



Concord

The Alan Paton Centre
& Struggle Archives



Newsletter of the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg Campus
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Looking Back on an Interesting Career

Jewel Koopman

I worked at the Alan Paton Centre (APC) as Manuscript Librarian and Head of the Centre from mid-1999 until the end of March 2012, when I retired. This was almost 13 years, and was a most interesting, rewarding and challenging period of my life – also a very busy time.

I started my career as an English teacher, and then became the Education Officer at the Durban Museum of Natural History. I then relocated to Pietermaritzburg (Pmb), where I worked for a short period at Haythorne High. At the end of 1981, I changed careers, working as Acquisitions Librarian in the University Library at the former University of Natal (UN) in Pmb. While working there, I also studied for a Higher Diploma in Librarianship, which was then offered in the evenings. A few of the lectures were in the mornings, but at that time, UNP library staff were not given any time off for their studies. They had to work in every minute. I have memories of sitting in the library making up time until 10 pm on many evenings!

I got married and became a Subject Librarian for a short while before leaving to have my two children. After that, I worked part-time as Reference Librarian at the former Natal Society Library, for 7 years, before moving on to the APC. All these former posts helped me to cope with the various demands made by the post of Manuscript Librarian.

The role of Manuscript Librarian is a very varied and challenging one, as one has to be both a librarian and an archivist, as well as a functions organizer, PRO, editor, and so on. It includes library tasks, such as cataloguing, classification and reference work, as well as helping post-graduate students and researchers with their in-depth research requirements. One also has to play the role of Archivist, which involves sourcing, acquiring,

sorting, documenting, storing and preserving suitable archival donations. The final step in the archival process nowadays is to select documents for digitization, supervise digital staff and finally have some of these documents placed on the APC website for Internet access.



Jewel Koopman

Photo: Adrian Koopman

One also has to be involved with the Oral History Project (OHP), which involves finding suitable interviewees and interviewers, arranging for the interviews to take place, arranging for transcription, editing the final transcript and getting it onto the UKZN and National Archives catalogues. I learnt a great deal about the political history of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and of South Africa (SA) while reading through and correcting transcripts and documenting archives, which included the archives of individuals such as Alan Paton, Peter Brown, various other struggle activists, and organizations opposed to apartheid, such as the Liberal Party of South Africa and the Black Sash.

The work also involves arranging the annual Alan Paton Lecture and the Peter Brown Memorial Seminar. This involves meeting and communicating with important people, as well as organizing the whole event down to the last detail. One must also consult with and train other staff, train interns, give talks and tours to groups of students and members of the public, and sometimes take groups on the Alan Paton Literary Trail around Pmb. So it is a very full and challenging job!

I had no tailor-made formal training for this very varied post, as none existed in KwaZulu-Natal at the time, or even exists now, as far as I know. However, through formal library training and experience in various library posts, as well as through life experience, I was able to master all the aspects required.

After starting, I soon realized that I needed to learn all about archival work, and am grateful to Debora Matthews, the archival assistant at that time, for her basic teaching of archival documentation, and to Joicelyn Leslie-Smith, the first Manuscript Librarian, for the excellent example she set in running the Centre so well. I put myself through an intensive self-study course, learning all I could, and enrolled to do a Masters in Information Studies at the former University of Natal, for further formal training. This gave me a good theoretical background, but the nitty-gritty of archival documentation had to be learned through practice, additional reading, and discussion with archival colleagues in other KZN archives, which I visited in order to write my MIS thesis, and also met through Msunduzi Heritage Forum functions.

With regard to learning through life experience, I developed an interest in opposition South African politics early on, through my Aunt Gwen, who used to reminisce about my grandfather, James F. Trembath, who had been a Labour Party politician and trade unionist. As a young student, I belonged to the “Young Progs”. It was really there that I learnt so much about the South African political scene in the 1970s and before, and I have many fond memories of the long political discussions we had, and of trying to help win a seat in parliament for the “Progs”. We really admired and looked up to the older Progressive Party members who had been Liberal Party (LP) members before the LP was forced to close in 1968.

My introduction to Alan Paton himself was at a student protest meeting in the Student Union on the Durban campus in about 1971. He made an impression on me as a powerful speaker, who held his audience riveted with his command of language and ideas. He was much admired and revered by many of the more liberal and progressive students at the University of Natal at that time.

While working at the APC, one meets many interesting people – the well-known people who give the lectures and seminars; PhD students and researchers from overseas universities; local students and lecturers and interested members of the public, as well as the staff of

other museums and archives. I was fortunate enough to meet some famous people, such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu; Archbishop Denis Hurley; Donald Woods and many others. One of the Alan Paton Lectures was given by Verne Harris, who is Head of the Mandela Archives. He was a great contact to have, and invited me to attend a forum of many archivists from various SA archives and museums across the country. For part of the day we were privileged to be seated in the Mandela Centre auditorium for the handover of the Oppenheimer archives. This function was attended by Nelson Mandela himself. Although already old and frail, he was in good spirits and smiled his wonderful smile and greeted the audience. This was one of the highlights of my career!

I would like to thank the APC Advisory Committee (Adcom) for all the help and support which they gave me over the years. Prof Colin Gardner, in particular, was a tower of strength, and could always be relied upon for good advice with regard to political, grammatical and procedural correctness! From 1999 to 2012, the Adcom was chaired by Prof David Maughan Brown, Prof Ron Nicolson, Prof Jenny Clarence and Prof Donal McCracken, to whom many thanks for support and encouragement.

Also, many thanks to Dr Nora Buchanan, the Director of UKZN Libraries, for her help and support, as well as to the many line managers I had over the years, for all their positive input: Cara Pretorius, Christopher Merrett, Carol Brammage, Praversh Sukram and Joyce Myeza. Last but not least, many thanks to my colleague of ten years, Estelle Liebenberg-Barkhuizen, for all her hard work and support.

For support from home, I must thank my husband, Prof Adrian Koopman, and my children, Everett and Olivia. I must not forget to thank my late domestic worker, Elsie Zaca, for keeping things going at home while I was busy at work.

I hope that future APC Manuscript Librarians will enjoy the work as much as I did, and become as involved. Extra staff and more division of labour would help future staff, as the load can sometimes be overwhelming!

Mrs Koopman retired as Manuscript Librarian of the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives at the end of March 2012. We wish her a long and happy retirement and we are grateful for her continued support and assistance.
Go well, Jewel!

Message from the new Manuscript Librarian Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives

Nazim Gani

The last five months have been an exciting time for me in my capacity as the Manuscript Librarian of the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives. It's been a time for observations, questions, conversations, reviews, meetings, gaining trust, challenging assumptions and old habits and taking ownership with the intention of facilitating change and innovation for a redefined future. Indeed, after all this, I must admit that the future of the Centre looks extremely positive.

It is now five months since joining the Centre as the most recent Manuscript Librarian in a line of respected professionals who have led this Centre to what it is today. I am truly honored and privileged to have inherited an amazing Centre which possesses so much heritage, culture and history. I am indeed grateful to the former Manuscript Librarian, Mrs Jewel Koopman, who has left behind a superb legacy. By the same token, credit is due to the previous Manuscript Librarian, Mrs Joicelyn Leslie-Smith who was the first Archivist/Manuscript Librarian of the Centre from 1989 to 1999 for laying the foundation and realizing the potential of such a Centre.

Being new, I am expected to have new ideas on the Centre and where it should be going. Issues that come immediately to mind are: expanding accommodation; digitizing the collection; expanding the collection; relationship with other Special Collections; relationship with academic schools and probing the idea of getting postgraduate students involved in the Centre and advertising the Centre through its newsletter, pamphlets and functions. The challenge here, which is well worth facing, is to evolve the Centre into an archive for the modern period.

Therefore, to realize new ideas and challenges, the following questions need to be addressed:
What are we doing well?
What are we not doing well? Why not?
How could we do things differently?
What are the burning issues critical for success or failure?
How well are we positioned for the future?

Bearing all the above in mind, is the realization that the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives is a Centre with its own identity, heritage and culture. The Centre is both a museum and a

research centre for scholars to explore the rich, varied and largely untold history of the struggle for freedom from oppression in South Africa.

I endeavor to continue the vision of Professor Colin Webb, former Principal at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg (UNP), who was a close friend and admirer of Alan Paton. Prof Webb's vision was to give the establishment of the Centre momentum and to continue the lively enthusiasm and commitment of the staff and the Alan Paton Advisory Committee that played a part in the development and growth of the Centre. Professor Webb wanted to create a research centre, "a living instrument that would carry forward the struggle for improved human relations that filled so much of Alan Paton's essentially human life" (*Concord* 2009).

That the Alan Paton Centre (APC) has continued to progress steadily through the years of its existence is a tribute to the APC Advisory Committee and APC staff. Their guidance has established a solid foundation that could be built on. Subsequently, there has been significant development, growth and innovation. I wish to maintain that enthusiasm and commitment that has been laid to be a hallmark of the APC in the future.

I take this opportunity to thank Dr Nora Buchanan, the Director of UKZN Libraries, and Mrs Joyce Myeza, Head of Special Collections, for their support and encouragement, as well as Dr Estelle Liebenberg-Barkhuizen and Ms Jillian Clark for their dedication, commitment and hard work displayed. I also thank the APC Advisory Committee for their continuous support and guidance. In addition I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my colleagues at the UKZN Library, Pietermaritzburg campus, Mrs Nola Price, Mrs Liz van der Berg and Mrs Louann Thomas, for making my tasks at the Centre much more easy. Finally, I am indebted to the former Manuscript Librarian, Mrs Jewel Koopman, for her continuous willingness to teach me the duties to be performed and for expert advice. Mrs Koopman is an incredible person with a vast amount of knowledge and experience. The APC and UKZN have indeed lost a remarkable person.

Acknowledgement: *Concord* 2009



New staff at the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives

The Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives welcomes two new staff members. They are Mr **Nazim Gani** and Ms **Jillian Clark**. Both have been seconded for a period of one year from 1 May 2012 until 30 April 2013. Gani has been appointed to the position as Manuscript Librarian. He replaces Mrs Jewel Koopman who retired at the end of March 2012.



Nazim Gani was employed as a Senior Library Officer in the Inter-Library Loan (ILL) section of the University of KwaZulu-Natal Library (UKZN), Pietermaritzburg campus. He began his library career in 1989 and has extensive experience especially in ILL and Document Delivery. Gani has obtained a Bachelor of Social Science degree, majoring in History and Economics, a Post Graduate Diploma in Information Studies and Honours in Library and Information Science through UKZN.



Jillian Clark has been appointed Library Officer. She took over from Estelle Liebenberg-Barkhuizen who is now Senior Conservation Officer for the UKZN Special Collections. Jillian started her career at the Pietermaritzburg campus library, later moving to the E.G.Malherbe library, Howard College. Jillian has returned with digitizing skills and is eager to get started with digitizing certain collections within the Centre. She is currently a registered student for the Postgraduate Diploma in Records and Archives Management.

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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.

**Paton's poetry highlighted:
‘ “Could you not write otherwise?”: The Political Dimension of Alan
Paton's Poetry’ by Prof Mbongeni Malaba**

19th Alan Paton Lecture: 2012

The 19th Alan Paton Lecture 2012 was presented by Professor Mbongeni Malaba who is a Professor of English Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's (UKZN) Pietermaritzburg Campus. The lecture was presented in the Colin Webb Hall on UKZN's Pietermaritzburg Campus on 20 March 2012. The lecture was titled: ‘ “Could you not write otherwise?”: The Political Dimension of Alan Paton's Poetry’. The Alan Paton Lecture focused on the political aspects of Paton's poetry.

The Alan Paton Lecture is an annual event organized by the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives 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 Justice Pius Langa, Mrs Helen Suzman, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Dr Peter Alexander, Dr Peter Alegi and Mr Verne Harris have presented this prestigious lecture.

Professor Malaba has published widely on South African and Zimbabwean literature; his recent publications are on Namibian poetry written in English. He is currently the Academic Leader of the Languages and Literature Thematic Area. Prior to joining UKZN, Professor Malaba lectured for many years at the University of Zimbabwe and the University of Namibia.

The poem to which the title refers: ‘ “Could you not write otherwise?” ’ was written by Paton in August 1948 following objections lodged against the political and racial content of Paton's poetry of the period by a female reader. Paton's literary career began while he was still a student at the Natal University College (which later became the University of Natal) during the early 1920s, as the poems he then wrote on a variety of topics were published in the Natal University College Magazine. After the success of *Cry, the Beloved Country*, Paton's literary focus lay more pertinently with the multicultural identity of South Africa, and much of his poetry followed either a political or religious theme.

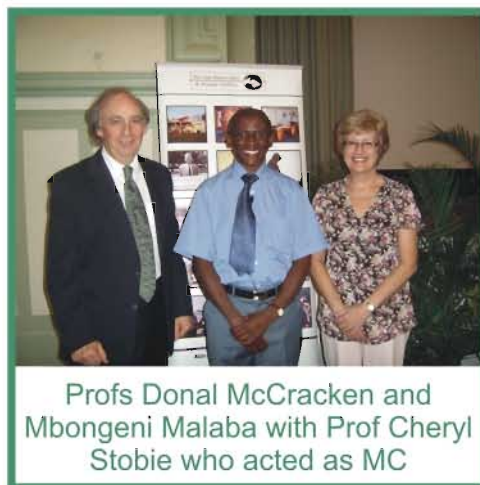


Photo: Vicky Crookes

Prof Donal McCracken and
Mbongeni Malaba with Prof Cheryl
Stobie who acted as MC

Professor Malaba chose to focus on the political aspects of Paton's poetry and eloquently examined the political content of selected poems. The lecture explored salient political themes in Alan Paton's poetry with close reference to representative texts. It argued that, from the outset, Paton consciously endeavoured to reach out to and understand the predicament of the disenfranchised members of South African society. The poems critique aspects of apartheid, including racism, discrimination and violence.

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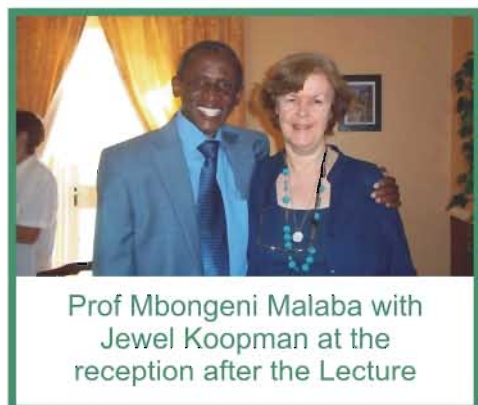


Photo: Olivia Koopman

Prof Mbongeni Malaba with
Jewel Koopman at the
reception after the Lecture

Peter Brown Memorial Seminar 2012 “Cartoons, Satire and South African Politics”

The Heritage Day public holiday on 24 September gives organisations which are involved with the preservation of heritage, such as museums and archives, the opportunity

to highlight an aspect of heritage, and celebrate it. The Alan Paton Centre (APC) and the Pietermaritzburg Archives Repository (PAR) started celebrating Heritage Day in 1997 by holding annual Heritage Day Seminars. The first three were organized jointly by these two organisations.

After 2000, the APC organized the seminars itself, or in combination with other organisations. The PAR organizes a function for the Msunduzi Heritage Week, which is also when the APC's seminar is held. In 2005 the name of the seminar was changed to the “Peter Brown Memorial Seminar” in order to honour the late Peter Brown, who did so much for the Alan Paton Centre.

Peter Brown was a founding member of the non-racial Liberal Party of South Africa in 1953, along with Alan Paton and Selby Msimang. He played an important role in the establishment of the Alan Paton Centre on the Pietermaritzburg campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) from the time that the Centre was started in 1989.

The Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives adopted the theme “Cartoons, Satire and South African Politics” for its 7th Peter Brown Memorial Seminar. Director of UKZN Library Services, Dr Nora Buchanan, welcomed the guests saying it was an opportune time to celebrate South Africa's heritage and remember the life of Peter Brown and his contribution to the struggle against apartheid.

Special guests at the event included Peter Brown's widow Mrs Phoebe Brown and the widow of the late political activist Dr Chota



Mrs Joyce Myeza, Head of UKZN Special Collections, Mrs Motala, Nazim Gani, Mrs Phoebe Brown and Dr Nora Buchanan, Director of UKZN Libraries at the Seminar

Photo: Vicky Crookes

Motala, Mrs Rabia Motala. Chota Motala and Peter Brown were comrades, colleagues and friends during the struggle period and their wives have maintained their friendship over the years.

The seminar displayed and exhibited the work of *The Witness* cartoonist, Anthony Stidolph, better known as ‘Stidy’. This was followed by a

Powerpoint presentation of popular cartoons by Stidy and Zapiro. Manuscript Librarian of the Alan Paton Centre, Mr Nazim Gani, presented the keynote address titled: “Cartoons, Satire and South African Politics: a case study of Zapiro's Cartoons”. Gani said cartoons, satire and South African politics generated much interest and debate locally as well as internationally. “Obviously with Zapiro being South Africa's most celebrated and published cartoonist, I felt it was necessary to case study his cartoons especially since he had been actively involved with the United Democratic Front and the End Conscription Campaign”.

Gani traced Zapiro's cartooning career from the time he was a young child, drawing pictures of monsters to exorcise them from his dreams, through to his portrayal of Madiba as the father and moral guardian of the nation and Jacob Zuma with his famous showerhead. He touched on how difficult it had been for Zapiro to criticize former President Nelson Mandela. “According to Zapiro, the first time he did so he felt like a son criticizing his father”. Gani said Zapiro argues that “his unflattering portrayal of President Zuma is entirely based on actual quotations where the President has said outlandish, chauvinistic, and ignorant things about AIDS, women and the rule of law”.

“According to Zapiro, the great onslaught against media is one of the trends affecting cartoonists in South Africa. Cartoonists should be allowed to be critical and he said that even Madiba felt the country needed satirists. “Zapiro feels there is an important role for cartooning in South Africa. He is of the opinion that cartoonists are being taken

more seriously than ever. This is evident by the fact that President Zuma is suing him and furthermore by the recognition of cartooning in journalism circles” said Gani.

In conclusion, Gani said he believed political cartoons contributed to the understanding of media representation of issues, people and events. As a result, future studies “should focus on the feasibility of political cartoons towards understanding a particular social phenomenon and how they can be harnessed to build and shape public opinion”.

The seminar ended with a question and discussion session and a vote of thanks by retired Manuscript Librarian, Mrs Jewel Koopman, who highlighted the importance of having a free press.

Acknowledgement:

UKZN Online volume 6 issue 45 8 October 2012. Author email: crookesv@ukzn.ac.za



Nazim Gani (top, left) with Stidy (top, right and below) at the Alan Paton Centre



Stidy (right) receiving the set of posters 'Celebrating Stidy' from Nazim Gani. The posters were designed by Estelle Liebenberg-Barkhuizen for the event.

“Celebrating Stidy” Anthony Stidolph - ‘Stidy’ The Witness Cartoonist

Staff at the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives expressed their gratitude to *The Witness* cartoonist Anthony Stidolph, better known as Stidy, for his kind assistance in providing cartoons for the Peter Brown Memorial Seminar, 2012. The theme of the seminar was ‘Cartoons, Satire and South African Politics’. The cartoons were used as a display/exhibition entitled “Celebrating Stidy” at the seminar.

Stidy was born in Harare, Zimbabwe and grew up in the Nyanga district. He attended R.E.P.S., Plumtree High and Umtali Boys High School. He then obtained a BA degree from the University of Natal (now UKZN) with majors in English and Economic History. In 1984 Stidy moved to South Africa where he worked with *SCOPE* magazine until 1988. Eventually, he was appointed Political Cartoonist at the Natal Witness in 1990. Stidy is the first full-time cartoonist ever employed by *The Witness*. In recognition for assisting the Centre, a copy of the display was handed over to Stidy – celebrating 22 years as a political cartoonist.

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The relevance of Oral History at the Paton Centre

Jillian Clark

The collecting of oral history interviews has grown tremendously world wide. A resource that was once a mere trickle is now a rushing stream. Significant debate still centres on the significance of oral history archives. What are their uses? How valid for these uses are they? Uncertainties such as these call the very practice of collecting oral interviews into question. The challenges most commonly are that: Oral history interviews do not detail "hard facts" or if they do, do not carry the same weight as written documents. It is believed by many that the reminiscences of narrators more often tend to be how they would like to remember things as opposed to how they "really" were and some narrators purposely distort facts. To counter these charges: Oral history can serve as a substitute for the lack of intimate personal memoirs. Many documents are oral in origin, and only gain authority and historical significance by being printed and it is an invaluable tool to research. Oral documents are preserved in the form of stories and memoirs, others and are passed along from generation to generation.

The Alan Paton Centre was set up originally as a centre for the study of the literature and politics of conflict and conciliation, two of the major concerns of Alan Paton's life, with a particular focus on the KwaZulu-Natal region. Increasingly aware that much of the history of the peoples of the region has not been recorded, due to the deprivations of Apartheid, the Alan Paton Centre embarked in 1995 on an oral history project "Recording the Anti-Apartheid Struggle in KwaZulu-Natal" which was conducted from 1995 to 1998. A life history approach was adopted which allowed particular importance to be paid to the circumstances surrounding specific events.

The interviewees were people who had been involved in an aspect of opposition to the apartheid system, either through a political party – the Liberal Party, the ANC or the UDF; a trade union; or an organization such as the Black Sash or the Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness (PACSA) to name a few.

People interviewed included those involved in the Anti-Apartheid struggle, and those who suffered under Apartheid. The purpose of the project was to record both life experiences relevant to the struggle experience, and the circumstances surrounding specific events (i.e.) marches, boycotts, bannings, forced removals, the war situation in Imbali in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and disturbances in the Edendale Valley etc.

In addition the Paton Centre retains the Sinomlando Oral History Project, which is run by the School of Theology at UKZN. The project formerly known as the Oral History Project of the School of Theology, University of Natal, started in 1994 as a way of developing a new vision for the history of Christianity in South Africa. Memory is a key component of identity. With the development of HIV/AIDS more and more children are being deprived of a basic knowledge of their family history. Since 2000 the Sinomlando Project has been trying to find ways of assisting the children in grief in retrieving the memories of their lost parents and relatives. Memory facilitators assembled memory boxes: with photographs, significant objects and stories based on interviews with family members, care givers and volunteers. The Sinomlando Project has some confidential interviews that require permission resulting in some not being made available to the public.

Since the interviews were recorded, they have been transcribed. However, some are still in their original cassette tapes and have not been migrated to DVDs. Most of the APC's Oral History Project has been transferred to CDs. This tape conversion process has yet to take place for the Sinomlando project, and further interviews in the Magnus Gunther Collection. The Centre's intention is to upload some of the original interviews onto the Paton Centre website, to disseminate knowledge and encourage, where possible, more public and community use of such Alan Paton Centre resource materials. What is very encouraging is the usefulness of interview information to researchers, particularly when it is difficult to obtain such material anywhere else.

The interviews form an oral history base which will hopefully be developed further. The Centre aims to align itself to the purpose of oral history which is to address issues and matters which are not recorded or captured or preserved as one would have expected. It also raises awareness of the role of memory which was important for transferring knowledge before the creation of written records.

Reference: Guide to Oral History at the APC



Jillian Clark with the Oral History files at the Alan Paton Centre

Drake University students visit the APC

A group of 14 students from the Drake University in the United States of America visited the APC on 28 May 2012. They consulted various collections relating to South African history, which included apartheid and race relations. Some of the collections included PC86, PC31, PC126, PC16, and PC2.

The following is an extract of a letter, dated 12 June 2012 from Dr Melisa Klimaszewski, Associate Professor, Department of English, Drake University. Dr Klimaszewski was the leader of the group.

"I write to thank you for your generous hosting of my visit with students from Drake University to the Alan Paton Centre and Struggle Archives at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Pietermaritzburg on 28 May 2012. Your tour of the Centre and your expert handling of the archival materials were impressive, and all my students were thrilled with their experiences.

Each and every student, from all major areas of study and a wide range of ages, commented on how much he or she enjoyed our visit. They were excited about the books they encountered in the library area, and they all wished they had more time to read some of the texts. As they browsed the stacks, they encountered historical texts that they had only heard about but never seen in person, which motivated them to want to do their own original research rather than relying only on other scholars' evaluations of primary texts.

Our time with the archival material was also impressive and fruitful, given that the students had never previously encountered an archive of any sort. Many of them felt extremely honored to be handling such important historical materials, and they reported back to me that they were humbled by your confidence in them. To know that you trusted them with these materials, and that you had a high regard for their studies, made them feel proud and excited about their work. This is the kind of

academic experience that is immeasurably empowering to young students and scholars, as they realize that they can become makers of knowledge rather than only recipients of knowledge. Several of the students incorporated references to the archival materials in their final seminar projects.

We were also grateful for your hospitality in serving us tea and biscuits and in conversing with us about such a wide range of topics. Please accept my profound gratitude for helping to make our visit to the Centre so meaningful and pleasant. I hope that I will be able to return to the Centre in the future with another student group, and because this visit was such a success, I hope that we might be able to spend more time at the Centre on subsequent visits so that the students have more time to read the materials. Perhaps I will be lucky enough to be able to conduct my own research there some day! Thank you for all the work that you do to preserve the materials and to encourage this kind of scholarship".

Dr Melisa Klimaszewski
Associate Professor
melisa.klimaszewski@drake.edu



Drake University students with Dr Klimaszewski (front seated with red scarf) at the entrance to the Paton Centre

Conservation at the Paton Centre

Estelle Liebenberg-Barkhuizen

During 2012, the APC and UKZN Special Collections experienced increased activity with regard to paper conservation. The Conservation Room, which was installed last year, became fully operational during May of this year, when Jillian Clark was seconded from the Library to the APC to take over as Library Officer.

Conservation work

The newly constructed studio acquired a dehumidifier and further essential equipment and materials were imported from Norfolk in the UK. The installation of a fume hood was also necessary to ensure safety of staff during treatment procedures which use strong and volatile chemicals.

Current conservation work is focussing on a collection of papers from the McCord Hospital, and on the Liberal Party Collection at the Paton Centre. The McCord papers were recently donated to the Campbell Collections. As these two collections date to the middle of the 20th century the paper used is similar and both collections contain a large proportion of press cuttings. Both collections also suffer from similar pathologies as both collections were exposed to water damage. Once the items have been cleaned and treated for mould, a further assessment can be done and treatment can be carried out where necessary.

While in storage in the basement of the Old Main Hall during the Apartheid years, some of the Liberal Party papers became waterlogged, and mould set in to do irreparable damage to items. Similarly, some of the McCord Hospital papers became waterlogged while in storage, apparently under a stair case. Dirt and grime in this type of water typically collect on the surface of the papers, and water soluble dirt, colourants and inks caused further staining of paper. Items adhering to each other need to be separated, and each item needs to be thoroughly dry cleaned. Spot pH tests are done and items are screened for the presence of mould which is immediately treated. As mould is present in the air, the only way to combat this threat is to

remove spores from the surface of paper and to store the papers in a cold and relatively dry environment, which inhibits the regrowth of mould. Where necessary further aqueous and non-aqueous treatment is undertaken, including the repair of paper and infilling losses. Once items have been treated and stabilised, they can be placed in archival quality enclosures and sent to the stack room for storage.



Removing self-adhesive tape (left) and consolidating flaking paint on paper (right)

Conservation training during 2012 was intensive and demanding. The need for further training exerted much pressure particularly during May, when the newly appointed staff took up office. They had to run the APC without training and with little assistance, until my return towards the end of May. I am grateful to Jewel who helped out during my absence, and am grateful that it was possible for me to attend some courses at the Centro del bel Libro in Ascona Switzerland during May, July/August and September.



Beginning to sew a text block onto a variety of slotted cords (left) and the finished product (right)



Washing (left) and drying (right) a delicate piece of paper

The training courses centred on the removal of self-adhesive tapes and the stains they leave on paper; the treatment of iron-gall ink; different washing and drying techniques for different types of paper; consolidants and adhesives used in paper conservation; and a course focussing on various bookbinding structures as conservation alternatives to old binding techniques. Although the travelling and training was exhausting, valuable learning took place which can now be implemented in the Conservation Room at the APC.

Researchers at the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives: Dr Chizuko Sato



Dr Chizuko Sato in the Reading Room at the Alan Paton Centre

The APC welcomed many researchers during 2012, who either visited the Centre or made e-mail enquiries. Many researchers were post-graduate students working on their Masters or PhD theses. Some of these students were from overseas, coming from prestigious universities in the UK and USA.

Dr Chizuko Sato visited the APC in early October 2012. Dr Sato, who hails from Japan, was a previous visitor in 2002 when she was doing research for her Doctor of Philosophy thesis submitted to the Department of Politics, St Anthony's College, University of Oxford. She completed her thesis in 2006, entitled "Forced removals, land NGOs and community politics in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, 1953-2002". This thesis aims to contribute to the understanding of African politics and rural movements in the second

half of the twentieth century in South Africa by focusing on land struggles in KwaZulu-Natal. It explores the nature and pattern of organization and leadership at both provincial and local community level. It also examines the aims and characteristics of resistance in the South African countryside during apartheid. In this way the thesis attempts to shed light on the complicated processes of removals and their effects on community politics. Dr Sato is currently employed at the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE) as a Research Fellow. IDE is funded by the Japanese government which is part of JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization). Her research focus is on Africa, Asia and Latin American countries. Dr Sato is currently visiting the Centre to obtain missing information for research on AFRA. She intends writing a journal article and the theme is the development of land activism in KwaZulu-Natal. Dr Sato has consulted the Peter Brown Collection (PC16/13) which includes letters, minutes of committee meetings, and published and unpublished reports written by AFRA field workers. Dr Sato has indicated that the APC is now much more organized with an additional staff member. She expressed her opinion that the descriptive list is current and very useful. Dr Sato hopes to visit the APC next year and perhaps to research something new on KwaZulu-Natal. She will be based in Cape Town for two years.

We wish Dr Sato well in her future life and hope to see her soon.

Other researchers at the Alan Paton Centre

Ms Mary Caesar, a doctoral candidate in history at Queen's University in Canada, visited the APC on 17 July 2012. Her research focused on the development of public health in South Africa and her case study is the Natal Local Health Commission (LHC), a form of local government with a public health mandate that operated a number of public health areas in Natal from 1941 until the 1970s.

One of the focus areas of her research is black people's participation in political institutions, such as Advisory Boards and the role of liberal-minded political activists. The LHC ran a number of Advisory Boards in the areas under its control.

Ms Caesar found the LHC records in Pietermaritzburg depot of the KwaZulu-Natal Archives. However, she is now looking for information about people who either worked for the Commission (Commissioners or senior civil servants) and community leaders who were involved in the Advisory Boards, especially in Edendale, such as Selby Msimang.

Ms Caesar consulted the following collections: PC2, PC14, PC62, PC67, PC75, PC76, PC85, PC120, PC147, and PC165. She commented on the wealth of information and research material that is available in the Centre and thanked the staff for their generous hospitality.

Mr **Tim Gibbs** from Trinity College, Cambridge, United Kingdom, visited the APC in June 2012. His doctoral project looks at changing patterns of labour migrants and politics, both in rural and urban areas, and the connections between them. Mr Gibbs consulted various collections and found PC126 very useful.

Ms **Lyndsey Beutin**, a doctoral student from Annenberg School of Communication, University of Pennsylvania, USA, visited the APC on 30 July 2012. Ms Beutin was interested in violence in KwaZulu-Natal (particularly the newspaper clippings) and peace and reconciliation. She also intended to learn more about media narratives around violence in KwaZulu-Natal during the 1980s as well as community-initiated peace programs in the same period. Ms Beutin explained that she would like to see how different groups conceptualized and carried out peace

initiatives in a local context and to compare and contrast it with the TRC processes. She was also interested in media coverage of any of the initiatives. Ms Beutin consulted the following collections: PC5, PC132, PC19/2 and PC53. She indicated that she had acquired a wealth of knowledge which would be very useful for her research.

Mr **Ryan Kahn**, a third year undergraduate historian at Oxford University, contacted the APC via e-mail. He aims to write a thesis on the filming of the Zoltan Korda version of *Cry, the Beloved Country*. His enquiry pertained to the filming and particularly to Alan Paton's personal papers. Information from the following collections was very useful to Mr Kahn, as it was scanned to him: PC1/1/1/9, PC1/1/1/5/1-49, PC1/1/1/11, PC1/1/1/2 and PC1/1/1/3. Mr Kahn was very appreciative of the assistance he received from the Library Officer, Ms Jillian Clark.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Alan Paton

- was a devout Christian?
- had two children - David and Jonathan?
- and Jan Hofmeyr regularly attended Student Christian Association camps?
- had his first poem 'To a picture' published in the University of Natal's magazine in 1920?
- graduated with a degree in Physics from the University of Natal?
- trekked to Pretoria with an ox wagon to participate in the centenary celebration of the Great Trek in 1938?
- went on a tour of prisons and reformatories in Sweden, Norway and North America during the mid-1940s?
- began to write his first novel *Cry, the beloved country* while in Norway and finished it when he reached San Fransisco?
- was a founding member of the Liberal Party of South Africa?
- testified at the Rivonia Trial?
- went on a fun trip looking for the lost city of the Kalahari?
- wrote a biography, *Hofmeyr* (1964), a massive study on the notable parliamentarian and cabinet minister Jan Hofmeyr?
- and Reg Pearse walked from Pietermaritzburg to Ladysmith in July 1922
- climbed Table Mountain near Pietermaritzburg?

Concord is edited by Nazim Gani, with production assistance and layout by Estelle Liebenberg-Barkhuizen, of the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives. Photos are by Estelle unless otherwise stated; all other photos are from the APC collections.

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Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives staff attended ICOM-SA workshop

Nazim Gani

Nazim Gani, Manuscript Librarian, and Jillian Clark, Library Officer, attended the ICOM-SA workshop held on 13 July 2012 at the KwaZulu-Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg. The theme for the workshop was "Museums and social change: the case for and against digitizing".

ICOM (International Council of Museums) is the international organization of museums and museum professionals which is committed to the conversation, continuation and communication to society of the world's natural heritage, present and future, tangible and intangible. ICOM-SA is the South African National Committee of the International Council of Museums. ICOM and ICOM-SA have been engaging in a series of workshops on museums and social change in the 21st century and one of the central themes is: What role can museums play in social change? The workshop on 13 July 2012 focused on the issue of digitization in museums. Most people think of digitization as a technical issue. However, digitization is both a technical issue as well as one that concerns why and how images, artefacts and objects are digitized, stored and put on display. The workshop involved the question of how accessible or inaccessible digital archives are to a range of people from researchers to ordinary citizens. In other instances digitizing involves choice of images. It also allows for the manipulation of images be it a reflection of artistic, ethnographic, archaeological, historical or any contemporary digitized object. This not only involves ethics but the very core of the museum – its collection and the poetics and politics of display. At the workshop, two presenters presented the case of digitizing from contrasting kinds of museums: one focused on history, memory, social change and justice and the other on the more visual aspects of art galleries. The workshop focused on themes: memory, visualization, digitization and how the inaccessible archive becomes the centre stage with a global platform. The discussion involved debates on alternative perspectives,

why digitizing may not be in the best interests of museums or any heritage institution.

The first speaker was Mr Verne Harris, Head of the Memory Programme at the Nelson Mandela Foundation's Centre of Memory and Dialogue. Mr Harris has been Mandela's archivist since 2004. His topic was "The future of digitization: the case of the Mandela Foundation". He offered two propositions: "One cannot be against digitization as we live in a digital world" and that "Memory institutions can be an institution for social change". Mr Harris quotes Mr Nelson Mandela as saying that "memory is a vital force for people of the nation". Mr Harris argued that we should not only build buildings but rather look at the potential of digitization to preserve paper-based documents. He argued and concluded that all must embrace digitization as it is a reality.

The second speaker, Sylvia van Zyl from the Department of Sports and Recreation, Eastern Cape, spoke on ethics and digitization. She questioned: why do we have a code of ethics? She argued that ethics is required to offer guidance in difficult situations and to provide consistency in dealing with issues so we do not have to make it up as we go along. Van Zyl indicated that ethics is about copyright and accessibility. She questioned "what is free access" and said that we need to think about free access very carefully and think about whom we make it available to and why.

The Alan Paton Centre and Struggle Archives aims to digitize its documents. The challenge is to identify important collections and place on the internet parts of its collection for accessibility. The aim is still for researchers to visit the Centre and experience the reality of an archive, library and museum. Nevertheless, the question is: where do we want to be in 30 years and: why do we want to digitize?

"There can be no transformation of the curriculum, or indeed of knowledge itself, without an interrogation of archive" – Prof Njabulo S. Ndebele

The Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives are currently archiving the PACSA collection, which has recently been added to by a further donation of 50 boxes from PACSA. This archival documentation is being undertaken by part-time workers, Mrs Joan Kerchhoff, Mrs Mary Gardner and Mrs Jewel Koopman, and is funded by PACSA with external funding. Whilst the acronym has been kept, there is a change in name from the Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness to Pietermaritzburg Agency for Community Social Action. According to its director, Daniela Gennrich, the new name comes with a major shift in its strategy for development (Francis, 2012).

PACSA celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2009 and has now been in existence for 33 years. According to Professor Colin Gardner (*Concord* 2009), PACSA was started by a group of white Christians who at first saw their task as trying to consciencitise whites. Why was this? Professor Gardner explains that this was the era in which black consciousness was the dominant progressive philosophy, and proponents of black consciousness said to whites: "Don't worry about us. We are fighting our own battles. You go and convert your fellow whites to a more sane way of thinking".

PACSA started in a small way, with Peter Kerchhoff deciding to give up a lucrative job, and work largely for the benefit of others. PACSA's aims were not just in trying to influence whites but also in assisting the poor and the oppressed. PACSA played a vital role in documenting information and continues to do so. One of the first issues in which PACSA became involved was that of forced removals in Natal and the foundation of the Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA). PACSA was also involved with the Detainee's Support Committee (DESCOM), the launch of the United Democratic Front (UDF), and helped support ex-Sarmcol workers who had been dismissed. In 1985 PACSA began to support victims of violence in the greater Pietermaritzburg area. This violence escalated into the "Seven Days War" of 25-31 March 1990. PACSA continued with this involvement up to 1994.

Several other organizations were also involved with the crisis work, and this work was documented at the Centre for Adult Education, by John Aitchison, Wendy Leeb and Vaughan John. They have recently published a book about this work, entitled *Political violence in the Natal Midlands: the unrest monitoring project papers 1988-1994*.

The first donation of PACSA archives to the Alan Paton Centre (APC) was made during the apartheid era by Monika Wittenberg, to protect the files from possible confiscation by the Security Police, who raided PACSA offices on several occasions, and detained Peter Kerchhoff in solitary confinement in 1986. It consists of 11 boxes, containing press cuttings on the ANC, which was unbanned in 1990; detention and Treason Trial files; and DESCOM files, amongst others. The numbering for this section is PC 11/1.

The second donation of 41 PACSA Crisis files was made by Joan Kerchhoff before she retired from PACSA in 2005. These files had been put together by Monika Wittenberg, and were originally housed in the PACSA Resource Centre. This section deals with crisis incidents arising from political violence in the PMB area. They document crisis incidents from 1985 to 1994. Most of these incidents occurred in 1988, 1989 and 1990, in the build-up to the "Seven Days War" of 25-31 March 1990. The numbering for this section is PC 11/2.

The third donation of PACSA boxes was made by Daniela Gennrich, Director of PACSA, in 2012. This was done when PACSA moved on to dealing with new issues, adopting a new strategy, and changed its focus and its name to the Pietermaritzburg Agency for Community Social Action. The numbering for this section is PC 11/3 onwards.

After the collapse of the apartheid system, many NGOs had to ask themselves what their function was to be. PACSA refocused on the new situation, and found that there were many important things to be done, in pursuance of a just and fair society.

PACSA's current stress is on poverty and on helping to build up communities to confront it. It also offers workshops, expertise and solidarity on such issues as HIV/Aids, gender violence, building wholesome relationships, lobbying municipalities for improved services, training in economic justice, livelihood projects and leadership building. PACSA's anniversary celebration theme was "Poverty, the new Apartheid: working together to make a difference" and coincided with the launch of PACSA's book, *Journeying for Justice: stories of an ongoing faith-based struggle*. This book is about PACSA's past but also, more important, about the challenges of the present.

And so 33 years on, Gennrich explains that it is clear that PACSA has fallen short of its goals to achieve what it calls "transformative, community-driven development". So it launched a comprehensive change and training process to introduce a single unified approach of what PACSA calls "process facilitation". Gennrich explains that in a sense, the new strategy is not new at all. She said: "When PACSA was formed, it worked mainly with white Christians to involve them in speaking out against apartheid. PACSA's founders did this out of respect for Steve Biko's injunction that black people needed to liberate themselves. The founders were aware that they were unable to liberate those most oppressed by apartheid. In the same way, in 2012, PACSA's new strategy is based on the belief that those most oppressed by the "new apartheid" - economic inequality – are those who will liberate themselves from it" (Francis 2012).

Gennrich adds that "process facilitation" involves listening and understanding where its community partners are, and where they want to go. "We don't impose our analysis and assume that we have the answers to their problems" says Gennrich. "We bring in our content knowledge and expertise, and enable our community partners to take their work deeper as they see fit" (Francis 2012).

According to Gennrich, PACSA is under no illusions that its new strategy will be a long, challenging and unpredictable journey, but its commitment to sustainable, community-driven development leads PACSA to conclude that this practice will best contribute to a truly participatory democracy and development that is sustainable.

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Photo: Nazim Gani

Jewel Koopman (standing), Mary Gardner (left) and Joan Kerchhoff (right) are currently documenting the PACSA Collection.

Prayer by Alan Paton - from *Instrument of Thy Peace*

Give us courage O Lord, to stand up and be counted, to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves, to stand up for ourselves when it is needful for us to do so. Let us fear nothing more than we fear Thee. Let us love nothing more than we love Thee, for thus we shall fear nothing also.

Let us have no other god before Thee, whether nation or party or state or church. Let us seek no other peace but the peace which is Thine, and make us its instruments, opening our eyes and our ears and our hearts, so that we should know always what work of peace we may do for Thee.

Richard Dale

If we take the commonplace expression of “different strokes for different folks”, we can apply it to the parishioners of St. Anthony on the Desert in terms of who comes (and remains) here as well as how and why they came in the first place. We are familiar with the Damascene conversion of St. Paul, but my own journey was neither dramatic nor rapid and was far from the biblical Middle East. I can date it as far back as October, 1965 in Philadelphia, at a meeting of the African Studies Association, where I presented a paper on the social and political world of Alan Paton, the South African author best known for his novel, *Cry, the Beloved Country* (1948). What was most significant to me was that after I sent a copy of that paper to Mr. Paton, he replied with a list of factual corrections to the paper. He repeated that gesture of interest and kindness with regard to another paper I presented in April 1983 at Laramie, Wyoming at the meeting of the Western Association of Africanists. This time he was eighty years old. I have kept those letters.

The more I learned about Alan Paton the more of a Renaissance man he appeared to me and it was difficult to disentangle the man from his exceptional Anglican beliefs and practices which put him at odds with much of the ruling white establishment of apartheid South Africa. Those familiar with Archbishop Desmond Tutu might be pleasantly surprised to learn that he named his son Trevor in honor of Father Trevor Huddleston, who served as the model for the white priest in *Cry, the Beloved Country*. I had met Father Huddleston in my last year of graduate school in 1961-1962. Similarly, Alan Paton spoke at the trial of Nelson Mandela in order to stave off a possible death sentence for anti-regime activities; Mandela ended up in Robben Island (off the coast of Cape Town) instead. Paton's faith, moral courage, and values put him at risk within the apartheid system, but his international fame and prestige protected him from imprisonment and banishment. Now there is an Alan Paton Centre on the Pietermaritzburg campus of the University



Prof Richard Dale

of KwaZulu-Natal, and one can see his restored study there. The South African business and mining tycoon Harry Oppenheimer has purchased and carefully stored the original manuscript of *Cry, the Beloved Country* in his splendid private library in Johannesburg. This novel was made into a musical, *Lost in the Stars*, and twice became a film (starring Sidney Poitier in the first film and James Earl Jones and Richard Harris in the second one). My wife Doris and I visited the Centre twice and the Oppenheimer library once and we even visited Mr. Paton in his home in 1987, shortly before he died.

My incremental journey to St. Anthony on the Desert took a more focused direction in Fayetteville, North Carolina in 1984-1985, when I was a visiting faculty member on loan from the Department of Political Science at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale to the U.S. Army School of International Studies which sponsored a Foreign Area Officer Program. It was there that I began to attend Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, and after that, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Carbondale until I retired and we moved to Fountain Hills in 1997. During a short research visit to Southern Africa in 2004, I had the pleasure of attending services at the very small Anglican cathedral in Windhoek, Namibia. Thanks to my political and literary hero Alan Paton, I feel that I am participating in a religious organization that has distinguished itself by selfless service to others along with a doctrinal structure and practices that inspire both respect and imitation. Should I be granted a long life, after I finish my current research on the diplomatic, economic, and military aspects of the Namibian war of independence (1966-1989), I plan to write a book concerning the political thought and political career of Alan Paton, using as part of the title that familiar phrase from the Book of Common Prayer – in thought, word and deed.

With kind permission from Richard Dale
The Sharpening Stone, Editorial Column, April 2009

Jillian Clark

Archives are often imagined as silent dusty places filled with boxes and piles of things that no one wants any more. The word archive to some has come to mean anything that is old or conventional. That stereotype is mostly wrong. Archives are engaged in collecting, preserving, and making accessible material of cultural and historical significance. This has often included documents such as letters, diaries, business records, written manuscripts, as well as audio/visual materials such as photographs, audio recordings, and even motion picture film. Most of the Alan Paton Centre collection is paper-based, and paper has, traditionally, been easy to preserve with the right environmental conditions. With care and planning, most paper documents will last hundreds of years. Other collections in the Centre include oral tapes, DVDs, photograph collections, floppy and stiffie discs.

"Digitization is the process of transforming analog material into binary electronic (digital) form, especially for storage and use in a computer" (Hirtle). It is a prevalent issue facing contemporary archivists. In today's world trend, most historical material is born-digital. Letters have mostly been replaced by email, diaries by blogs; typed manuscripts and business records are often begun as Microsoft Office files. Even photographs, audio recordings, and videos are now just files on a computer. Research has undergone a shift from a culture once based almost entirely on in-person and printed exchange to one reliant on a combination of traditional communications and digital technologies. The decision to move from print to online-access can result in benefits for both users and institutions. Buildings matter less and access is available from anywhere in the world. Documents tend to be online and are more discoverable than they have ever been before. In addition, enhanced quality of access, expanded search and browsing options, and less use of physical storage space. Archives have integrated the electronic shift because of its accessibility and convenience. Yet electronic access does not come without complications. Born-digital documents present new challenges for archives. While paper documents are often accessible in the same form decades after their creation, electronic documents may not be accessible within one decade after creation without the right hardware, operating systems, or software – "the average lifespan of a website is estimated to be three months" (Behind the Scenes, 2011). Digital materials habitually depend on

the technologies that create them, and as we all know, those technologies are modernizing and changing every year. Some challenges include "evaluation of hardware and software, adhering to copyright law, preventing unauthorized duplication of items, training of staff to deal with digital items, and the creation and storage of newly required metadata" (Prom, 2010).

With the proliferation of digital records, the task of the archivist has grown more complex. Archivists spend a significant amount of time determining the organization, contents and characteristics of collections so they can describe them for public access purposes. When repositories succeed in preserving provenance and original order, those who use archives and personal papers are able to answer questions that pertain to all aspects of research: "Are the records what they claim to be? Do they provide high-quality evidence concerning a person or organization's activities? If so, how does that evidence compare to evidence in other, related records? Is the information contained in the records accurate? What external or internal factors may bias or otherwise affect a record's veracity? How can archivists ensure that future users will be able to answer these questions?" (Prom, 2010).

With the advance of technology, changes inevitably arise. The internet has made it possible for content to be made widely and easily available to all with internet access through a computer or mobile device. While digitization is now possible, the question remains whether moving material to digital format is a wise course of action for the Paton Centre. There are many factors that must be examined before embarking on a digitization project which can be overwhelming. However, by becoming acquainted with all the issues involved, the Centre can move forward with a digitization project with confidence and accomplish the task efficiently.

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"All Universities worthy of the name possess three functions: The storage of knowledge already acquired, the dissemination of knowledge in man's possession, and the search for new knowledge." - A. R. Kerr

Annual Oral History Conference in the Free State

Radikobo Ntsimane

The 9th Annual Oral History conference was this year held in the Free State province in Thaba Nchu outside Mangaung (Bloemfontein) from 8th to 11th October 2012. The conference theme was: "Oral History, Communities and the Liberation Struggle: Reflective memories in Post-Apartheid South Africa". As has been the case in the last four annual conferences, speakers included school children presenting their oral history projects, intellectuals sharing their knowledge and experiences and the academics and activists dealing with research projects and advocacy issues.

The annual conferences are organized by the Oral History Association of South Africa (OHASA) with the provincial Local Organizing Committee (LOC). The Free State LOC was led by the leader of the Free State Archives, Mr Tshitso Challa, assisted by Museums' personnel and some University of the Free State staff members.

KwaZulu-Natal was well-represented among the speakers: Thandeka Majola, Radikobo Ntsimane, Bhekumusa Ngcobo, Shobana Singh, Kogie Archary and Prof Philippe Denis. Prof Denis of the

School of Religion, Philosophy and Classics at UKZN gave a keynote address on the history of Mpophomeni Township near Howick, concentrating on the use of written and oral sources. Denis has used the sources that are housed in the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives.

The conference was opened by the Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, Dr. Joe Phaahla, who acknowledged the value of oral history in nation building and social cohesion. He emphasized the value of oral history saying:

"Experiences and histories of some sections of our nation have been excluded from the main stream of the written history of South Africa. Oral history as an academic discipline has as its purpose to close those historical gaps and to record the experiences of those of our people who were pushed to the margins. In this conference we shall hear about experiences that one would normally not find in text books. We shall hear about the stories from below. When their stories are told and listened to with dignity, the actors are affirmed and feel important. And if we succeed to do just that, to create space where all stories are deemed important, we shall have succeeded in our mission".

Dr Alan Paton

Your black pen I've read,
Revealing black man's life.
In black customs well-read,
Black hardships you've suffered.

Your bound pages I've read
Full of black life;
You've grown like a white flower,
Attached to a black plant.

Your black speeches I've heard,
Telling the deeds of oppression.
A black lion in a white skin
Roaring forever for freedom.

You deserve a black crown
For the truths you've spoken,
Exposing exploitation,
Giving insight into black life.

You had black love;
You had a black mind;
You had black consciousness
Inside a white body.

Goodman Nyawose

Published in *Magazine '93*
Mpumalanga Collection of Education, p 9



"Dipping into the archive is always an interesting, if sometimes unsettling, proposition. It often begins with anxiety, with the fear that the thing you want won't surface. But ultimately the process is a little like tapping into the unconscious, and can bring with it the ambivalent gratification of rediscovering forgotten selves." - Anon

Condolences to Mrs Joicelyn Leslie-Smith

The Alan Paton Centre Advisory Committee and staff, notes with sadness the passing of Mr Patrick Leslie-Smith, beloved husband of Mrs Joicelyn Leslie-Smith. On behalf of the Alan Paton Centre and Struggle Archives, we express our sincere condolences to Mrs Leslie-Smith and her family. Mrs Leslie-Smith was the first Archivist/Manuscript Librarian of the APC, from 1989 to 1999. She initially worked on documenting the collections while still working as the University Archivist. Mrs Leslie-Smith was responsible, with Mrs Anne Paton, for creating the Alan Paton Study, arranged as it had been at the Paton's home in Botha's Hill.

Mr Patrick Leslie-Smith (82) who was affectionately known as "Mr Pat" died on July 6, 2012 in hospital after a short illness. He was a respected law practitioner and chairperson of J Leslie-Smith & Co. Inc. from 1975 to 1997. "Mr Pat" attended St Charles College and Marist Brothers College in Johannesburg and read for a law

degree at the University of Natal. Joicelyn and Patrick Leslie-Smith were married on 8th May 1957 by Archbishop Denis Hurley and had 6 children - all of whom have post graduate degrees and are in different disciplines. "Mr Pat" actively supported Mrs Leslie-Smith during her period as Archivist/Manuscript Librarian.

"Mr Pat" was a man of integrity and faith and had a compassionate heart for the poor and needy all his life. He often said, "There but for the grace of God, go I". May he rest in peace.

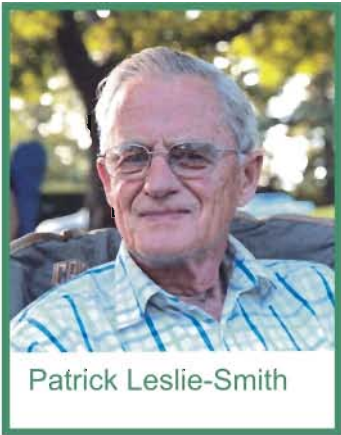


Photo: Paul Leslie-Smith

Condolences to Jack Frost

On behalf of the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives Advisory Committee and Staff, we would like to express our sincere condolences to Jack Frost on the passing of Mrs Joy Frost. Jack and Joy are supporters of the APC and we will miss Joy who accompanied Jack to many of the APC functions. Jack is linked to the APC through being the Chairperson of the Natalia Committee, which meets regularly at the APC.

Joy Frost, who died on 26 September, lectured for many years at the old Natal Training College until its closure in 1987. Thereafter she was seconded to the Natal Education Department head office as Co-ordinator of a new initiative entitled Family Life Education, designed to teach pupils life skills. Thus she was the pioneer of what has today become a compulsory part of the national curriculum, Life Orientation. In retirement she took up art, in which she developed a high level of skill. Sadly, in her

last three years she was much damaged by strokes, trapped in her body, unable to speak, read, write or paint while remaining cognisant of both her past and her surroundings.



Photo: by kind permission of Jack Frost

"We are the only species on the planet, so far as we know, to have invented a communal memory stored neither in our genes nor in our brains. The warehouse of this memory is called the library" – Carl Sagan

Donations received in 2012

The APC was grateful to receive **financial donations** from **Professor Richard Dale**, whose donation went towards the printing of *Concord*. Professor Dale's continuous support and interest is much appreciated.

The following **archival donations** were gratefully received:

Mrs Jean F Hill donated a letter written by C K Hill to the Honourable Minister of Justice dated 24 August 1966 and an untitled essay relating to Rev Daniel Lindley and James Dube.

Mr L McGregor donated a letter written by Alan Paton dated 7 June 1970, in which Paton thanked McGregor for his letter about *Kontakion For You Departed* and for his good wishes for peace and tranquility.

Reverend Scott Couper donated a pamphlet written by himself entitled *Albert Luthuli and Dag Hammarskjöld: Leaders and Visionaries*.

Mary Anne Callaghan donated a speech by Alan Paton.

Richard Aitken donated a complete set of posters of the Zululand Churches' Electoral Educational Project.

Professor Philippe Denis donated the Professor Steve de Gruchy papers. At the time of his death, Professor de Gruchy was the director of the Theology and Development Programme and the head of the School of Religion and Theology, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg campus. Professor de Gruchy died in an accident on 21 February 2010. During the last decade of his life, his stature as a scholar grew enormously with numerous publications in the field of theology and development, public health and climate change. He was passionate about the way in which communities need to regain their dignity and focus on their assets in order to become more fully human. Professor de Gruchy's papers, which are currently being documented by Ms Alice Fabian, will be of great interest to theologians, development workers and historians.

Danielle Gennrich, Director of PACSA, donated fifty boxes of PACSA archives, dated from prior to the founding of PACSA in 1979, until the end of the Peter Kerchhoff era in 1999. These documents are being added to the original collection, and should be of great interest to researchers.

NG

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
email gani@ukzn.ac.za**