

RHODES UNIVERSITY
CONFERENCE OF THE ECONOMIC HISTORY SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
11.00am 30 JUNE 1986

Professor Coleman, Professor Platt, Professor Barker, ladies and gentlemen; Rhodes University has been graced by gatherings of groups as diverse as entomologists, theologians, computer scientists, italianists, ichthyologists, and geographers. This is, to my knowledge, the first time that a group of economic historians has visited, and as such, it is indeed an honour for the University to play host to this august gathering. We are particularly gratified since this is the first time that the conference has been held outside Natal.

Since economists who deal with the present and the future depress us with phrases like "economic recession", "debt standstill" and "plunging balance on the current account", perhaps you who deal with the past can lift our spirits, or at least give us some tried and tested advice!

X I bid you all a very warm welcome to our ~~rather chilly~~ city, and
X particularly to Rhodes University. ~~and I~~ hope that your deliberations will be stimulating and fruitful.

*whose weather at this time of the year
does not always echo that warmth*

It is also my privilege

as opening speaker,

X / I ~~should like~~ to introduce to you Professor Christopher Platt, Professor of the History of Latin America at Oxford University. Professor Platt is a Fellow of St Antony's College where he has been a Senior Tutor since 1979. He has lectured at Edinburgh and Exeter Universities, and was a Lecturer in Latin American History at Cambridge University from 1969 to 1972 where he was a Fellow of Queens College. Professor Platt was also Director of the Centre of Latin American Studies at Cambridge. From 1972 to 1983 he was Director of the Centre of Latin American Studies at Oxford. He has several publications to his credit.

The title of Professor Platt's address is:

"Numbers in Economic History with particular reference to British Investment Abroad in August 1914."

D S HENDERSON
30 June 1986.