



KAREL SCHOEMAN (red.). *The recollections of Elizabeth Rolland (1803-1901)* ... Human en Rousseau · Kaapstad en Pretoria, 1987. 152 pp. Geïll. R25,00 (eksklusief). ISBN 0 7981 2147 5.

Hierdie outobiografie is die agtste boek in die Vrystatia-reeks wat daarop gemik is om die Vrystaats verlede vir die algemene leser meer toeganklik te maak. In die werk bied Schoeman die herinnering van Elizabeth Rolland met sy eie hoofstukindeling aan. Dit word nou vir die eerste keer gepubliseer en verskaf waardevolle inligting oor Beersheba, die Paryse Sendinggenootskap se stasie wat in 1835 naby die huidige Smithfield in die Oranje-Vrystaat gestig is deur mev. Rolland en haar man, eerwaarde Samuel Rolland (1801-1873), en in 1858 tydens die Eerste Basoeto-oorlog verwoes is.

Vir 28 jaar het die Rollands op Beersheba gewerk. Elizabeth se bydrae was nie bloot dat sy die spreekwoordelike steunpilaar vir haar man in 'n destyds onherbergsame wêreld was nie — sy was ook die pionier van kindertuionderwys in Suid-Afrika. Daarvan getuig die sprekende illustrasie van 'n kindertuinklas op Beersheba op die stofomslag.

Die Britsgebore Elizabeth Lyndall is in 1829, toe sy 26 was, as kindertuionderwyseres deur dr. John Philip na Suid-Afrika gebring. Sy is vroeg in 1834 met Samuel Rolland getroud — 'n huwelik wat sy as 'n fout beskryf het — waarna sy die res van haar lang lewe in die Vrystaat sou deurbring. Haar herinneringe is in die sewentigerjare van die vorige eeu geskryf. Dit handel ten aanvang oor haar jeug in Engeland, waarskynlik die gelukkigste tyd van haar bestaan. Haar jeugherinneringe aan die sosiale en kulturele lewe van Georgiëse Engeland is miskien te breedvoerig maar tog verstaanbaar as in aanmerking geneem word dat sy haar geboorteland nooit weer gesien het nie.

As eggenote van 'n pioniersendingeling is mev. Rolland se wedervaringe van besondere betekenis. Sy lewer 'n eerste-handse, onverbloemde verslag van praktiese sendingwerk in die 19de eeu — nie so geïdealiseer as in die meeste kontemporêre sendinggeskrifte nie. Elizabeth Rolland se herinneringe is ook in ander opsigte waardevol: dit is sover bekend die eerste keer dat die wel en wee van 'n sendingeling se vrou gepubliseer word. Bowendien het vroue se bydrae tot die sendingtaak voorheen nie dieselfde erkenning as dié van hul mans geniet nie.

Die beskrywing van Beersheba se verwoesting en van die lewe in die Nuwe Beersheba wat in 1866 kortgeknip is toe dit by die Verwerde Gebied van die Oranje-Vrystaat ingelyf is, verhoog die waarde van mev. Rolland se herinneringe as historiese bron aansienlik. Die traumatiese ervaringe het nie slegs die lewens van die Rollands ingrypend beïnvloed nie, maar sluit ook direk aan by die stryd om grond en grense tussen die Basoeto en die Vrystaat. Ongeveer 'n derde van die boek bevat dokumente oor Beersheba en die Rollandgesin (insluitende briewe van mev. Rolland) wat interessante lig op vroeë Blanke vestiging in die Vrystaat werp.

Hoewel oorsigtelik van aard, behoort sowel die navorser as die belangstellende leser die werk nuttig te vind. Dit is tegnies wetenskaplik versorg en besonder deeglik geannoteer. Benewens 'n uitgebreide register en verwysings onderaan die bladsye, bevat dit ook 'n voorgestelde literatuurlys vir verdere leeswerk wat naslaanwerk vergemaklik.

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W.J. WORGER. *South Africa's City of Diamonds: mine workers and monopoly capitalism in Kimberley, 1867-1895*. Ad. Donker: Craig-hall, 1987. 330 pp. Illus. R39,95 (exclusive). ISBN 0 86852 126 4.

Ever since the previous century, literature on Kimberley and the Diamond Fields has appeared in abundance. During the past two decades there has also been a marked increase in more scholarly writing, such as the work by Brian Roberts and Marian Robertson. Since the rise of the so-called revisionist school of historical writing the Diamond Fields, Kimberley and its hinterland became major focal points. Class formation, social change, resistance, as well as labour relations and control measures — in short the transformation of rural Black communities into an urban proletariat class through the penetration of industrial capital at

Kimberley — form the main themes in the work of scholars such as Robert Turrell, Peter Kallaway, Kevin Shillington and, to a lesser extent, John Smalberger and Brian Willan.

Worger from Stanford University chose the making of monopoly capitalism in the South African diamond industry as the subject of his doctoral dissertation, on which this book is based. The result is another scholarly work which can, however, be classified as an economic perspective on the Diamond Fields. The study is also very relevant for South Africa today, especially in the centenary year of De Beers, the world's biggest diamond producer, which still upholds monopoly capitalism in the industry.

Part I, which does not always make for light reading, deals with the period from 1867 to 1885, pointing out how, in order to successfully exploit the Diamond Fields, mining became the prerogative of big capital interests. This resulted in amalgamation — first into private companies and from 1880 into large joint-stock public companies such as De Beers, Kimberley Central and the French Company. The influx of capital made deep-level mining and mechanization possible whereby labour shortages were countered and production doubled. Dealing with the labour force in three chapters, Worger firstly focuses on changes in the economic structure of Black communities and the movement of members of these communities to the Diamond Fields. Secondly, he illustrates how labour control regulations — often with state assistance — such as the registration system, labour centres, searching schemes and eventually closed compounds by 1885 resulted in the workers being treated as criminals. The roots of 20th century collaboration between capitalism and apartheid (as discussed in greater detail by Marian Lacey, Merle Lipton and Robert Davies) could be traced to this period. In the final chapter one learns how resistance to monopolization by White workers (who were initially the claim owners and diamond producers) was crushed by the penetration of industrial capital. Although Worger gives some insight into living and working conditions of workers on the Diamond Fields, an analysis of social processes is not provided.

In my opinion Part II (1885-1895), which deals with the origins and consolidation of monopoly on the Diamond Fields, forms the backbone of this book. Worger clearly outlines the process by which Cecil Rhodes expanded his influence on the fields, first controlling the De Beers mine and eventually the others too. Realizing that he needed to gain access to the state machinery by which legislation could be manipulated, Rhodes at the same time consolidated his political power by becoming prime minister in 1890. This resulted in the passing of legislation at the expense of the workers and merchant sector. By 1895 Rhodes had broadened his monopoly horizontally by controlling all the mines and also vertically by controlling marketing and production. As a result of this manipulation, high labour and production costs could be cut, action which saw a drop in the population of Kimberley and a slump in local business. Both Black workers (through the closed compound system) and White workers (through the establishment of the company town Kenilworth) were made completely dependent on De Beers. Worger also pays attention, however, to the problems facing Rhodes and big capital, showing that the consolidation of the monopoly was by no means easily accomplished.

The book concludes with an epilogue on the period up to 1905 when the monopoly was challenged by, *inter alia*, the opening of the Premier Mine, and economic slumps overseas. Under the guidance of Ernest Oppenheimer and his Anglo-American Corporation a monopoly was again established by 1930 and continues to this very day.

Worger has done comprehensive research in all the relevant archives. In particular, he must be given credit for the excellent utilization of business archives (such as those of De Beers, Standard Bank and Barlow Rand), as well as estate papers and court cases. He could, however, also have consulted the archives of the Kimberley Supreme Court. The good index and references at the bottom of each page are further positive features. Should the book survive a second impression, attention ought to be given to a couple of minor errors, e.g.: Niklaas Waterboer was the Griqua chief when the Diamond Fields were annexed, not his father Andries (p. 16); Bechuanaland was annexed in 1885, not 1884 (p. 105), and the electoral division of Barkly had two parliamentary representatives, not one (p. 199).

Regarding the author's interpretation and emphasis, the description of the 1878 Rebellion, which lasted nearly six months, as "a small scale rebellion" and "brief struggle" can be questioned. It is also surprising that in his discussion of the various South African tribes, Worger makes no mention of the Tlharo, one of the Tswana groups closest to the Diamond Fields. The impact of the Langeberg Rebellion of 1896-1897, which had forced large numbers of Tlhaping and Tlharo into the wage labour market, is also ignored.

Although one might perhaps not agree with some generalizations and the author's sometimes uncritical acceptance of contemporary evidence, Worger's study provides an excellent new (academic) perspective. This work can also be recommended to the layman to supplement his knowledge about Kimberley and the Diamond Fields which is usually obtained from popular and romantic accounts.

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