

PREFACE

One hundred and ten years ago the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) raged in what today is called the Republic of South Africa. The 110th commemoration of this far-reaching and traumatic conflict naturally does not evoke as much interest as the 100th commemoration of a decade ago did, but it is still appropriate that there should once more – also from an academic viewpoint – be given account of the events that were enacted in South Africa during the years 1899 to 1902. For this reason strategic and military aspects of the war, internment (concentration) and other camps, the role played during the war by someone like Deneys Reitz, legal issues and the way the war was reflected in Portuguese historiography are given attention to in this special edition of the *Journal for Contemporary History*. In conclusion, the Anglo-Boer War is discussed in the context of other wars that have raged in Southern Africa.

About three years ago the editorial board of the *Journal for Contemporary History* decided, on recommendation of the Editor, to publish an edition honouring Prof. Tienie van Schoor and thus indeed also celebrating his 90th birthday. Prof Tienie, however, passed away on 25 July 2009, more or less a year before turning 90, but it was decided to continue with this special edition which is thus posthumously dedicated to Prof Tienie.

Marthinus Cornelius Ellnarius van Schoor (1920-2009) was born in Bloemfontein, matriculated at the Jan van Riebeeck High School in Cape Town and studied at the then University College of the Orange Free State (since 1950 known as the University of the Orange Free State (UOFS) and since 2001 as the University of the Free State (UFS)) and at the then Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education. At the latter institution he obtained a doctorate with a dissertation titled *Die nasionale en politieke bewuswording van die Afrikaner in migrasie en sy ontluiking in Transgariep tot 1954* (The national and political awakening of the Afrikaner in migration and its development in Transgariep till 1954). This work was published in the *Archives Year Book for South African History* in 1968.

In the meantime Tienie van Schoor worked as archive assistant at the Free State Archives Depot in Bloemfontein (1947-1948); thereafter he taught at the Sentraal High School in Bloemfontein (1949-1958), and from 1959 to 1985 he was attached to the UOFS Department of History: first as lecturer, and ultimately as professor; the last nine years until his retirement also as head of the Department of History.

Prof. MCE van Schoor was a dynamic lecturer who fostered an enduring love for History in a large number of undergraduate students. On postgraduate level he supervised approximately 30 MA and doctoral students, covering a large variety of themes. In the field of research he made an exceptional contribution especially

concerning the history of the Anglo-Boer War from 1899 to 1902 and the Afrikaner Rebellion of 1914 to 1915. He founded the *Christiaan de Wet Annals* in 1972 and annotated numerous texts for this sources publication series with much precision. He was also the founder and first editor (1966-1974) of the *Suid-Afrikaanse Historiese Joernaal/South African Historical Journal*.

Prof Tienie was the author or co-author of about 30 books and other smaller monographs. After his retirement in 1985 he went ahead with research full steam and produced numerous comprehensive works, including biographies of John Daniel Kestell (1992), Gen. Christiaan de Wet (2007) and Pres. MT Steyn (2009). He further published some of Steyn's writings and speeches (1997), as well as a translated and edited version of De Wet's war memoirs (1999), a book on the peace efforts and negotiations during the Anglo-Boer War (2007) and a book on Gen. JCG Kemp's role during the rebellion of 1914-1915 (2006). He literally did research work and wrote till shortly before his death.

Prof. MCE van Schoor was a seasoned scientist and History specialist, but he also served his community in many other ways, among other things as speaker at cultural and other gatherings, as writer of a great number of popular articles in magazines and newspapers, as member of the National Monuments Council and chairman of the board of control of the War Museum of the Boer Republics and of the National Women's Monument Commission. He is survived by his wife, Betha, six children and eleven grandchildren.

By means of this Anglo-Boer War edition of the *Journal for Contemporary History*, homage is paid to the last of the old guard of Afrikaner historians – to someone who made commendable contributions and set an example worth following.

André Wessels

Editor

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