South African Heritage Day is characterised by the spending of thousands of rands on izimbizo and gatherings of all sorts. Crowds assemble in stadiums at which politicians deliver speeches, followed by performing artists and lavish food menus. While some wear their elaborate traditional attire, others gear up in their respective political party’s t-shirts. There are also thousands who have adopted the braai custom which is shared amongst family and friends. To celebrate the heritage month, the Mail and Guardian in collaboration with the National Heritage Council (NHC) held a forum on 18 September 2012 at Lilliesleaf, Rivonia, meant to interrogate the question “who owns the struggle history in South Africa?”

An answer to this question would raise contested and prolonged arguments among politicians, academics and South African society at large. Nonetheless, the forum offered an insight to debates regarding history, heritage, memory and hegemony. Present on the panel were representatives from the NHC, Azanian People’s Organisation (AZAPO), Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC), New Frank Talk (NFT) and the African National Congress (ANC).

In response to the forum’s question, the representative of AZAPO voiced his concerns when he said: “Today you have people who are in Parliament who at the time, in the University of the North, were so scared of being involved in the struggle…. Take Mathew for instance…and I am sitting here today, not benefiting like him. He is today in government”.

The PAC representative shared the same sentiment as he maintained that: “Eh, the PAC led the nation. It opened the eyes of the people that there is apartheid in South Africa. But it is unfortunate today that when you talk about the struggle and you talk about the PAC people will never understand”.

Although both the representative of AZAPO and of the PAC were hesitant to overtly state that they own the struggle, they were certain that presently the ruling party dominates the liberation struggle discourse. A significant dimension of the debate was that some of the ANC government officials perverted the claims of who was part of the struggle, what the struggle was for and who benefited and continues to benefit since the inception of democracy in South Africa. This created a complex set of potentially conflicting ideas about South Africa’s colonial history, the struggle, freedom and post-colonial entitlements. The debate illuminated that the struggle history is a source of political power in itself, as political activists or ‘heroes’ are rewarded with the grand prize of commemoration, material gains and authority. Struggle activists in particular, have a stake in being recognised as legitimate participants in history in their own right. As a result, in other instances the tales of the past are distorted, depending on who the audience is and the reward that results from the claims.

Addressing the subject of entitlement and material gain in the post-colonial and post-apartheid era, the NFT representative maintained his argument of the night when he stated: “The ANC’s post apartheid project is a betrayal of legendary activists such as Steve Biko and Robert Sobukwe, who have fought for South Africa”. He then suggested the inclusion of the PAC and AZAPO as component structures of the ANC to end the exclusionist argument put forward by most organisations in public discourse. In elaboration of his argument he stated: “The reason AZAPO, PAC and others are saying the ANC is excluding us, is because you agree with the ANC project, you don’t see the ANC as a problem. You don’t have any desire to start history afresh”. In essence his rationale was that the majority of opposition parties and political organisations in South Africa do not desire to fundamentally transform the ideas of the ruling party, but instead would like to be incorporated in the status quo.
In response to who owns the struggle debate, the ANC representative maintained that “We respect those who have contributed to the struggle, we consult with communities when dealing with major projects such as name changes... members of ANC played a major role in the liberation struggle and thus they are the ruling party”.

The contribution of political organisations such as the ANC, PAC and AZAPO should not be overlooked. The role of these organisations informed the masses about the dire conditions in which the majority lived. The ideas of these political organisations served as a platform for oppressed South Africans to begin to think about ways in which the colonial and apartheid administrations could be challenged. Even so, the forum illuminated the need to engage with the struggle history beyond the formation of AZAPO in 1978, the PAC in 1959 and the ANC in 1912.

South Africa has a history beyond Jan van Riebeeck’s 1652, the Anglo Boer War of 1899-1900 and the formation of the Union of South Africa in 1910. Organisations such as the Union of Native Vigilance Association (1887), the South African Native Congress (1890s), the Natal Native Congress, the Industrial and Commercial Workers’ Union of Africa, the Transvaal Indian Congress and the Communist Party of South Africa (1921), illustrate the politically conscious lay men and women who were determined to overthrow the colonial regime. The existence of these political organisations directly or indirectly paved the way for the formation of struggle organisations in 20th century South Africa. This forum also presented the need to think beyond the discourse about struggle heroes. A deeper exploration of history illuminates men such as Tiyo Soga in the 1860s, who already demonstrated an Africanist outlook before the birth of Steve Biko and the PAC. An examination of struggle history in South Africa beyond 1912, demonstrates that this contribution to history cannot be narrowed to certain political organisations or individuals.

Arguably, lay men and women own the struggle history in South Africa, for it is they who joined organisations to better articulate their grievances in numbers. Yet again, the men and women who joined political organisations are not different from the ones who simply fought for bread and butter issues in their small communities. An understanding that lay men and women own the struggle suggests that all South African citizens are, therefore, entitled to the political, economic and social gains provided by the democratic dispensation.

In conclusion, the NHC representative was correct in that such a platform should serve as an apparatus that contributes to and strengthens democracy. Nonetheless, the NHC and the Mail and Guardian may have to re-think how such a forum can be extended to the masses who are often not engaged in these kinds of dialogues. The forum was not reflective of the diverse society South Africa is. Lastly, it appeared from the dialogue there is a need to reflect on improved ways to converse in a manner that does not leave individuals feeling excluded or not empowered to articulate their concerns. The use of language such as ‘these white people’ or ‘these black people’ seems to check the project of inclusion and tolerance.

Dineo Skosana is an Archival Platform correspondent based in Johannesburg. Reproduced with kind permission from the Archival Platform, dated 19 October 2012.
Professor Archie L. Dick, professor in the Department of Information Science at the University of Pretoria, presented the 20th Alan Paton Lecture. The lecture was presented in the Colin Webb Hall on the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Pietermaritzburg Campus on 20 March 2013. The lecture was titled: “Our common readers and our common reading cultures”. Professor Dick indicated that this talk honours Alan Paton and he hopes that it advances the many ideals that Paton held dear and lived out in his long and productive life. Professor Dick said that “as a world class author, Paton assisted many young South African writers in their careers”.

The Alan Paton Lecture is an annual event organized by the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives (APC) to celebrate the literary and political legacy of Paton. The first lecture was held in 1994 and was presented by Mr Randolph Vigne, who had been the National Vice-Chairman of the Liberal Party of South Africa. Paton was one of the founding members of the Liberal Party of South Africa, so it was appropriate to invite Mr Vigne to be the first speaker. Since then, speakers such as Peter Brown, Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Donald Woods, Archbishop Denis Hurley, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Dr Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, Mr Verne Harris and Professor Mbongeni Malaba have presented this prestigious lecture.

Professor Dick holds a bachelor's and an honours degree in librarianship from the University of the Western Cape, a master's degree from the University of Washington in Seattle, and a Ph.D from the University of Cape Town. Professor Dick was deputy chairperson of the Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression Committee of IFLA (International Federation of Library Association) from 2009 to 2011 and, is now chairperson of the National Council of Library and Information Services. He is the author of The Hidden History of South Africa’s Book and Reading Culture published by the University of KwaZulu-Natal Press. The lecture was followed by the launch of Professor Dick's book which was hosted jointly by the UKZN Press and the APC.

In his lecture Professor Dick said that “reading cultures are socio-cultural systems that embrace several elements such as how to decode texts, when and where reading occurs, choosing to read aloud, selecting what should be read and not read, who the members of reading communities are, and what motives drive reading. In other words, they have social and cultural dimensions and elements within larger reading systems”. In his book, Professor Dick outlines the key works of fiction and non-fiction, magazines and newspapers that were read and discussed by political activists and prisoners. He does this by looking at records and newspapers from a slave lodge, women’s associations, army education units, courts, libraries, prison departments, and political groups. The key feature of Professor Dick’s lecture explored the times “in our past when common reading cultures emerged, survived and even thrived, despite the ways in which repressive regimes sought to destroy or limit the impact of reading and writing for their own purposes”. For example, in the Cape Town of the early 19th century, there was a common reading culture that united readers of different races and religions, slave and free. Exposing the book and library schemes that elites used to regulate reading, Professor Dick reveals incidences of intellectual fraud, book theft, censorship, and book burning. Through this innovative methodology, he aptly shows how South African readers used reading and books to resist unjust regimes and build community across South Africa's class and racial barriers. He added that “reading cultures continued to connect South Africans in special ways”. Prue Smith, in her book The Morning Light: A South African Childhood Revalued, recorded how as a teenager in the 1930s she was a reader for the illiterate black servants in her parents household. “Though their memories and mental discipline enabled them to carry out their duties, it was the written word as conveyed by Prue that fed their imagination and offered them leisure”.

Professor Dick said that “often those on opposing sides of the struggle were reading the same books, but for different reasons”.
"At about the same time in the 1960s, when Nelson Mandela was reading Carl von Clausewitz's On War, and Denyes Reitz's Commando: a Boer Journal of the Boer War, to prepare himself for the move from passive resistance to armed struggle, the South African Defence Force (SADF) was also studying Von Clausewitz's book, as well as accounts of insurgencies in Malaysia, Kenya, Algeria, Vietnam, Cyprus, and China".

Professor Dick in his lecture said that "it was perhaps unsurprising then to learn from Anne Paton that Alan also read Agatha Christie, James Hadley Chase, and other thriller writers", and that he preferred reading whodunits at night. Professor Dick concluded his talk by saying that "for more years than we can tell rich and poor, black and white, and conservative and liberal South Africans have read and enjoyed cross-over authors like Reitz, Paton, Pringle, Dickens, Shakespeare, and many others not mentioned in this talk. In spite of governments and the elite segregating our reading cultures in the past, and even when we read the same books differently, we were probably on the same page more often than we may think".

**APC Manuscript Librarian graduates**

The Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives Manuscript Librarian, Nazim Gani graduated on the 22 April 2013 with a Bachelor of Library and Information Science Honours degree. Gani completed his Honours degree in 2012 through the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg Campus. He indicated that the road to success comes through hard work, determination and personal sacrifice. Gani intends to enrol for a Master's degree in 2014.

**Research Visitors to the Centre**

**Jill Elizabeth Kelly** comes from Dallas, Texas, and she is a History Professor from Michigan State University. Her Ph.D dissertation examined the local nature of South Africa's transition-era political violence. On her return visit in July 2013, Kelly used collections PC 14 John Aitchison collection and the PC 11 PACSA collection to do her research. She is presently working towards a book publication of her dissertation.

**Barb Pearce** visited the Centre in July 2013, and she comes from Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada. She is in the history department and presently working towards a Ph.D; her research at the Centre looked at farm violence. She researched PC 14 John Aitchison collection as well as the PC 126 Gerhard Mare collection.
“Telling our stories through archives and museums” was the theme of the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) Special Collections Open Day held on Thursday, 15 August 2013 at the Colin Webb Hall, Pietermaritzburg Campus. The UKZN Special Collections consist of the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives (APC), the University Archives, the Centre for African Literary Studies (CALS), Campbell Collections (CC), and the Gandhi-Luthuli Documentation Centre (DC). The event brought together academics, students, members of the archival and heritage sectors and the public. The aim of Open Day is to increase the University’s Special Collections visibility, both internally within the University and in the wider community.

The theme of Open Day was to explore and highlight the collections available at each of the Centres by way of talks, presentations, exhibitions and displays. Libraries, archives, and museums are places where we learn about ourselves, the world around us, and what came before us. They inspire us to make a better future by helping us remember and understand the past. “Telling our stories through archives and museums” seemed appropriate.

The keynote address was presented by Mr Verne Harris, Director of Research and Archives at the Nelson Mandela Foundation’s Centre of Memory. Verne Harris has been Mandela’s archivist since 2004. Harris’s topic was “Archives, Museums and the work of Memory”. Harris explained that the term ‘memory institution’ is used to describe organisations which have mandates both to document our pasts and contribute to societal reckoning with those pasts. He reminded the audience that memory institutions include not just the obvious collections, libraries, and museums, but also historical sites and agencies dealing with justice and reparation.

Harris argued that whether you are an archivist, a museologist, a palaeontologist, an historian, or a pathologist, you are working with what Jacques Derrida calls “the archiving trace”. Harris continued by stating that three fundamental movements, or attributes, define this trace. One, a movement to trace, on or in a surface, a substrate; two, a movement to exteriorise, to render the trace on or in a surface which has the quality of exteriority (in other words, the surface must be outside the psychic apparatus of an individual); and three, a movement to deem such a trace to be worthy of protection, preservation and the other interventions we call archival.

Harris used an example to illustrate this law at work. In the final phase of his imprisonment Nelson Mandela was accommodated in a prison house, under the watch of warden Jack Swart. On many a day Mandela left notes for Swart at the house entrance, to be picked up by the latter on his arrival in the morning—fragments, ephemera if you like. For instance: “please make me a light breakfast,” and “please don’t kill the mouse”. To Swart, however, they had great value, and he kept every one for a collection which he still holds over twenty years later. He deemed them worthy. Harris concluded by stating that “memory practitioners have so much in common, especially in the stuff we work with, in the publics we work for and in the call of justice sounding in our ears”.

Professor John Aitchison represented the APC and spoke on The Pietermaritzburg Agency for Community Social Awareness (PACSA). His talk was entitled “PACSA: first-hand account of crisis and compassion”. Aitchison is Emeritus Professor in Adult Education at the UKZN and a PACSA member. Aitchison told the story that “the people who founded PACSA believe that good, accurate and truthful information made a difference”. He added that the information provided by PACSA about South Africa’s unequal society was on the basis that it was useful to know and understand some of the unequal dynamics of that society. According to Aitchison, PACSA did make a difference in that it engaged with the poor and drew from them information which was communicated further and became a means of people becoming more informed about what was happening in South Africa and the real Pietermaritzburg.

Associate Professor, Kalpana Hiralal represented the Documentation Centre and spoke on “Struggle heroines in South Africa”. Hiralal is professor in the History, Society & Social Change Cluster at the Howard College, UKZN. Her current research focus is on African and South Asian Diaspora, Gender and Empowerment and women’s struggles in
Apartheid South Africa.

Hiralal began by saying that "since the turn of the century women have been at the forefront of the struggle. This year 2013 is particularly significant in honouring and remembering women's contribution to the struggle in South Africa". She spoke briefly on three milestones in women's achievements and contributions, namely the 100th anniversary of the African Women's March against pass laws in the Orange Free State (OFS); the 100th anniversary of the 1913 Satyagraha Campaign, and the 50th anniversary of the 1963 Indian Women's March to the Union Buildings. Hiralal concluded by stating that as a result of the struggles of women, our country's Constitution recognises women as equal citizens, with equal rights and responsibilities.

Professor Mbongeni Malaba spoke on "CALS: telling our story". Malaba is professor of English Studies at UKZN's Pietermaritzburg campus. Malaba spoke about the establishment of CALS and acknowledged the efforts of Bernth Lindfors, who was Professor of English at the University of Texas, in Austin. Malaba stated that "there really is not another scholar in African literary studies like Bernth Lindfors. For decades he has worked tirelessly to enhance our knowledge of African literature, writing with authority, insight and wit, constantly filling gaps in our critical awareness, forever unearthing material we should have known about but did not". Bernth Lindfors was determined that his unique collection should find a home in an African institution, as a tribute to the continent's literary heritage that was central to the development of his illustrious career. Further, he periodically brought students to Africa for seminars on African literature.

"Exploring the University's history through the UKZN Archives" was presented by Bill Guest. Guest is a Professor Emeritus and Senior Research Associate of the University of KwaZulu-Natal and is currently researching a History of the former University of Natal, the first volume of which deals with the period 1909 to 1949 and is due to be published shortly.

Guest said that the core of the University's history is to be found in the Principal's and Council's Annual Reports, available in published form from the mid-1970s, in the University Calendars, the Council, Senex and Senate Minutes, the Registrar's correspondence and, for a brief period in the 1990s, Campus Executive and Academic Affairs Board Minutes. According to Guest, the challenge to be faced in reconstructing the University's history is not a dearth of information, though this may be with regard to some of the story. Guest added that the task is one of careful selection from the mass of material available and of balanced abridgement.

Mr Mthoko Sibiya presented a talk entitled "Experience of a local practitioner concerning the Land Restitution and Claims process in South Africa: Using the Killie Campbell Africana Library and other historical resources as well as clan family oral histories". Sibiya is a legal practitioner and is involved in some land claims. Sibiya stated that the slow pace of the land claims process can largely be attributed to the incompetence of the officials of the Land Claims Commission. Sibiya criticized the land restitution processes as contributing to the failure of management or development of restored land in that the land is put into a trust which on the whole creates no relationship between the successful claim and the land. Nothing on the ground changes, rendering the situation akin to tribal or traditional practices under the Amakhosi/Ngonyama Trust when people do not have formal title over the land and thus little incentive to take personal risk or active effort to develop the land.

It is evident that the UKZN Special Collections are dedicated to providing quality support for research in the Humanities. Special Collections Open Day aims to create awareness about their research facilities and will continue to be the custodians of a wealth of data and information as it supports the achievements of UKZN as it aims to be the premier university of African scholarship.

Acknowledgements
Concord, December 2011
The Witness, Thursday 29 August 2013
International Archives Day

The 6th International Archives Day was celebrated on the 9th of June 2013. The aim of International Archives Day is to promote archives and the archives profession. Through International Archives Day, we can:

- make the public aware of the importance of archives, underpinning their rights and their identity;
- make the decision-makers aware of the advantages of good record-keeping for good governance and well-planned development;
- make both public and private sectors aware of the need to preserve archives over the long term, and to facilitate access to them;
- promote and make known unique, extraordinary and rare documents preserved in archives to a broad section of the public;
- improve the perception that people have of archives and raise their profile globally.

According to Schwartz and Cook (2002), “archives contain the evidence of what went before. Archives are our memories. Memory, like history, is rooted in archives and without archives, memory falters, knowledge of accomplishments fades, pride in a shared past dissipates”. The challenge for archives and archivists is to promote their collections as it seems that “what goes on in the archives remains remarkably unknown”.

Alan Paton Centre receives award

The inaugural Mayoral Tourism Awards 2013 was held on Friday 27 September 2013 at the Pietermaritzburg City Hall. The Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives (APC) received an Award of Excellence in the Special Recognition category. The Mayoral Tourism Awards have been introduced to identify and recognize men, women and organizations that have strived and continued to make the City of Choice a destination of choice. The APC was acknowledged for its contribution to tourism in Pietermaritzburg and was recognized for its role on the Alan Paton Literary Tour. The award is viewed as a means to celebrate recipients and to encourage a high standard of practice for products and services in the tourism industry within the City of Pietermaritzburg.

International Museums Day

Museums (memory + creativity) = social change

The Department of Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation in partnership with the Council of Msunduzi Museum celebrated International Museums Day on Friday, 17 May 2013. The event was held at the Msunduzi Museum (Voortreker Museum) at 351 Langalibalele Street, Pietermaritzburg. Staff at the APC attended the event and the keynote address was presented by the Honourable MEC for Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation, Mrs Ntombikayise Sibhidla-Saphetha.

The worldwide community of museums celebrated International Museums Day on 18 May 2013. The 2013 theme for international Museums Day is Museums (memory + creativity) = social change. The International Council of Museums (ICOM) established International Museums Day in 1977 to increase public awareness of the role of museums in the development of society. According to ICOM, the rich heritage which museums both display and protect is associated with inventiveness and vitality, both of which have characterized the museum sector in recent years and are museums’ greatest strength.

In her keynote address, the MEC said museums are part of our heritage, which in turn plays an important role in promoting nation building. International Museums Day was declared 36 years ago and the most important aspect of this day “is to meet at the museum and reminisce about these institutions as important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among people”. Mrs Sibhidla-Saphetha said that “this project is geared towards capturing our forgotten histories and it is aimed at bridging the gap between the young and the old”. The MEC concluded by saying that “museums sought to heal the wounds of the past and promote reconciliation”.

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Visit by Mr Hanef Bhamjee
Secretary - Action for Southern Africa – Wales (ACTSA)

Nazim Gani

The Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives (APC) was honoured to be visited by Mr Hanef Bhamjee on the 4th of January 2013. Mr Bhamjee was researching on the topic "sport during the struggle period". He consulted information relating to the South African Council of Sport. On the 19th of January 2013 Mr Bhamjee presented a message on behalf of the Sports Veterans Association (SVA) inaugural awards function.

Mr Bhamjee, a lifelong anti-apartheid campaigner, was awarded the OBE in 2003 for services to race relations, the charity and volunteer sector, and for founding the Wales Anti-Apartheid Movement. Mr Bhamjee was born in apartheid-era South Africa and campaigned against its whites-only rule from the age of 10. After friends and colleagues in the African National Congress were arrested, Mr Bhamjee was forced to leave his home country in 1966, arriving in Cardiff in 1972 via London and Birmingham. The movement ceased to operate in 1994, following the collapse of whites-only rule in South Africa. But the Welsh contribution to the anti-racism struggle in South Africa was rewarded when Nelson Mandela was given freedom of the city of Cardiff during the European Union summit in 1998. Mr Bhamjee said: "It was a tribute to Mandela, but it was also a tribute to the Welsh anti-apartheid campaign". Mr Bhamjee first met Mr Mandela in South Africa when he was 15 and remains in contact with many of the leading figures in the ANC. He is now a solicitor specialising in charity and immigration cases, as well as serving as secretary of the anti-poverty group Action for Southern Africa and sitting on the board of the Wales Council for Voluntary Action.

In his message, Mr Bhamjee said that "some 19 years have elapsed since 1994. Despite relative advances, we should celebrate decades of sporting excellence in relation to progress in society. The majority of people still suffer economic exploitation, poverty and social degradation. Internally, South Africa became ungovernable in the 1980s through internal resistance, the armed struggle and the international boycott, economic, cultural and sporting links. These factors brought the apartheid regime to the conference table. Sport is an important barometer in any country's progress, in which health, nutrition, education, geography and employment are critical variables". Mr Bhamjee concluded his message by saying that "sport played a significant part in exposing apartheid and in galvanizing people in the sanctions campaign against South African racism. We need to educate our people to realize what happened in the past and our sporting history can play a very important role in realizing the dream that "you cannot have normal sport in an abnormal society"."
Opening of the Maritzburg College Museum: 
Paton's tribute to College 

Nazim Gani

The former Head and Manuscript Librarian of the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives, Mrs Jewel Koopman and Nazim Gani, attended the opening of the Maritzburg College Museum on Thursday, 28 February 2013. The opening of the museum was part of Maritzburg College’s 150th birthday celebrations and was unveiled by Brian Spencer (chairperson of the museum committee), Keith Guise-Brown (acting headmaster), and Ron Jury (former headmaster, 2006-2012). According to Guise-Brown, Maritzburg College now boasts a modern facility that does credit to College history.

The museum is well worth a visit and you will find yourselves side-tracked by the many fascinating displays and presentations. The museum is housed in an old converted gym at the school. The history of the school is detailed from the early days when it opened in Langalibalele Street to its current high-tech environment. Touch screens with video clips of the history of sport at the school, photo gallery highlights, and video interviews with prominent old boys bring life to the displays.

Alan Paton, who attended Maritzburg College and later was a school teacher at College, is featured at the Museum. In his tribute to Maritzburg College, Paton wrote that his own special pride was Clark House, which was to him, in his small world, the noblest building in Natal, especially as seen from the west. In 1928, Paton returned to College as a master and wrote the following lines about his old school. According to Paton, these few words say what could not be said in many:

Old walls that echoed to our cries,  
Our oaths and prayers and laughter,  
And echo now to cries of those  
Who follow after.

When earth has taken back to earth  
Our unremembered bones,  
Preserve the echo of our names  
About your stones

College celebrated their centenary in 1963, and an honour was bestowed upon Paton. Paton was asked to give the address and the prizes at the Speech Day. Paton in 1963, was the National President of the Liberal Party. At the time he wrote the above 8 lines of the verse in wet concrete, and the plaque is to be seen on the southern wall of the old science laboratory at College.

Acknowledgements:  
The Witness, Friday, March 1, 2013  
Weekend Witness, Saturday, March 2, 2013  
College Newsletter 8, 7 March 2013
James and Clare Currey visit APC

The owners of James Currey Publishers in Oxford, England, James and Clare Currey, visited the Centre on 1 March 2013. Their visit to the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) was to arrange for later this year, when The New African is to be put up free on-line on the DISA/UKZN website alongside Contact, and other journals of the struggle. It is also hoped to arrange for James Currey’s files of his Heinemann correspondence on the African Writers Series to be placed at the UKZN Centre of African Literature Studies (CALS).

James and Clare Currey decided to start James Currey Publishers in 1985 because there was so much publishable work coming from universities in Europe, America and from Africa itself. They worked with the brave young South African presses which had started against all odds in the seventies such as David Philip, Ravan, and Ad Donker. In the five years to 1990, a high proportion of the James Currey titles were on the politics and history of South Africa; many of the titles were banned but ways of getting them into the country were found and publication of titles such as Don Foster’s Detention & Torture in South Africa and Julie Frederikse’s South Africa: A Different Kind of War ensured international attention.

James and Clare Currey were both actively involved in the Liberal Party in the Cape. James Currey designed the Contact African Freedom Calendar for Patrick Duncan. In 1962, he joined Randolph Vigne and Neville Rubin to found the radical monthly, The New African, and to publish 53 issues, despite raids by the Special Branch, the State bringing an obscenity case, and having to get re-established in exile in London. In July 1964 Randolph Vigne had to get out of South Africa as he was, though unknown to James Currey, a ringleader of the National Committee for Liberation (NCL) / African Resistance Movement (ARM) which was engaged in sabotage. James Currey used his British passport to buy a ticket on a Norwegian freighter so that Vigne could travel in the name of Currey to Montreal. James Currey saved himself from going to Canada as well by leaping over the side of the ship and hanging on by the fingers of one hand. Extraordinary luck enabled him to evade arrest and interrogation.

James Currey helped Leo Marquard and David Philip at the Oxford University Press in Cape Town for five exciting years from just before the Sharpeville massacre in 1960 to just after the Rivonia trial verdict in 1964. It was a privilege for a young publisher to work on and design books such as Alan Paton’s magisterial Hofmeyr and Monica Wilson and Archie Mafeje’s pioneering study on Langa.

The African Studies Associations of Canada, the USA and the UK have all given special awards to James Currey in recognition of his contribution to academic publishing on Africa. Literary and academic publishing on Africa and in Africa have taken off during James Currey’s fifty years in publishing.

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CONCORD

Out of the study of conflict and conciliation there comes hopefully, concord – that is agreement, harmony, and a “being of the same heart and mind”, so that justice and peace may take root in the new South Africa.
Tetelegu Primary School learners visit APC

A group of 50 school learners from the Tetelegu Primary School in Sweetwaters, Pietermaritzburg visited the Centre on Wednesday, 15 May 2013. The learners were accompanied by their educator Mr Britian Dlamini. The aim of the visit was to get an insight into an archive. The learners were fascinated and intrigued by what they saw and learnt. For many of the learners, this was their first visit to an archive. The learners showed keen interest by asking many questions about Alan Paton and his book, *Cry, the Beloved Country*. One learner read the opening paragraph of the isiZulu translation of the novel. The learners were shown photographs of local heroes such as Harry Gwala, Chota Motala, Selby Msimang and Peter Brown.

Tim Smith visits the APC

On the 10th of April 2013, Mr Tim Smith visited the Centre and donated the Elandskop Collection. Mr Smith is a former law student of the University of Natal. Mr Smith, who hails from KwaZulu-Natal, worked in the ministry in rural areas before moving to Gauteng and ending up in Soweto. He has worked at Voter Education for the 1994 South African general election, been a witness at the Truth Commission, run a refugee service in Johannesburg and a church-based national network of healthcare clinics.

In 1983, he was ordained at St Mary’s Church in Loop Street, now Jabu Ndlovu Street. He was stationed at Elandskop from 1984 to 1990 and was also a Parish Priest at Elandskop. Between 1988 and 1990, violent incidents took place at Elandskop and youths were mobilizing people to join the United Democratic Front (UDF). Mr Smith kept records of the incidents at Elandskop and has donated all his work relating to the violence to the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives.

Mr Smith is currently based in Cape Town where he is Director of Breadline Africa. Breadline Africa is an internationally registered South African-based charity that aims to break the cycle of poverty – by helping communities to help themselves. Breadline Africa believes that children and young people hold the future in their hands. It has a highly successful Container Programme, converting old shipping containers into vital community structures. As libraries the portable, versatile and secure recycled containers are a lifeline to many struggling communities, where they provide instant and vital infrastructure. Since 1993, they have recycled, refurbished and placed more than 175 of these containers in poor communities throughout Southern Africa. Mr Smith and Breadline Africa are currently working on a project to open a library in Bergville.
The Pietermaritzburg Agency for Community Social Awareness (PACSA) and the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives (APC) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Pietermaritzburg Campus jointly hosted the launch of the PACSA archival collection 1979-1999. The event was held on 9 February 2013 at the Leeb du Toit Council Chambers of UKZN, Pietermaritzburg Campus. The collection will be housed at the APC. The collection comprises 75 boxes of documents and five boxes of photographs and slides. The collection has been documented by part-time workers, Mrs Joan Kerchoff, the widow of PACSA founder member Peter Kerchoff, Mrs Mary Gardner and Mrs Jewel Koopman. The documentation process was funded by PACSA with the generous support of the D.T. Hudson Fund.

Former Manuscript Librarian at the APC, Mrs Jewel Koopman who was involved with the indexing and archiving of the collection said that “scribes at PACSA wrote down what informants told them, and reading these detailed accounts now, brings back the years of horrific violence. PACSA became one of the main sources of information about the crisis for local and international journalist”. Mrs Mary Gardner added that “the horror of it all comes back so vividly”. PACSA director, Mr Mervyn Abrahams, said that “PACSA has a history that belongs to the city of Pietermaritzburg and the collection will better enable people to access that history”.

PACSA was founded by a group of Christians in 1979 to gather information about the true nature of the South African apartheid state in the hope that if Christians, in the words of Peter Kerchoff, “knew more about the situation they would be equipped to act”. PACSA later became actively involved in supporting detainees and their families as well as those injured and killed during the political violence of the eighties and nineties. The guest speaker was Professor Emeritus John Aitchison, professor in Adult Education at the UKZN and a PACSA member. Professor Aitchison said that “the people who founded PACSA believed that good, accurate and truthful information made a difference”. He added that the information provided by PACSA about South Africa’s unequal society was on the basis it was useful to know and understand some of the unequal dynamics of that society. Professor Aitchison indicated that PACSA did make a difference in that it engaged with the poor and drew from them information which was communicated further and became a means of people becoming more informed about what was happening in South Africa and the real Pietermaritzburg. According to Professor Aitchison, informants came with stories about the shootings, the assassinations, the petrol bombs, and it was a period of horrific and ghastly violence and during the Seven Day’s War in 1990 it became catastrophic. Professor Aitchison said that “information communicated well can make a difference”.

Dr Christopher Merrett, responding to Professor Aitchison, agreed that “this information is part of what led to the downfall of apartheid”. Dr Merrett said that fact sheets produced by PACSA on subjects such as political conflict, security legislation, deaths in detention and poverty “were models of documentation” and were circulated in “the service of the truth and the greater good”. Dr Merrett added that the organisational and inspirational qualities of the late Peter Kerchoff were critical to the success of PACSA and described Kerchoff as “a walking encyclopaedia of the struggle in this region”.

The archival launch concluded with a display introduced by Dr Karen Buckenham who is a former director of PACSA. The exhibition created by Jive Media Africa was titled: “Imagery and Activism”, and consisted of several panels containing poems, photographs, artwork and explanatory text. According to Dr Buckenham, the exhibition evoked painful memories; she said that “it leads to a beautiful new vision where there is life for all”.
Jewel Koopman (left), Joan Kerchhoff (centre) and Mary Gardner (right) with the last few boxes of the PACSA Collection, which they documented from May 2012 to June 2013.

Photo: Jonathan Burton, The Witness

PACSA exhibition on display

Photo: Stephen Coan, The Witness

Prof John Aitchison speaking at the PACSA launch

Mervyn Abrahams (left), with Joan Kerchhoff (centre) and Nazim Gani (right) at the launch of the PACSA Collection

Photo: Stephen Coan, The Witness

Activities around the Centre

Trees felled outside the Centre entrance

Cats on the Centre's roof

Students from Marion High School

History lecturers and students

Department of Information Studies Students

Other UKZN students
My name is Nqoba Msibi. I am originally from Swaziland and am currently pursuing a Post-Graduate Diploma in Records and Archives Management at the UKZN Pietermaritzburg campus. First and foremost, I would like to extend my gratitude to the management of the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives (APC) for affording me the opportunity to conduct my internship at the Centre.

I am very excited to share my experience as an intern at the APC's Conservation Studio where I started in May 2013. Since then I have acquired a lot of experience under the supervision of Dr. Estelle Liebenberg-Barkhuizen who is the Senior Conservation Officer of the Centre.

Estelle has structured a programme for me that is meant to cover various aspects of paper conservation techniques, ranging from the diagnosis and documentation of problems affecting paper records to recommending the most suitable technique to be applied in treating affected paper based archival records.

Over the past three months I have been introduced to dry and aqueous cleaning of paper and various methods of paper repair as well as the different tests to be conducted before any paper washing can begin.

Some of the tests that I was introduced to include the lignin test, the PH test as well as the ink solubility test. These tests are very critical before any paper washing process can be conducted, since they determine the decision that the conservator has to make with regard to treating the document.

The paper washing and de-acidification process were the most fascinating experiences. I was also introduced to light bleaching as well as bleaching paper with hydrogen peroxide.

Removing adhesive tape from documents was one of the most challenging tasks, since other than just identifying the most appropriate solvent, one has to be very cautious not to damage the document in the process.

It was amazing to note that a thorough examination would have to be conducted to determine the exact cause of foxing before a treatment procedure could be recommended. Once more it dawned on me that a conservation studio is indeed a paper surgery. Every procedure you conduct is a matter of life and death to the document being treated.

I would not be doing justice if I were not to stand as an advocate for the entire documentary heritage lying out there in the archives, museums and special collection centres, after such an experience. Let it be known that a document has a life, it speaks of the past, the present and for the future. If you would listen carefully you would hear its voice crying "preserve me well for I am carrying a message for generations to come, when you shall be here no more to convey it".

I have confidence that by the time my internship is completed I will be able to apply different paper conservation techniques to a wide range of collections at the Swaziland National Archives (SNA). It is envisaged that this internship will give birth to a long lasting relationship between the APC and the SNA.
Researchers at the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives

History honours students

On the 5th of March 2013, Professor Julie Parle and Dr Vanessa Noble from the History Department of the School of Social Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg Campus, visited the Centre with 2 history honours students, Stephen Beck and Sizwe Mgwaba. The visit was in the form of a tour of the Centre and included a discussion of some of the Centre’s collections. The Centre also advised the students on possible projects for their honours research. Possible topics identified were the land rights struggle and forced removals, sport in the struggle, violence in the Natal Midlands, Black Sash and women’s role during apartheid and the historical aspect of the Liberal Party of South Africa. Stephen Beck consulted PC 170, the Magnus Gunther Collection: National Committee for Liberation (NCL)/African Resistance Movement (ARM). Stephen was interested in PC 170/5 ARM: BOSS reports, and PC 170/7 South African Government on Communism: Sabotage – Government articles, newspaper responses of the Pan African Congress (PAC) and the African National Congress (ANC). Sizwe Mgwaba consulted the Selby Msimang papers (PC 14/1). The Centre aims to collaborate with the History Department to identify possible projects that students could do research on and hopes that this collaboration will be for future years as well.

From left to right: Dr Vanessa Noble with Nazim Gani, Sizwe Mgwaba and Stephen Beck in the Natal Society Library at the Alan Paton Centre.

History of Christianity Honours students

The History of Christianity Honours students at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Pietermaritzburg Campus, visited the Centre on 6 March 2013. The visit was arranged by Professor Philippe Denis from the School of Religion, Philosophy and Classics (UKZN). The 3 honours students, Mbongeleni Dlamini, Ezechiel Rivuzimana and Ncube Muzi were accompanied by Rev. Bongani Zulu, a lecturer at the School of Religion, Philosophy and Classics.

The purpose of the visit was to get acquainted with the Alan Paton Centre collections and to understand why, how, by whom and when the archival collections (including the oral history interview transcripts and tapes) were constituted. The students were allowed the opportunity to examine folders of church-related documents, for example, the J. Francois Bili/FEDSEM Collection (PC 80), the Steve de Gruchy Papers (still to be documented) and the PACSA Collection (PC 11). The students will be required to write a report on their visit.

From left to right: Dr Vanessa Noble with Nazim Gani, Sizwe Mgwaba and Stephen Beck in the Natal Society Library at the Alan Paton Centre.

The Rev Bongani Zulu (left) with his group of Honours students in the Alan Paton Study at the Centre.
Lea Maria Nissen, a student from the Alice Salomon University, Berlin Germany, visited the Centre on 3 January 2013. Ms Nissen's discipline is social anthropology and her purpose of research was on HIV/AIDS; she was involved in the field of HIV-prevention strategies in South Africa. Ms Nissen was interested in research on the Nomkhubulwane Festival: the Goddess, the festival and virginity testing.

The Centre gave Ms Nissen a copy of the video of the Nomkhubulwane Festival which was made in 1996. Patience Gugu Ngobese (Nomagugu) was a student at the University of Natal and had a dream to revive the Nomkhubulwane Festival. Her PhD supervisor, Dr Kathryn Limakatso Kendall; made the video entitled “Calling the Zulu Goddess Home.”

Marc Epprecht, from the Department of Global Development Studies, Queen’s University in Canada, visited the Centre on 11 February 2013. Mr Epprecht was fascinated by the Centre’s Collections and plans to spend more time at the Centre in the near future. He consulted PC 11, History of Edendale, PC 14, Selby Msimang Papers, and PC 170, PACSA Collection.

Meredith Whitnah, a doctoral candidate in Sociology at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA, visited the Centre on 18 June 2013. Her research focused on the history of faith-based NGOs. Ms Whitnah had been in South Africa for 3 weeks and was to visit the Wits University Library as well to conduct further research. She consulted PC 130 African Enterprise, PC 170 Magnus Gunther, and PC 11 PACSA Collection.

Passing of Professor Colin Gardner

At the time of Concord going to print, the APC received the sad news that Professor Colin Gardner passed away in the early hours of Thursday morning, 10 October 2013. This is a very sad loss for the Alan Paton Centre, as he had served on the APC Advisory Committee since the opening of the APC in 1989, and was extremely knowledgeable about the APC, the Liberal Party and the Struggle. Prof. Gardner was a Pietermaritzburg academic, politician and human rights activist. He lectured in the English Department on the Pietermaritzburg campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) for 38 years and was head of the Department for more than 20 years. Prof. Gardner was a loyal supporter of the APC. His knowledge and expertise will be sorely missed. APC staff and members of the Advisory Committee express their sincere condolences to Mrs. Mary Gardner and her family. An obituary will follow in the next issue of Concord.
Tribute to Dasarath Bundhoo

8 April 1921 - 6 April 2013

One of Pietermaritzburg's iconic figures, Mr Dasarath 'Das' Bundhoo, died on the 6th of April 2013. His wife, Mrs Durga Bundhoo, was a teacher by profession. She became involved in social, religious, political and educational issues affecting the Indian community in which she lived. She was a member of the Pietermaritzburg Indian Women's Association and became its treasurer and president, and served this Association for most of her life.

According to *The Witness*, Mr Bundhoo touched every aspect of Pietermaritzburg's life, from trade unionism to religion and community work. "He was a doyen of the city's historic leather industry, attending national and international leather and trade union conferences".

Mr Bundhoo served on civic bodies as chairperson of the Northdale Civic Association and President of the Pietermaritzburg Combined Residents' and Ratepayers' Association. He was the first black person to be appointed as a Trustee of the Natal Museum Council, a position which he held from 1984-1991. Mr Bundhoo was Chairperson of the Pietermaritzburg branch of the National Union of Leather Workers for 21 years, and national vice-president of the South African Federation of Leather Trade Unions from 1984 to 1988. His work in the trade unions and in public affairs earned him a Civic Certificate of Commendation in 1997.

Robert Webb, a member of *The Enquirer*’s editorial board, wrote about Mr Bundhoo: "What strikes you about Das Bundhoo is the depth, power and clarity of his commitment to the urgency for him and his fellow South Africans to find 'a God-guided strategy' for their country".

Mr Bundhoo had a passionate drive over the years to raise the profile of Mahatma Gandhi's links to Pietermaritzburg. He wrote a book *Whisperings of a Gandhi Follower*, which chronicled Gandhi's influence on him. In 1997, former President Mr Nelson Mandela thanked Mr Bundhoo personally when Mr Mandela was offered the Freedom of Pietermaritzburg.

Pietermaritzburg has indeed lost a true icon who has touched every aspect of the city's life.

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Archival Platform visit the APC

Nazim Gani

The Director, Ms Jo-Anne Duggan and Deputy Director, Dr Mbongiseni Buthelezi, from the Archival Platform visited the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives on the 27 November 2012. The Archival Platform is a civil society initiative committed to deepening democracy through the use of memory and archives as dynamic public resources. The Archival Platform was established by the Archive and Public Culture Research Initiative at the University of Cape Town and the Nelson Mandela Foundation (now Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory) in response to challenges raised by delegates to the 2007 “National System, Public Interest” conference. This dialogue, co-convened by the National Archives, the NMF and the Witwatersrand University’s Constitution of Public Intellectual Life Research Project, was a high-profile attempt to draw attention to the growing crisis in archives and resulted in an Open Report to the Minister of Arts and Culture, which sounded a very serious warning about the state of the national archival system. The Archival Platform is funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies.

The Archival Platform in its report commented on the university archives:

> When it comes to university archives, we noted the remarkable work that is being done by staff at the Campbell Collections and the Alan Paton Centre and Struggle Archives at UKZN. Despite limited resources and a sense of marginalisation that has come and gone over the years as university administrators have changed, the two centres (and others) are in meticulous order, especially the latter.

It is intended to play a catalytic role in the way in which practitioners, theorists and the general public think about the archive and the ways in which the process of archiving is practised in South Africa.

On the one hand, the Archival Platform is intended to draw attention to the political and social role of archives in deepening democracy, encouraging the exercise of active citizenship, and facilitating the work of building social cohesion in a historically fractured society. On the other, it is intended to address the specific concerns of the sector - the practical challenges of digitisation, poor communication and coordination, uneven or inadequate funding and training opportunities.

The Archival Platform focuses on the memory, cultural practices, artefacts, places as well as the documentary record of the country’s history and the discourse around re/making the past in the present. At the heart of Archival Platform activity is a concern with the archive, the record of the past: the choices and decisions that are made about what is preserved and what is not; the systems that are used to safeguard the archive; the mechanisms through which decisions about what is accessible and what is restricted are made; the ways in which the archive is curated or brought into the public domain; and the purpose to which it is put.

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Acknowledgement

www.archivalplatform.org

APC, CALS and Midlands Literary Festival Tour

The Alan Paton Centre (APC), the Centre for African Literary Studies (CALS), and the Midlands Literary Festival collaborated to host a literary tour of Pietermaritzburg on Friday, 23 August 2013. The tour touched on the writing careers of Alan Paton, Bessie Head, Ronnie Kasrils, Kobus Moolman, Chris Nicholson, Antjie Krog, Dana Snyman and Tom Sharpe. The tour also featured a visit to Fort Napier Hospital, where Ronnie Kasrils, former Minister for Intelligence Services and member of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress, gave a talk about his and his late wife Eleanor’s experiences at Fort Napier Hospital. Chris Nicholson, a retired South African high court judge, spoke about his experiences as a young pupil and his encounter with Tom Sharpe who was his English teacher.

The tour ended with a visit to CALS and the APC where poems were recited.

Chris Nicholson and Ronnie Kasrils
Exhibition of Artists' Books by Master of Arts Student

The Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives hosted an exhibition in collaboration with a University of KwaZulu-Natal Master's student Ms Phillipa Haskins. "Ms Haskins has produced a body of innovative, whimsical book objects and small artists' books which explores the erosion of the written word, as well as celebrating the book as an escape to another realm" (The Witness, Tuesday, 25 June 2013). According to Ms Haskins, the idea for her work began when she loaned a book from a library at the University which had last been stamped in 1975. This affected her quite profoundly and she realized that people are no longer using books as primary sources of information. Books that were once valued as containers of knowledge seem to have become secondary in contemporary culture, and many of them can be found neglected and gathering dust on the shelves of second-hand book stores. Ms Haskins added that this body of work consisted of a number of book objects and artists' books and explored this concept as well as the resulting decay of vocabularies, languages, and literature in contemporary culture. Ms Haskins hosted walkabouts of her work and attracted a number of visitors to the Centre. This exhibition is the culmination of the practical component of Ms Haskins's Master's in Fine Arts (MAFA) degree.

Right: Some of Pippa's books in the Natal Society collection and Pippa (second from the left, bottom photograph) with some of her supporters

Bookbinding workshop for children

On Wednesday 7 August 2013 the APC offered its first workshop for children. Dr Rouen Bruni, a well-known homeopath in Pietermaritzburg, brought his three daughters to learn a few basic bookbinding techniques. The children looked at samples of paper made from papyrus, bark and vellum and learnt a little bit about the history of paper and bookbinding before they began sewing up their books. They were taught to sew single quires using a 2-, 3- and 5-hole pamphlet stitch. A variety of coloured papers were used as covers for their books and the quires were sewn directly into their covers. It was a fun-filled afternoon enjoyed by all.
Donations received in 2013

The APC was grateful to receive a financial donation from Professor Richard Dale. Professor Dale’s donation is an annual contribution towards the printing of the APC newsletter, Concord. The APC acknowledges Professor Dale’s continuous support and interest in the Centre.

The APC received an annual financial donation from the Natal Society Foundation Trust. The APC acknowledges the continuous support and interest in the Centre.

The following archival donations were gratefully received:

- **University of KwaZulu-Natal: 100 years of academic excellence in the Province (1910-2010)**
- **Bill Guest** donated a copy of his book *Trek and Transition: A history of the Msunduzi and Ncome Museums (incorporating the Voortrekker Complex 1912-2012)*
- **Robert Alexander MacIntosh** kindly donated the following:
  - *Maccy: A guest for freedom: A story of a Teacher and His Dog* by R. MacIntosh
  - *As heaven Intended: A Selection of poems, writings and songs* by Robert Alexander MacIntosh
  - *As Heaven Intended (CD): A selection of poetry read by Anthony Higgins written by Robert Alexander MacIntosh and As Heaven Intended: When the Sun Becomes My Heart (CD): A selection of poetry read by Anthony Higgins written by Robert Alexander MacIntosh*
- **Jewel Koopman** kindly donated *Children at the Forefront: A history of Thandanani Children’s Foundation (1989-2009)* by Matthew Le Cordeur and Thandi Davies
- **Dr Henry Oakeley**, FRCP FLS Royal College of Physicians, kindly donated *Doctors in the Medicinal Garden: Plants named after physicians* by H. Oakeley
- **Roy Sargeant** kindly donated *Cry, the Beloved Country: the play, a play adaptation* by Roy Sargeant
- **Estelle Liebenberg–Barkhuizen** donated *Putting women on the agenda* edited by Susan Bazilli
- **Mary Kleinenberg** donated 3 Black Sash interview tapes and transcripts to the Centre’s Oral History Project collection: Paula Krynauw interviewed by Mary Kleinenberg, Mary Kleinenberg interviewed by Alleyn Diesel, and Jennie Bowen interviewed by Mary Kleinenberg
- **Stuart Freedman** kindly donated his book *Durban Harbour: Photographic history from 1824: Special Souvenir Issue*
- **Kind donation by the Humanist Institute for Co-operation with Developing Countries**
  - *She Murenga: The Zimbabwe Women’s Movement 1995-2000* by Shereen Essof
- **Tim Smith** donated the Elandskop collection, which records incidents of violence at Elandskop

Donations in the form of archival material or money will be welcomed by the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives. Please contact the Centre should you wish to make a donation.

Contact details: Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Private Bag X01, Scottsville 3209
- tel: 033 260 5926
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