

In die slothoofstuk word houdings teenoor Hollands-Afrikaans bespreek. Hierdie hoofstuk oorspronklik heelwat met die vorige, maar fokus veral op vroeë soos hoe sendelinge, inboorlinge en ander mense in Namibië oor die taal gedink het en hoe Hollands-Afrikaans teenoor ander tale van die land ontstaan het. Die hoofstuk eindig met die posisie teen 1884. Dit sou tog van waarde gewees het as daar in 'n epiloog 'n kort oorsig oor latere ontwikkelinge rakende die taal gegee is. Wat was die houding van die Duitse owerheid en die Duitse koloniste en later van die Suid-Afrikaanse regeerders teenoor Afrikaans? Moontlik wil Stals hierdie tema in 'n volgende publikasie behandel.

'n Belangrike pluspunt van die boek is dat dit 'n groot aantal illustrasies bevat. Daar is onder meer foto's van inheemse leiers en sendelinge en afdrukke van sketse wat deur vroeë besoekers aan Namibië gemaak is.

Stals lewer met hierdie publikasie belangrike baanbrekerswerk op 'n terrein van die Suider-Afrikaanse geskiedenis waarvoor historici nog min navorsing gedoen het. Hoewel daar al heelwat deur taalkundiges oor die geskiedenis van Afrikaans geskryf is, het die politieke, ekonomiese, maatskaplike en kulturele konteks waarbinne die taal ontwikkel het meesal nie baie aandag ontvang in hierdie publikasies nie. Die vestiging van 'n taal in 'n bepaalde gebied het gewoonlik belangrike gevolge op alle samelewingsterreine en dit is daarom noodsaaklik dat historici ook aan hierdie aspek van die geskiedenis aandag gee. Stals en Ponelis toon verder dat interdisiplinêre werk op hierdie terrein goeie vrugte kan afwerp en 'n mens hoop dat hulle baanbrekerswerk ander navorsers sal aanmoedig om studies oor die verspreiding van Afrikaans en ander tale in die verskillende dele van Suider-Afrika te onderneem.

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### Reference works on South African history

P. Joyce, *South Africa in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century chronicles of an era*.

Struik, South Africa, London, Australia & New Zealand, 2000.

Hard Cover

Photographs, Index and Further Reading List

*Historia*, 47(2), November 2002, pp. 773-790

248 pages.

ISBN 1 86872 309 7

Price: R149-95

C. Saunders and N. Southey, *A Dictionary of South African History*.

2<sup>nd</sup> (revised) edition, David Philip, Cape Town & Johannesburg, 2001

Paperback

List of abbreviations, chronology of South African History, maps, cross-references, further reading

200 pages

ISBN 0 86486 496 5

Price: R97-00.

At first glance, Joyce's *South Africa in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* seems to be a rather odd publication meant as a coffee table book for a limited clientele or perhaps a reference book for school libraries. This book certainly fulfils these roles admirably, but, on consideration, it offers a great deal more.

*South Africa in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* is divided into eleven chapters – one for each decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and a final one on the year 2000, which consists of spectacular colour photographs of Millennium illuminated and firework displays. Each chapter begins with a list of the landmarks of the decade (according to the author). This is followed by a year-by-year discussion of the decade. For each year, the author lists events, innovations, births, deaths and so on, with brief descriptions of those he feels deserve the most attention. The book is copiously illustrated with appropriate photographs, many in colour.

The book does not claim to be a *History* of South Africa - as the subtitle indicates, it is strictly a chronicle of events. It is crammed with atomic facts that the author makes no attempt to interpret or interrelate to form a Grand Narrative. Although one shouldn't expect more from a book of this kind, it does have a major drawback. The author has included large numbers of facts about the First World in the book, but makes no attempt to show why they deserve a place in the chronicle of the South African past. Reading in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, it is hard to see how the South African past was influenced by the Publication of *Winnie-The-Pooh* in 1927 (p.69), *The Wind in The Willows* in 1908 (p.25) or *Anne of*

*Green Gables* in the same year. Certainly, several generations of white English-speakers were brought up on these books, but they hardly constitute a significant majority of the population. Nor does it seem likely that these books shaped anyone's intellectual future.

Much the same applies to the American gangsters, Bonnie and Clyde, who were killed in 1933 (p.84), the invention of the Frisbee in the USA in 1925 (p.65), the opening of Agatha Christie's *The Mouse Trap* in 1952 (p.120), the discovery of the Minoan Civilisation on Crete in 1900 (p.8) or the establishment of the Harley-Davidson motorcycle company in 1903 (p.16).

Obviously, the author's criterion for inclusion has been what is likely to tickle the fancy of his chosen readership, rather than causal or intrinsic importance or relevance to South Africa. This is entirely appropriate for a popular book. In fact it is quite fun to discover that, in the Anglophone world, the top hits of 1942 were Bing Crosby's *White Christmas*, Vera Lynn's *We'll meet Again* and *This is The Army Mr. Jones* (p.101) or that *Lego* toy building blocks were first sold in 1958 (p.134). However, it is unfortunate that all these interesting trivialities are exclusively relevant to white English-speakers.

The author has also included many of the significant First World events of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century in his book, such as the two World Wars, the erection and destruction of the Berlin Wall and the various wars in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The material is undoubtedly interesting, but one would have liked to see the implications for South Africa spelled out more clearly. The First World War is obviously relevant to South Africa, but the discussion completely fails to mention the involvement of black South Africans. Outside South Africa, African events receive very limited attention, while there are only isolated references to Asian affairs.

Unfortunately, the pattern is duplicated in the South African content. There are references to black people and their actions and activities, but only to a limited extent. This is especially true of black culture. The word *Marabi*, for instance, does not appear in the index and it seems to be used only once in the text – on p.136 – where it is mentioned in passing. On the other hand, the launch of *Drum* magazine is mentioned (on p.112) together with a photograph of the front cover.

In spite of its obvious shortcomings, *South Africa in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* makes fascinating light reading. Within its limits, it is also a very handy guide to the context of 20<sup>th</sup> century events and the chronology of white South Africa. It is likely to appeal to anybody with an interest in the white South African past and would be useful to anybody involved in teaching history at any level. In the age

of digital reproduction and enlargement, it is also a very useful source of visual material on the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

If *South Africa in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* is meant as a popular work, the *Dictionary of South African History* is undoubtedly meant for more serious students – both academics and laypeople interested in South Africa's past and present. It will be especially useful as companion for anybody with a limited knowledge of South African History who is reading books on South African history. It is likely to be particularly useful to overseas students and undergraduate South African students.

In the preface, the authors freely admit to having exercised their own choice of what to include in the Dictionary. In fact, the content seems to reflect recent interests in the historiography of South Africa, as is born out by the references to further reading on important topics. In keeping with this, the authors have paid more attention to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century than to earlier periods. Generally, the authors seem to have made a very reasonable and useful selection, especially given the limited space available to them. However, there are a few surprising omissions, most notably “Hertzog”, who has been excluded. It is also confusing to find the *AWB* listed as the “Afrikaner Resistance Movement” (pp.7-8).

One could also query the formulation of some of the listed topics. For example, it seems unlikely that many people would think to look up subjects like: “Oil Supply” (p.126), “Destabilization” (p.56), “Britain in South Africa” (pp.30-33), “Political Violence” (pp.135-136) or “Economic Change” (pp.63–66). However the dictionary is generally user-friendly and seems to cover most of the terms most people might want to look up, as well as quite a few more obscure ones like “Oorlam” (p.126), “Confederation” (pp.49-50) or “School People” (pp.150-151).

The chronology of South African history, which stretches from prehistoric Times to the year 2001 is an extremely useful tool. Apart from providing a bird's eye view of South African History (something most undergraduate students certainly lack) it is also a relatively convenient way of determining the historical context of a given event. However, it is worth noting that some of the events listed in the chronology have been omitted from the dictionary itself, for example the forced removal of black people to Ndabeni in 1901 (p.xvi). From an Africanist perspective, the chronology may possibly be labelled Eurocentric. However, it should be pointed out that it is impossible to make a selection of events from the past (or communicate it intelligibly) without imposing some form of selection and organisation criteria – whether Eurocentric or Afrocentric.

The dictionary is clearly a useful and convenient companion to any study of South African History. It would be even more useful if it included a brief survey of South African historiography over the last few decades and one would hope the publisher and authors would consider this possibility in a further edition.

Geoff. Allen.

RAU.

## Berlin as colonial centre of Afrikapolitik

U van der Heyden and J. Zeller, (editors), *Kolonialmetropole Berlin – Eine Spurensuche*. Berlin Edition in der Quintessenz Verlags-GmbH, Berlin, 2002.

ISBN 3-8148-0092-3

Hardcover, 320 pp., illus.

Contents: *Vorwort der Herausgeber/ Frühe Kolonisationsversuche in Westafrika/ In der Zentrale der “Weltmacht”/ Lobbyisten für die “Schutzgebiete”/ Überseewirtschaft/ Kolonialdeutsche Wissenschaften/ Inszenierungen/ Koloniale Kultur/ Afrikanische Migranten in der Reichs(kolonial)hauptstadt/ Kolonialismus ohne Kolonien/ Spurensuche in Berliner Museen/ Anmerkungen/ Die Autoren/ Bildnachweis.*

Price: € 24.80

The current interest in “colonial” matters – often without clear definition – still identifies itself in this country by a handful of tired *clichés*. Pertinent words and phrases are (in)visibly highlighted and thereby set apart from others, as though by habit, and can be used to build up politically correct, if historically dubious, accounts of past (in)justices framed with seemingly heartfelt indignation.

Professional historians and other scientists, who write also for the lay readership, are usually aware of crossing frontiers of credibility. Their readers, however, are not often as well informed, or frank, and may willingly embrace what they view as self-evident fact, rather than not-so-evident fantasy.

Recently the remains of Saartjie Baartman, the “Hottentot Venus” (d. 1815), were interred in the Eastern Cape during a thoughtfully managed ceremony. Memorials, whether contemporaneous or anachronous, are part of the very human awareness of (im)mortality, and modern history records a continuous