

RHODES UNIVERSITY
CONFERENCE OF THE ECONOMIC HISTORY SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
II.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.

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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!

I BID YOU ALL A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR CITY, WHOSE WEATHER AT THIS TIME OF
THE YEAR DOES NOT ALWAYS ECHO THAT WARMTH, AND PARTICULARLY TO RHODES
UNIVERSITY. I HOPE THAT YOUR DELIBERATIONS WILL BE STIMULATING AND FRUITFUL.

IT IS ALSO MY PRIVILEGE TO INTRODUCE TO YOU OUR OPENING SPEAKER, 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.