

The Drakensberg Trust

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The Collection Management Division is always happy to discuss any deficiencies the university community perceives in the Library collections, but few such discussions can have been so pleasant as one which took place on a June morning in 1987. It began with a mature-age student in Political Science, commenting on the serious weakness of the Library's holdings across his entire area of interest. Although the Library's coverage of books in political science had improved markedly in the previous few years, this comment came as no surprise, and I prepared to launch into the usual explanation, apology and recommendation. But this was no ordinary interview and no ordinary student. The Trustee of the Drakensberg Trust had come to make us an offer we could not wish to refuse and which was to transform the collection. The Trust was prepared to give the Library \$15,000 a year for 5 years for library materials in political science.

The Drakensberg Trust is an incorporated charitable trust established in 1978. The capital base of the Trust was part of an inheritance from Marcus Louis Brownstein, for 40 years a leading member of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. The University of Melbourne Library is by no means the only recipient of support from the Trust. Since its inception it has contributed to several charitable organisations, educational institutions and religious bodies. While some of the contributions have been sharply-focussed, short-term donations, others (like the gift to the Library) have extended over several years, permitting the establishment, for example, of Foundations in the biological sciences.

The Trust's commitment to the University of Melbourne Library has been long-term and very substantial. The

initial 5-year commitment has been extended to 10 years and further funds were made available from 1990 to support a significant academic initiative: the fixed-term appointment of a Senior Research Fellow in South African Politics.

Currently, over 90 serial titles are paid for by the Drakensberg Trust, covering the diverse interests of the Department of Political Science. The interdisciplinary nature of many of these journals ensures that they are also of vital interest to scholars in many other fields, including geography, women's studies, history, law and psychology. In the first few years, several hundred general political science monographs were also acquired, but this has become less and less possible as the cost of the journals has increased.

In the specific area of South African politics, an exceptional resource has been established, including 10 serials and many monographs. Most important, however, has been the acquisition of large archival collections in microform from American and British repositories. Much of this material was previously available for consultation only in overseas archives and as much of it was classified it has only recently become available at all. A few of the most significant collections are described below.

South Africa: internal and foreign affairs 1945-1954.

A collection of over 35,000 pages, on 37 reels of microfilm, this is part of a much larger publication by UPA of the Confidential U.S. State Department central files. These files, which are reproduced complete and unedited from the documents in the National Archives, provide the American perspective on South African political developments in the decade after the Second World War,

written with the degree of candour possible in confidential diplomatic documents.

They document the establishment of the apartheid regime, the forced movement of the black population under the Resettlement Act, strikes and riots, trials and other notable events. The embassy staff, as well as providing their own reports and assessments, sent home other documents, such as press reports and communications from other governments and extensive biographical accounts of the politicians in power.

The CIA Research Reports: Africa, 1946-1976, also published by UPA on 3 reels of microfilm, reproduces over 200 reports covering the entire African continent. It includes a 1950 report *South African Politics and U.S. Security*, a 1964 biographical report *Albert Johannes Luthuli, President-General of the African National Congress*, a 1966 report *Some Implications of Economic Sanctions against South Africa* and a 1969 report on the secret DeBeers-Soviet diamond agreement.

The Central Intelligence Agency's reports are intended "to meet the needs of the President, the National Security Council and other elements of the U.S. government", so it is of interest that the Library has also been able, through the Drakensberg Trust's support, to acquire the African sections of another UPA project: National Security files, 1961-1969. The series reproduces key White House files of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations from the National Security Council files in the Kennedy and Johnson Presidential Libraries.

The documents included range from cables between Washington and overseas posts, memoranda of conversations between US officials, to internal White House memoranda and intelligence reports and assessments.

The OSS/State Department intelligence and research reports published by UPA cover the period 1941-1961. This collection contains reports commissioned by the Office of Strategic Services and Department of State during the Second World War and the cold war period from leading scholars in international affairs and particular area studies. They were important in shaping American foreign policy decisions and provide valuable insights into those decisions today.

A later collection of documents is provided in *South Africa: the making of U.S. policy, 1962-1989*. Part of a series of documents published by the Chadwyck-Healey Ltd, Cambridge, the 12,000 pages of this project consist of recently-released documents from the National Security Archive in Washington, DC. The National Security Archive is a non-profit research institute which locates, organises and indexes documents on US policy. It is instrumental in having documents de-classified and the microform project makes the fruits of the NSA's research available to all.

The documents in the South African collection describe the inconsistencies in the US approach to the UN-sponsored sanctions against South Africa and also cover international and domestic events from the 1960 Sharpville massacre to the support given by the U.S. and South Africa to the rebels in Angola.

The same time period (but not the same documents!) is covered by UPA's *Special Studies Series: Africa 1962-1988*. The collection assembles studies commissioned by the US Government from experts from a range of agencies, including the Strategic Studies Institute of the Army War College, the National

Defense University, the Institute for Defense Analysis and major research institutes at Harvard, Stanford, MIT, Georgetown and Yale.

The Drakensberg Trust has also enabled the Library to acquire microfilm of one of the most important collections of South African political documents from the 1920s to the mid 1960s. This is the Carter-Karis Collection. Based on the materials collected by Gwendolen M. Carter and Thomas Karis, the collection is held in the Melville J. Herskovits Africana Collection in Northwestern University Library. It was microfilmed by the Cooperative Africana Microfilm Project of the Center for Research Libraries. The collection is indexed in *South African Political Materials: a catalogue of the Carter-Karis Collection*, by Susan G. Wynne. Most of the documents were issued by South African political and labour organisations, local and national government, special commissions of inquiry, business, religious and student groups. There are also substantial collections of personal papers, including those of A.E.G. Champion and Z.K. Matthews.

Many other collections of personal papers have been acquired, notably the Smuts papers, covering the years from 1936 to 1948, from the University of Cambridge Library, the personal papers of Z.K. Matthews, published by Microfile and those of A.B. Xuma for the period from 1918 to 1960 published by the Hoover Institution and those of Albert Luthuli, published by the University of Chicago.

Several trial transcripts have also been purchased, among them the *Treason Trial and Prep Exam 1956-1961* published by Microfile. Consisting of the complete transcript of evidence and

many hundreds of documents, leaflets, notices of meetings, etc., tendered in evidence which were seized from anti-apartheid organisations such as the African National Congress, the Congress of Trade Unions, the South African Indian Congress and Congress of Democrats. 156 persons were tried, including a professor, a bookmaker, eight lawyers, seven doctors, two lorry-drivers and three clergymen.

The Rivonia Sabotage Trial, also published by Microfile, records the trial of Nelson Mandela and seven others which ran from October 1963 to September 1964. The defendants were sentenced to life imprisonment. A record of the inquiry into the death of Steve Biko (1946-1977) is also held on two reels of microfilm.

This is only a very partial listing of some of the most significant titles acquired through the Drakensberg Trust. There are many others, in microform and in print, including books, journals and newspapers. The Library has also, of course, acquired much other material through its normal funding, so that our resources for the study of modern South African politics are extensive and impressive.

Without the initial impetus and the long-term support of the Drakensberg Trust, however, they would be much less considerable, and the University of Melbourne community would have been far more dependent on inter-library loan, and interstate or even international travel. Thanks to the Drakensberg Trust, undergraduate students of South Africa can find an exceptional range of materials at the University of Melbourne, while more advanced researchers can do much of their preliminary work here before tackling the great repositories overseas.