

# CONCORD

Newsletter of the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg Campus  
September 2008, No. 11



The Alan Paton Centre  
& Struggle Archives



## Researchers, visitors, talks and tours at the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives

The Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives was visited by a variety of interesting people, both local and from overseas, over the last year. Two groups of international librarians who had been attending the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Conference in Durban visited both the Alan Paton Centre (APC) and the Centre for African Literary Studies (CALS) on the Pietermaritzburg (Pmb) Campus in August 2007. They were given a talk, tour and tea at the APC. A group of 45 Golden Alumni included the APC on their campus tour. They had all been students at the old University of Natal, and were awarded their degrees in 1958 or before. Archivists and museum staff attended a workshop at the APC on the preservation of photographs, presented by Estelle Liebenberg-Barkhuizen and Nic Ruddiman. The workshop was repeated due to popular demand.

Researchers for post-graduate degrees and authors of books visited the Centre to do research. These included Michael Cardo, who is writing the biography of Peter Brown, and Peter Alexander, who is writing a second book on Alan Paton based on his correspondence. David Levey, a UNISA lecturer, received his PhD degree for his thesis entitled "Identity in the early fiction of Alan Paton, 1922-1935", much of which was researched at the APC. Several researchers came to consult the new Magnus Gunther Collection on the National Committee for Liberation, also known as the African Resistance Movement (ARM). Prof Norman Bromberger continued to select



Researchers in the Reading Room



IFLA conference delegates.



Matriculants from Siphakeme High



Theology students

documents from the Liberal Party Archives for inclusion on the DISA (Digital Indexing South Africa) website.

UKZN students in groups or individually also visited the Centre. A group of students from Information Studies came for an introduction to archives. Another group came from the School of Theology with their lecturer, Radikobo Ntsimane, to do an assignment on "History, Truth and Worldviews". A group of American students associated with Jabulani Sithole and the School of History at UKZN came with Prof. William Chafe to read oral history transcripts in preparation for conducting interviews with local activists and people who had been involved with PACSA (Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness).

The Centre was also visited by Matriculants. The new National Grade 12 History syllabus calls for learners to visit and do an assignment on a heritage resource in their area. Mr Swebelele, a History teacher from Greytown, brought his class of 29 learners from Siphakeme High. Other Matriculants came as individuals to do research on Matric History Projects.

All sections of the collections were used by a variety of students and researchers during the year: Alan Paton; the Liberal Party; the Struggle Archives; the Natal Society Special Collections and the photograph and oral history collections.

Jewel Koopman





## What Liberalism offers South Africa today by Raenette Taljaard: 14th Alan Paton Lecture

"What Liberalism offers South Africa today" was the title of the 14th Alan Paton Lecture, which was given by Raenette Taljaard, the Director of the Helen Suzman Foundation. The Lecture took place in the Colin Webb Hall on 17 May 2007. It was sponsored by the Natal Society Foundation through Mr Michael Daly. A snack supper was served in the Council Chamber after the Lecture.

Ms Taljaard started her Lecture with a quote from Alan Paton:

'Liberalism is not a creed of this or any century. It is a generosity of spirit, a tolerance of others, an understanding of otherness, a commitment to the rule of law, an abhorrence of authoritarianism, a love of freedom.'

She went on to say that the term 'liberal' is often wielded as a swear-word in South Africa today, and as a tool to undermine the credibility of those who fought for the liberation of South Africa on the basis of their own clear belief in freedom as a fundamental virtue. Although some of the ideals of liberalism may have triumphed in the new South Africa, this is unacknowledged, and liberals are still under fire.

Raenette Taljaard stated that she wore her badge as a liberal unapologetically with honour. She stated that there are a number of core challenges that liberals and liberalism face in order to remain relevant and contribute to a national discourse.

The following are extracts from her speech:

"These core challenges that liberals face include: Ensuring that the contributions of extra-parliamentary liberals such as Alan Paton, Peter Brown and hundreds of others and parliamentary liberals such as Helen Suzman and Colin Eglin and their wonderful contribution to our country's history of liberation will never be forgotten, thereby ensuring an accurate historical record.

Ensuring a lively liberal presence in society broadly and in civil society in particular (beyond the reach of narrow party politics) to remind all of us that there

are liberals who presided over our transition to democracy in all organizations, political parties, and in all walks of life in South Africa.

Demonstrating liberalism's continued relevance in a society grappling with the legacy of apartheid and aiming to consolidate liberal democracy under a liberal democratic constitution...

Finding a sound intellectual bridge between the individual and the collective and between freedom and equality and applying it in practical terms to our complex society.

Liberalism must grapple with its blind spots and aim at developing a strongly South African success-story of multiculturalism that does not become absolute cultural liberty...

Elevating tolerance and respect for dissent as a core societal value and virtue in and of itself...

In a country with persistent legacies of apartheid and the ravages of poverty, hunger and disease, this

requires liberalism to demonstrate its diversity and its clear understanding that freedom cannot exist when social needs are not met. Liberals have traversed this core link between freedom and dignity and social upliftment in the past but it needs to be reclaimed, reinvigorated and publicly proclaimed as core business of the liberal project in South Africa...

Liberals therefore need to address poverty as a fundamental negation of freedom and chart policy courses that directly address this matter...

The more difficult road to travel is the one where one has to convince those who are hostile to the value of liberalism's intellectual core. That is exactly why any blind spots it may have in a country as complex as our own need to be rigorously confronted and engaged...

As Alan Paton observed at the last meeting of the Liberal Party at Hambrook on 4 May 1968 in questioning why the former government had equally persecuted liberals:





'I'll tell you why. The party was small and not powerful. But it was formed to give expression to ideas that were not small, and were full of power. One of these ideas is that man is not born to go down on his belly before the State. Another is that man should live where he wishes to live, and work where he wishes to work. Another is that he should be free to move about his country, and free to take any employment for which he is fitted. Another is that if men and women of different races wish to associate together and to pursue a common purpose, it is their right as a human being to do so.' "

Raenette Taljaard's full lecture is available from the Alan Paton Centre in paper format or by e-mail, or on the website: [www.ukzn.ac.za/paton](http://www.ukzn.ac.za/paton).

At the snack supper after the lecture.  
Top right: Mary Kleinenberg, Joan Kerchhoff, Penny Haswell and Raenette Taljaard.

Bottom right: Phoebe Brown, Colin Gardner and Fleur Webb.

Photos by Adrian Koopeman



## Donations of archival material

A most important donation for the Struggle Archives was Magnus Gunther's papers on his research into the African Resistance Movement (ARM), formerly known as the National Committee of Liberation (NCL). These were received last year.

Jan de Crespigny, Prof Gunther's widow, very kindly added to this collection all Magnus Gunther's interview tapes. These, together with the transcripts, make up a whole oral history project on their own.

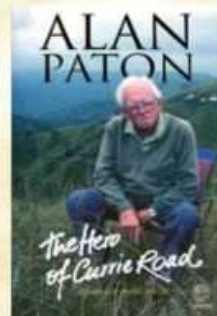
The interviews, of which there are 33 connected with the Liberal Party and 25 connected with the African National Congress (ANC), Communist Party (CP) and Congress of Democrats (COD), provide an invaluable research source. We are most grateful to Jan, who brought the interviews personally from Canada to South Africa when she visited Cape Town.

We are also very grateful to the following people for their archival donations :

- Fiona Bulman for the papers of the Midlands Women's Group.
- Verne Harris, of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, for the poster of Nelson Mandela and Chief Albert Luthuli.
- David Levey for his doctoral thesis: "Identity in the early fiction of Alan Paton, 1922 – 1935".

- Maria Lirola for her book *A systemic functional approximation to the use of cleft sentences and reversed pseudo-cleft sentences in English in a narrative sample written by the South African writer Alan Paton*.
- Mrs Else Schreiner for donating additional papers to be added to the Prof Schreiner collection.
- Mary Kleinenberg for sending Fidela Fouche's papers on the Black Sash
- Deanne Lawrance for two slide shows – on Operation Hunger and Women for Peaceful Change.
- Margery Moberly for her Peace Monitor cap and waistcoat.
- The National Heritage Council for two copies of *African Intellectuals in the 19th and early 20th century South Africa*.
- Random House for *The Hero of Currie Road* by Alan Paton.

This is a collection of short stories.





## Peter Brown Memorial Seminar on African Archives and Heritage



Speakers at the Seminar.  
L-R: Prof. Sabine Marschall;  
Prof. Adrian Koopman;  
Prof. Patrick Ngulube;  
Verne Harris and Dr Dale Peters.

Below: Verne Harris presenting his paper on the Mandela Archives.



"African Archives and Heritage" was the theme of the 2007 Peter Brown Memorial Seminar, which is the Heritage Day Celebration of the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives, UKZN. Some very interesting presentations were given by the speakers. The presentations reflected the changes which are taking place in the South African Heritage arena, both through Africanisation and digitization.

Prof Adrian Koopman traced the Africanisation of Heraldry through the changes made in South African municipal crests.

Prof Patrick Ngulube spoke about the archives of east and southern Africa today, with particular reference to Zimbabwe.

Dr Dale Peters gave a presentation on the DISA Project (Digital Imaging South Africa), of which she is head.

Prof. Sabine Marschall, Head of the Cultural and Heritage Tourism Programme on the UKZN Durban Campus, spoke of her work on commemorative memorials and statues in South Africa, comparing the old with the new.

Verne Harris, who is the Memory Programme Manager at the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory and Dialogue in Johannesburg, spoke about his work with the Mandela Archives.

Jewel Koopman

## The Alan Paton Centre 20th Anniversary Conference

The Alan Paton Centre was officially opened on 25 April 1989, which means that in 2009 it will be 20 years old!

To celebrate this occasion, there will be a 20th Anniversary Conference from 15-17 July 2009. The theme of the Conference will be Alan Paton and his life and work and topics related to the collections of the Alan Paton Centre.

The keynote speaker will be Prof. Peter Alexander, of the University of New South Wales, Australia, who will also deliver the Alan Paton Lecture on 16 July 2009. Peter Alexander is the author of the Biography of Alan Paton and is currently working on a new publication based on Paton's correspondence.

The conference venue will be in Pietermaritzburg.

If you would like to deliver a paper or attend the conference please see the Call for Papers on the conference website: <http://alanpaton2009@ukzn.ac.za>



## The Living History Project: Genetic Ancestry Testing at UKZN

In October 2007, the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives liaised with the African Genome Education Institute (AGEI) and Ancestry 24.com to conduct a DNA Ancestry Testing on the UKZN Pmb Campus. Dr Wilmot James, Executive Director of the AGEI, and Heeran Makkan of the Wits Human Genomic Diversity and Disease Research Unit (HGDDRU) visited the campus in order to take cheek swab samples from 98 participants.

Dr James and Mr Makkan both gave presentations at the testing, and then Dr James gave a lunchtime talk about skin colour, migration and geographical ancestry entitled "The social lives of molecules".

The results were brought in March 2008 by Prof. Himla Soodyall of the HGDDRU. Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) test results were given to both men and women, and Y chromosome test results were given to men. The mtDNA is inherited through the matriline, and is passed on through the mothers. The Y chromosome is passed down through the fathers.

The sample consisted of 98 individuals from 15 different countries, including 11 African countries (South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Eritrea, Kenya, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia and Rwanda) and New Zealand, USA, Cuba and Romania. Most of these people were staff or students at UKZN. The results showed participants from which area of the world their ancestors of 17,000 to 100,000 years ago had probably originated. Modern people still carry this ancient inheritance in the cells of their bodies in the mtDNA. The data will be added to the AGEI database.



Prof. Himla Soodyall explaining the test results.

For a detailed report on this testing, see the AGEI KZN Report 2008 on the APC website: [www.ukzn.ac.za/unp/library/AGEI%20KZN%20Report%202008.pdf](http://www.ukzn.ac.za/unp/library/AGEI%20KZN%20Report%202008.pdf)



Heeran Makkan and Dr Wilmot James after giving their presentations.

What makes DNA Analysis so interesting, is that it shows that every person on earth can trace their ancestry back to Africa some 150,000 years ago. It also shows how people migrated from Africa to different parts of the world.

Most of the current population of European descent can trace their lineage back to just seven different women over the ages. These women lived in what is now France, Northern Italy, Greece and the Middle East, and it is their genetic inheritance which survives in the modern population.

The black population of Africa can trace their lineage back to thirteen different women over time. Thirty-three clans have been identified world-wide, and all can be traced back to a single woman in Africa, who is known as the "Mitochondrial Eve". For further information, see the fascinating book entitled *The Seven Daughters of Eve* by Bryan Sykes.



Jewel Koopman





## Liberalism, Human Rights and Foreign Policy by John Dugard: 15th Alan Paton Lecture

Professor John Dugard delivered the 15th Alan Paton Lecture, which was entitled "Liberalism, Human Rights and Foreign Policy" on 6 March 2008 in the Colin Webb Hall, UKZN. The Lecture was organised by the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives and sponsored by the Liberal Democratic Association.

Prof. Dugard is an eminent academic, who has been awarded honorary doctorates by five South African universities. Recently he held a post at the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria. Previously he was Professor of International Law

at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. From 1978 to 1990 he was Director of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand. He is a member of the UN International Law Commission and a Judge ad hoc of the International Court of Justice. His academic career started in 1961 when he was a lecturer in Law at the former University of Natal.

The following extracts are the introduction and conclusion to Professor Dugard's Lecture:

"I am honoured to have been invited to deliver the 15th Alan Paton Lecture. I knew Alan well. We worked together in the Institute of Race Relations and I met him on social occasions at his son Jonathan's home. The last time I saw him was at his grand daughter Pamela's wedding, when we hosted the reception at our house in Craghall Park.

But my relationship with Alan goes back much further. Like many South Africans of my generation I was deeply influenced by Paton's writings. *Cry the Beloved Country* was published when I was twelve. It was the first book I read on what used to be called "the South African problem".

I still get a choking feeling in my throat when I read the opening lines of this work:

"There is a lovely road that runs from Ixopo in to the hills. These hills are grass covered and rolling, and they are lovely beyond any singing of it".



Prof. John Dugard and Prof. Colin Gardner at the Alan Paton Centre. Prof. Gardner later introduced the Speaker

Soon after I read *Too Late the Phalarope* and when I become intellectually pretentious, his lives of Hofmeyr and Archbishop Geoffrey Clayton. To me his writings were a blend of the scriptures and Ernest Hemingway. His clipped and economical sentences in the

style of Hemingway had a scriptural quality, in keeping with the seriousness of his purpose. He spoke too in the style of the scriptures. That is not to say that his speeches were sermons. They were too beautifully crafted and phrased. But like his writings they had a scriptural quality. Good writers are often poor speakers. But not so Paton. He used both the written word and the spoken word to great effect.

I have recalled Paton as writer and speaker. But in addition he was for forty years the conscience of South Africa, a man whose commitment to human dignity and racial equality were unswerving. Throughout the dark years of apartheid he was a light, a beacon of hope and a voice of principle and reason.

Today, unfortunately, the role of persons such as Paton and Suzman in creating our South African democracy is overlooked – even suppressed. But when South Africans are able to reflect more carefully, after the passage of time, on the turbulent years of apartheid I have no doubt that Paton, and others, will receive the honour that is undoubtedly their due.

Today I am going to speak about liberalism, human rights and foreign policy. My emphasis will be on South Africa, but I shall also comment on these subjects in a broader, universal context."

#### CONCLUSION

"Let me return to where I started: liberalism and human dignity. Although South Africa today lives under a democratic constitutional order, human dignity is still violated in many ways. Today I have singled out two subjects that deserve special attention. In the days of apartheid liberals opposed racial inequality and injustice without the advantage of a Bill of Rights. Today the Bill of Rights facilitates challenges to authority and the assertion of human rights. But rights must not be taken for granted. There is a need for constant vigilance on the part of civil society in respect of civil and political rights for both citizens and non-citizens. And public opinion must be aroused, and the legal process invoked, in order to ensure greater equality between the people of our land. The *Sunday Times* carried a Human Sciences Research Council Report on 2 March which found that twelve million children in South Africa live in poverty. Four million are starving and 77 % do not have access to proper toilet facilities, electricity and piped water. This in a land of ostentatious wealth in the cities.

Little is heard of liberalism today. In South Africa other ideologies compete for power. But there is still a role for liberals, to ensure that human dignity is respected and promoted. Not only the human dignity of wealthy South African

citizens, but also the human dignity of the poor and foreigners who have sought refuge in our land from political persecution and economic deprivation in their own countries. Thankfully, the situation has changed dramatically in South Africa since Alan Paton's death in 1988. But there are new challenges that must be addressed in the pursuit of human dignity. Alan Paton would have wanted us to do this."

Professor Dugard's full Lecture is available from the Alan Paton Centre in paper format or by e-mail, or on the website:

[www.ukzn.ac.za/paton](http://www.ukzn.ac.za/paton)

JK



Prof. John and Mrs Ietje Dugard  
(Maria Barbas) after the Lecture.

Photo: Adrian Koopman

## Prof. Deneys Schreiner

1923 – 2008

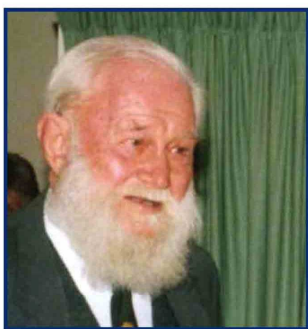


Photo: Adrian Koopman

Prof Schreiner passed away on Freedom Day, 27 April 2008.

He will be fondly remembered by many ex-students and staff of the former University of Natal for his positive attitude, innovative ideas, wonderful sense of humour and his flowing beard, which he grew as a protest against apartheid, and shaved for the first time in 40 years in 1994, to celebrate South Africa's first democratic election.

Prof and Mrs Else Schreiner have donated their politically related papers to the Alan Paton Centre. Copies of speeches made at Prof Schreiner's memorial service are housed at the APC.

Prof Schreiner's academic and administrative papers are housed at the University of KwaZulu-Natal Archives.





# How Alan Paton re-wrote my lifestyle

Jameson Maluleke

When I was acquainted with Alan Paton for the first time through his masterpiece *Cry, the Beloved Country* in the late seventies, never had I thought that his worldviews, his philosophies and religion would eventually shape my life style.

For want of sophistication, many writers see literature as a science. Unlike these advocates of literary science, Paton rightly perceived literature as art – a combination of creation and rationality that touches both the mind and the seat of emotions. It is this kind of approach to literature which makes Paton one of the guiding lights in world literature. His *Cry, the Beloved Country* in particular, is as relevant as it was when it was first published in the forties.

Who is this Paton? How did he become so familiar with rural African life in South Africa? I went on to investigate. Regrettably, my query did not bear any fruit. I was never discouraged. I worked for the Church of the Province of Southern Africa (CPSA) with my life-long friend Maggie Helass. I also happened to live with the Community of the Resurrection Fathers including Paton's friend and fellow-writer, Father Trevor Huddleston and Brother Philip Nichol at Saint Peter's Priory. During my eight-year stint at Saint Peter's, I became a practising Anglican.

Well, being a poor African and non-resident of the leafy suburbs in any of South Africa's big cities, I do not have the courage to call myself a liberal. In this age of Post-Everything, I am told that it is treacherous for a peace-loving Anglican such as I am to go about hoisting the banner of liberalism. Nevertheless, my love for and understanding of literature and social activism have essentially been influenced and are guided by Paton's perception of life.

It was not until I had translated *Cry, the Beloved Country* into Tsonga that I "discovered" Paton's youngest son, Jonathan in Johannesburg. We soon became friends, and Jonathan told me all that he knew of his famous father, of Paton's love for South Africa and her people, his obsession with literature,

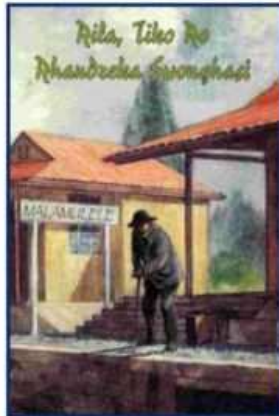
his deep Anglican beliefs, and constant prayer for racial equality in a divided land bedeviled with fear...

We regularly met at his house for a cup of English tea or lunch. We spent most of our time discussing literature (Paton's writings to be exact), politics, violent crime, and our future as grassroots citizens in the new South Africa.



One of the many highlights of my friendship with Jonathan was a trip to Diepkloof Reformatory in Johannesburg where his father had worked as the principal. We also watched the 1951 film version of *Cry, the Beloved Country*. Some months before Jonathan passed away, we planned to embark on a

literary journey down to Pietermaritzburg on one of his "Alan Paton Tours" mini-buses. Jonathan intended to show me his father's ancestral home and the area where Paton grew up as a boy.



Paton died way back in the eighties before I could meet him. All the same, my passionate camaraderie with Paton's firstborn David, Jonathan and his kind wife Margaret, their daughter Mrs Mills, and granddaughter Thandi, definitely convinces me that Paton would have welcomed me into his caring arms like all members of his present family.

It was also through Jonathan that I met liberal stalwarts such as Peter Brown, Donald Woods, and the old Liberal Party secretary general Pat McKenzie.

Having said all this, one question keeps torturing my unstable mind. Why was Paton never nominated for or chosen as the Nobel Prize winner? Did he live at the wrong time? Was it because he abhorred apartheid and did not support sanctions at the same time? Why, was it because Paton could not shout "Amandla!" or raise a clenched fist like the so-called radical liberals? So many questions... Well, let us ask these provoking questions into our breasts and beards, for we are all members of the old Liberal Party, which believes in a fair deal. Lest we forget, there is reconciliation and reconstruction in this country.



## Michael Daly (1931 – 2008)

Michael Daly, who died aged 77 in Pietermaritzburg in January, was an attorney, city councillor, director of companies, president of The Natal Society and member of the Alan Paton Centre Advisory Committee.

Born in Barberton, the son of a state veterinarian, he came to Pietermaritzburg as a schoolboy when his father was transferred to Allerton. He went to school at Michaelhouse, and then completed a BA at the University of Natal, followed by an LLB.

In 1956 he was admitted as an attorney, conveyancer and notary public of the Supreme Court of South Africa, Natal Provincial Division, and was later also admitted as a solicitor in the High Court of Swaziland.

Daly practised as an attorney for many years in Pietermaritzburg, retiring in 1985 to become the assistant general manager and legal adviser of the Central Timber Co-op. He later became general manager of the Central Timber Fire Protection Co-op Ltd, which became Safire, and retired in 1999.

He was active in public life as a city councillor between 1961 and 1968 until obliged to resign due to the pressures of his legal work. In 1975, the Administrator of Natal appointed him a member of the Town Planning Appeals Board, of which he served as chairman from 1977 to 1985.

He was a director of various companies, chairman of the Pietermaritzburg Philharmonic Society from 1961 to 1980, and president, from 1986 to 1998, of The Natal Society, which then ran the Pietermaritzburg public library on behalf of the city council.

When the Msunduzi Municipality assumed control of the library, he was instrumental in separating the accounts and holdings of the society from those of the library and establishing the Natal Society Foundation Trust, of which he was

a trustee and chairman from its inception in 1998 until his death. The special collections of The Natal Society, comprising the Africana collection and the libraries of William O'Brien and Alan Hattersley, were transferred to the Alan Paton Centre at the Pietermaritzburg campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal.



Michael Daly, 1970

Former director of the Natal Society Library, Shona Wallis, spoke warmly of Daly's "ability to turn a meeting into a lively and amusing event, his command of the English language and his quirky sense of humour".

Former secretary of the society, Pat McKenzie, recalled him as "an attorney of total integrity, who was very principled, which some may have mistaken for stubbornness; and a respecter of tradition, with a sense of history".

Professor Lawrence Baxter remembered the time when in the face of bullying by the government he refused to allow the doors of

the Pietermaritzburg public library to be closed to children who were not white. This took courage. Michael showed that to be a great lawyer one also has to be a truly honorable person.

Daly is survived by his wife Marlene, four children of a previous marriage and eight grandchildren.

As a boy, he was taken by his father to St George's Garrison Church. In his retirement years its worship and welfare became the great passion of his life and as chapel warden, he was responsible for significant improvements to its fabric. His funeral service took place there in the presence of a large congregation with the church bell, which he had made useable again after a silence of more than 40 years, being tolled, possibly for the first time since the days of the British garrison, as he was taken from the church for the last time.

Jack Frost

## 'Mobbs' Moberly 1938 - 2008

Margery Moberly, known to all as 'Mobbs', was a well-known figure on the UKZN Pmb Campus. She worked in the University Library in the early 1970s, and then went on to be the first University Archivist. After setting up the University of Natal Archives, she then went on to be the first University Publisher, and greatly expanded the work of the University of Natal Press.

Sadly, she developed an aggressive lung cancer, and died in Durban in June, aged 70. She will be missed by many people on the UKZN Campus for her energy, wit and forthright approach to life.

JK





# Paper conservation at the Alan Paton Centre

Estelle Liebenberg-Barkhuizen

During the course of 2007 a small paper conservation studio was set up at the APC. Up until this time, conservation work was restricted to basic cleaning and repair of documents and books and could only be undertaken when space was available. However, due to Jewel's clever planning, the room adjoining the Long Stack Room was partially cleared to become the Paton Centre's very own 'Conservation Studio'.

Setting up this studio posed an interesting challenge as conservation materials and equipment are not easily available in South Africa and usually have to be imported. Once the room was cleared, the search for essential materials and equipment began.

While receiving training in Switzerland during March/April 2007, some materials and small tools were purchased to supplement the meagre supply at the APC, but the larger pieces of equipment, of which a suction table is essential, had to be manufactured locally. I am grateful to Roelie Hendriks from the Mechanical Instrument Work-shop on campus, who built a very handy portable suction table.

The expense of importing conservation materials forced me to continue the search for suitable locally made equivalents. Friends, colleagues in the field and family members readily offered assistance, tips, advice and even donated much needed materials and tools. As the Conservation Studio acquires the necessary tools and materials, more intensive treatment can be undertaken.

A visit to the APC from a Swiss bookbinder, Sabine Scherrer-Wiele, expanded conservation work to include the treatment of books. The Cecil Renaud Library kindly 'transferred' their book press to the APC and the Conservation Room in the Durban campus Library supplied a variety of much needed paper.

Sabine offered training in the intricacies of book repair and basic book binding. She also presented a workshop on the care and conservation of books and assisted with general conservation work at the APC. Although the Conservation Studio at the APC is in its infancy, and training will be ongoing, for the first time since its opening, the APC can now embark on a conservation programme to ensure the longevity of its collections.

\* Gratitude to Allan Jeffrey (Brenthurst Library, Johannesburg), Mary Minicka (Western Cape Archives), Henrik Rörig (Centro del bel Libro, Switzerland), Colin Southway (UKZN Chemistry Department), Staff from the UKZN Libraries and Special Collections, Dale Peters, Chris Morewood and my brother Frank (Prodonics Dental Laboratory, Johannesburg).



Bookbinding training with Sabine in progress



Artefacts from the APC before and after treatment:  
top: a Liberal Party election leaflet  
bottom: a Zulu dictionary from the Natal Society Collection





## Contract Staff at the Alan Paton Centre

The Alan Paton Centre (APC) has been very fortunate to have the services of contract staff to supplement their very small staff allocation of two posts, one of which is mornings-only.

**Mr David Buckley** has been working at the APC for the last six years on a part-time contract basis. He is leaving soon to return to England, where he will share a house with his sister near Ipswich.

David was born in 1936 in Worcestershire, and came out to Rhodesia with his family in 1945. His father was a Methodist missionary stationed at Epworth Mission near Salisbury.

In 1964 David moved to Pietermaritzburg (Pmb), where he did a BA degree in English and History at the University of Natal. In 1967 he went to the Library School at the University of Cape Town. He returned to Pmb in 1968, and started working at the Natal Society Library when it was situated in Longmarket Street and Miss Judd was the Chief Librarian.

He was involved in the move to the new library building in Church Street in 1975. He was put in charge of the 3rd floor, and there looked after the Government Publications and the Special Collections, which included the Africana, Hattersley and O'Brien collections, the pamphlets and photographs.

**Lungile Seyama** worked as a contract worker at the APC during the university holidays in December 2007 and January and February 2008. She comes from Swaziland and had been working in Mbabane.

She came to Pmb to do her Honours degree in Library Science, and went on to do her Masters degree.

Lungile's main task was the re-boxing of the very large Natal Room Collection, donated by Prof Gerry Maré. The collection needed to be re-organised, put into new files and new boxes, and re-labelled. Jewel worked with her, and the collection now has a file list and an index, which makes it far more accessible to users. The file list can be found on the APC website: [www.ukzn.ac.za/paton](http://www.ukzn.ac.za/paton) JK



David Buckley with the Natal Society Africana Collection.

The Special Collections were transferred to the APC on permanent loan when the Natal Society Library became the Msunduzi Municipal Library in 2002. David retired from the Natal Society Library, but agreed to continue to act as custodian to the collection, and brought his considerable knowledge and expertise with him. During this time he learned how to input books onto the new library catalogue, and checked and maintained the catalogue entries. We will miss his quiet and calm manner and his store of knowledge.



Lungile Seyama with the re-boxed Natal Room Collection.

## A new roof at the Alan Paton Centre

Very pleasing news is that the corrugated iron roof has been covered with Holley Harvey Tiles. This has solved the problem of a leaking roof during heavy rainfalls and provides much safer coverage for the precious collections.

In photographs taken in the 1940s it can be seen that the roof was originally tiled, but at some stage these were replaced with corrugated iron. The house is over 60 years old, and so under the jurisdiction of AMAFA, who will be pleased that it has been restored to its original condition. This work was paid for by UKZN. JK





## The Freedom Route Tour: "Pioneers of Freedom"



Members of the Freedom Route Committee visited the proposed sites.

They are pictured outside the Alan Paton Centre.

L-R: Ntlaka Mdunge; Samke Sibiya; Colin Gardner; Merle Perumal; Dumisani Malinga; Abie Wentzel; Bunny Bhoola; Mthoko Khanyile; Jeenesha Naidoo and Becky Naicker.

The Freedom Route Tour was initiated by various heritage stakeholders in KwaZulu-Natal. For tourists visiting the Zulu Kingdom, tailor-made packages have been organized. These cover a large number of historical places that were significant during the struggle and are close to one another. This route covers places in and between Pietermaritzburg and Durban as well as in Howick, Groutville, Stanger, Phoenix and Inanda.

Sobantu Village; and Howick for the Nelson Mandela capture site.

The main nodes in the Durban area are KwaMuhle Museum, Mahatma Gandhi's Phoenix Settlement, Dr. John Dube's Ohlange Institute, the Albert Luthuli Museum and Cato Manor Heritage Centre. The theme of the brochure which describes this tour is "Pioneers of Freedom".

The main nodes on this Freedom Route in the Pietermaritzburg area are Project Gateway situated at the Old Prison; the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives at University of KwaZulu-Natal; the Gandhi statue and the railway station; the Manaye Hall in Edendale where Nelson Mandela delivered his last public speech before skipping the country; the plaque in Imbali for victims of political violence;

African Link Tours, an accredited tour operator, will be the main tour operator for these nodes. Only accredited and certified tour operators will operate these tours in order to maintain a high standard and give satisfaction to the public.

Jewel Koopman and Colin Gardner represent the APC on the Freedom Route Committee.

## Alan Paton Centre is featured in a Japanese Television documentary



The television crew at the APC.

L-R: Manabu Yoshikawa; Mitsuru Hasegawa; Satoshi Kojima and Emi Asano with Colin Gardner after the interview.

The television crew of the Japan Africa television company has been making a series of documentaries on steam trains in South Africa.

One which they featured was the "Paton Express", a small steam train which takes visitors for rides in the Ixopo Carisbrooke area.

After filming television footage on this train, they visited the Alan Paton Centre for background material on Alan Paton. Colin Gardner kindly agreed to be interviewed by the director of the company, Satoshi Kojima. Questions were asked in Japanese, and then translated into English by Emi Asano, the project co-ordinator. Colin's replies in English were translated into Japanese by Emi, and so the interview progressed.

*Cry, the Beloved Country* has been translated into Japanese, and so will be known to some Japanese television viewers. JK

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All photos by Jewel Koopman unless otherwise stated