

die plaaslike geskiedenis. Kaapstad veral het 'n ryk verlede wat vir die doel ontgin kan word. Dit bevestig hierdie sesde nommer van die reeks dan ook.

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K. SCHOEMAN (ed.). *The early days of the Orange Free State: Charles Warden; W.D. Savage; Martha Jane Kirk*. Human & Rousseau: Cape Town and Pretoria, 1989. 111 pp. R29,95 (exclusive). Illus.

ISBN 0 7981 2327 3.

This collection of reminiscences from the pioneering days in the history of the Orange Free State is the tenth publication in the series *Vrijstaat* under the auspices of the prolific Karel Schoeman. In publishing memoirs, diaries, recollections and sketches of this nature from the history of the republican days, Schoeman has certainly rendered the history of the Orange Free State an invaluable service. Not only has forgotten and mislaid documentation (e.g. the J.G. Fraser Basotho diary) been unearthed, but an exciting window has been opened into the life and experiences of ordinary people (e.g. Sophie Levisour and Martha Kirk) during those distant days.

*The early days of the Orange Free State* comprises three recollections: those of Charles Frederick Warden, William Douglas Savage and Martha Jane Kirk. Warden's recollections cover the years 1846 to 1855. He was the son of Major H.D. Warden, British resident at Bloemfontein during the Orange River Sovereignty years. His reminiscences were first published in 1899 by the *Harrismith News* after a talk to the Harrismith Literary Society. A copy of this text is kept in the Africana section of the library of the University of the OFS. Warden's recollections were recorded about 44 years after the events he described took place. He was ten years old when he lived through the first events depicted in these memoirs. It is therefore obvious that the memoirs should be treated with caution, and all the more so since he admitted to having relied on secondary sources such as those by G.M. Theal.

The recollections of Savage, soldier, secretary, bookkeeper and town clerk of Bloemfontein (1884-1885), deal with the years between 1853 and 1858. His 'Reminiscences of early days' was first published in *De Express* (1885) and in this case almost 30 years have therefore passed before pen was put to paper. Savage's memory seems to have left him in the lurch at times (e.g. he identifies De la Rey and Quigley as the two men executed after the Boomplaat incident, while it was actually Thomas Dreyer and Quigley). His recollections should therefore also be treated circumspectly.

The final contribution is made by the memoirs of Kirk, wife of a trader and *smous*, who spent most of their days trading among Basotho and whites in Basutoland and the eastern Free State. Kirk's memoirs are the most comprehensive of the three and cover the years 1848 to 1884. They were recorded when she was over 80 years old and consequently contain, like those of the others, accounts of a dubious nature (compare, for example, the section on Brand and the diamond fields related on p. 85).

Although none of the memoirs is distinguished as being particularly noteworthy, they nevertheless contain some interesting anecdotes about everyday life during those times. It is evident that the publication is intended rather for general consumption than for the specialist. Sometimes notes illuminate important events, places and people, while in other instances, people and places mentioned in the text are not identified. The editor has also decided to edit the original text in an attempt to lure the general public into reading history without having to wade through 'dreary stuff.' But this has limited the scientific value of the publication since it is not always clear whether one is dealing with the edited or unedited versions.

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A.D. SPIEGEL (ed.). *Africa seminar: collected papers*. Volume 5. Centre for African Studies, University of Cape Town: Cape Town, 1988. 168 pp. R10,00 (exclusive). ISBN 0 79921 180 X.

This, the fifth volume in the *Collected papers* series from the weekly Africa seminar of the Centre for African Studies, UCT, is probably the last. The cost of production and the fact that there are many established academic journals available for the publication of quality research, mean that the 'collected seminar papers' genre is no longer commercially viable. In all such collections a wide variety of topics is

covered, usually in a variety of disciplines. No attempt is therefore made to impose any logical thematic unity on the papers chosen for publication. This book is no exception, ranging in topic from the impact of the environment on pre-historic settlement patterns (N. Lancaster), through town planning and housing policy in Cape Town between the world wars (L. le Grange), to contemporary English language poetry in South Africa (J. Cronin).

There are two papers on Namibian history. Brigitte Lau discusses the early German impact during the 19th century, and the resistance offered them by indigenous people. Keith Gottschalk takes up the theme with his spirited re-examination of the famous Bondelswarts Rebellion of 1922, when a small Nama group invited colossal state repression when they refused to pay dog tax. He describes the process of land alienation from these pastoral people and analyses the nature of the colonial state. He concludes that the 'rebellion' was a result of the determination of the authorities to exert their power over a people who resisted the drive of local whites for labourers.

In an inter-disciplinary paper, Glen Mills criticises the tendency to read assumptions about ethnicity into vernacular building styles. Lucien le Grange examines the way British urban renewal ideas were used in Cape Town to build an increasingly segregated city in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. Jack Lewis examines the early development of migrant labour from the Ciskei, arguing that the growing reliance on migrancy had as much to do with contradictions within African households and chiefdoms as with external forces. Ian Glenn takes us into the realm of English literature by examining the way in which the Immorality Act has been portrayed in English fiction; and Jeremy Cronin investigates black English-language poetry in the 1970s. Finally, educationalist Alan Morris seeks to re-insert a sense of the importance of social-class background in any understanding of the success or failure of black and white schoolchildren respectively.

Although lacking unity, this volume demonstrates the vitality of research being undertaken in a variety of disciplines in Cape Town.

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T. STRAUSS (comp.) and C. SAUNDERS (ed.). *Cape Town and the Cape Peninsula post 1806: a working bibliography*. Centre for African Studies, University of Cape Town: Cape Town, 1989. 141 pp. Price unknown. ISBN 0 7992 1194 X.

The aim of this bibliography is to assist those researching aspects of Cape Town life and history since the British occupation of the Cape in 1806. It includes material, published up to 1987, in the J.W. Jagger Library of the University of Cape Town, the Library of Parliament and the South African Library. The criteria for inclusion were the following: a book, if substantial reference was made to Cape Town, and a journal article if it related directly to Cape Town. Entries are arranged by broad subject listed in the table of contents. Items are listed once only, even if they could be placed under more than one heading. At the end of sections, cross references to other entries are found and at the back of the book there is an author index.

This bibliography is to a great extent a duplication of existing bibliographies listed in section 1, as well as the *South African bibliography* by Sidney Mendelssohn, *A South African bibliography to the year 1925*, *Retrospective South African national bibliography* and *South African national bibliography*. Although credit is due to the compiler and the editor for attempting such a project, one must carefully consider the value of publishing a bibliography in 1989. In a small country like South Africa there is always the problem of duplication. A time-consuming and expensive exercise, not only for the compiler but also for the user, it gives in published form that which a search in SABINET (South African Bibliographic and Information Network) could provide — a list of monographs on Cape Town in all South African libraries linked to the database and not only in the three principal Cape Town libraries. The bibliography could have been of some value had it included journal articles, since there is at present no central database in South Africa which includes all journal articles published in and on South Africa for the period 1806-1986. But again the bibliography duplicates material already indexed in the *Index to South African periodicals*. It also does not cover all journals available in the three libraries mentioned.

The organization of the items by broad subject is never a very successful one for the user of a bibliography. The compiler chooses the subject most obvious to him but one which might not be the subject under which the user will search for information. The sources which the user might find useful thus remain virtually untraceable. Neither the cross references at the end of each section nor the author index compensate for the absence