daarvan is met historiese gegewe gekorreleer en aangevul met persoonlike mededelings van vriende en familie, en briewe en notas in besit van Thomas se nasate.

Die leser kry insae in die bestaanstryd van die Engelse setlaars ten tyde van die Britse kolonisasie van Natal. Currey gee ook biografiese besonderhede van sowel die Vinnicombe-familie wat na Natal gekom het, as die agtergeblewenes in Engeland. Die familie het 'n bekende Londense musiekwinkel besit en George, Thomas se vader, was 'n orrelbouer. In Natal het hy ook musiek- en danslesse gegee en sang onderrig.

Ten spyte van terugslae in die primitiewe en ongerepte wêreld het Thomas, sy broers en susters in 'n kultuurryke milieu grootgeword. Sy agtergrond en die gevare in die ongetemde natuur het aan Thomas 'n besondere fyn waarnemingsvermoë gegee. Dit het hy kunstinnig vasgelê in gediggies en ballades geskoei op die Victoriaanse patroon.

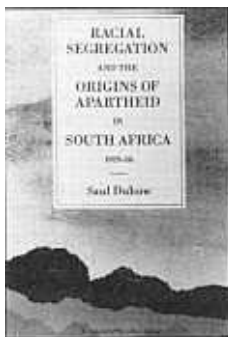
Na die dood van sy vader het Thomas se moeder getrou met William Petty, 'n onstandvastige persoon met 'n sterk swerwersdrang. Reeds as jong seun het Thomas se swerwersjare dus al begin. Die gesin het na die omgewing van Volksrust en Wakkerstroom verhuis waar Thomas se kennis van die natuur, jag, perde en veral die Afrikaner (Boere) se taal en leefwyse baie uitgebrei het. Nadat hy in Natal met Rachel Phipson getroud is, het hulle agtereenvolgens op Barberton, Pelgrimsrus, Graskop, Pietersburg en Standerton gewoon. Hy het hom aanvanklik op prospekterderij toegespits, maar sy bouernuf het mettertyd sy hoofinkomste geword. Hy was die argitek van verskeie kerke in Transvaal, soos dié op Pietersburg, Standerton en Bethal. Na die dood van sy vrou in 1920 het Thomas sy laaste jare in Port Elizabeth deurgebring.

Die hoofstroom van politieke gebeure het 'n invloed op Thomas en sy gesin gehad. Afgesien van die Anglo-Zoeloeoorlog (1879-1881) het veral die Tweede Anglo-Boereoorlog (1899-1902) Thomas se lewe ingrypend beïnvloed. As burger van die ZAR moes hy kommandodienste verrig. Hy het eger geweier omdat hy nie teen sy eie mense (Engelse) wou veg nie. Die leser kry insae in die gedagte-wêreld en persoonlike belewing van diegene wat nie aan die stryd tussen Boer en Brit wou deelneem nie en vriende in albei groepe gehad het.

Sy noue samewerking met die Transvaalse burgers en hul kulturele aktiwiteite het meegebring dat sy ballades en verse ryk is aan kultuurhistoriese gegewens soos 'n nuwejaarsfees, hofmakery, plekname, boustyle, koffie- en teedrinkgewoontes van vrouens en die pioniersjare van Pelgrimsrus, Graskop, Pietersburg en Bethal. Interessante karakters uit die Wakkerstroom-omgewing en die 'outlaws' van Pongola word ook beskryf. 'n Bylae van tradisionele volksliedere wat met die hulp van Pieter W. Grobbelaar hersien is, is ook in die boek opgeneem. Currey het Thomas Vinnicombe se gebruik van Afrikaanse woorde (sommige met 'n unieke spelwyse) nougeset gehandhaaf. Om die vreemde woorde vir die Engelse leser te verklaar, is 'n vertaling daarnaas gegee.

Die boek is netjies versorg en ryklik met afdrukke en foto's geïllustreer. Ten spyte van enkele redigeer- en feitefoute (pp. 2, 81 en 88) bied *Vinnicombe's trek* aangename leesstof veral vir diegene wat in die pionierstyd van Transvaal belangstel.

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S. DUBOW. *Racial segregation and the origins of apartheid in South Africa, 1919-36*. Macmillan: Basingstoke, 1989. 250 pp. Price unknown. ISBN 0 333 46461 3.

This publication, a condensed version of a doctoral thesis awarded by the Oxford University in 1987, deals broadly with the policies of segregation in South Africa for the period 1919-1936, which in many respects provided the framework for the later policy of apartheid implemented by the National Party government from 1948 onwards.

Dubow's starting premise is that this segregation served as a means of preserving the exist-

ing social structure amidst rapid industrial growth. He also sees this segregation as benefiting the long-term interests of capitalism and gives this as the reason for the support of white industrialists for the system. In other words, segregation was equally about the white sector's politics of domination as about the conditions needed by industrialists and capitalists for the making of money.

The book is divided into three. The first part is an analysis of segregation changing in the interwar period from an abstract social theory to the political ideology of white domination. Dubow emphasizes the flexibility of the segregationist policies which had an appeal to all the interest groups among the dominant white classes: farmers for whom it meant a ready supply and even distribution of cheap labour, capitalists who were reassured that the system of migrant labour on which they had come to depend would remain undisturbed, and white workers who were protected from competition in the labour market. Dubow also argues that the segregationist policies of Hertzog were able to procure the consent of many Africans, firstly with the promise of more land, and secondly with the potential offered by the concept of trusteeship for the development of the rural areas and the restoration of traditional authority.

The second part of the book is concerned with the Native Affairs Department (NAD) and its relation to segregation. Dubow points out that in the interwar years the NAD was far from the all-powerful Bantu Affairs Department of the post-1948 era. He portrays the NAD as an administratively fragmented and politically weak arm of the state which in crucial aspects was subordinate to the powerful Department of Justice. Furthermore the NAD was regarded in some government circles as benign, almost liberal, towards Africans. In fact the NAD often appeared to be reluctant to act in an overtly repressive manner towards Africans. At times it tried to ameliorate the harsh conditions associated with the industrialization that was taking place, and to protect Africans from the more extreme forms of exploitation. For this reason an internal ideology within the NAD was generated in which the protective relationship with its African 'wards' was espoused. The state's adoption of segregation as a national policy during the 1920s and 1930s forced the NAD to reconcile its protectionist with its coercive role.

In this section Dubow also refers specifically to the workings of the NAD in the Transkeian territories, an area which constituted the strongest NAD administrative department and also served as the reference point for all developments in the other African reserves. Dubow has been able to trace how the groundwork was laid in the interwar period for the emergence of the NAD as a monolithic 'state within a state' in the apartheid era.

The final section deals with the passage of Hertzog's Native Bills in 1936. Dubow's analysis of these is not only from the perspectives of the major parliamentary parties, but also from the point of view of the white and black opposition groupings. He furthermore explores how segregation developed in the 1920s and 1930s into a consensus ideology, while highlighting the role the fears of whites about the emergence of a politically-conscious African proletariat played in bringing about white political co-operation (coalition and fusion government).

Racial segregation and ... apartheid in South Africa has been well researched and is most informative concerning the origins and development of segregationist policies in South Africa. It is recommended as essential reading for all students of the history of South African politics. It is well written and although crammed with facts, it retains a flowing style with the information unfolding in a logical progression.

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A. MABIN (ed.). *Organisation and economic change*. Southern African Studies 5. Ravan Press: Johannesburg, 1989. 220 pp. Illus. R22,95 (exclusive). ISBN 0 86975 382 7.

During the past fifteen years thematically collected seminar and workshop papers have been published in a number of series. This volume, the fifth in the series Southern African Studies, represents papers selected under the very broad theme of organization and economic change. The aim was to focus on the neglected South African economic past. However, the introduction to this volume lacks a suitable theoretical

framework which could have enhanced thematic unity. This was probably caused by the large diversity of the essays which cover nearly 170 years.

It should also be kept in mind that the seminars of the African Studies Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand (from which these papers originate), have not 'consciously been built around a topic, theme or theory' (p. vii). Obviously this has its own pitfalls. By collecting such divergent contributions which draw on the theories, methods and results of, for