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Rhodes University



INSTITUTE OF  
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC  
RESEARCH



A BRIEF ACCOUNT  
of the aims, organisation and achievements  
1955 — June 1960



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# **RHODES UNIVERSITY**

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## **INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH**

1955 — June 1960

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### **1. AIMS. ORGANISATION. FIELDS OF RESEARCH.**

**FINANCE.** N.C.S.R. grants. Carnegie Corporation. Nuffield Fellowships. Institute of Race Relations. Rhodes University. Local support. Publication grants.

### **II. ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS.**

- (1) **THE BORDER REGIONAL SURVEY.**  
Geography and Natural Resources  
Economic Survey.  
Sociology of Europeans and Coloureds.  
Sociology of Xhosa and Fingo Populations.
- (2) **NUFFIELD FELLOWSHIPS** in Education and Xhosa Morality.
- (3) **OTHER RESEARCHES.**  
Farm Labour. Rent and Family Income. Macleantown. Bantu Christians and their Churches. Pineapple Industry. Manufacturing Industries in Port Elizabeth — Uitenhage. Research Library. Other Projects.

### **III. THE FUTURE OF THE INSTITUTE.**

### **IV. LIST OF PUBLICATIONS.**



# RHODES UNIVERSITY

## INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH 1955 — June 1960

### 1. AIMS

The Institute of Social and Economic Research was established by the Senate and Council of Rhodes University in November 1954 to promote, plan, and co-ordinate research and to pool the human and material resources of a number of social science departments, especially in projects calling for the co-operation of different persons studying specialised aspects of the same problem. A further aim was to attract and train research workers of all racial groups and by giving a greater degree of continuity of employment to retain research skills.

The Institute was planned to serve Rhodes University and its affiliated institution for non-whites — the University College of Fort Hare.

### ORGANISATION

The Institute is governed by a Board of Management, which is a committee of the University Senate, and in June 1960 includes the following members:

- D. Hobart Houghton, B.A. (S.A.), M.A. (Oxon.), Professor of Economics, Chairman;
- T. Alty, Ph.D. (Cantab.), D.Sc. (Liv.), D.C.L. (Dunelm), LL.D. (Glasgow and Toronto), F.Inst.P., F.R.S.C., F.R.S.E., Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University;
- H. R. Burrows, (Emeritus Professor), M.C., E.D., M.Com., D.Litt., Director;
- L. Fourie, B.A. (S.A.), M.A. (Stell.), Senior Lecturer in Economics;
- P. B. Hinchliff, B.A. (S.A.), M.A. (Oxon.), Ph.D. (Rhodes), Professor of Ecclesiastical History;
- J. Irving, M.A. (Cantab.), D.Phil. (S.A.), Professor of Sociology and Social Work;
- W. D. Maxwell, T.D., B.A., B.D. (Toronto), Ph.D., D.Litt. (Edin.), D.D. (Glasgow), Professor of Divinity;
- P. Mayer, B.Sc., D.Phil. (Oxon), Dr.Jur. (Heidelberg), Professor of Social Anthropology;
- D. M. Morton, B.Sc., M.A., Ed.B. (Glasgow), Professor of Education;
- J. V. L. Rennie, M.A. (Cape Town), Ph.D. (Cantab.), Professor of Geography;
- E. H. Wild, M.Sc. (S.A.), Ph.D. (Lond.), F.B.Ps.S., Professor of Psychology;
- R. Martin, O.B.E., M.C., Registrar.

NOTE : A representative of the University College of Fort Hare was a member of the Board until the end of 1959 when, as a result of government policy, the college ceased to be affiliated with Rhodes University.

## **FIELDS OF RESEARCH**

Large research projects are placed under the direction of special committees responsible to the Board of Management. Smaller projects are placed under the direction of individual supervisors responsible directly to the Board.

There is also a Committee on Research Design to examine each project proposal with the person who has drafted it.

It was originally agreed that the research activities of the Institute should be concentrated within the Eastern Cape and the adjacent Border and Transkei regions. This area for a long time was the frontier between the Europeans in the Cape Colony and the inhabitants of the Native territories, and was an area where for over a century conflict between white and black came to be modified by economic and cultural contacts. Apart from their particular interest it was felt that studies of these adjustments could usefully contribute to an understanding of current trends operating generally throughout the African sub-continent.

It is consequently a rich field for economic studies of the influence of an advanced industrial exchange economy on primitive Reserve economies. In the contrasts between wealth and poverty, between advanced and backward types of farming, and in the field of labour with its changing racial composition and migration there are many worth-while studies. Some of these the Institute has already completed. In the sociological and anthropological fields there are also fruitful opportunities to study social and cultural influences and changes.

Recently, the Senate of the University accepted a resolution of the Board of Management that the former restriction to a geographic area in the Eastern Cape be waived in theoretical and comparative studies.

## **FINANCE**

The establishment of the Institute was made possible by a generous grant of \$50,000 by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. At about the same time considerable funds were received for specific research undertakings from sources including the National Council for Social Research and the Nuffield Foundation. These various grants assured the financial stability of the Institute for five years.

The following summary of income provided for the Institute of Social and Economic Research during the first five years of its existence reflects the generous financial support by several bodies.

The research programme of the Institute, however, has either already absorbed or committed these funds. Some of the current



research will extend into 1961 but the Institute and its research activities will be possible only if further adequate funds can be secured.

<b>RESEARCH GRANTS 1955 — MARCH 1960</b>		£
Carnegie Corporation .....		17,790
National Council for Social Research —		
Border Regional Survey .....		24,803
Macleantown Survey .....		500
Nuffield Foundation:		
Education of Africans (Urban) .....		3,340
Education of Africans (Rural) .....		1,500
Xhosa Morality .....		1,711
Footwear Manufacturers Federation .....		500
Ford Motor Company of S.A. (Library on Africa) .....		100
General Motors of S.A. (Library on Africa) .....		100
S.A. Institute of Race Relations — Farm Labour Survey .....		970
Rhodes University .....		1,000
		£52,314

#### N.C.S.R. PUBLICATION GRANTS

<b>Border Regional Survey</b>		£
<b>Economic Development in a Plural Society</b> .....		1,788
<b>The Xhosa in Town, Vol. II: Townsmen or Tribesmen</b> .....		1,250
<b>Vol. I: The Black Man's Portion</b> .....		1,170
<b>Land Use, Geological and other maps for the</b>		
volume on Geography and Natural Resources .....		2,000
<b>Botanical Map</b> .....		615
		£6,823
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b> .....		£59,137

These grants have made it possible to recruit good teams of competent research workers and to develop a substantial and varied programme of researches.

The 1957 Annual Report of the Institute, however, warned that a financial crisis lies ahead — mainly the need for funds which are not committed to specific research projects. These are required to cover costs of general administration, guarantee some continuity of employment to key research and administrative personnel, and to meet such contingencies as time-lags between applications for funds and their receipt, pioneering new possibilities, releasing full-time members of the teaching staff for short periods of full-time research, and buying research equipment. The Report expressed the hope

that it would be possible to build up uncommitted funds promptly enough to avoid a serious break in the continuity of research.

The Carnegie grant, the only substantial source of free funds, has been invaluable to the Institute. It has guaranteed the greater part of the salaries of administrative staff (up to the end of 1960), financed the purchase of a motor vehicle (to be refunded from mileage charges), guaranteed the salaries of research workers prior to the award of research grants, and has underwritten the cost of preparing maps pending the receipt of a grant from another source.

It has also been used to provide fellowships to senior members of the University to enable them to be released for short periods from teaching to undertake research. This enabled proved scholars to participate fully in research undertakings. It has also been used for *ad hoc* grants for members of staff and post-graduate students for specific researches.

Not only did the Carnegie grant enable certain lines of research to be undertaken, but it made the Institute a possibility by providing the essential degree of flexibility, freedom and continuity.

This section of Finance should not end without a reference to the money and other costs which are difficult to include in a balance sheet. The main hidden costs are due to members of the University staff devoting considerable voluntary effort and time to research. A rough costing would suggest an amount of some £8,000, although the value of the work done must be very considerably greater than this. Moreover there is a considerable amount of real costs to individuals and departments who can only devote time to specific researches by sacrificing other researches, teaching time or more usually their leisure. Finally, the University provides accommodation and various services, valued at £350 a year, free of charge.

Clearly, the contribution of the University and its staff is much greater than it might at first glance seem to be.

Project directors and other research personnel include 14 full-time members of the staff of Rhodes University and Fort Hare who, in 1959, were directing and conducting research on a voluntary part-time basis, in addition to 17 other research officers. Also, other members of Rhodes University and Fort Hare served on the Board of Management and various committees. For a small university this is a relatively impressive support for an Institute of this kind.

## II. ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### (I) THE BORDER REGIONAL SURVEY

This large-scale survey divided into four main sections and involving geography, geology and botany, economics, sociology and social anthropology, was undertaken initially as a result of a proposal made by the Buffalo Catchment Association. This associa-



tion is a voluntary organisation with representatives from the Divisional Councils and Municipalities of East London and King William's Town, as well as from commerce, industry, farmers' associations, and other organisations. The Association's main interest is to conserve and develop the Buffalo River Basin and in 1953 it approached Rhodes University with a request that a comprehensive regional survey of the area be undertaken. After the university had obtained a grant of £25,000 for a period of five years from the National Council for Social Research to finance the whole cost of the survey the Border Regional Survey was launched on 1.4.1955 to meet this request.

The Survey has been under the general control of a Committee of Management consisting of representatives of the National Council for Social Research, the Natural Resources Development Council, the Buffalo Catchment Association and Rhodes University.

Its Chairman has been Professor D. Hobart Houghton of Rhodes University.

The survey covers the geography, natural resources, and the economic and social structure of the Border area, defined for the purposes of the survey as the magisterial districts of East London and King William's Town and roughly corresponding to the historic Border region. It covers an area of some 1,500 sq. miles with a population of over 200,000, of whom approximately 29 per cent are Europeans, 66 per cent are Africans and 5 per cent are Coloureds and Indians. Over 90 per cent of the Europeans and 38 per cent of the Africans live in urban areas, the numbers of both groups being approximately equal.

This area includes the towns of East London and King William's Town, large European farming areas, and very large Native reserves. As a result it presents many interesting problems of agricultural and industrial development and the relationships between various racial groups. Moreover as this is the area which has had the greatest and the longest contact between white and black in South Africa it affords a good deal of material for social scientists especially as the implications are relevant to much of Africa. There is a wide range of social phenomena from rural-tribal to urban-industrial making the field for social research rich and diversified.

The findings of the survey will no doubt assist administrators and others interested in the problems of conservation, development and human welfare in the Border region. Moreover, if the Government's policy of developing industries in the Native areas takes effect this area will be one of vital importance.

#### **Geography and Natural Resources**

Section A of the Survey deals with Geography and Natural Resources and is supervised by Professors J. V. L. Rennie and E. D. Mountain. It is designed to provide a comprehensive picture of the

physical characteristics of the Border region not only for its intrinsic interest but also as a necessary background for conservation and development as well as for the other studies being carried out in the survey. The study covers geology, physical geography, relief and climate, natural vegetation, soils and land utilisation.

The land utilisation survey on the pattern proposed by the World Land Use Survey was begun by Mr. C. Board in October 1955. The fieldwork was completed in 1956 and by May 1957 the field data map was completed. The Trigonometrical Survey assisted by the preparation of a base map of the region.

The text to accompany the land use map and the general geographical account of the Border Region is nearing completion. A report on the soils of the pine-growing belt in the Border region was submitted by Mr. C. J. Bader of the Pineapple Research Station in East London.

In 1958, with the appearance of the base map, it was possible for Professor Mountain to prepare the geological map on a scale of 1:125,000 in three colours, together with a report on the geology of the region.

The section on the botanical survey has been undertaken by Mr. D. Comins, Government Botanist, who was kindly seconded by the Division of Botany and Plant Pathology on a part-time basis for five years.

The findings of this botanical survey will appear (a) as a detailed memoir of the Division of Botany, and (b) as a short account in the volume of Geography and Natural Resources and the Vegetation Map in 12 colours will illustrate both reports.

This section of the Border Survey is to be published in the near future by the Oxford University Press under the title:

**The Border Region** (by C. Board, E. D. Mountain, D. Comins and C. J. Bader)

and in addition to the text there will be four large scale coloured maps (1:125,000) printed by Messrs. Hortors Ltd. illustrating the Land Use, Geology, Vegetation and Native Reserves, and some twenty-four smaller maps. The Land Use Map is of particular interest being the first of its kind to be prepared for a South African area.

#### **Section B: Economic survey of the Region**

This section which was supervised by Professor D. Hobart Houghton was designed to provide a detailed picture of the economic structure, functioning and development of the Border Region.

The report was planned to be in two parts. Part I included the structure of the Border economy — factual and descriptive; population; agriculture; trade and commerce; industry; transport; employment and wages; standards of living.

Part II included problems of change and adaptation in a plural



society — a more detailed and analytical study of some of the existing anomalies and of forces which promote or retard economic adaptation operating through markets, labour problems including regulations and controls, and development prospects.

Some 20 people shared in the work of the survey team. In the field of Commerce and Industry Dr. G. F. Lumsden gave some 18 months of fieldwork including the collection of data on wholesale and retail trade and industries, interviewed businessmen and made a major contribution to the Survey as a whole.

Dr. Stella Alty, Mr. C. Board, Mr. L. Fourie (Senior Lecturer in Economics), Mr. A. J. Kerr (Senior Lecturer in Law and Advocate of the Supreme Court of South Africa), and Dr. H. H. Smith (Senior Lecturer in Commerce) each assumed responsibility for important parts of the Survey.

In the field of Income and Consumption two African fieldworkers, Mr. Magqwashe and Mr. Kopo, collected records of African family budgets in East London and King William's Town. A number of post-graduate students assisted in the preparation and analysis of the material.

The economic survey of the Border, Section B of the Survey, was completed in 1958. Over 300 persons had been interviewed — directors and managers of establishments, public servants, farmers, and prominent members of all social groups. In addition several hundred African households had given details of incomes and expenditure, and a few thousand African workers answered questionnaires about their employment.

The main general interest is that the study reflects in miniature the influence of a modern exchange economy upon a primitive subsistence economy. In this white and black have been in close contact for over a century, and social interaction and economic development have considerably modified the original frontier character of the society. The former separateness and conflict have increasingly given place to mutual inter-dependence in all aspects of the economy — but as yet no common society has developed. In spite of such inter-dependence there is still marked diversity and differentiation in status and function between the two main racial groups.

The Report was published on 10th March, 1960, as **Economic Development in a Plural Society**, Edited by D. Hobart Houghton, 401 pages, by Oxford University Press, Price 60/-.

### **Section C: Sociological study of the White and Coloured Population**

This section is mainly a study of the social structure, social institutions and ecological distribution of the European population, the group which largely determines the social pattern of the multi-racial Border. It will also study the Coloured population.

The major research in this field, supervised by Professor J. Irving, is the social ecology of East London. It is important because little research has been done on the urban ecology of rapidly developing areas in South Africa and little is known of the effects of multi-racial groups in urban areas and how competition and legislation affect their distribution.

Another reason why this study is important is that East London as the centre of the Border region exerts demographic and socio-economic influences on the surrounding areas. The work will consist of studies of the four major determinants of social structure, viz., biological, socio-economic, ecological, and social.

Pending the appointment of a research officer, Professor Irving made an analysis of European voters in East London by occupation, sex, marital status, and home language which serves as a basis for later work. He also completed a pilot survey of Coloured and Asiatic occupational groups with particular reference to social mobility.

The main fieldwork was started in September 1956 and completed at the end of July 1957, data on the following being collected:

- (1) Ecological studies of the distribution of occupational and social status on a ward, street, and map-grid basis.
- (2) A 1-in-4 sample of use, size, occupation, valuation etc. of properties, values of building plans passed during an 8-year period compared with 24 Union towns.
- (3) Intensive study of the central area in terms of residence, values, building heights etc., in order to detect trends towards centralisation, concentration and dispersal.
- (4) Ecological study of the incidence of tuberculosis based on records of the Municipal Department of Health.
- (5) Poverty incidence based on records of the Coloured Life Protection Society.
- (6) Juvenile delinquency and adult crime based on records in the Magistrate's Courts.
- (7) Number and types of schools in relation to density and population.
- (8) Health and morbidity.

In 1957 the only remaining items of fieldwork to do were a structured small-sample social survey, a study of leisure patterns and a study of social welfare structure.

In 1958 all the fieldwork material had been collected except a postal survey of a sample of residents.

Staffing difficulties in the Department of Sociology have delayed the completion of this research report.

#### **Section D: Sociology of the Xhosa and Fingo Population.**

This section of the Survey comprises a series of urban and rural studies of the Xhosa-speaking population of the Border area. It is



designed to fill an important gap in our knowledge of the African peoples of the Union since the traditional institutions of the Xhosa and Fingo and their way of life in the reserves, on the farms and in the towns are largely unknown to those outside the tribes.

Such studies have also a wider relevance since the traditional institutions in the Border reserves can be expected to be largely typical of the Ciskei and Transkei as a whole. Moreover, the rapid social change being experienced by the town-dwelling Xhosa is the same process which is giving rise to complex and urgent problems throughout Southern Africa.

The rural Xhosa and Fingo maintain their peasant way of life despite the absence in town of most of the able-bodied males. Even those whose family life is wholly and permanently urban never acquire a real stake there. The study will show the intimate connection between country and town for the African.

In addition, the Xhosa are divided into two cultural sections. The School Xhosas followed the lead of white missionaries and teachers and after several generations have absorbed their religion, dress, schooling and consumer habits.

The Red Xhosas reject western cultural influence as far as possible and cling to their conservative standards symbolized by the *terra cotta* dress of the women.

The central problem in this section therefore is the process of adjustment of the Xhosa to the impact of western society and culture. The study, under the supervision of Professor P. Mayer, is being published as a trilogy under the general title **The Xhosa in Town:**

(a) An urban study of the Xhosa in East London will provide a picture of historical development and the process of adjustment. In 1957 Dr. D. H. Reader completed the fieldwork and the tabulation of the results. His three years on the urban project ended in May 1958.

This survey, based on a 1-in-10 sample of the location population, aimed to provide an overall picture of the Xhosa population of East London, focussed on history, demography and labour problems, reasons for the increasing rate of migration, the difficulties in earning a living and finding accommodation, and the problems of the Municipality.

Dr. Reader's **The Black Man's Portion** of some 200 pages is now being printed by O.U.P. as Vol. I of **The Xhosa in Town**, and covers History, Demography and Living Conditions.

(b) The **Townsmen or Tribesmen** project was designed by Professor P. Mayer to contribute a sociological and anthropological discussion of the process of urbanisation of the East London migrant, the majority of adult location residents. An opportunity was also afforded of studying the forces which bind an exile to his home and

a conservative to his traditions even when placed in urban surroundings. This is especially true of the Red migrants whose social organisation in East London represents vigorous conservatism. Labour migrancy and the process of urbanisation, the Red and School categories, economic and social attitudes are also discussed.

**Townsmen or Tribesmen** by P. Mayer and I. Mayer of some 300 pages is now being printed by O.U.P. as Vol. II of **The Xhosa in Town**.

(c) A study of the social and cultural institutions of the urban-born Bantu in East London was carried out by Dr. B. A. Pauw. Its aim was to ascertain their background and origin in East London, to identify and analyse types of family structure, and to investigate the relations between culture, class and family structure, and to see how far distinctive social cultural patterns have developed among Xhosa who have been born and bred in the city.

**The Second Generation** by Dr. B. A. Pauw will be published by O.U.P. as Vol. III of **The Xhosa in Town**.

The findings of the Border Regional Survey as a whole are expected to be published in six volumes. One has already been published, two are now in the press. Two should be printed within the next year and the remaining volume should be ready early in 1962.

During the period of the survey fifteen full-time but temporary research workers were employed for periods which were broken by a number of resignations from those attracted by the offer of permanent employment elsewhere. Also twenty students were given part-time duties.

Twelve members of the teaching staff of Rhodes University contributed research, administrative, planning and supervisory duties, without which the Survey could not have been carried out.

## (2) NUFFIELD FELLOWSHIPS

In 1954 the Nuffield Foundation awarded three two-year scholarships for selected African graduates to be trained in advanced research by Rhodes University and the affiliated University College of Fort Hare and, it was hoped, for careers in social research. The total sum granted was £6,551 3s. 0d.

Two of the fellowships of £600 a year were awarded for a study of primary education for Bantu children in the Eastern Cape, one urban and one rural.

A third fellowship of a similar amount was awarded for a study of moral concepts among the Xhosa and the Fingo in the Eastern Cape.

The supervision of the research was given to a Nuffield Research Committee of the Institute, the urban education being directly supervised by Professor D. Morton, the rural education by



Professor O. Raum of Fort Hare, and the Xhosa Morality by Professor P. Mayer.

Unfortunately, it was difficult to find suitably qualified Xhosa-speaking Africans. In the first place they were required to have the M.A. and also enough experience to be able to do research and write reports without much supervision. Moreover, not only was the limited duration of the fellowships a deterrent but the number of academic, particularly research, careers for Africans is extremely limited. Lastly the very few who had anything like the required training and experience were reluctant to change their hard-won employment for a brief venture into research.

The overall purpose of the Education project was to study selected problems e.g. percentage of total school-age population attending school, percentage at each scholastic level, age composition of classes at each level, scholastic attainment tests with comparisons between different schools, degree of retention of learning after a few years out of school. Each section was also to study special problems in the rural or urban setting respectively.

#### **Education of Africans**

##### **(a) Urban**

This project was designed to investigate African expectations and aspirations with regard to education, attitudes, suitability to practical needs and related problems in an urban setting.

Miss M. C. Nongauza, B.A., S.T.D., B.Ed., commenced fieldwork in East London in January 1956. From August she was engaged on adapting and standardising, for African needs, tests designed to measure attainments of European children, and on the administration of tests to school children in the Grahamstown area.

During 1957 she completed some fieldwork in the Grahamstown area, spent two months on test adaptation, and eight months of fieldwork in Port Elizabeth, securing returns from 2,000 African workers although meeting a good deal of difficulty in collecting this data.

In August the Oxford Bantu Scholarship Trust awarded her a two-year scholarship for education studies at Oxford which she agreed to defer until the following year. In October 1957 the Nuffield Foundation made a further grant for two years to continue this study.

Miss Nongauza left in September, 1958.

She has since completed the report which is being prepared for publication. **The Bantu Worker and his Education** is a study by an African on an important aspect of African Society. It deals with primary education for Bantu children in urban areas of the Eastern Cape Province and includes a survey of school-going population, school enrolment and factors influencing attendance, scholastic histories and examination results. It discusses the age-factor and its

relation to school organisation, an analysis of the achievement tests and generally the role of school education in fitting the Bantu for employment in industry.

**(b) Rural Section**

During 1956 and 1957 this study had to be postponed repeatedly because of difficulties in finding a suitable African research worker. Meanwhile the design of this section was revised several times.

The overall purpose of this research was to gather data on the sociological background of education in the rural districts of the Ciskei — useful in the training of African teachers as well as in the organisation of educational services.

The study covers the African child in school, the agents of education (parents, teachers and community) and the means of education (curriculum, syllabuses, school organisation and administration).

Mr. L. D. Ngcongco was appointed to the two-year fellowship on January 28, 1958. Useful data was also collected by the Fort Hare U.E.D. Community Project Class. This research on rural education is now being concluded.

**(c) Xhosa Systems of Morality project**

This project, supervised by Professor Mayer, is a study of the traditional moral systems of the Xhosa and the development taking place under conditions of social change. It will investigate the moral concepts, attitudes, beliefs and behaviour of Africans both among themselves, and between them and Europeans, and to compare them with analogous systems in western culture. Points of difference will be studied as possible sources of conflict.

Miss Jacobs started fieldwork in April 1955 but resigned after seven months.

However, the extensive fieldwork, analysis and reports of the anthropological section of the survey contribute extensive data and provide a valuable background.

There was then the same difficulty in recruiting a suitable person as in the Education Rural project. In due course, Mr. F. N. Mkize was appointed to a two year's fellowship and began his research on 1.4.1958 and after some preliminary training in Grahams-town, began fieldwork in East London where most of the Institute's anthropological effort is at present centered. He concentrated on the moral attitudes in three important fields of relationships — old and young, men and women, white and black. Questionnaires were applied to three groups of Xhosa in East London — the highly educated, those with lower educational qualifications but with strong church affiliations, and the Red people mainly illiterate and pagan.

In making contacts he had the help of two of the Institute's African Research Assistants — Mr. S. C. Mvalo and Mr. E. Xotyeni.



In addition he was able to obtain advice from Dr. Pauw and Mr. Dubb — who have been working in East London for some time.

Mr. Mkize made considerable progress in drafting a report based on his fieldwork and two sections of 150 pages deal with aspects of Xhosa sex morality. An extension of his fellowship would have enabled him to gather additional material and write-up his findings on other aspects of Xhosa Morality.

Instead of accepting an offer of an extended fellowship Mr. Mkize decided to accept a post as School Principal in Natal and his Nuffield fellowship therefore ended on 29.2.1960.

### (3) OTHER RESEARCHES

#### **Labour in the Farm Economy**

The South African Institute of Race Relations financed this study of African farm labour in the Albany and Bathurst magisterial districts under the supervision of Professor Hobart Houghton. These areas were selected because in the northern part the traditional stock farming has largely persisted, but in the southern part cash crops of chicory and pineapples have altered the structure of farming and increased the demand for labour with consequent marked differences between cash wages and labour relations in the two areas.

Beginning in March 1957 Miss Margaret Roberts spent 9 months in fieldwork. 80 farms were selected, a 1-in-20 sample of European-owned farms in an area of 1,800 sq. miles as representative of the two districts and of their major types of farming.

After some initial reluctance, all save a few farmers were co-operative and helpful. Detailed reports of 75 interviews were made and questionnaires were completed. Miss Roberts also interviewed African workers where permitted as well as other farm workers who had migrated to town in the Grahamstown location.

Genealogies of African farm workers' families (in order to study migration) and their employment histories were also collected by an African research assistant. As a result a good deal of information was collected on wages in cash, benefits in kind, conditions of service, and attitudes of employers and employees.

Miss Roberts' report **Labour in the Farm Economy** (137 pages) was published in December 1958 by the S.A. Institute of Race Relations. "This study of an African farm labour force covers wages, living conditions, productivity and attitudes of employers and employees as well as the effects of legislative restrictions on both parties. A work of vital and permanent interest to all sociologists, economists and those interested in race relations."

The volume is regarded as a valuable contribution with an objective and scholarly approach in a field in which little information is available.

### **Economic Rent and family Income in Grahamstown**

Following the provision of municipal housing for Africans and Coloureds in Grahamstown in place of privately owned slum dwellings, a serious fall occurred in their standard of living. Economic rents were much higher than slum rents.

The City Council requested a pilot study of the effects of increased rents on nutritional standards of Africans while the National Housing Commission requested that the study should be broadened by the inclusion of 165 Coloured households, and later of 595 African households. The pilot study was carried out during two months in 1957, the broader study between January and March 1958 and written up in July 1958. The African study was begun in July 1958 and completed in September 1958.

A report on **Economic Rent and Household Income among Cape Coloureds in Grahamstown** of 51 pages (price 2s. 6d.) by James Irving was published as Occasional Papers Number One.

This covers 168 households and 1,126 persons, size of households, overcrowding, incomes, rents, wages and the application of the poverty datum line.

A report on **Economic Rent and Household Income among the African Population of Grahamstown** of 40 pages (price 2s. 6d.) by James Irving was published as Occasional Papers Number Two.

This covers 574 households and 3,371 persons, size of households, overcrowding, incomes, rents, wages, the application of the poverty datum line and comparisons with the Coloured population.

Further work on the same problem led to two other reports. One of these was **Slum Clearance and the Ability of Europeans to pay Economic Rent** by James Irving, 28 pages (price 2s. 6d.) was published as Occasional Papers Number Three.

This covered housing conditions of 120 indigent European households in Grahamstown, including room densities, occupations, wages, rents, economic and sub-economic rent norms.

Studies were also made of housing conditions in the Coloured and African locations of Grahamstown covering 30 Coloured and 120 African households.

### **Bantu Christians and their Churches in the Eastern Cape and Transkei**

This project is a major research undertaking comprising a number of related studies under the general supervision of Professor Mayer in co-operation with the Faculty of Divinity.

This is a study of the role of the Church in Bantu society and of Christianity in individual lives. The project supervisor has observed that "the African churches in the Union of South Africa are the largest group of organised bodies in which Africans enjoy a high degree of self-management and self-expression. Christianity



seems to play an important part in their adjustment to what is often frustrating environment". In the Union, racial policy and the pattern of race relations have a particular effect on African churches and their members. In turn, their teachings may have repercussions on racial issues. Also, they may now have either to abandon conservative attitudes to social and political problems or suffer a decline in membership and influence.

This study should therefore be of wide interest and significance.

Part I is a study of the **Independent Churches** in the Eastern Cape. It is financed from the Institute's Carnegie grant and comprises studies of a few important individual separatist (i.e. non-mission) churches. These emphasise the structure and activities of the church, its dogma and teaching, and its role in society.

Mr. A. A. Dubb began research in September 1957, choosing first the Assemblies of God (Bhengu's church) and obtaining the ready co-operation of clergy and lay members. Problems with which he dealt in detail include the recruitment and composition of the membership of Bhengu's church (from pagans as well as from other churches) and different aspects of leadership.

Further sections of this project have been planned in detail to investigate Bantu Christianity as a religion. It was estimated that the research would extend over three years and cost some £6,000.

The N.C.S.R. has made a research grant of £6,000 for this project available from 1.4.1960 for three years. Dr. B. A. Pauw who has just completed research in the Border Survey is undertaking the study of the Church and Christianity among the Xhosa, assisted by Mr. Mvalo.

**Economic study of the pineapple industry** (Growing, processing and marketing) in the Eastern Cape.

This study is financed by the Institute's Carnegie fund under the general direction of Professor Houghton and Mr. L. Fourie and carried out in close consultation with the Division of Economics and Markets.

Mr. C. B. Strauss, B.A., M.S. (Cornell), assumed duty as Research Fellow in July 1959. In fieldwork he was assisted by Mr. K. M. Durham, B.A.(Hons.), U.E.D. A sample of 14 per cent of the farms was selected for the purposes of the survey.

The Division of Economics and Markets of the Union Government has given valuable assistance in the planning of the research and in the preparation of a questionnaire and has agreed to make their electronic computers available for the analysis of data collected during fieldwork.

#### **The Macleantown survey**

In 1957 the East London Divisional Council drew the attention of the Institute to alleged rural decay in village life in the Border and urged that a detailed study of one village be undertaken.

Macleantown was one such village of 26 white households and 29 Bantu households which required immediate administrative action and the Divisional Council suggested that a socio-anthropological survey of this area should be carried out as an aid to determining its future policy toward this community. It was financed by a N.C.S.R. grant of £500 and was supervised by Professor J. Irving.

The central problem is an attempt to analyse the factors involved in a village structure which has shown signs of socio-economic and political disorganisation. The method used is that of the community study by participant observation followed by group analysis interaction studies. Detailed studies are developed and include the following: demographic structure, population trends, housing, economic structure, land use, income and expenditure, occupations, labour conditions, social structure, social mobility, health, medical and hospital services, religion, recreation, analysis of breakdown of local government services, summary and recommendations, future of small South African villages.

The fieldwork was carried out from November 1957 to January 1958, the two research workers (Miss Borthwick and Mr. Black) being supervised by Professor Irving, and other visits were made later. The report adopted the general character and form as the village studies which have been published on Irish and Indian peasants and on American small towns and villages.

The Macleantown survey by James Irving of 288 pages (price 7s. 6d.) was published as Occasional Papers Number Four.

#### **Pilot survey of manufacturing in Port Elizabeth—Uitenhage region**

This project is designed as a preparation for a future large-scale research into specific industrial problems and is being financed from funds allocated from the Institute's Carnegie fund.

In 1958 Mr. L. Fourie, Senior Lecturer in Economics, had discussions with local government and municipal officials. Detailed statistical series were compiled in respect of the growth of local government services to industry — electricity, water, rates and valuation — in addition to relevant maps.

Discussions were held with the local Chamber of Industries and valuable information was obtained concerning its 194 members. Detailed information was compiled, e.g. analysis of main areas in which the industrial labour force resides, transport facilities for workers, imported raw materials and country of origin, local raw materials — their use and source, materials or products exported and their destination.

Detailed official (but unpublished) industrial statistics for 1950-54 were obtained in Pretoria for 23 classes of private industries as well as government, municipal and railway industries in the Port Elizabeth—Uitenhage area. Also comparative figures for the other



eight industrial regions, and for each province and for the Union as a whole were obtained.

A detailed questionnaire has been prepared for a field survey to be carried out during 1960. This will provide further information on employment, wages, materials used and products manufactured, factors determining location, power, problems of transport and marketing etc.

#### **Mapping of the Industrial regions of Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage**

Dr. I. L. Griffiths, B.Sc., Ph.D., has undertaken to investigate the geographic aspects of the location of industries in Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage and to map the location of industries in the 23 census classes. A card index of all industries will be made in co-operation with Mr. Fourie's pilot survey of industries.

#### **Development of Research Library**

The Institute has undertaken to build up a library on economic and social development in Africa South of the Sahara. This will be useful for basic research as well as meeting the needs of commerce and industry.

Two grants of £100 each have already been received.

During 1957 a start was made to compile lists of publications to be bought, together with an index of institutions and public bodies in Africa and overseas which might be approached for material.

#### **Dictionary of National Biography Project**

This project was designed to integrate various lines of historical research. The main aim was to compile an index of biographical data on persons important in Eastern Cape History which could be obtained from local sources and from the Cape Archives. This was to be a regional contribution towards a dictionary of national biography on the British model. It was also planned to have a series of biographical studies.

As part of the general project, an historical study of missionaries in South Africa, with special reference to Methodist Missions, is being undertaken by Professor the Rev. L. A. Hewson.

#### **Swazi Personality Project**

The major aim of this study is to form some idea of the modifications imposed on Swazi personality structure by the assimilation of Western Culture. In August 1958 Mr. E. T. Sherwood was awarded a Canada Council Fellowship for a year's full-time research on the project in the United States which he expects to complete during 1960.

#### **Record Library**

The International Library of African Music in 1959 presented the University with 48 records of African music. These records are at present housed in the Institute.

### III. THE FUTURE OF THE INSTITUTE

#### (1) Why it should continue

Research in the Social Sciences is becoming more and more important in South Africa where a number of fundamental issues demand courageous re-thinking.

To assist in this an Institute of Social and Economic Research can be of considerable value in recording impartially current phases in the changing political and economic development of a multi-racial community and thus providing a scientific basis for the formulation of local and national policy.

After five years of successful research which has attracted official and public interest there is an urgent need to consolidate and expand the Institute.

The projected researches include studies of the economic development of the Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage and East London areas with special reference to manufacturing industry. The future of this area warrants a comprehensive and continuous survey of its human and material resources including studies of efficiency, aptitudes, incentives and racial attitudes.

Other planned researches include a study of the Bantu Christians and their Churches; the Coloured Community of East London; and the role of the location headmen in the socio-economic system of the Cape Nguni.

The Institute has accepted in principle a scheme to compile a Xhosa dictionary.

Another function of the Institute would be to build up an Information and Intelligence Service on Africa South of the Sahara. This would be carried out in co-operation with other research activities in the African Continent. In time a Central Research Library for Economic, Statistical and Market information dealing with Africa South of the Sahara could be developed and would justify the appointment of a full-time economist.

The value of a University Institute of Social and Economic Research does not depend wholly on field research carried out by additional staff. One worth-while theoretical study, for example, would be an examination of the relationships between the various Social Sciences. Recent developments in psychological theory in drawing attention to the irrationality of human behaviour affect the validity of certain economic assumptions. Psychologists and sociologists should study non-monetary factors in economic behaviour. There are close links between Ethics, Economics and Christianity, especially in the fields of production, profit, wages, race problems etc. Philosophy should account for the science of preferences. Political Theory must explain and justify political interference with economic tendencies.



Such an examination of the inter-relations of these social sciences would almost certainly point to the need for certain lines of fundamental research.

## (2) Its dependence on funds

The Institute has proved to be a worth-while experiment. But it can continue only with the help of substantial funds to cover its overhead costs and to provide a small amount of "free", i.e. uncommitted, money to be used as a strategic reinforcement of research opportunities.

The minimum staff establishment to ensure reasonable efficiency and continuity would consist of

Director or Research Professor or Organising Secretary

Senior Clerk

Typist.

The approximate cost of this essential minimum would be £3,000 a year.

Moreover, a Research Institute cannot operate efficiently without specialised equipment to economise the time and effort of skilled research workers and to train other workers.

The minimum amount of such equipment to ensure a reasonable standard of efficiency would cost approximately £5,000.

With such minimum staff and equipment as a foundation the Institute could continue to rely on a University grant and levies on researches to finance other basic services. One or two research fellows would continue to be financed by *ad hoc* grants for specific projects.

In this way by strengthening and extending a successful experiment a well-established Institute of Social and Economic Research could be guaranteed.

## IV. PUBLICATIONS

- I. Published works.
- II. In process of publication.
- III. Articles by persons associated with the Institute.

### I. PUBLICATIONS

1. **Labour in the Farm Economy**, by Margaret Roberts, published by the S.A. Institute of Race Relations, December 1958, (137 pages). Price 7s. 6d.

"The first non-governmental study in twenty years of an African farm labour force, this 137-page book, with 26 tables, embodies the results of ten months of field work in 1957 in the Albany and Bathurst districts of the Cape. Wages, living conditions, productivity and attitudes of employers and employees are all examined, as are the effects of legislative restrictions on both parties. A work of vital and permanent interest to all sociologists, economists and those interested in race relations."

2. **Economic Rent and Household Income among Cape Coloureds in Grahamstown**, by James Irving. Institute of Social and Economic Research, Rhodes University, Occasional Papers : Number One, (51 pages) 1958. Price 2s. 6d.

A study of 168 Coloured households with 1,126 persons, covering household size, overcrowding, income structure, rent structure, wages, together with the application of the poverty datum line.

3. **Economic Rent and Household Income among the African Population of Grahamstown**, by James Irving. Institute of Social and Economic Research, Rhodes University, Occasional Papers: Number Two, (40 pages) 1958. Price 2s. 6d.

A study of 574 households with 3,371 persons, dealing with household size, overcrowding, income structure, rent structure, wages, the application of the poverty datum line, and comparisons with the Coloured Population.

4. **Slum Clearance and the Ability of Europeans to Pay Economic Rent in a Small South African City**, by James Irving. Institute of Social and Economic Research, Rhodes University, Occasional Papers : Number Three, (28 pages) 1959. Price 2s. 6d.

A study of a white slum population covering housing conditions, room densities, occupational structure, wages, rents, together with calculations respecting economic and sub-economic rent norms.

5. **Macleantown** : A study of a small South African Community, by James Irving. Institute of Social and Economic Research, Rhodes University, Occasional Papers, Number Four, (288 pages) 1959. Price 7s. 6d.

The central problem is an attempt to analyse the factors involved in a village structure which has shown signs of socio-economic and political disorganisation. The method used is that of the community study by participant observation followed by group analysis interaction studies. Detailed studies are developed and include the following : demographic structure, population trends, housing, economic structure, land use, income and expenditure, occupations, labour conditions, social structure, social mobility, health, medical and hospital services, religion, recreation, analysis of breakdown of local government services, summary and recommendations, future of small South African villages.

6. **Economic Development in a Plural Society** (Studies in the Border Region of the Eastern Cape Province) ed. D. Hobart Houghton. Oxford University Press. (401 pages) 1960. Price 60s. The book describes the economy of the Border Region of the Cape Province, which was for many years the frontier between White and Black in Southern Africa.

The factual account of the present structure of the economy is



of direct concern to the local population, and it may also be of interest to a wider public as showing the course of economic development in an area which has been the scene of close contact between White and Black for over a century. The Border epitomizes the impact of an advanced economy upon one less developed.

The book is divided into two parts. The first is a descriptive account of the Border economy at the present time under the headings of population, agriculture, trade, industry, transport, labour and standards of living. The second is a study of some problems of change and adaptation, and it is presented in four chapters — markets, labour problems, regulation and controls, and development prospects.

## II. IN PROCESS OF PUBLICATION

1. **The Xhosa in Town, Vol. I: The Black Man's Portion**, by D. H. Reader. Oxford University Press (approx. 200 pages).

This volume of the Border Regional Survey deals with the history, demography, and living conditions in the Native locations of East London, Cape Province.

The book reviews the early struggles and development of the locations, the growing urban Bantu population, the development of labour, how employees and the self-employed make a living, and the questions of accommodation and lodging.

2. **The Xhosa in Town, Vol. II: Townsmen or Tribesmen**, by P. Mayer and I Mayer. Oxford University Press (approx. 300 pages).

This volume of the Border Regional Survey is a study of the process of urbanization in East London, Cape Province. It discusses labour migrancy and the process of urbanisation; the Red and School categories in the country; the main social divisions in the Locations; the incapsulation of Red migrants (home ties and domestic life, recreations and friendships, and the problem of social control); economic attitudes of Red migrants; spirits and witches; Red migrants outside incapsulation and Red converts to Christianity; School migrants; girls and women in town; sexual partnerships; town children and country children. The summary and conclusions deal with network, culture, and change.

3. **The Xhosa in Town, Vol. III: The Second Generation**, by B. A. Pauw.

This is a study of the background and origin of the town-born Africans in East London; analysis of family structures; relations between culture, class and family structure.

4. **The Border Region (Natural Environment and Land Use in the Eastern Cape)**, by C. Board, E. D. Mountain, D. Comins and C. J. Bader.

A detailed and comprehensive picture of the physical characteristics of the Border Region.

5. **The Bantu Worker and his Education**, by Mary C. Nongauza.

This report is the product of a Nuffield fellowship awarded to Miss Nongauza who worked under the direction of Professor D. M. Morton.

It is an objective study by an African of an important aspect of African society and deals with primary education in schools for Bantu children in urban areas of the Eastern Cape Province, including a survey of school-going population, school enrolment and factors influencing attendance, scholastic histories, performance of pupils in examinations, the age relation to school organization, an analysis of the results of the achievement tests, and the role of school education in fitting the Bantu for employment in industry.

6. **The amaBhaca of Mount Frere**, by W. D. Hammond-Tooke.

Dr. Hammond-Tooke, M.A., Ph.D. (Cape Town), is revising this doctoral thesis for publication under the auspices of the Institute. It will be a valuable contribution to our knowledge of South African tribes.

### III. ARTICLES BY PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INSTITUTE

- (a) "On the designing of T.A.T. pictures, with special reference to a set for an African people assimilating Western culture", by E. T. Sherwood. **Journal of Social Psychology**, 1957, 45, 161—190.
- (b) "The Bantu Clerk : a study of role expectations", by Rae Sherwood. **Journal of Social Psychology**, 1958, 47, 285-316.
- (c) "African Farm Labour : some conclusions and reflections", by Margaret Roberts. **Race Relations Journal**, Vol. XXVI, No. 3, 7 pages, July-September 1959.
- (d) "The Law Relating to Farm Labour", by Margaret Roberts. (An extract from the book **Labour in the Farm Economy** by Margaret Roberts. This extract was published in the **Race Relations Journal**, Vol. XXVI, No. 3, 10 pages, July-September 1959.)
- (e) "Slum Clearance and the Ability of Europeans to pay Economic Rent in a Small South African City," by James Irving. **Race Relations Journal**, Vol. XXVI, No. 3, 11 pages, July-September 1959.
- (f) "Economic Dangers of Separate Bantu Development", by D. Hobart Houghton. **Optima**, December 1959.
- (g) "Migrant Labour", by D. Hobart Houghton. **Africa in Transition**, by Prudence Smith (Max Reinhardt) 1957.
- (h) "The Border Regional Survey", by D. Hobart Houghton. **South African Journal of Science**, Vol. 52, No. 3, October 1955.

