

Humbold Downes .

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CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

TOWN CLERK'S DEPARTMENT.

27th March 1962.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE (I) HEALTH AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE.  
(II) MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 1961

... The Annual Report of the Director of the Africana Museum for the year ended 30th June 1961, referred to in the agenda for the meetings of the Health and Amenities and the Management Committees to be held on 5th and 9th April 1962 respectively, is attached for the information of members of the Committees.

ROSS BLAINE,

ACTING TOWN CLERK.

CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

AFRICANA MUSEUM

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR  
THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1961

To His Worship the Mayor  
and Councillors of the City of Johannesburg.

I have the honour to submit the twenty-sixth Annual Report of the work of the Africana Museum for the period 1 July 1960 to 30 June 1961.

This report starts on a sad note, for on 19 June 1961 the Africana Museum lost a valued friend when the Chairman of its Advisory Committee, Councillor A.R. Thorburn, J.P., passed away. During the many years Mr. Thorburn served as a City Councillor, he was keenly interested in the development of the Museum and gave unstintingly of his knowledge of municipal practice and procedure in the interest of Museum affairs. Until the new Local Government Ordinance necessitated the amalgamation of various Council Committees in March 1961, Councillor Thorburn was also Chairman of the Public Amenities Committee, which was the Council Committee responsible for the Africana Museum. With his passing both the staff and the institution suffered a grievous loss.

SOUTH AFRICAN MUSEUMS CONFERENCE

As recently as April 1961 Councillor Thorburn represented the City of Johannesburg at the 25th Jubilee Conference of the South African Museums Association, which was held in Durban from 25 to 28 April.

The guest speaker, who delivered a most stirring address on the fundamentals of museum work, was Dr. W.E. Swinton then of the British Museum (Natural History), immediate past President of the (British) Museums Association, and former editor of The Museums Journal. On his way to Durban Dr. Swinton spent a morning in the Africana Museum and was most complimentary about the manner in which the exhibits are presented.

Professor L.F. Maingard, a member of the Africana Museum Advisory Committee since 1937, was one of the seven foundation members of the S.A. Museums Association to be awarded a foundation member's badge at the Conference; in his absence the Director of the Africana Museum accepted the badge on his behalf. Professor P.R. Kirby and Mr. R.F. Kennedy, also members of the Africana Museum Advisory Committee, addressed the Conference, and Councillor Thorburn invited discussion on a proposal to establish a museum of local natural history in Johannesburg.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

During the year under review the members of the Africana Museum Advisory Committee were:

Councillor A.R. Thorburn (Chairman until his death on 19 June 1961), Mr. A. de V. Cluver, Mr. W.H. Goetzer, Mr. R.R. Currie, Dr. T. Gutsche, Mr. J.C.N. Humphreys, Mr. H.C. Juta, Dr. I. Kaplan, Mr. R.F. Kennedy, Prof. P.R. Kirby, Prof. I.D. MacCrone, Prof. L.F. Maingard, Mr. G.L. Matthews, Mr. F.R. Paver, Mr. C. Payne, Dr. J.H. Harvey Pirie, Clr. Mrs. I.E. Turvey, Mr. H.E. Winder and the Director.

Eleven meetings were held during the year and the members gave freely of their time and expert knowledge. The Museum benefited from the advice of this Committee, while the active assistance of members in obtaining material has greatly enriched the collections. The City Council is indebted to the Advisory Committee members for their generous assistance and co-operation.

Mr. R.F. Kennedy, former Director of the Museum and now a member of the Advisory Committee, received an honorary M.A. degree at the graduation ceremony of the University of Cape Town on 30 June 1961, and special mention of his achievements in the field of Africana was made in the citation.

#### VISIT OF THE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ON STATE-AIDED INSTITUTIONS

As the Africana Museum is maintained by the City Council of Johannesburg, it did not fall within the scope of the investigation of the Committee appointed by the Government to study state-aided institutions, but permission was sought for the Committee to visit the Africana Museum for purposes of comparison and on 16 May the Committee was welcomed to the Museum. The members were Mr. C.M. Booyesen (Chairman), Dr. F.C.L. Bosman, Mr. J.L.N. Hansmann (Under-Secretary for Education), Mr. S.J. Kritzinger (Secretary of the Committee) and Prof. D.E. Malan. The Director was closely questioned on the administration of the Museum, and the Committee seemed impressed with what was being done by the City Council of Johannesburg.

#### VISITORS

During the year it is estimated that 80,773 people visited the Africana Museum. This number includes 5,132 children in parties and 144 groups.

On the morning of 6 July 1960 it was a pleasure to show 30 Junior Delegates to the Congress of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science something of the collection. On the afternoon of 14 April 1961 a party of delegates and their wives, who were attending the Commonwealth Mining and Metallurgical Congress, paid the Museum a visit. It is gradually becoming the custom for organisers of conferences in Johannesburg to make provision on their programmes for delegates to visit the Africana Museum. Overseas visitors are usually keenly interested in the ethnological collection; Johannesburg visitors find the Johannesburg Room fascinating; and visitors from elsewhere in South Africa frequently ask to see what there is in the Museum relating to the history of their own locality. As the collections in the Museum grow, more and more serious enquirers come in search of information concerning the history of our country, and year by year there is an increase in the number of acknowledgments to the Africana Museum for assistance. These remarks apply particularly to pictorial material used as illustrations in books of South African interest. The Museum this year provided the pictures of early Johannesburg used not only for the souvenir programme, but also as the basis of the design of the stage decor for the musical, Eldorado by Ralph Trewhela, which was first performed in the Brooke Theatre on 9 September. The sleeve of the gramophone record of Eldorado also included a picture from the Museum as part of the design. A team of workers spent many weeks in the Museum searching for material to use as the basis of an official film on South African history.

#### THE MUSEUM IN THE NEWS

Acting on a suggestion from members of the Advisory Committee, arrangements were made for children to be shown round the Museum during the school holidays in July and January. This new activity of the Museum received generous publicity in the Johannesburg newspapers and attracted

large numbers of Afrikaans and English-speaking children of roughly primary school age who were guided through the Museum by staff members. Almost since its inception the Museum has had a Guide-Lecturer who teaches classes of school children in the Museum during term time. These extension classes in South African history, as one may call them were described by Dr. Thelma Gutsche in an illustrated article in The Star of 10 November 1960. The charming letters written to Miss Chapman by the children in her classes pay eloquent tribute to her teaching. The conducted tours recently instituted during the school holidays enable the children to see the Museum as a whole and as something distinct from the school curriculum. They proved so popular that all members of staff were called upon as guides for the last tour in January. Photographs of the children in the Museum were published in the Johannesburg newspapers in January, and the tours were featured in "African Mirror", the newsreel released throughout South African cinemas.

The Africana Museum was included in the programme on the English transmission arranged by Mr. Percy Baneshik and broadcast on 29 August 1960 under the title, "The Golden City", when a few lines were spoken by the Director on the Johannesburg Room. On 28 May 1961 the Director broadcast on "Collecting Africana" in the series "Top Level" on Springbok Radio; and on 6 July 1960 the Museum was the subject of a talk she gave as the guest speaker at the monthly lunch of the Association of Public Relations Officers. Two days earlier she drew particular attention to the Jane Wilson tombstone in the Museum in a lecture to the Johannesburg Business and Professional Women's Club on "Americans in South Africa". On 8 April 1961 Die Transvaler published her article entitled "President Paul Kruger Besoek Johannesburg" in which photographs from the Museum collection appeared as illustrations.

#### FRANK CONNOCK PUBLICATIONS

Immediately before Christmas 1960 The Reminiscences of Georgina Lister was published. The manuscript and most of the illustrations were presented outright to the Museum by the author's daughter, Miss Margaret H. Lister, and the publication was financed through the generosity of the Johannesburg pioneer, Mr. Frank Connock, who has been a valued friend of the Museum since its earliest days, and who, some ten years ago, made available to the Museum a capital sum for the publication of works of Africana. The Museum is greatly indebted to Mr. Connock and to the donors of manuscripts for publication.

#### AFRICANA NOTES AND NEWS

The Frank Connock series and Africana Notes and News, the quarterly journal issued by the Museum, have made the needs and the interests of the Africana Museum more widely known, and consequently many important items have found their way to Johannesburg. During the year the usual four issues of Africana Notes and News appeared, and the high standard of scholarship was maintained through the generosity of our contributors from many parts of the world, who make the results of their studies available to our journal without remuneration. Since December 1943 Africana Notes and News has appeared regularly, and today the earlier volumes are becoming difficult to obtain. As only 500 copies of the earliest issues were printed, and as many of them were sent to museums and libraries, it is not surprising. Nothing earlier than volume five is still in print.

#### TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

The Africana Museum is also becoming known for its temporary exhibitions in the Main Hall of the Public Library. These exhibitions are arranged under the direction of the Curator, and the display work is done by the Museum Artists, who usually assist even when an outside body

is responsible. The following exhibitions of an Africana nature were on view during this administrative year:

1-13 August. South African Wild Flowers, arranged by the Wild Flower Section of the Transvaal Horticultural Society; it included flower-paintings, coloured photographs, and china plates decorated with flower-paintings, supplemented by an exhibition of some of the Library's rare and beautiful botanical books.

29 August-10 September. The Johannesburg Fire Department, 1890-1960. An exhibition that ranged from the earliest fire engine used in Johannesburg, to models of modern fire preventive equipment, and that included helmets, tunics and insignia as well as photographs of early fire chiefs; and of the present-day activities of the Department.

31 October-11 November. Still life by W.H. Coetzer: a study collection. The Brush and Chisel Club held an exhibition of paintings by this well-known South African artist, consisting of sixty still-life paintings.

13-19 February. South African Women Artists of the Past. Lady Frances Cole and Mrs. Arabella Roupell were the artists presented at an exhibition arranged to coincide with the S.A. Business and Professional Women's Week.

17 March-4 April. Women in the Welfare of Johannesburg. An exhibition displaying the lives and careers of some notable Johannesburg women - Sister Rosa, Lady Phillips, Mrs. Scandrett, Mrs. Mary Fitzgerald, Miss Frida Hartley, and Mrs. Hoernlé. Dr. Thelma Gutsche suggested it, collected the material, and helped to arrange it.

Museum material was also made available for a few special exhibitions elsewhere in the City, including one of chairs arranged by the Transvaal Provincial Institute of Architects in the David Haddon Hall in the Institute building in Braamfontein during the week beginning 7 November 1960. During the Rand Easter Show the City of Johannesburg arranged a special exhibit in its new pavilion and some items from the Africana Museum were on view. At the request of the organisers of the Antique Dealers' Fair held at the Wanderers' Club from 21 to 25 June 1961, the Museum Artists arranged a period group illustrating the costume and furniture of about 1875.

#### THE WORK OF THE ARTISTS

The Artists are not only responsible for special exhibitions arranged by the Museum, but also for those of material from the Johannesburg Public Library. In addition they are called upon for lettering and art work of a permanent nature in the Library and its branches. The displays in the Museum galleries are their special concern and are inspected regularly every week so that they look fresh and neat. All Museum labels are prepared by the Artists from text supplied by other members of the staff, except for costume which is the Artists' special field and for which they write the text of the labels. It has been the practice in the Africana Museum to provide detailed labels for exhibits in both official languages, and here I should like to record my sincere appreciation of the assistance received from the Municipal Translator and his staff.

#### GIFTS

A museum is judged by the quality of its collections, and frequently some of its most important exhibits are the gifts of public spirited members of the community. During the year under review the Johannesburg collection was enriched by some outstanding gifts. Notable among these are the papers

relating to the imprisoned Reformers, Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, Mr. H.B. Marshall, and others, from the records of their solicitors, Messrs. De Jongh, Stegmann and Esselen. This collection was presented by Mr. Justice A.A. Roberts. From Mrs. Harry Rissik Marshall came a portrait in oils of the Johannesburg pioneer H.B. Marshall, whose name is commemorated in Marshallstown, an important Johannesburg business area. The President of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange presented a portrait in oils by W.H. Schröder of Capt. von Brandis to the Mayor for the Africana Museum; and through the kind offices of Councillor A. Gorshel and the Town Clerk Kate Kennedy's oil, "Houghton Kloof overlooking Cook's Farm", 1909, was given to the Museum by Mr. Edwin Orr and his brother, Mr. Brian Orr, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Orr. Mr. B. Leiboff made and gave the Museum a bust of Mr. Jeremy Schulman, conductor of the S.A.B.C. Symphony Orchestra; and the widow of Mr. D.F. Corlett, a former Mayor of Johannesburg, presented the scroll and casket together with the gold medal given to her husband as Freeman of the City of Johannesburg in 1950. When their Johannesburg office was demolished, the National Mutual Life Association of Australasia gave the Museum the seven stained glass windows depicting Shakespeare's "Seven Ages of Man", which had been specially made by George Ragg of Salford, England, at the turn of the century. From the General Manager of the Johannesburg Parks and Community Services came two gold prize medals awarded to his Department at the international flower shows at Haifa and Trieste in 1960. These are all outstanding additions to the Johannesburg collection.

The bequest from the late Rev. Noel Roberts included not only the wooden crocodile and drums used by the Malaboch people, which had been on loan to the Museum for many years, but also a collection of important ethnological material from the Bushman, the Malaboch, the Venda, and the Pedi. Many of the objects in this bequest were described by the Rev. Noel Roberts in The South African Journal of Science as long ago as 1916.

A full list of donors during the year under review appears at the end of this report, and the Museum is greatly indebted to them for their generosity in making available family heirlooms and other items of historical interest.

Sometimes it is impossible for an owner to make an outright gift of an historic relic. In such circumstances the material is often placed on loan in the Museum. During the year the Africana Museum received the loan of an extensive collection of pictures, ethnological material, and other objects collected by Prof. and Mrs. R. Hoernlé. Their son and daughter-in-law generously lent this interesting material to the Africana Museum, where it could be made accessible to the serious student.

#### PURCHASES

Museum collections cannot rely solely on gifts for new material. The City Council of Johannesburg therefore makes available a certain amount each year for the acquisition of important and rare items. A substantial part of this grant is usually spent in building up the collection of original historic paintings in the Museum. This year was no exception, and some important works were acquired.

Five pen-and-ink and water-colour drawings by the Austrian artist Joseph Selleny (1824-1875) were purchased. Four of these appear as illustrations in the account of the circumnavigation of the world by the frigate "Novara" in 1857-1859. Another original of a book illustration obtained for the Museum is a water-colour of the military post at Fort Frederick similar to plate 13 in Daniell's African Scenery and Animals issued in 1804. The Director of the Art Gallery in Johannesburg supported the view that the water-colour was the original by Daniell, though unfortunately unsigned.

A collection of water-colours and drawings by the well-known artist, J.G. Millais, was also obtained for the Museum. Among these is the very fine original of the illustration depicting a lion attacking an antelope, which was published in his privately printed book, Wild Life in Africa, which itself is very rare today. Six others are the originals of illustrations in his well-known work, A Breath from the Veldt.

An extremely interesting series of drawings by the Austrian-born artist Johann Schoenberg was added to the small number of pictures of the South African War from the Boer side. The English journal, The Sphere sent this German-speaking artist to South Africa to make pictures for publication. He mixed freely with the Boers, who had no knowledge of his association with a British periodical. Although the originals now in the Africana Museum bear his signature, The Sphere did not reveal the name of their artist until after his return from South Africa.

A wash drawing similar to the illustration "President Kruger receiving visitors on the Verandah at the Presidency, Pretoria", which appeared in The Graphic of 21 January 1899 is another interesting item of the War of 1899-1902. The drawing is by C.E. Fripp after H. Egersdörfer.

Original drawings of South African flora have been collected for many years, and the Museum was fortunate enough to acquire three attributed to Alida Withoos (c.1600-c.1715); 68 of the period 1832/33 depicting plants collected by Sir Charles and Lady D'Oyly, Sir Lowry Cole's daughter, and other prominent Cape personages of the time; and ten associated with E.M. Eaton c.1880.

Views of Cape Town are not nearly as rare as those of places farther afield. The 57 sketches of Cape scenery including places like Somerset West, Paarl, Wellington, Drakenstein, and Sir Lowry's Pass were therefore most welcome. Although they are not signed in full, it has been established that the initials J.T.H. stand for Capt. J.T. Haverfield of the Royal Marines who served on H.M.S. "Narcissus".

Two oil paintings of Natal interest by E.S. Rawlins are welcome additions to the meagre Natal collection in the Museum. One is of Thornville and the other of Pietermaritzburg, c.1880.

Of great historic interest are two rough pen-and-ink sketches by an unknown artist dated 27 April 1846 depicting the camp at Block Drift near Lovedale. They were obtained during this administrative year and illustrate an historical incident previously not represented in the Museum.

Although unsigned, the painting "Buffalo Hunt" attributed to Thomas Baines, is a welcome addition to the Baines collection, because it is known to have been a present from the artist to a relative of the vendor.

The numismatic collection in the Museum was augmented by a gold commemorative medal issued by the Johannesburg newspaper Die Vaderland at the time of the opening of the Voortrekker Monument in 1949; by the octagonal bronze Wienecke medal in honour of President Kruger and the declaration of peace in 1902; by the St. Helena P.O.W. medal of 1900; and by a proof set of the coins issued by the Z.A.R. in 1892.

The Cape silver collection was greatly enriched during this year. Not only were three wine labels with Lawrence Twentymans marks obtained as well as a Dutch Bible with silver clasps by the Cape silversmith, Johannes Combrink, but also a beautiful sucrière by D.H. Schmidt. The last had at one time belonged to Senator Sir Anthony Viljoen. The most magnificent addition, however, was a sporting cup with the mark of Lawrence Twentymans.

It was presented by W.M. Mackay, Landdrost of Somerset, to the Somerset Turf Club on its establishment in 1825, according to the inscription on the cup itself. This historic cup is mentioned in H.A. Wyndham's Early History of the Thoroughbred Horse in South Africa, but was not formerly known to collectors of Cape silver.

The section on sport is poorer than it should be in a museum of the stature of the Africana, and the silver cup acquired this year through the kind offices of Mr. C. Payne, a member of the Advisory Committee, is an acquisition of primary importance. This cup was presented by Mr. J.H. Anderson in 1892, and was the Senior Rugby Trophy up to 1909. The names of such famous players as Paul Roos, B.H. Heatlie, Biddy Anderson and P.S. Twentyman-Jones are inscribed on the cup which is illustrated in Difford's History of South African Rugby Football.

The ethnological collection in the Africana Museum is growing in importance as the years go by, because the African way of life is changing rapidly, and many objects which were in daily use, have almost disappeared. Students of the future will, without any doubt, be largely dependent on museum collections for their study material. It is therefore satisfactory to be able to record the acquisition of well-documented Ndebele, Bavenda and Herero material, and of two dated water-colours by Barbara Tyrrell of Baca women. Bushman material is becoming extremely rare, and the addition of thirty items collected in the Kalahari is therefore a considerable achievement, particularly as some of them were obtained by the leader of a scientific expedition and are fully documented.

#### STAFF

The Museum has experienced a busy year, and the staff members have been fully occupied in organising the material so that enquirers can be assisted as expeditiously as possible. The files of photographs have become so extensive in recent years, that it has become necessary to prepare special indexes to facilitate their use. The Curator has given this task her special attention. Mr. R.F. Kennedy, who retired as Director on 2 June 1960, made some progress on the special catalogue of original paintings in the Museum. A student assistant was employed on mounting a large number of historically important photographs for the files. The Director was sent on overseas study leave on 16 June 1961 to investigate modern museum organisation and methods with a view to the new Africana Museum building which is to be part of the Civic Centre.

At 30 June 1961 the staff consisted of the Director, who is also City Librarian; a Curator; a Museum Assistant, who is also Guide-Lecturer and Secretary to the Advisory Committee; two Artists; two Clerical Assistants; and two Attendants. The Museum and the Library shared the Typists, Building Staff and Treasury Accountants. Occasionally additional assistance was provided by Student Assistants and Relief Staff from the Library.

The Africana Museum does not pretend to have more than the smallest working collection of books. It draws extensively on the Reference Library for general information and on the Strange Collection of Africana for South African material. In both these sections of the Johannesburg Public Library the needs of the Museum have been taken into consideration in building up the book collections.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is a pleasure to record my thanks to the Museum Staff for the manner in which they have carried out their duties throughout the year.

Johannesburg newspapers have given the Museum and its work generous space and I am most grateful to the Editors and their staff for sympathetic and accurate reporting.

The publicity given to the activities of the Museum by the Radio is very valuable and greatly appreciated.

The generous help received from all municipal departments has made our task in the Museum very much easier, and thanks to the personal interest of our colleagues in other departments, many important gifts have found their way to the Museum - including old-fashioned fittings from Johannesburg homes in process of being demolished to make way for the Civic Centre. To all these friends of the Museum I wish to express my sincere thanks.

A.H. SMITH  
DIRECTOR

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Alderton, Mr. R.C.  
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Berrell, Mrs. G.  
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Booyse, Mr. J.L.  
Boshoff, Mrs. S.M.  
Bowman, Mr. G.  
Bradley, Mr. A.J.  
Bradlow, Mr. F.R.  
Bredell, Mrs. Mary.  
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Brown, Mrs. R.P.  
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Buyskes, Miss S.  
Byrne, Mrs. R.
- Calitz, Mr. Andries.  
Cameron, Mr. D.  
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Jeffrey, Mr. J.W.  
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Johannesburg. City Treasurer.  
Johannesburg. Electricity Department.  
Johannesburg. His Worship the Mayor.  
Johannesburg. Parks and Communities  
Services.  
Johannesburg. Town Clerk.

Joint Fund for the Blind.  
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Newnham, Miss G.F.  
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Putterill, Mrs. L.  
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Roberts, Rev. Noel (Bequest).  
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Turffontein Golf Club.  
Turpin, Mr.

Union of South Africa. Defence,  
Secretary for.

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Van Tonder, Mr. H.J.  
Van Vuuren, Mrs. J.H.  
Venn, Mrs. G.A.F.  
Verster, Mr. P.J.  
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Vorster, Mrs. M.C.  
Vos, Mrs. J.

Wakefield, Maj.-Gen. H.S.  
Watt, Prof. J.M.  
Welchman, Mrs. E.H.  
Weston, Mr. C.J.  
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