



**RHODES UNIVERSITY**

## **GRADUATION 1988**

on

**FRIDAY, 8 APRIL**

and

**SATURDAY, 9 APRIL**

at

**1820 Settlers National Monument**

and

**SATURDAY, 7 MAY**

at

**Guild Theatre, East London**

At the ceremony in Grahamstown on Friday evening, 8 April, degrees were awarded to students in the faculties of Arts, Education, Divinity, Social Science and Law. The degree of Doctor of Literature (honoris causa) was conferred on Dr Cyril Nyembezi and Professor Michael Roberts, who were presented to the Chancellor Dr Ian Mackenzie, by the Public Orator, Prof Rodney Davenport, Head of the Department of History. The congregation was addressed by Professor John Barratt, director of the SA Institute of International Affairs.

Students in the faculties of Science, Commerce and Pharmacy received their degrees on Saturday morning, April 9. The graduation address was delivered by Professor Brian Allanson, who recently retired as Head of the Department of Zoology and Entomology and Dean of Research at Rhodes. The degree of Doctor of Science (honoris causa) was conferred upon Dr Stanley Shuttleworth, and the degree of Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) was conferred upon Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson.

The traditional garden party was held on Saturday afternoon on the St Peter's lawns beside the University chapel of St Mary and All the Angels.

The East London Division of Rhodes held its second Graduation ceremony in the Guild Theatre on Saturday, 7 May. At the gathering, 29 students were capped by the Chancellor, Dr Ian Mackenzie. The congregation was addressed by Mr Clive Schreuder, Managing Director of Johnson and Johnson (Pty) Ltd South Africa.

After the ceremony, a garden luncheon was held, with music provided by the Rhodes Jazz Ensemble, led by Professor Norbert Nowotny, Head of the Department of Music and Musicology at Rhodes.

# Graduation 1988

A total of 806 undergraduate and post-graduate degrees were awarded at the Graduation ceremonies in Grahamstown in April. This number includes 13 Doctoral degrees and 74 Master's degrees. Undergraduate degrees were awarded to 534 students, and 160 students received diplomas and certificates.

The Faculty of Arts had 238 students graduating with Bachelor's degrees, and the number of honours degrees awarded rose from 63 last year to 82 this year. Twenty nine Master's degrees and two PhD degrees were awarded, as well as 18 graduate diplomas and 16 non-graduate diplomas.

The Faculty of Education awarded 25 Bachelor of Education degrees, 56 graduate diplomas and 25 non-graduate diplomas. Ten Master of Education degrees and one PhD were also awarded.

In the Faculty of Divinity, two Bachelor of Theology degrees, 11 Honours degrees, one Bachelor of Divinity degree and three Master of Theology degrees were conferred together with one Diploma in Theology.

The Faculty of Social Science awarded 31 undergraduate degrees, one graduate diploma, five Honours degrees and three Master's degrees.

The Faculty of Law awarded 27 Bachelor of Law degrees, one Master of Laws and one PhD degree.

In the Faculty of Science, 87 Bachelor's degrees and 51 Honours degrees were awarded, together with 24 Master of Science degrees, six PhD degrees and one graduate diploma.

The Faculty of Commerce awarded 97 undergraduate degrees, 11 Honours degrees and two Master of Commerce degrees. Fourteen graduate Certificates and 28 non-graduate Certificates were also awarded.

The Faculty of Pharmacy awarded three PhD degrees, two Master of Science degrees and 52 Bachelor of Pharmacy degrees.

## THE THREATENING PROBLEMS OF ISOLATION

In his address at the Graduation ceremony on Friday evening, 8 April, Professor John Barratt, Director of the SA Institute of International Affairs urged the graduands to put the knowledge and experience they had gained at university to work in their lives outside the university to fight the threats of isolation faced by South Africa.

### New value systems

The 'Ivory Tower' image of a university dies hard, but this image is not valid in the modern world, if it ever was. This is obvious in the natural sciences and technology. The mind-boggling advances which are transforming the world before our eyes, spring from the research at universities and

related institutions, and it is here that they are being applied to everyday life and transmitted to new generations. But this is the case also in the social sciences and humanities. Ideas and thinking in human relations, in economics, politics, law, literature and art are not static, any more than those in science and technology. They are constantly developing and changing, forming new value systems which affect the way individuals, governments and countries behave. Universities have a central role to play in this great movement of ideas, provided they are willing to take the lead in breaking through to new frontiers beyond the status quo, and are responsive to the needs of a dynamic society.

The growing pressure on universities in South Africa stems, it seems to me, from a belief on the part of government — and perhaps also large sections of the white community — that they can and should somehow be isolated from society as a whole, from its conflicts and agonies and from the hard search for a new political and economic order acceptable within our country and in the international community. Life would be more comfortable for many in an isolated tower of learning, observing society from above, as it were, and conforming to norms set by the government. But this would be abdicating the role of universities which is to be on the cutting edge of change in all its aspects — in political and economic thinking, for instance, as much as in science and technology. This role deserves the support of all who have benefitted from their time at university, so that the isolation of universities both within the country and in the wider international community can be prevented.

### External pressures

The threat of isolation comes at us from all sides. Most obvious, and most often referred to, is the isolation imposed on South Africa by the international community through sanctions and boycotts of various kinds. They affect economic and scientific links, participation in international organizations and conferences, sporting contacts and even academic exchanges. Most of them are blunt instruments which are intended by their proponents to bring pressure to bear on the government to change its policies, but which in their implementation affect the whole country and all its people. Some of these pressures have caused changes, but on the whole they have so far had no effect on the key elements of apartheid. Far from changing political direction, the government has used external pressures as one reason for extending its powers, so that its grip on the country is now stronger than ever before.

However, the pressures are making an impact on the country. The negative effects will gradually but increasingly be felt, and there are no grounds for the complacency which seems so prevalent today. Our economy as a whole cannot grow in isolation, so as to provide for an expanding population, we cannot develop as a modern

nation, if channels for the free flow of scientific and technological information became blocked, and, if academic interchange is increasingly limited, we cannot be part of the living stream of ideas and new thinking. Instead, if this trend continues, we are threatened with becoming a stagnant intellectual backwater, with our great universities downgraded in the western world.

### Who is to blame?

It is easy just to blame a vindictive world for these threatening problems of isolation and to point to double standards in the judgement of South African society. Not long ago, it was simply said to be communism and the Soviet Union that were the root cause of our domestic and international problems, now it seems to be the west, particularly the United States, which is held to be mainly responsible.

However, I believe we know — and the government does, too — that the real cause of our isolation is that in today's world policies and practices based on racial discrimination have become totally unacceptable, in the same way as slavery became unacceptable in the 19th century. We can ameliorate conditions in a variety of ways, as the reforms of the first half of the 1980's did, but as long as the majority of our people are denied full political rights — and as a result also full economic rights — we cannot expect the western world to turn a blind eye on South Africa. What happens here is too important for Africa and the world for the west to ignore the political deterioration and violence and not to react.

One can question the forms of reaction — whether, for instance, punitive sanctions against South Africa as a whole — are the best means of ending repression and bringing us into the mainstream of western values. In other words, does it help to send South Africa, or even just the white community, to stand in the corner indefinitely, while the rest of the class goes on with its work? But, having at least posed that question, we for our part have to learn that we cannot expect to be treated as a regular member of the class, while our disruptive behaviour continues.

### A constructive role

Moreover, there is another side to this issue of isolation. Much of it is self-imposed, even invited. The government, far from recognizing that the values which determine its behaviour are unacceptable and cannot indefinitely be maintained, tells the world to 'Do its Damndest'. For this irrational 'Go it Alone' attitude it wins the plaudits of probably most of the white community. In Southern Africa our security forces operate with impunity in other countries on the grounds that they are countering a threat to the established order here and to our safety without regard to the bitter reaction of the governments and people affected in those countries. A cordon of bit-

terness is being strengthened around us, isolating us further in our own region of Africa, while revulsion grows in the west at this reliance on brute strength. For most whites again, viewing ourselves as a threatened minority — a view constantly reinforced by official statements — the reasons for the use of force in neighbouring states are unquestioned. No strong voices of dissent are raised by liberal politicians or business leaders, for fear of being pilloried as unpatriotic and weak on security. So there is no adequate debate on our international and regional relations, in spite of the implications for our future. Universities and other research and educational institutions can play a constructive role in promoting greater awareness and a more informed understanding of these issues. In this regard Rhodes is to be congratulated on a new initiative in the establishment of the International Studies Unit which hopefully will strengthen the study of international relations here and contribute to a broader and more informed debate.

The media should be an important means of countering this isolation from both international and domestic realities. But the powerful electronic media are fully under official control, while the press is gradually being co-opted into submission, or is concerned primarily with circulation figures and financial results. In the few cases of independence, where strongly different viewpoints and information are presented, the papers are being threatened or silenced. The recent banning for three months of the 'New Nation' was generally

accepted with little protest in the white community — most whites probably being unaware that it has happened — even through this action has further limited our access to information, on which we can base balanced judgements of events in our country and region.

## Psychological imprisonment

We are thus bringing on ourselves, through the agency of the government and security regulations, and isolation of the mind and even a sort of psychological imprisonment. It is as if we preferred the security and certainty of this prison to the problems and insecurities of the world outside. But this isolation of the mind is the antithesis of a university, and this trend should be resisted by graduates as they move out from the university. If you have learned here to think independently, to raise questions and to entertain new and non-conformist ideas, then this should become an ingrained 'Philosophical Habit', in John Henry Newman's words, which you carry out with you. You should be prepared to dissent from the prevailing view and to voice that dissent, when necessary, and to refuse to be cut off from Africa and the world — whether by imposed or self-inflicted isolation. To misquote the poet Dylan Thomas:

"Do not go gently into the night of isolation,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light".

# SCIENCE AND THE UNIVERSITY

Professor Brian Allanson, former Head of the Department of Zoology and Entomology and Dean of Research at Rhodes University, delivered the address at the second Graduation ceremony on Saturday morning, 9 April. He said the occasion afforded him an opportunity to examine the current attitudes towards universities and the role they play in the development of scientific knowledge.

## Conflict between change and order confusing

It is fashionable to demand change and to want it to occur irrespective of what is being changed. By this I imply that there is a tendency to break down even the sound and well established traditions of university education and expect (not even hope) that what takes their place will be some how better. We see this throughout the political and moral systems of the past sixty years, so I am not at all surprised if the younger generation find the conflict between change and order confusing. In some cases this materially influences the quality of their performance at university.

I believe, therefore, that it is time to throw into sharper focus the premises upon which a university education (as opposed



Part of the academic procession descending the stairs from the robing room at the Monument are, from back to front, Mr Mark Rainier, (the Bedellus), Mr Joe Levy, Dr Roux van der Merwe, Prof Brian Allanson, Dr Stanley Shuttleworth and Dr Julian Ogilvie Thompson.

to training) is based. Firstly, it is based upon the maintenance of free and independent enquiry. This is not a bleat for academic freedom, but a reaffirmation of those properties which have given universities their peculiar and privileged place in human society. Secondly, in the sciences we educate through the principles embodied in the process called scientific method, somewhat poorly understood by society.

When these two premises are accepted without reserve, the role of the university is immediately apparent as both a seat of learning and a purveyor of new knowledge and understanding of the affairs of men, the natural world and universe beyond. But it has been and is currently fashionable to insist that universities and the learning they embody are Ivory Tower in concept and practice.

We are perceived as expensive institutions, the grants to which can be cut to ease the pressure upon the privy purse, or in which political statements contrary to established policy are made. Thus universities are not necessarily places where in the 1980's science relevant to the needs of South Africa can be done. Granted they teach (no matter how imperfectly) the principles of science, but apart from providing an education by teaching to a recognized level of sophistication, they are purveyors of scholarly products (other than graduates) which are of little use to society.

I recognize this is a deeply cynical view, but I wish to draw this perception in bold lines because I believe it is time we

examined this by no means uncommon view of university function. I have also done so because of a tendency in South Africa to equate research relevance only with large parastatal bodies such as the CSIR, MRC, MINTEK and the like. Let me say at once that we in the universities are responsible, at least in part, for the development of this attitude, because of the humility with which we approach our scholarship. This is changing, and some universities expend a good deal of effort and money in making sure that what they do is put before the public in as presentable a form as possible.

### *A few of the myriad peaks*

Returning to my analysis: No matter where I turned in the preparation of this address, the dominance of university scholarship was paramount. In 1987 we commemorated three centuries of Newtonian Physics. The *principia* was published in May 1687 while Newton was at Trinity College, Cambridge. This seemed therefore an altogether appropriate year to begin my search — and what a rewarding search it has been, you will appreciate that in an address such as this it is quite impossible to give equal weight to each element of the totality of knowledge which has emerged from university based enquiry, so I have chosen a few of the myriad peaks which have transformed our perception of the properties and behaviour of natural things

and made man-made artefacts so unique.

Newton's *principia* rewrote the whole Science of Moving Bodies, and although it described motion in geometrical terms, Newton's solution of the Laws of Planetary Motion, as required by Kepler, was made possible by the contribution Newton made to the development of Calculus. Newtonian mechanics took us to the moon and provided understanding of how satellites would behave both under the influence of earth's gravity and when they escaped from it.

The singularity of the atoms of Democritus had reigned unchallenged from the Ancient Greeks until the end of 19th century, when the first crack in this remarkable model of the structure of matter began to appear. This was due to the first discovery of a sub-atomic particle, the Electron, by J.J. Thompson at Cambridge in 1897. This discovery, due entirely to the spirit of untrammelled enquiry by a brilliant mind, changed forever the life style of man.

### *Scientific innovation*

The transition between the 19th and 20th centuries was a time of remarkable scientific innovation, originality and brilliant theory which laid the foundation for advances in man's understanding of the nature of matter and therefore the universe. But the seeds of this period's greatness lay in the Calculus of Leibniz and Newton, and in the mathematical logic of Boole at



*Dr Roslind Dowse and Dr Sirion Robertson took time out for a chat before the graduation ceremony on Saturday, April 9.*



PICTURES COURTESY OF FOTO FIRST

zi (below left) and Dr Julian Ogilvie Thompson (below right) being capped by the Chancellor, Dr Ian Mackenzie.

the University of Dublin which found its realism in the computer technology of this century.

Throughout the nearly ninety years of this century we have been surrounded by evidence of university involvement in the elaboration of the brilliance to which I have referred. The early years were dominated by a veritable avalanche of remarkable advances in physics: its philosophical basis was questioned, reviewed and rewritten further by the work of Planck, Schrodinger and Heisinger. The development of Quantum Physics by their researches was responsible for the later resolution of the question of how to convert a semiconductor into an amplifier, alias the transistor of Bardeen, Brattain and Schockly of the Bell telephone laboratories. What better example could there be of the essential link between university generated theory and laboratory practice.

## Sensitive research

It was also during this period that the unyielding stance of the established Church in England against Darwin's 'Origins of Species' and 'Descent of Man' was ameliorated by the sensitive researches of the Neo-Darwinists. They demonstrated the essential link between Mendel's work and the postulate of natural selection and its consequences in the interpretation of

organic evolution. The further development and wider interpretation of this most innovative of biological concepts continued to excite the critical minds of scientists who resided in the universities of Europe, Great Britain, the United States and South Africa, reaching a climax in the outstandingly able work of Broom, Dart, Leakey and Tobias on the African Genesis of Man, and in the brilliant interpretation of the Genetic Code by Crick and Watson at Cambridge. But remember that this solution was dependent upon the fundamental research of X-ray crystallographers in the University of London and of stereochemists in the Universities of Chicago and California, thus emphasizing the undoubted necessity of collaboration and communication within science. We in South Africa are realizing this need acutely now that the academic boycott is beginning to have significant effect.

The review by Professor Alec Brown of the University of Cape Town entitled 'A History of Scientific Endeavour in South Africa', published by the Royal Society of South Africa, is an excellent introduction to the origins of university and institutional research in South Africa. Seemingly the development of research owes much to the investigations made on an ad hoc basis to solve particular problems of animal and human disease in the subcontinent. Of course the early traveller-naturalists, such as Burchell and Sparrman, provided the basis for the later biological work covering the spectrum from oceanography to terrestrial conservation.

## Unfettered enquiry

The universities of our subcontinent, although without the historical presence of the luminaries of the 18th and 19th centuries, and subject to remarkable financial instability in their early days, still managed to provide the environment for unfettered enquiry to a remarkable degree. The work of Professor J L B Smith on the bony fishes of South African seas, the botanical work of Dr Margaret Levyns at the University of Cape Town, who chose the remarkable flora of the Cape Peninsula as her research field, of Dr Amy Jacot Guillarmod of this university on the montane flora of Lesotho, and of Professor Raymond Dart of the University of the Witwatersrand on the australopithecine fossils are particularly good examples of the earlier importance of universities in providing the correct research environment for these painstaking but essential taxonomical and anatomical studies.

## Fruitful collaboration

The earlier decades of this century were also marked by the establishment of extra-university institutions and the beginnings of fruitful collaboration with universities. The early work of the devotees of animal disease, such as C P Loundsberry, who in 1900 demonstrated the relationship between the presence of ticks and the incid-



Pictured at the Monument before the graduation ceremony recently were, from back, Prof Philip Black, Prof Trevor Bell, Prof Ian Macdonald and Prof Peter Surtees.

ence of Heartwater and East Coast fever in ruminants here in Grahamstown at the Colonial Bacteriological Institute, is a specific example, and of course there was the inspired work of Arnold Theiler.

It was Theiler who instigated the establishment of the Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute in 1908: the culmination of some 200 years of veterinary experience in South Africa, which was to have such a marked impact upon animal husbandry in Africa and indeed the world. Another remarkable instance of collaboration between state, university and museums was the appointment by the Cape Colonial Department of Agriculture of Dr John Gilchrist in 1895 to investigate the fishing potential of the Agulhas Bank. This led in 1907 to Gilchrist being appointed to the Chair of Zoology at the University of Cape Town while retaining his post as Government Marine Biologist. Two of his students, Dr C van Bonde and Dr Jan Marchand were to play decisive roles in the development of the Fish Industry during the first half of this century.

Here at Rhodes and at the Grootfontein Agricultural College the studies of Professor John Duerdon, our first Professor of Zoology, brought about material advances in the characterization of wool fibre and its subsequent classification which with little modification is used to this day in the wool industry. In the field of physics the investigations of the Solar Eclipse of 1940 by Professor Jack Gledhill and his colleague Dr M E Szendrei, and their later studies, in 1945, of the Ionosphere above Grahams-

town, established for the first time the presence of high exospheric temperature some 300 kilometres out in space, a hazard to the as yet undreamed-of unmanned and manned space flights.

Our honorary graduand, Dr Stanley Shuttleworth, together with Professor Barker, initiated research into the Chemistry of Tanning, which was to have far-reaching effects on the development of the industry both here in the Eastern Cape and Overseas.

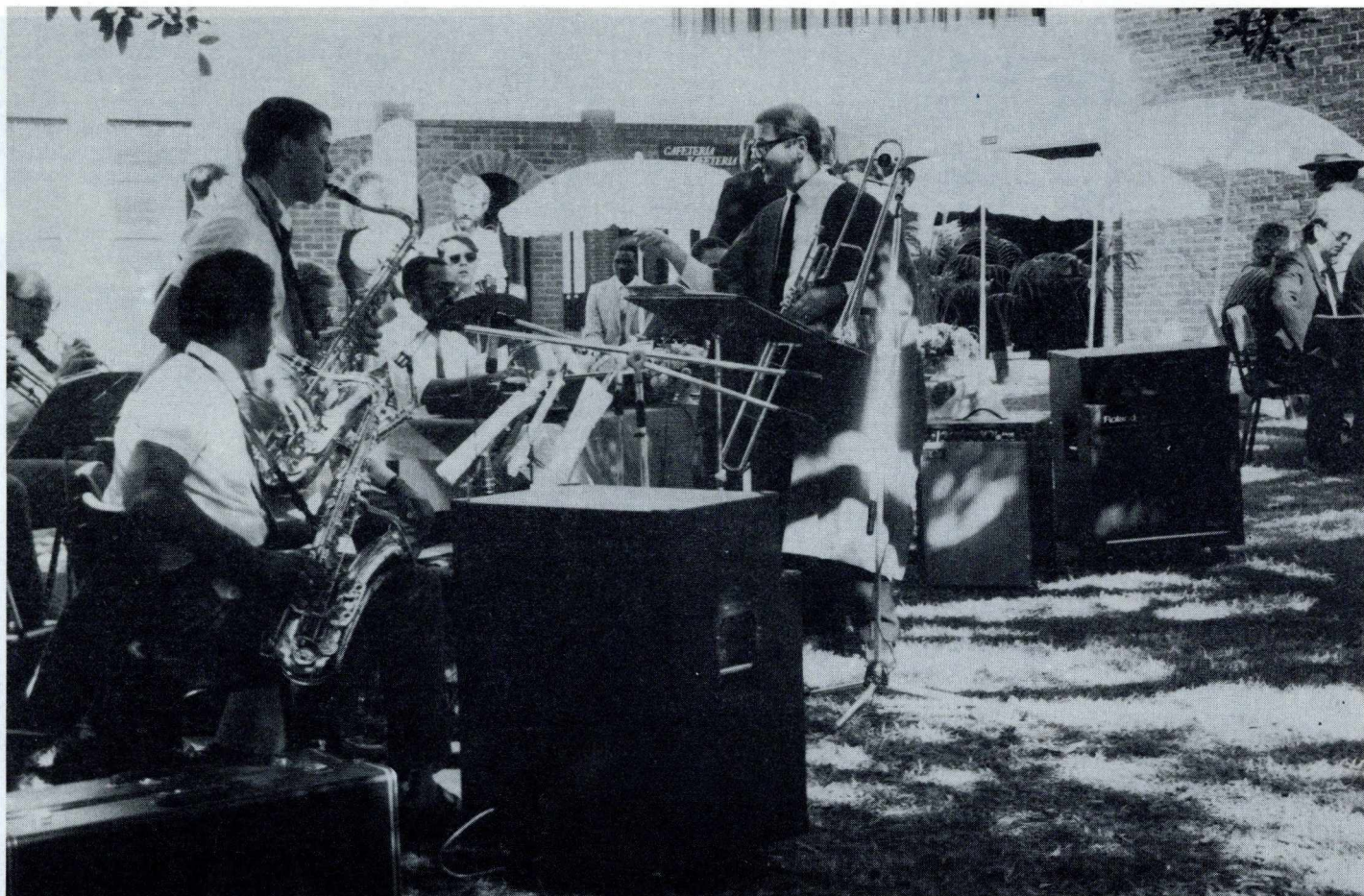
## Expansion of liaison

During the current decade we have seen the expansion of this liaison between ourselves, government departments and parastatal research institutions, which underlines their intrinsic interdependence. Much of this was due to the farsighted approach of the late Dr C van der Merwe Brink when he was president of the CSIR. A decade ago, in an address to the Royal Society of South Africa, he examined the trends and challenges for Science in South Africa. At that time universities employed 26 percent of all the qualified scientists and engineers available in the country. This figure highlights an important fact: the universities employ more Scientists than any one of industry, government or the CSIR. He noted also that while the universities were a significant employer of scientists and engineers, they spent 55 percent less on their support than did either the

government, including the parastatal institutions, or industry. The reason for this difference lay in the small investment which universities were able to make in equipment and support staff. It follows from this argument that the full potential of scientists and engineers was underexploited. The correction of this obviously inefficient use of such ability and skills was due entirely to the remarkable co-operation which had developed between the universities and the CSIR since its inception. There was the goodwill to examine critically the existing basis of research support, and once this was found wanting, in that it did not allow the support of the bright and the innovative, it was changed. This was done by the development of a unique system of funding which depended upon a rigorous system of peer review. The consequence of this was that we could look forward from 1985 to a period of substantial support from the state acting through the CSIR and the universities.

## A different atmosphere

In this regard I realized how very different was the research atmosphere which prevailed in the United Kingdom during a recent visit. While, as I have said, we could look forward to an easing of the financial constraints under which South African research endeavour had laboured for so long, many of our colleagues in the UK were suffering the deadening hand of



*The Rhodes Jazz Ensemble, under the baton of Prof Norbert Nowotny, entertained graduates and their families at the luncheon after the East London graduation ceremony.*

financial uncertainty and retrenchment. Certainly there are aspects of the economic revival in Great Britain which deserve our approbation, but the question remains: has this been done at the expense of British University Science which has contributed so significantly to the scientific development of our civilization over the past 300 years?

While we all hope for and are contributing towards a sensible economic revival in the Republic, it will be retrogressive to make such a revival synonymous with a deterioration in the quality of university education and enquiry. Already signs exist which suggest that financial support by the state may be reduced even further.

We are aware that the funding of research (other than Contract Research) through the Foundation for Research Development of the CSIR may become less and less viable. This will be due, at least in part, to the views of one or two academics who head more directly applied faculties such as Engineering, and support the contention that money is wasted if university and museum researchers are allowed the opportunity to decide the research direction of interest to them without necessarily considering the needs of the State. I hope that I have said enough to convince you that without this freedom the development of knowledge and understanding ceases.

## Facing the challenge

In all the years that I have been privileged to serve this university community, the council and successive vice-chancellors have faced with remarkable patience, though hardly with understanding, the repeated failure of treasury to allow a reasonable time interval between fiction and reality when it comes to the funds awarded to run the university in any one year. The outcome of this certain uncertainty is that the grant will be severely reduced. But those of us from universities with long traditions of overcoming such vicissitudes see this as a challenge by means of which excellence in research and teaching will continue to be sought, provided that we can be assured that the new style of research funding can continue. Indeed we must do so with all the ability we have as the new, more market-orientated research image and practice which the CSIR has developed for itself during the past two years underlines the need for universities to reaffirm their commitment to fundamental research.

Mr Chancellor, the quality, diversity and number of our graduands are indicative of the optimism which is necessary, and although the remuneration of university teachers has fallen well below that of their peers in industry and government, their altruism is acknowledged, and it is this quality which maintains the excellence to which I have referred. Our shareholders are our students and their parents, and as in business they demand a good return for capital invested, irrespective of the difficulties which the Board of Directors may be experiencing.

## Here to question what is known

In drawing my address to a close, I am reminded of the writings of that great humanist Jacob Bronowski: That our ultimate responsibility is to the Spirit of the University. The ancient universities are all very much alike, considered by some to be provincial and seemingly not on the way to anywhere. An example of this view is to be found in the Rathskeller of the University of Göttingen: 'Extra Göttingen non est vita' — outside Göttingen there is no life! This epigram is not taken as seriously by the students as perhaps by the professors, for the university is a Mecca to which students come, in the words of Bronowski: 'With something less than perfect faith'. It is important that students bring a certain ragamuffin, barefoot irreverence to their studies, they are not here to worship what is known but to question it!

Thus in the final analysis we are a scientific civilization in which knowledge and its integrity are crucial. By implication, therefore, we who are privileged to have gained from our barefooted irreverence and lack of worship in our university education must see to the maintenance of this freedom, from which the whole of our sapient nature springs. Surely the words of Benjamin Disraeli, in a speech to the House of Commons in 1873, aptly define this responsibility:

'A university should be a place of Light, of Liberty, and of Learning'.

## TOWARDS A NEW SOUTH AFRICA : THE ROLE OF BUSINESS AND EDUCATION

In his address at the East London Graduation ceremony, Mr Clive Schreuder, Managing Director of Johnson & Johnson (Pty) Ltd, South Africa, explained the ties between his company and the East London Division and expressed the hope that the division would continue to develop and grow. He congratulated the graduands and expressed the hope that they would not see the daunting challenges which faced them in the evolving new South Africa in a negative light.

## Whither apartheid?

"In trying to organize my thoughts in preparation for this address, I was conscious of the fact that the vast majority of those of you graduating today will pursue careers either in Commerce and Industry, or in the field of Education. I was struck by the sharp contrast between the issues that were on my mind as a new B Com graduate in the early '70s and those which you face today. For me

then, the functional areas of marketing, finance, production and so on were foremost on my mind. Were I graduating with you today, I think I would regard such issues as somewhat peripheral to the much more fundamental question of whether, and to what extent, the free enterprise system, as we understand it, will have a legitimate role to play in the post-apartheid South Africa of the 1990s and beyond.

"Before going any further, I had better provide some justification for talking about the "Post-apartheid Society" of the 1990s as if it were already a fait accompli. Indeed, it is true that the trend in white politics since the May 1987 election has prompted government to put the brakes on reform, and to stress that the key pillars of apartheid remain sacrosanct. However, I have to believe that this phase will be short-lived, because, other issues aside, I simply cannot envisage how even grand apartheid will be able to survive the immense demographic changes that will take place between now and the mid 1990s. Consider for a moment these simple facts and projections:

- 1) By the year 2000, the black population will be three times the size it was in 1960, and nearly double the size it was in 1980. Blacks already represent nearly 80 percent of the country's total population. The urban proportion of the black population will almost double between 1960 and 2000, from 33 percent to over 60 percent.
- 2) Almost half the black population is under the age of 15, and this ratio is increasing every year.
- 3) The number of black primary and secondary grade students has roughly doubled in ten years. They already outnumber white pupils by a ratio of 10 to 1.
- 4) Twelve years ago, there were more than three white post-secondary students to every one black. In twelve years' time there will be seven black post-secondary students to every one white.

"Even the most cherished pillars of grand apartheid will not be able to survive these changes, because essentially apartheid is a static, "All or nothing" type of ideology. It simply does not have the flexibility to adapt — its ultimate obsolescence is built in. Even if it did have the required flexibility, the enormous cost of administering and policing the system would soon escalate to the point where the grossly overtaxed electorate would cry "enough". •

"The real issue therefore is not whether, nor even when, apartheid will go, but rather what will replace it. In speculating about what post-apartheid society will be like, a close look needs to be taken at how blacks perceive the current system, and especially the free enterprise component thereof.

## Black perceptions and aspirations

"To say that business and politics in South Africa have become inextricably



The Honorary graduands, Dr Stanley Shuttleworth (above left), Dr Michael Roberts (above right), Dr Cyril Nyem

interwoven is, of course, to state the obvious. Business finds itself neatly wedged between the proverbial rock and hard place. Government on the one hand rails at what it perceives as unjustified meddling by business in politics, whilst the black trade unions, on the other hand, representing as they do one of the only legitimate and effective vehicles through which blacks are able to make their political voice heard, criticise business for being largely silent and thereby signalling to government our tacit approval of its policies. Now, of course, both these positions, when viewed logically, are grossly unreasonable. Much as it might like to, business can neither distance itself from politics nor single-handedly engineer its dismantlement overnight. But unfortunately, in the maelstrom of everyday South African politics, logic does not always prevail. Rather it is rhetoric and perceptions that dominate most of the limited dialogue which takes place, and unfortunately the perception of many blacks is that business and government are co-conspirators in the maintenance of a fraudulent and oppressive system. Far from aspiring to become part of that system, their mission is to eradicate it by whatever means they have at their disposal.

"This attitude has manifested itself, inter alia, in the call for People's Education, People's Courts and the emergence of the so-called Alternative Press. It also underlies the pro-disinvestment stance of many of the black trade unions, the general failure of well-intentioned share incentive schemes for black employees, and the sometimes difficult-to-understand reluctance of many talented black managers to accept promotion to higher positions for which they are eminently qualified.

"Now, of course, to a very large extent these attitudes and perceptions are entirely understandable. Whilst I have no wish to bore you with yet another impassioned protest against the evils of apartheid, for this has been done ad nauseam by an army of much more eloquent speakers than I, it is evident that the system has created a monster which is now hell-bent on destroying its creator. So strong is the destruct impulse that not too much thought is given to the system that will be apartheid's successor. To an oppressed people, the concept of "People's Power" however vaguely defined, has a nice ring to it. Who cares what it means? It can't be worse than apartheid!

"None of this is surprising, really. However, what is perplexing to many organizations that are genuinely committed to a democratic non-racial future for South Africa is that their programmes and initiatives are very often met with exactly the same scorn and contempt as the actions of their 'unenlightened' counterparts on the extreme right.

"The sad reality is that the degree of black/white polarisation in South Africa has now reached the point where, unless something can be done soon, we may find that the opportunity to replace apartheid with a classic non-racial democracy has already slipped out of reach. The weight of

black political thinking may have leap-frogged non-racialism to a much more radical ideology, and that is indeed a prospect "to ghastly to contemplate!"

## ***The way forward***

"So where does that rather depressing thought leave us? Are we to assume that there is no future for white South Africans, that the new white graduates in this audience might as well join the flood of emigrants from South Africa and use their talents to better effect elsewhere in a safer, more stable environment? Not at all. As a businessman, schooled primarily in the marketing discipline, I am cursed with an inherent optimism that will not allow me to believe that!

"What I DO believe is that if post-apartheid South Africa is to have any of the characteristics and display any of the values which are dear to our hearts, then some pretty fundamental changes have to start taking place right now in black and white perceptions of one another. And since it is most unlikely that government is about to make any moves that would give rise to such changes in perceptions, the ball is, at least for the moment, very much in our court, whether we like it or not.

"Fortunately, there are I believe, several positive and proactive steps that can be taken (PARTICULARLY, as it so happens, in the fields of commerce and education) to prepare South Africans of all colours and backgrounds for life after apartheid. But first it is worth clarifying in our own minds more or less what kind of system we would like to see in apartheid's place. Here, of course, we should avoid falling into the trap of becoming too precise and pedantic about ISM's, because the South Africa of the future is likely to be a veritable alphabet soup when it comes to ISM's!

"But even so, I think there are some basic core values that most South Africans would regard as important, perhaps even non-negotiable. And they aren't necessarily ISM dependent.

"Values such as the sanctity of individual rights and the need for their protection at all costs; a commitment to the work ethic (which in turn implies small government and low taxation); and a genuinely non-racial society in which recognition and reward systems are merit-based, are values which I believe would strike a chord with the vast majority of South Africans, irrespective of colour or background. Furthermore, these are the types of ideals which, if they could be brought to fruition, would allow every South African to once again feel proud of the country of his or her birth. To most of us, that's important. Certainly in my mind, seeing South Africa becoming a pariah state, increasingly isolated from the rest of the world, is a sad and unwelcome spectacle.

A statesman like Smuts must turn in his grave as South Africa's official foreign policy defensively shifts its accent, urging the world not to measure us by the normal civilised standards of the west, but rather to view us as a leading light in third world

Africa! Such a policy is retrogressive in the extreme, and should not be necessary.

"What then can be done to give South Africans a vision of a better future, and to help them prepare for its arrival? As I said earlier, a fundamental shift will have to take place in both black and white perceptions of one another. And as I also intimated earlier, I believe that businessmen and educationists are uniquely positioned to take a leadership role in promoting that shift. In our society whites and blacks live, by a large, in two separate worlds. Therefore it is primarily in the workplace and the classroom that they are provided with the opportunity, indeed the necessity, to interact with one another, rub shoulders with one another, get to know one another and learn mutual respect by attacking a common goal and getting the job done together.

"What then are the specific steps that can be taken?

## ***The role of business***

"Looking first at the role business can play, I believe the importance of companies ensuring that the demographic profile of the country is proportionately represented at all levels in their management hierarchies cannot be over-emphasised.

"The generally disappointing results achieved by most companies to date with so-called "Black Advancement" programmes can, I believe, be largely attributed to their adopting a risk minimisation approach to black managerial appointments. This is evident from the vast discrepancy between the number of staff positions filled by blacks versus the number of line positions. Where line appointments ARE made, there is often a hesitancy on the part of management to afford the incumbent the same level of responsibility and commensurate authority that is afforded to his white counterparts in identical job functions. Is it any wonder then, that black managers become labelled as "Stooges" in their communities and think twice about accepting promotional offers? South African companies should pluck up the courage to discard many of the traditional "Western" concepts of business. Black managers, no matter how talented or qualified, will not operate at their full potential until companies allow them to feel comfortable about casting off the feelings of insecurity that stem from not being part of the "Club" to which their white colleagues so obviously belong.

"The sooner companies develop a business culture which is uniquely SOUTH AFRICAN, and stop operating like colonial "Country Clubs", the sooner blacks will start to enter the system willingly and enthusiastically. Maybe then, at last, we will be able to make some real progress.

"Before leaving the business arena, a brief comment on the sanctions/disinvestment debate is perhaps warranted. It should be obvious from the comments I have made that I view business as a key player in laying the foundation stones for a

future non-racial South Africa. Therefore it follows that anything that obstructs it in that role is counter-productive to the eradication of apartheid.

"Quite apart from depriving black South Africans of jobs, and consequently robbing them of their ability to 'vote with their pockets', disinvestment removes from the equation the very companies which have tended to be the most progressive in terms of both employee practices and lobbying for political change. The gaps left by these multi-nationals have invariably been filled by local concerns, which typically have had less progressive pay and benefit policies, and far more conservative political views, than their predecessors. Moreover, the assets of the disinvesting companies have frequently been purchased at bargain basement prices. How this can be construed as hurting the South African economy and accelerating the demise of apartheid, I leave to your imagination.

"The observable facts suggest the opposite result has been achieved — the economy is experiencing a mini-boom and white political attitudes have hardened in response to what is seen as unwarranted foreign interference in South Africa's affairs. Thankfully, there seems to be a growing recognition lately in many quarters in the United States that the sanctions and disinvestment campaign has been hopelessly misguided. Voting in favour of disinvestment at the 1988 Stockholders Meetings of U.S. Companies has tended to be marginally lower than in 1987. On the other hand, tough new legislation is in the process of being passed by the House of Representatives. How the senate will react remains to be seen. All in all, the situation is very much in a state of flux at present, and the eventual outcome is difficult to predict. Let us hope, for South Africa's sake, that sense prevails.

## **The role of education**

"In examining the role which the Education System can play, I must admit that I approach the subject with considerable trepidation, for I am cognisant of the vast complexity of the legal, structural, financial and ideological issues involved, and by no stretch of the imagination am I any kind of authority on the subject. However, I can certainly identify with Clem Sunter's assertion that the foremost characteristic of what he calls Winning Nations is the quality of their educational systems.

"Therefore, it is particularly disturbing that, in our country, education has been one of the key focal points of conflict ever since 1953 when Hendrik Verwoerd so plainly spelt out that the underlying philosophy of 'Native Education' was to 'teach blacks from childhood that equality with whites is not for them'.

"Following the Soweto uprising of 1976, government was compelled to take a harder look at black educational grievances, and since then some modest attempts at reform have been made. However, apart from throwing more taxpayers' money at the problem, there has been little evidence of

any substantially new creative thinking. It seems that the wastefulness of a multiplicity of own affairs education departments, and the chronic shortage of black schools which exists side by side with an almost matching over-supply of white school facilities, are regarded as lesser evils than the unthinkable prospect of having black and white children attend the same government school together. No matter how sincerely government may be committed to its stated goal of eventually equalising black and white educational standards, outside government circles it has long been accepted as a truism that separate can never be equal. And while in fairness it must be admitted that many of the problems in black education would exist under any government, it is also a sad fact of life that unless a huge advance can be made in terms of the number of black pupils attending fully integrated, non-racial schools, black demands and aspirations in respect of education simply have no hope of being satisfied.

"So what can be done to break the deadlock? The best strategy in the short term would seem to be intensified lobbying for the privatization of government schools and the building of substantial numbers of new private schools. Perhaps, as has been suggested in some quarters, the imaginative use of modern technologies to provide cheap, screen-based education on a mass scale also holds some possibilities. With regard to the creation of additional non-racial private schools, a key issue is obviously that of funding. Here I believe the multi-national companies in particular could make a significant contribution by reshuffling their priorities in terms of the way their affirmative action budgets are spent. Spending less on certain other community projects, in favour of enabling the maximum number of South African children, black and white, to obtain a high quality, non-racial education, seems to me to be a worthwhile sacrifice. For it is the culturalization process that takes place in the formative school years that is vitally important in moulding the attitudes and perceptions that will exist in later life. And it is these perceptions that, in turn, will largely determine the character of the post-apartheid society. In this sense, perhaps more than in any other, South African teachers have an immensely important responsibility.

"Finally, the comment I made about the need to South Africanise the business culture is equally relevant in an educational context. To me, an intriguing question is whether, and to what extent, some of the concepts of people's education could be synergistically blended with traditional concepts of western education to create a uniquely South African school syllabus.

## **Conclusion**

"Ladies and gentlemen, the crux of the argument I have tried to put forward is that, in the absence of any guidance from government, South Africans must develop their own vision of what life after apartheid

should be like and immediately start taking proactive steps which will help to turn that vision into reality. We cannot sit back passively and wait for the day when government and its opponents will finally sit down to negotiate the future on our behalf. We as ordinary South Africans need to seize the initiative for ourselves and start right now in laying the foundation stones for a non-racial post-apartheid society.

"The first prerequisite is a quantum leap forward in the way in which blacks and whites perceive one another and in this regard business and the educational system can and should provide leadership. For this reason the BCom and BEd graduates among you have a particularly important responsibility.

"Some of you will no doubt conclude that the problems are insoluble and opt for the emigration alternative. Certainly you need feel no remorse in making such a decision, for the problems facing South Africa today are obviously not of the younger generation's making. In any event, great nations have been built by emigration in the past and there is no reason why the process should not continue.

"However, I hope the majority of you will choose the more challenging and yes, perhaps the more dangerous alternative of staying in South Africa, for this country can ill afford to continue losing the cream of its youth. You who make the tough decision to stay will certainly face an uphill struggle of mammoth proportions. However, in my mind, the potential rewards at the end of the road are priceless, for no-one in his right mind can deny the beauty and enormous latent potential of this land of ours.

"In closing, I would like to recall the words of Martin Luther King, whose dream was that one day his children would live in a nation where they would not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character. In my view that dream is one which is worthy of all South Africans. It is one which we should pursue with every ounce of courage, tenacity and ingenuity that we can muster".

## **CITATIONS BY THE PUBLIC ORATOR, PROF T R H DAVENPORT**

Before receiving their degrees, the honorary graduands were presented to the Chancellor, Dr I Mackenzie, by Prof Davenport. The text of the citations follows.

Citation:

### **MICHAEL ROBERTS**

Mr Chancellor, I have the honour to present

Michael Roberts

He was born in Lancashire in 1908, and was in due course admitted to Worcester

College, Oxford, in the Honour School of Modern History. There he received a congratulated first class degree. His old friend and colleague George Ramsay has described the ritual as one in which "the examiners salute these prodigies by rising from their seats at the viva examination and shaking hands".

Thus well equipped, Roberts lectured and tutored, first at Merton College, and subsequently at Liverpool University, prior to being appointed — in what has been described as an 'unusually imaginative' move — as Professor of History at Rhodes at the age of 27.

Apart from his absence on military service in East Africa in 1943-44, and as British Council representative in Stockholm in 1944-45, Michael Roberts was at Rhodes from 1935 til 1953. He left us to become Professor of History at Queen's University, Belfast, a position which he held until 1973, at which point he retired to Grahamstown, for an Indian Summer of writing and service to Rhodes University, as Director and Fellow of the ISER, and a member of the University Council. Much of the rest is in *Who's Who* and I content myself with brief references to visiting fellowships at Princeton and All Souls, and an honorary fellowship of Worcester College, which he particularly prizes; to five prestigious memorial lectureships; and to his membership of two Swedish academies as well as the Royal Irish. He is also a Fellow of the British Academy and a Chevalier of the Swedish Order of the North Star, in whose distinctive black livery he is normally seen

on these annual occasions.

Roberts learned his History at Oxford in the heyday of the renowned Lewis Namier, under whose general editorship he wrote his first book, *The Whig Party, 1807-12* (1939). It shows an awareness of problems central to Namier's interests. But Roberts had too clear a grasp of the importance of influences other than mercenary in the promotion of historical change ever to have been an unadulterated Namierite. A scholarly empiricist just as open to the influence of ideas, he warmed rather to the courage and versatility of Namier's leading challenger, Herbert Butterfield.

When looking for an undeveloped field of research, Roberts decided to go for Swedish history, after rejecting the Polish language as a research companion for life — not that he was ever afraid of languages, as his footnotes testify.

There followed, from 1940 to the present day, a steady flow of books and articles on modern Swedish history, which have earned him the plaudits of Swedish scholars no less than those of other countries. Sten Carlsson, historian emeritus from Uppsala, writes that 'as an expert on Swedish history ... [Roberts] has no equal outside Sweden and very few in the country itself'. Nils Andren, historian and political scientist from Stockholm, is equally effusive. 'Sir, you are a living Saga', Roberts was told by the Chief Archivist in Stockholm. Most of us merely aspire to be legends.

Roberts has also impressed the critics with several extensive, closely researched

books and articles on British diplomatic topics. His *British Diplomacy and Swedish Politics, 1758-1773*, has been acclaimed the 'best account of the interplay of domestic politics and international rivalry' during that period, resting 'on a truly amazing range of manuscript material' from Britain, France, Denmark and Sweden, 'a book which should be given to any one who thinks diplomatic history is by definition dull'.

What emerges in our graduand's ability to stitch contemporaneous elements of the European story together with such artistry that a seamless tapestry results. His inaugural lecture at Queens had a deliberately pan-European focus. He called it the 'Military Revolution of the Seventeenth Century', a concept he was toying with during his days at Rhodes, when his tutorial *obiter dicta* featured the role of the 16th century Spanish *tercios*, and the military skills of King Gustav II Adolf of Sweden, the subject of the one great biography which he has written. The 'Military Revolution' started a debate among the experts, and Roberts' contribution held the field for twenty years, or twice the normal span for great historical hunches, in Geoffrey Parker's expert opinion. With Burckhardt, Turner, Elton, Trevor Roper and Pirenne, Roberts is in good company.

He is also a South Africanist of repute. I refer here to his masterly study of Afrikaner Opposition politics during World War II, in partnership with A E G Trollip, which is still treated with enormous respect by Afrikaner nationalists for its impartial



Dr Keith Hunt (left) and Prof Rodney Davenport lead part of the academic procession from the robing room to the auditorium before the graduation ceremony.

honesty and the charitable impudence with which he cut through the plots of the devious. In this book, as in his other writings, the density is as impressive as the control over its direction, and the close attachment to sources. Only great stylists can use the mixed metaphor with such brilliant effect as Roberts does in his description of Tielman Roos' entry on to the political stage in 1932.

For Roberts as a head of department there comes praise from his successor at Queen's, Jim Beckett, who stresses his fair-mindedness, and his care to allow junior staff members time for research. His departmental meetings, Beckett continues, were friendly and informal, and always 'reached the decision he wanted ... without any obvious exercise of authority on his part'. As a teacher who had little patience with laziness, his rapport with students was good.

An outstanding achievement at Queen's was his institution of the Wiles Lectures, a series which became one of the most prestigious in the world of historians, combining — as one might expect from a lover of the 18th century — the optimum conditions for good scholarship and good living.

So let us not lose, from any "malignant dull delight

The gen'rous pleasure to be charmed with wit".

The Robertsian variety has several moods. Beckett remembers literary duels in which each party behaved like self-editing dictionaries of quotations. Kenneth White recalls an interjection in the Rhodes Senate in which a Master of the College was stopped in his tracks by Roberts, in the name of free speech, for presuming to reprimand a senator for having made political statements with which Roberts also happened to disagree. Michael's daughter Jane has provided some gems of filial reminiscence, mostly dating from the time when she lived in Ireland with her father and his late wife, Anne. Most of the stories put her father at a distinct disadvantage; but Roberts, with a capacity for heading off political embarrassment comparable with that of the SABC, has already provided me — and Jane — with a brilliant preemptive response in the mood of the Duke of Plaza Toro. All honour to Jane that she did not use it!

I also have several pages of direct quotations from our talented **skald**, committed to memory by Geoffrey Le May, of which most are repeatable. At best, though, his poetry picks up the Herrick-like qualities of his delightful translations of the Swedish poet, Carl Bellman.

Turning to more prosaic encounters, the following seems well authenticated:

"Dear Professor Roberts, I have been led to believe that your students in Milner House have been burning the furniture as firewood. Is that true?"

"Dear Mr Registrar, Am I to understand that those sticks of firewood in Milner House were furniture?"

To recall his habit of practising the trombone in a field of cows, out of consideration for human ears, is to mock a musical

talent which went way beyond being a mere "wizard at the gramophone", as one admirer has suggested. His Gilbert and Sullivan roles are well remembered, though alas we cannot follow precedent and insert a recording at this point — nor of his joint rendering with Alan Hall of Handel's "The Lord is a man of war", which Hall remembers clearly. My own memory is rather that of a man of peace, softening up the atmosphere for his afternoon Honours seminars with (I think) Beethoven sonatas on the piano.

The Italian Renaissance celebrity, Baldassare Castiglione, defined the concept of **virtu**, as involving the attributes of

'an accomplished scholar, soldier, musician, poet and wit, who speaks the courtly language ... rather than the Tuscan of the common people, and who conforms to the elegance of the black dress of the court, all carried off with **sprezzatura**, a studied negligence and seemingly effortless grace'.

For his demonstration of similar skills Mr Chancellor, I ask you to confer on Michael Roberts one of the greatest historians alive today, the degree of Doctor of Literature **honoris causa**, in grateful recognition of the wisdom of our ancestors over half a century ago in appointing to our Chair of History a young scholar of twenty-seven who then had neither a doctorate nor a book to his name.

#### Citation:

## CYRIL LINCOLN SIBUSISO NYEMBEZI

Mr Chancellor, I have the honour to present

Cyril Lincoln Sibusiso Nyembezi

The son of a Methodist minister, he began his life at Babanango in Natal and attended several schools, including the Nuttall Training College at Edenvale, and Adams College, where Dr Edgar Brookes was still principal in 1936. After studying privately to matriculate, he proceeded to Fort Hare in 1941-43, and majored with distinction in Zulu. His success there took him to Wits University on a scholarship to read for Honours in African languages. There he came under the influence of two great scholars, B W Vilakazi and C M Doke and took the degree in the first class.

It was the death of Vilakazi in 1947 that created his first professional opening, for he was invited to join the Wits staff. Three years later, in 1954, he was back at Fort Hare, this time as professor and head of the Department of Bantu Languages, previously held by the well-known Davidson Jabavu.

Those who remember Sibusiso Nyembezi as a teacher recall a likeable, approachable and dignified man 'full of **ubuntu**', firmly liberal and utterly lacking in

colour feeling. Nyembezi's MA research had been into Zulu proverbs and their meanings in context. In 1948 he published two articles on 'Historical Background to the Izibongo of the Zulu Military Age', which reflected an interest in the political culture of the Zulu people, and a prophetic awareness of the need to preserve the praises in their dynamic form, "for should this not be done, in the near future they will be like so many lines of meaningless words". It was primarily as a novelist, however, that he began to emerge, bringing out two substantial novels before he took up his chair. The first, *Ubudoda Abukhul-ehwe* (meaning something like 'When Boys were Men') would have earned the plaudits of Samuel Smiles, for it featured a youth, Vusumuzi, who although disadvantaged and orphaned, won through by diligence to a position of respectability in society. His second novel, *Mtamnani! Mtamnani!* (My Child! My Child!) was based on the prodigal son theme. Much as in Alan Paton's first novel, a young man goes from Natal to Johannesburg, gets into trouble, and pays the penalty through imprisonment; but with the help of his girlfriend he is able to pull himself together. Professor Ngcongwane of Wits University has stressed that, though Paton's influence lies behind *Mtamnani*, Nyembezi has given the story a distinctive character of its own. As if to emphasize the difference, Nyembezi later translated *Cry, the Beloved Country* into Zulu.

His greatest novel, written during his Fort Hare days but published only in 1962, was *Inkinsela yaseMgungundhlovu* (the Maritzburg Tycoon), for which Professor Canonici of Natal University is eloquent in his praise:

"This is the novel of Nyembezi's artistic maturity ... There are no stereotyped plots or characters; there is no blaming the white man for the country's evils. It is a modern novel about today's way of life; it shows naivety and ignorance on one hand, and the wicked ways in which a confidence trickster can take advantage of the simple people on the other ... Depicting a sort of traditional trickster in modern form is a stroke of genius because the novel is allowed to echo traditional folk-tale themes, thus portraying realistic and humorous situations which can be readily understood by readers familiar with traditional oral forms".

Nyembezi had clearly reached the height of his powers, and might have been expected to develop into a creative novelist of considerable stature; but in 1959 came a turning point in his career which was to affect the nature of his contribution, though not, I think, its quality. The South African Government decided, in the face of determined opposition, to enforce segregation in the universities. Several staff members at Fort Hare lost their jobs. Nyembezi was not dismissed. With dignity, and without prospects, he resigned his position on a point of educational principle. We need to remember that, as the Professor of Bantu Languages at Fort Hare, Nyembezi was then a member of the staff of Rhodes University.

His stand was noted by the managing director of the firm of Shuter and Shooter in Pietermaritzburg, Alec Roy, for the act of courage and integrity which it was. He invited Nyembezi to join the firm as editor of its African language publications. The latter accepted, and still works for Shuter's in semi-retirement.

Among the people whose help he must have valued at this stage was the Natal school inspector, George Dent, whose inspiration led Nyembezi to refashion his life's work to serve his people in a different way. When asked what his aims had been in embarking on the series of *Igoda* children's readers, he replied:

"I had sorrowfully noticed our children's failure to read fluently in their own language. It was clear to me that reading skills were not properly taught ... The majority of our Zulu children do not hear Zulu properly spoken at home: they are constantly bombarded with spurious Zulu words derived from English or Afrikaans [whereas] the two elements, language and culture, are intimately related".

He made it his job to ensure that the damage was repaired.

This must place Nyembezi in a position comparable, as a defender of the Zulu language, with the early protagonists of Afrikaans, and a continuator of the efforts of those missionaries who had helped with the cultural shift of African languages across the bridge to literacy.

Nyembezi showed great sensitivity to the particular difficulties of the Zulu child in a crowded classroom, who if he was to master

the art of reading, needed to be able to take his reader home and work on it himself. This required a careful grading of vocabulary, matched with skilful interest arousal, both of which seem indeed to have been realized if, as was claimed, the children tended to get through the books too fast.

Our candidate cleverly inspired interest by focussing the attention of pupils on authentic traditions, above all folk-tales, tales about tricksters, tales with morals, and tales about animals, some of them indigenous to Zulu culture, some of them adapted from the traditions of others. Canonici's summaries of these stories (which I regret not being able to read in the original) suggest a poetic re-presentation of Aesop and La Fontaine, with suggestions of Uncle Remus, *Struwelpeter* and Hilaire Belloc's *Cautionary Tales* thrown in.

Nyembezi has also published grammars and dictionaries of the Zulu language to suit the needs of older students at various levels, as well as anthologies of poetry.

Aware of the thoughtfulness of his own parents for the opportunities they provided, he set out to repay that debt by recording and preserving the Zulu cultural heritage first as a writer and teacher, then as an editor, "so as to assist future generations to know and understand their roots and to feel proud of them ...", as he has put it.

I ask you, while pondering these words, to reflect on the daily agony which must be the lot of our graduand and his wife, Muriel Susan Khazi, in the thirty-eighth year of their life together, as they look out on the

troubles of South Africa from their home at Plessislaer, near Pietermaritzburg; at a time when three of their five children are living outside greater South Africa, two from necessity. Circumstances compel us to wonder at the dignity of the Nyembzis' response to the agony of the Beloved Country, and especially their own part of it, and the positive, civilized reaction of these great South Africans whom we honour tonight.

It is in this mood, Mr Chancellor, that I ask you to confer on Cyril Lincoln Sibusiso Nyembezi the degree of Doctor of Literature, *honoris causa*, in the University of which he was a member at the time of that great stand on principle which did honour to Rhodes and Fort Hare, changed the course of his own life, and opened doors for so many others.

Citation:

## JULIAN OGILVIE THOMPSON

Mr Chancellor, I have the honour to present

Julian Ogilvie Thompson

Chairman of De Beers Consolidated Mines. He is now in his fifty-fifth year of



Pictured at the traditional garden party at St Peter's campus were, from left, Dr Roux van der Merwe and his wife, Liz; Mrs Anne Mackenzie and Dr Derek Henderson and his wife, Thelma.

life, and his company is celebrating its hundredth. He comes from a South African family with deep roots. An ancestor presented a Bible to the Voortrekker, Jacobus Uys.

Fourteen years ago this University honoured his father, Chief Justice Newton Ogilvie Thompson, with an honorary doctorate of laws. His son felt more at home with figures than with legal or literary skills, and was therefore drawn into the world of mining and finance — a decision perhaps influenced by the thought that there were 'too many lawyers in the family already'.

Julian's school career at Bishops, Cape Town, led via a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford, where like another of our honorary graduands this year, he became a member of Worcester College. There, in the words of his tutor in philosophy, David Mitchell, he was willing to 'talk and argue intelligently without being afraid of difficult problems'. Both Mitchell and Sir Edgar Williams, who was then Warden of Rhodes House, recall how he threw himself into college and university life, and finished by taking a good degree in the Honour School of Politics, Philosophy and Economics. Then, with no delay, he married Tessa Brand, great niece of the Secretary to the Transvaal delegation at the National Convention of 1909. She has since borne him two sons and two daughters, run his home, shared his love of the outdoors, and trained his dogs.

We should note that this unusually competent man of affairs — a theme I will return to in a moment — is also a devoted letter-writing family man with a 'lusty enjoyment of leisure'. He loves reading and the visual arts, opera above all, and is particularly keen on field sports. When the tallest body, linked to the longest arms and the longest gun-barrel in Africa all work in unison, this seems hardly fair on the birds which fall from the sky. But he sees the shoot as linked to conservation, an interest which takes him as often as possible to the family game farm in the eastern Transvaal, or to the De Beers nature reserves around Kimberley. With this additional incentive, he is a much more regular attendee at De Beers board meetings than was ever the case with his famous predecessor, Cecil Rhodes.

Thompson's professional colleagues attest to an extraordinary, somewhat intimidating competence at his job. Our top-class family man is also a workaholic. I have been told that he 'rarely leaves his office before 7 p.m., has his office mail delivered to him on his annual seaside holiday, and his in-tray sent to his home to await his return from his frequent visits to Kimberley. He is one of the few members of the Anglo-American Corporation Executive Committee who "can be relied upon to have read a document submitted for discussion from cover to cover, including the schedules, and to ask the questions that nobody else would have thought up". He has an "elephantine memory for facts, figures and past events" which extends beyond the 'whats' to 'the whys and wherefores'. The tributes are unam-

biguous. No wonder that, despite his relative youth, he has been a member of the Anglo and De Beers boards for thirty years as personal assistant to Harry Oppenheimer, and as a member and subsequently Head of the Anglo-American Finance Division during the great expansion of the 1960's, when South Africa's second mineral revolution took off, and the Group expanded territorially into North America and occupationally into merchant banking. He became Deputy Chairman of De Beers in 1982, and chairman in January 1985, and has developed a specialist knowledge of the mechanics of mergers and the raising of international loans.

One of his colleagues has commented that "in the De Beers context [Julian Thompson] is a worthy successor to both Rhodes and Harry Oppenheimer". With the latter he is 'so much intellectually in tandem that in business consultations they speak together what would sound, to an outsider, like a kind of verbal shorthand'. You will appreciate from this that, the business man's *imbongi* is presented with a real problem of anonymity, comparable perhaps with that of the sculptors of medieval cathedrals, whose autographs in stone may be recognized nowadays, but only by the discerning.

Thompson is the only man since Rhodes to have been a director of all three companies founded by him — De Beers, the British South Africa Company and Gold Fields. The name 'Consolidated' which now links them all gives a suggestion of impressive continuity which seems not to be belied in the event, a certain rock-like quality; and no matter if the rocks are small when 'small is beautiful'; but as we now know in the centenary year, not all of them are.

So what can be said of the firm over which Thompson presides? With few exceptions, and in spite of what I said a moment ago, the history of diamond-mining has been presented as an incidental happening in the lives of colourful men. There have also been books published to discredit the business ethics of the powerful. But access to the draft of what I think will be recognized as a very good business history of De Beers, written by a well-known Oxford historian, Colin Newbury, has made it easier for the outsider to gauge the record of this remarkably stable firm which has so successfully weathered the political and economic crises of a turbulent century.

We are looking at an organization whose early success in its conflict with its rivals was the victory of superior technological awareness and a more rational deployment of machinery and labour than was achieved by its opponents, linked with subtle techniques for promoting mergers between claimholders. In these operations Rhodes was 'an occasional inspiration rather than a dominant personality'. (Although it is noteworthy that merger skills have also been attributed to the person we are honouring today, I sense that we need not necessarily identify him with 'the usual raids on the shares of targeted companies in the final phases' which Newbury

identifies as Rhodes' other special skill, along with the squaring of politicians where necessary!) The subtle manner of De Beers' participation in the opening of Matabeleland, in the launching of the deciduous fruit industry, in the promotion of cold storage and dynamite production, are now becoming clearer to understand. So are the complex marketing strategies of Sir Ernest Oppenheimer to overcome rivalries which so often threatened profits. For, like the mercantilist companies of old, De Beers depended on scarcity of goods and high prices for success, at any rate until the area of synthetic industrial diamonds and the expansion of the market in diamond-studded costume jewellery.

Thompson's recent centennial address makes clear that De Beers has weathered the severe depression of the early 1980s, when it faced and, as usual, overcame a new and difficult challenge, this time from Australia. Thompson also links the recovery with the recent finds by De Beers geologists in Botswana, which is now the major source of diamonds for the western world.

The recovery must also be linked to important changes in the field of labour relations, characterized by wage policies which are ahead of the mining industry as a whole; by a continuing campaign for the elimination of migrant labour; by the recognition of trade unions among all categories of labour as bargaining partners whose views are to be taken seriously, and — a new departure particularly associated with the present Chairman — a policy of share-ownership for all employees regardless of race or seniority.

South Africa appreciates the sense of timing which delayed release of news about the Centenary Diamond until Centenary Year. Rhodes University appreciates the same sense of occasion which has led De Beers to mark their centenary by a massive benefaction to five universities in the Cape. We look forward to the opening, on Monday, of De Beers House, the last residence in the Kimberley Hall complex, by Julian Ogilvie Thompson himself — upon whom, Mr Chancellor, in honour of his personal attainments and leadership of this venerable and public-spirited firm, I ask you to confer the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws of this University.

Citation:

## STANLEY GORDON SHUTTLEWORTH

Mr Chancellor, I have the honour to present

Stanley Gordon Shuttleworth

who was born in Johannesburg in 1911, the eldest of seven boys. His mother, spurning the example of the old woman who

lived in a shoe, struggled to bring up this young family in East London on a teacher's salary, and gave them plenty of mental and cultural stimulus, which in Stanley's case meant a love of Dickens and a love of the outdoor life. Joint musical interests also brought him into childhood association with the family of his later partner in life, and mother of his two children, Betty Burns. After his mother moved to Grahamstown in 1928, Stanley entered Rhodes University College to study for a BSc., and in due course took a first in Chemistry.

But the depression years were tough. He records in his autobiography, *The Memoirs of an Industrial Boffin*, how he 'almost became a miner' after a spell of junior school teaching in Johannesburg; but he was then offered a demonstratorship in Chemistry at his old university by Professor William Barker, whose vision had already grasped that one way of keeping the University's head above water was to build links between his own department and industry. With that end in view he put Shuttleworth in touch with tanneries in Port Elizabeth, promoted his Master's thesis on the quality of South African sole leather, and invited him to help set up a Tanning, Hides and Skins Research Unit within the Department of Chemistry. Thus engaged, Shuttleworth soon became Rhodes' first PhD graduate.

The year 1938 saw Stanley enter the Leeds University Leather Department to further his research experience. After the outbreak of war, his attempt to join the army was blocked by the Chief of the Division of Chemical Services in Pretoria, who asked him to seek practical tannery experience in the USA. This took him to Lehigh University on a scholarship in March 1940.

He obtained further tannery experience in Georgia; but in April 1941 he felt obliged to accept an invitation to return to Rhodes, where the Tanning, Hides and Skins Research Department was critically short of funds, and took on a research professorship in the employ of the Department of Agriculture.

If the need to establish a link with the leather industry had been Barker's contribution, the energy behind the floating and ultimate realization of a viable Leather Industries Research Institute (henceforth I call it LIRI) was Shuttleworth's. He saw the desirability of running basic and applied research in the same institute, writes Dawie Roux. 'You get your feet wet in industry', reports Desmond Cooper, 'if you really want to promote research funding'. To Alistair Stephen he was 'the man of the hour, ... an incredibly determined man'. Shuttleworth showed a real genius in choosing and appointing staff. Enough of his original team survive to testify to one quality in particular: his preparedness to

trust them to get on with the job, while at the same time demanding high standards from them. 'If they failed', one has recorded, 'he tackled the problem and not the person'. He adapted to the special needs of his staff members, notes Isobel White, whose recollections are positive in the extreme.

Shuttleworth worked hard to build up a relationship with the leather industry. He travelled extensively, and resourcefully obtaining petrol when none was to be had; getting there with his tyres filled with branches when three of them were flat; walking the last ten miles if there was a breakdown. He set high standards wherever he went, tearing into a Transvaal suitcase manufacturer, for example, on finding that his product was held together by water-soluble glue.

LIRI was a success because its research was well directed. It discovered the true shape of South African feet. It developed the Liritan process, which was a rapid method of reducing effluent in the manufacture of sole leather, and involved using a polyphosphate, calgon. This process was taken over by footwear manufacturers on a huge scale in North and South America, and in Australia. It worked better with South African wattle than with South American quebracho, so this promoted our wattle exports, and thus helps to account for the timbered landscapes of Natal. Thanks to LIRI, South African leather production led the world.

Two further spin-offs are of special interest. The first relates to the organization of industrial research at the national level. An article by the young Shuttleworth in the *South African Journal of Economics* of June 1939, written after he had been asked to look into the relationship between the states, the universities and industry in Britain, made a strong plea for the setting up of what he called a 'Department of Scientific and Industrial Research' to control decentralized laboratories whose staffs would have intimate contact with industry, and with university life, and be able to rely on generous government funding on a five-yearly rather than an *ad hoc* annual basis, with financial support from industry as well. (He was not misunderstood, some years later, when he told a meeting of tannery bosses that he hoped to get rid of their "affluence", for they realized he was talking about scents, not rands!)

Shuttleworth made an urgent plea for industrial research so that the South African economy could survive the expected demise of gold (he wrote, of course, before the wealth of the Free State fields was properly known) and the anticipated eclipse of the wool industry under the challenge of man-made fibres. Hyman Schauder of Port Elizabeth is certain that this article helped to promote the policy of partial decentralization adopted by the CSIR on its establishment in 1945. In association with

Sir Basil Schonland, Shuttleworth brought LIRI under its wing. Plans for several new research institutes, on LIRI lines, were soon worked out — Fishing Industries at UCT, Paint and Sugar Milling at Natal University, and Wool Textiles (initially at Rhodes). In the establishment of these projects LIRI and its director played an important advisory role.

The other spin-off from LIRI's activities had to do with the purification of water. Perhaps his childhood experience of drinking bitter dam water clarified with alum during a drought in East London set our boffin thinking. We have seen how the Liritan process provided an important safeguard against industrial pollution. The flow of our candidate's thinking about water problems later produced a plan which he took to the Grahamstown City Council in the early 1970's, by which time his interest in the promotion of industry had resulted in his election as mayor. The plan was to recycle sewage water by the building of maturation ponds rather than enlarge the sewage works at much greater expense. This was excellent for water conservation when conservation was vital to attract industry. At a crisis moment in Grahamstown's economic and ecological history there were real advantages in having an industrial chemist at the helm. I also understand that he has been unable to keep away from the problems of water, or indeed any other problem requiring improvisation, in his retirement village at Kenton-on-Sea.

In fact, our Mr Boots is more than a chemist. "Marching over Africa" like Kipling's P B I, he has worn them as well as mastered their manufacture, perhaps not on his long hikes along our sandy shores, but surely on the trails which he has since enjoyed walking. He developed a special Seven-League model for his numerous trips around the world in company with his ambadress wife, Betty, a talented crafts-woman and musician who, among other things ran to earth the Bosendorfer grand piano which now graces the City Hall. Whether Stanley has yet hung up those boots I do not know. I rather think not; for our candidate, who has done so much for the retirement of others in his work for the Brookshaw Home, does not look like the retiring kind. But I feel sure, Mr Chancellor, that the career thus briefly outlined, a career of dedicated scholarship linked to public service, and one which has had a material impact on the research achievements and the economy of our country, will make it easy for you to bestow upon Stanley Gordon Shuttleworth his second degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*. He described the first occasion as the "high point in my career". May the second make it abundantly clear to him that no mistake was made.