

# Dr. Hans Merensky – Special collection



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA  
Denkleiers • Leading Minds • Dikgopolo lsa Dihlalefi

(2142)

C  
O  
P  
Y.

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

Name of child: JOHANNES MERENSKY  
Where born: Bothsabelo Mission Station  
near Middelburg, Transvaal,  
South Africa  
When born: 16th March, 1871  
When baptized: 26th March, 1871  
Parents: Father Alexander Merensky  
Mother Maria Merensky  
born Liers  
By whom baptized: The Rev. Alexander Merensky  
God father: A. Neitzel  
C. Lademann  
Willem Moschutz  
Johannes Liers  
God mother: Aguste Lupke  
No. of Register: Bothsabelo Bapt. Register No. 641

Bothsabelo Mission Station  
near Middelburg, Transvaal,  
South Africa,  
13th September, 1939.

C. HOFFMANN.  
Minister of the Berlin Mission  
Lutheran Church,  
Superintendent of the Berlin Mission.

# Baptism Certificate 1871

# Alexander Merensky



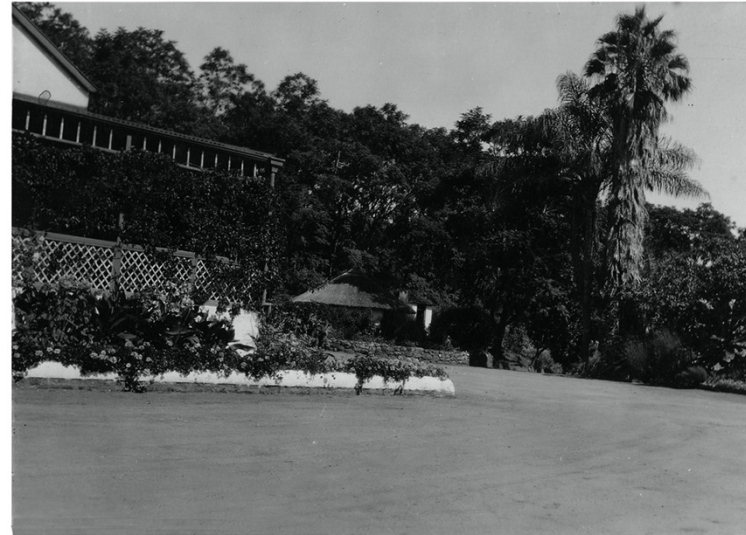
Hans Merensky as child



Hans Merensky as adult

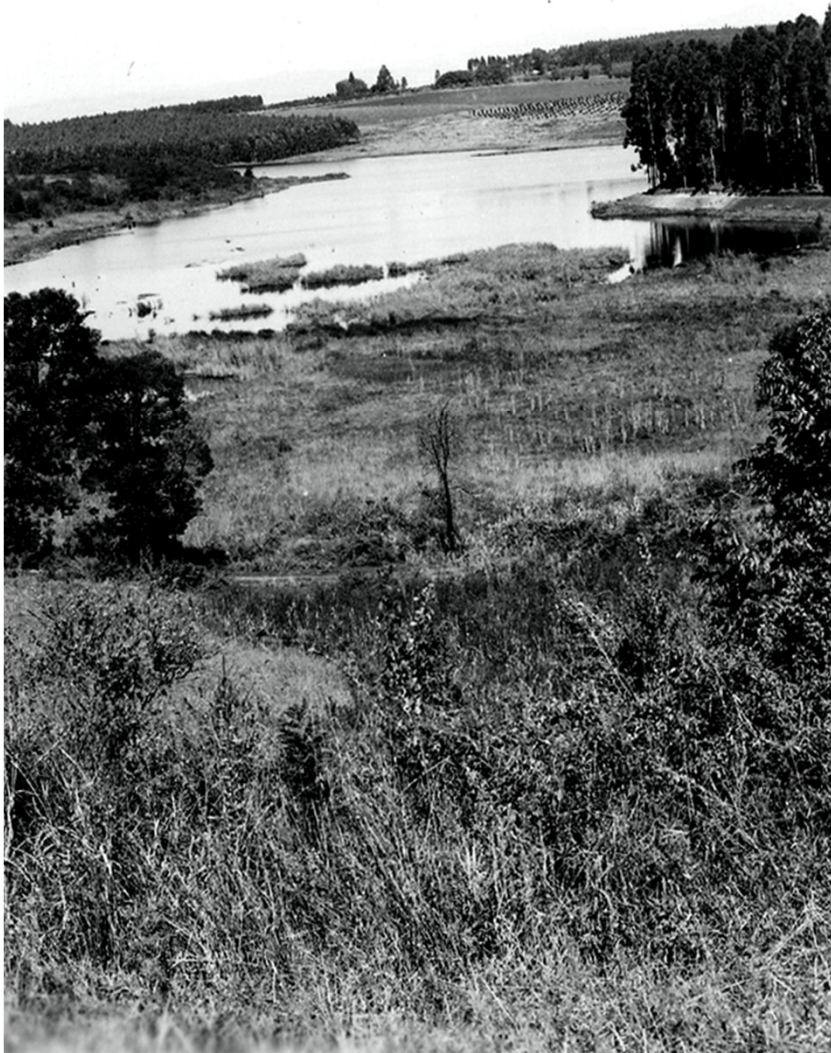


# Westfalia



# Produce of Westfalia





# Out and about Westfalia





# Prospecting





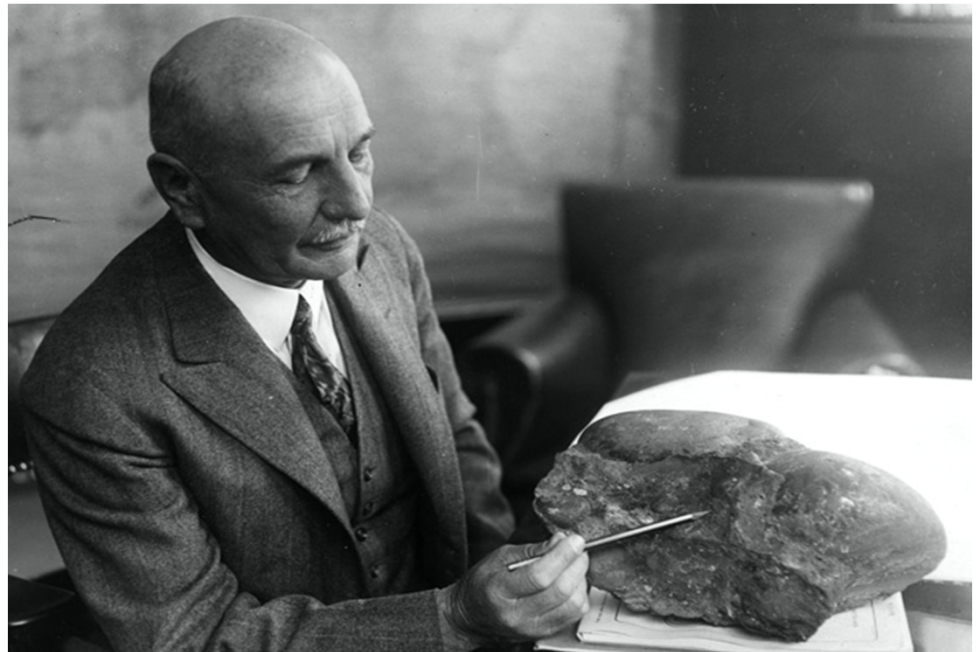


## Internment camp – Pietermaritzburg

1<sup>st</sup> World War



# Geology



# Opening of the Merensky Library



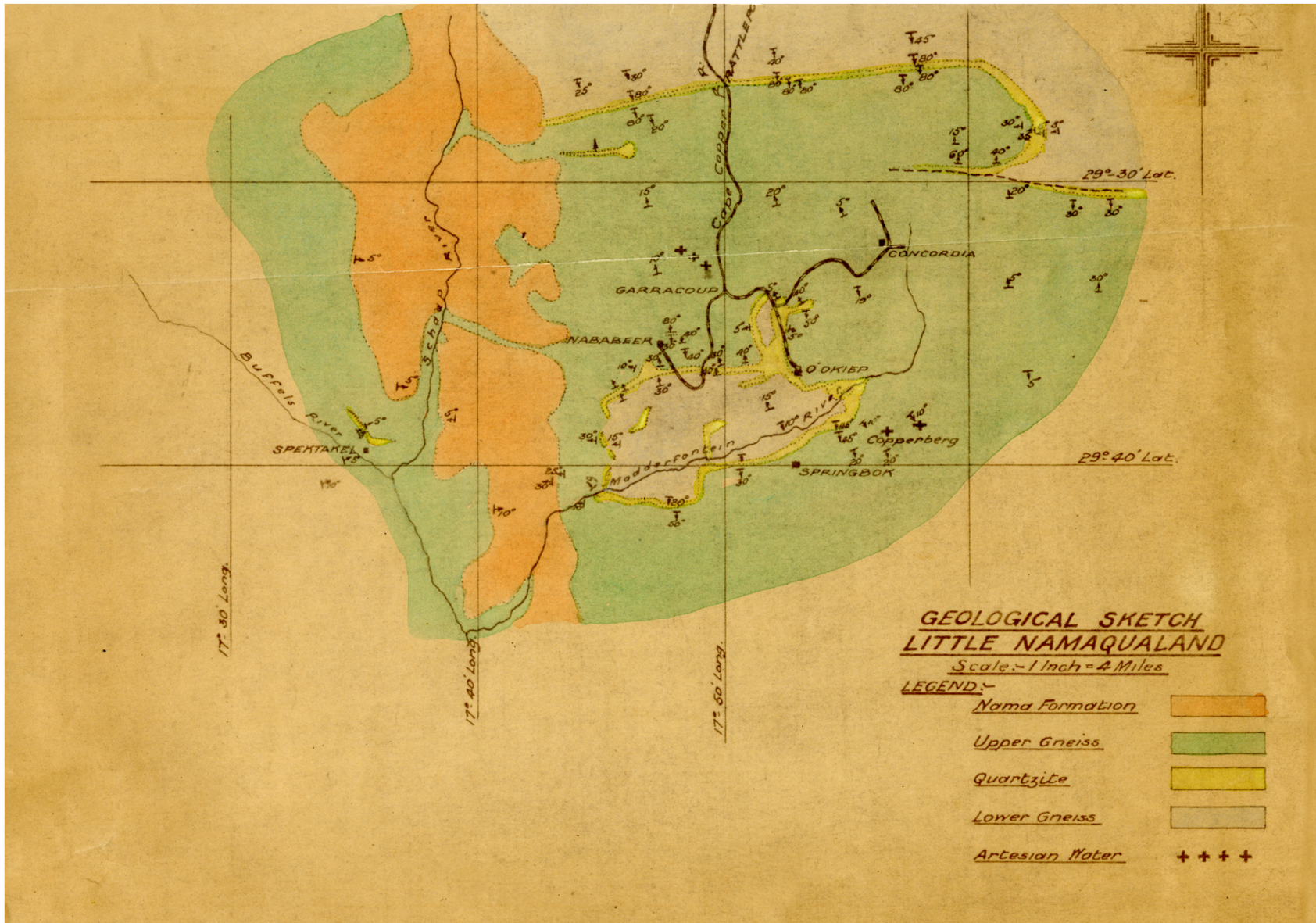
NIEUWE BIBLIOTHEEK VOOR DE UNIVERSITEIT TE PRETORIA. — In tegenwoordigheid van vele belangstellenden heeft de minister van Onderwijs H. A. Fagan op 14 Maart jl. de nieuwe Merensky-bibliotheek van de Universiteit geopend. Onze gezant, jhr. W. F. van Lennep, heeft namens de familie Gybland Oosterhoff, haar Prinses Juliana-collectie aangeboden. V.l.n.r. jhr. Van Lennep, minister Fagan, rector C. F. Schmidt, prof. dr. G. Besselaar en dr. H. Merensky.

# Degrees obtained from the University of Pretoria

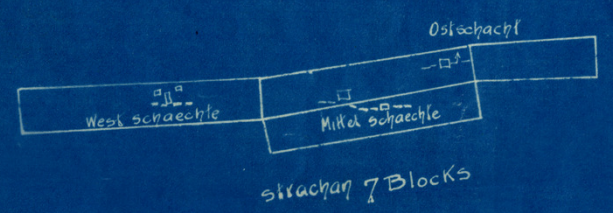
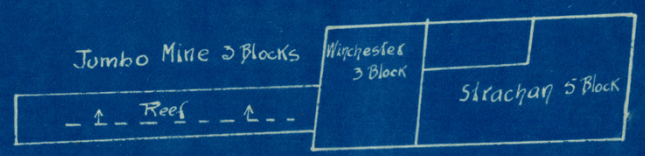


# Sketches

## Little Namakwaland



Skizze der Claims der Jumbo Mine und der Strachan  
behoerung

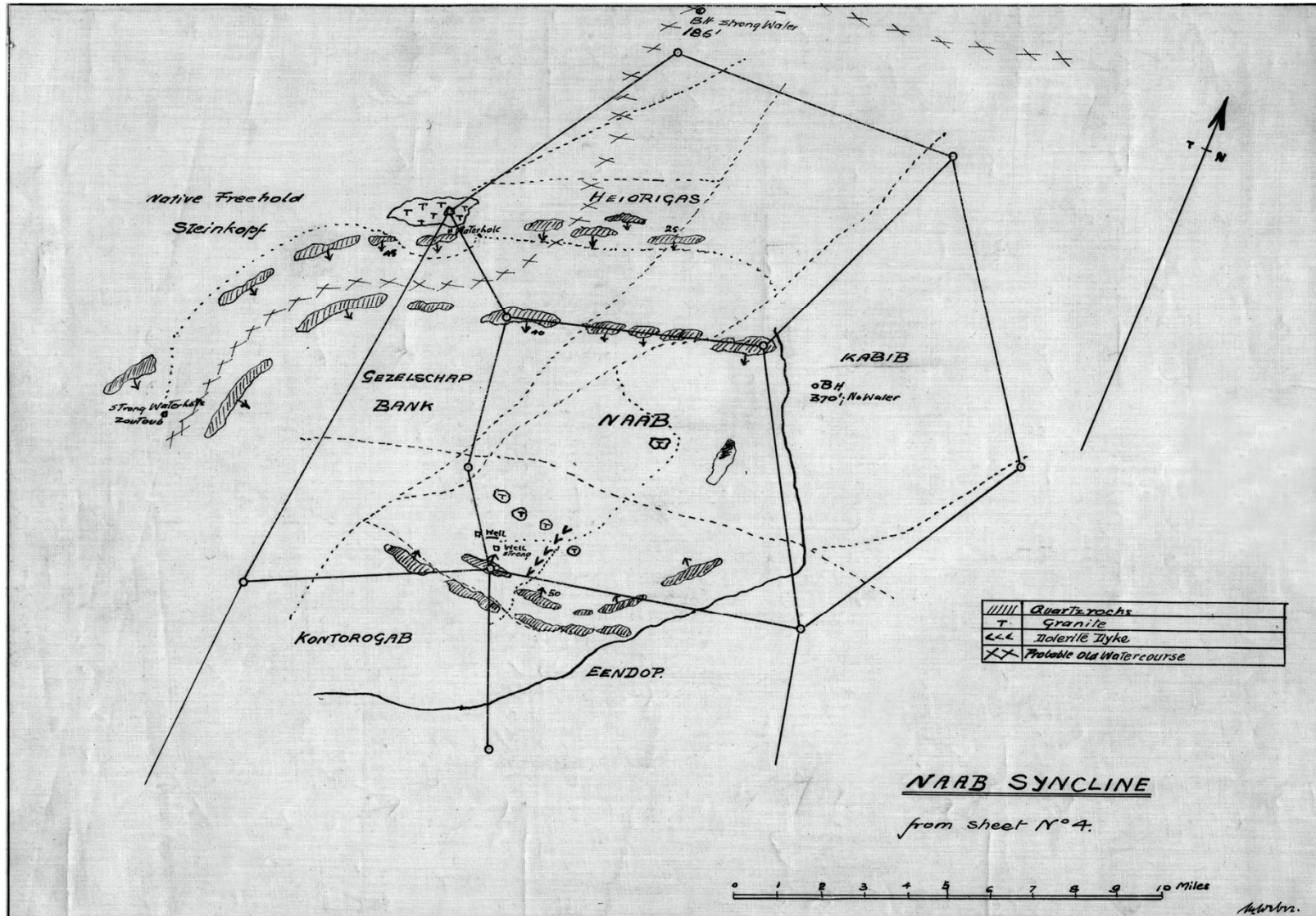


# Sketches

Blue print – Jumbo Mine

# Sketches

## NAAB Syncline



Receipt from the University of Pretoria  
for a donation made - 1951

UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA



15713

PRETORIA.....

ONTVANG van  
RECEIVED from

*Dr. A. Merensky.*

die som van  
the sum of

*Twee duisend vyfhonderd.*

Ponde  
Pounds

Shillings  
Shillings

Pennies, in betaling  
Pence, in payment

van  
of

*Londse Biblioteek (Geneeskunde)*

*(nie vofilm)*

£ ~~2500:0:0~~

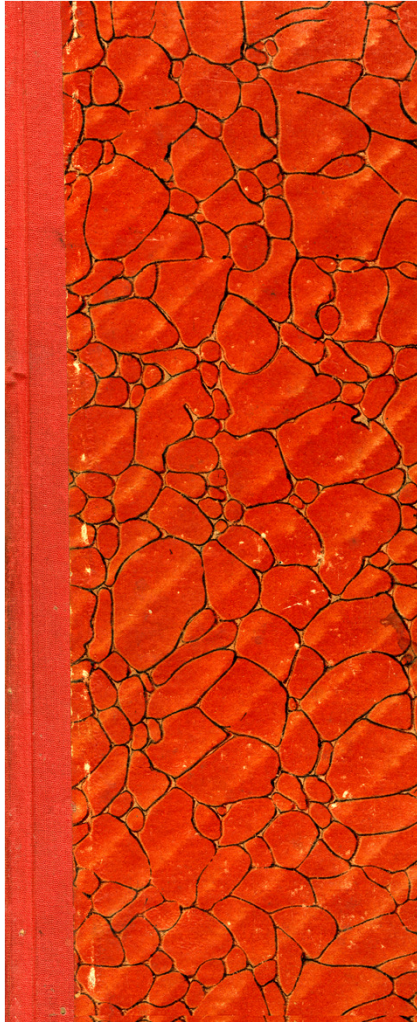
*J. J. van der Merwe*

REKENMEESTER / ACCOUNTANT

W-P.



# Personal financial statement book, Cheque book and cheque



**August Thyssen - Bank Aktiengesellschaft**  
BERLIN W 8, Behrenstraße 8

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№ 014676 — № 014700

Bedingungen für den Scheckverkehr.

Nenne jeder bei Zahlungsaufträgen an seine Bank die Bankverbindung des Zahlungsempfängers!

1. Scheckbücher werden bei Beginn des Scheckverkehrs gegen besondere Empfangsbescheinigung ausgehändigt. Weiterhin erfolgt die Aushändigung gegen Empfangsbescheinigung auf dem in jedem Scheckbuch eingehafteten Vordruck. Der Empfänger eines Scheckbuches hat dieses bei Empfang auf Vollständigkeit zu prüfen.
2. Die Scheckbücher sind mit besonderer Sorgfalt aufzubewahren. Das Abhandenkommen von Scheckvordrucken oder des Vordruckes der Empfangsbescheinigung ist der kontoführenden Stelle unverzüglich schriftlich mitzuteilen. Unbrauchbar gewordene Vordrucke sind der kontoführenden Stelle zurückzuliefern oder ihr mit genauer Nummernangabe zu bezeichnen. Nicht benutzte Vordrucke sind der kontoführenden Stelle auf deren Verlangen jederzeit, bei der Beendigung der Geschäftsverbindung auch unaufgefordert, unverzüglich am Kassenschalter zurückzugeben oder „eingeschrieben“ zurückzusenden.
3. Die Scheckvordrucke sind deutlich und sorgfältig auszufüllen. Der Scheckbetrag ist in Ziffern und Buchstaben so einzurücken, daß nachträglich nichts hinzugeschrieben werden kann.
4. Die Bank ist befugt, aber nicht verpflichtet, die Berechtigung des Einreichers des Schecks oder der Empfangsbescheinigung zu prüfen.
5. Als Einlösung durch Verrechnung sieht die Bank auch eine Überweisung auf Reichsbank-Giro-, Postscheck- oder Bankkonto an.
6. Alle Folgen und Nachteile des Abhandenkommens, der mißbräuchlichen Verwendung, der Fälschung und Verfälschung von Schecks, Scheckvordrucken und des Vordruckes der Empfangsbescheinigung trägt der Kontoinhaber. Die Bank haftet nur für nachgewiesenes Verschulden und nur in dem Maße, als es im Verhältnis zu andern Ursachen an der Entstehung des Schadens mitgewirkt hat.

Die beste Zahlungsform ist die Zahlung durch Verrechnungsschecks!

Nenne jeder auf seinen Briefbogen und Rechnungen die Bankverbindung des Zahlungsempfängers!

No. \_\_\_\_\_ *18<sup>th</sup> July 1953*

*Received from* \_\_\_\_\_

*the sum of* \_\_\_\_\_ *Five* Pounds

\_\_\_\_\_ *Shillings and* \_\_\_\_\_ Pence

*Section Maddison: Wilson Hammonds*

*certified paid out: W. Maddison*

*D. E. ...*

*£5.-.-*

# MERENSKY - TRUST SKENK £41,000

**OOK na sy dood bly dr. Hans Merensky die groot wel-  
doener van die land wat hy in sy hele lewe was.**

In die trust-akte het hy bepaal dat van sy fortuin wat hy deur die ontdekking van die diamante in Namaqualand as ook van die platina, chroom-fosfaat- en vermikuletafsetting in Transvaal gemaak het, £410,000 aan famielielede, vriende werknemers en vir sekere ander doelwitte uitbetaal word.

Die res van sy fortuin sal tien jare na sy dood, d.w.s. op 21 Okt. 1962, in die Hans Merensky-stigting omskep word, en die fondse moet aangewend word om mee te help met die ontwikkeling van die hulpbronne van Suidelike Afrika.

Behalwe kontant bestaan hierdie fortuin, na Die Vaderland verneem, uit die plaas Westphalia,

naby Duiwelskloof, en ander plase, belange in 'n groot houtsaak en 'n inmaakfabriek as ook beleggings in mynmaatskappye.

Die kuratore van die Merensky-trust kondig nou die eerste uitbetalings onder die trust-akte aan. Eyna £41,000 word vir opvoedkundige en hieldadighedsdoelwitte beskikbaar gestel. Dr.

## Bly Weldoener Na Sy Dood

Merensky, wat die seun van 'n Duitse sendeling was, het 'n deel van hierdie geld bestem vir Duitse sendinggenootskappe en skole, maar daar is ook ruim voorsiening vir Afrikaanse inrigtings gemaak. Nie minder nie as £5,000 word aan drie Afrikaanse universiteite uitbetaal. Die Vaderland se Strandfonds het 'n tje van £250 ontvang.

Aan blanke werknemers van dr. Merensky en sy maatskappye word £49,320 uitgekeer, aan naturellewerknemers £1,600, aan famielielede £73,750 en aan vriende en bevriende sakemanne £70,982.13.10.

Die volgende individuele skenkings word aangekondig: Berlyne sendinggenootskap £3,500, Hermannsburgse sendinggenootskap £1,000, Universiteit Stellenbosch se algemene fonds £1,500 en sy fakulteit van bosbou £500, Universiteit Pretoria, se Merensky-biblioteek £2,000, Universiteit Potchefstroom se biblioteekfonds £1,000, Universiteit Witwatersrandse geologiese fakulteit £1,000, Suid-Afrikaanse Vrouefederasie se, Oue Tuis op Duiwelskloof £1,000, Krasminnigting Tsaneem £1,500, algemene armsorg van Afrikaanse kerke in provinsies en Suidwes-Afrika £3,000, Duitse skole Johannesburg en Pretoria £1,500 elk, Duitse skool Kroondal £1,000, Duitse skool Windhoek £1,500, St. Martini Skool, Kaapstad £1,500, Duitse skool Gerdau £500, Boy Scouts en Girl Guides £250 elk, Voortrekkers £500, Suid-Afrikaanse Rooikruisvereniging £500, St. John Ambulans £500, S.A. Noodhulpstig £500, Heilskole £500, Y.W.C.A. £500, Y.W.C.A. £500 Y. W. C. A. Nasionale Raad £500, S.A. Verpleegsterstrustfonds £500, Geologiese Vereniging van S.A. £500, S.A. Bessouvereniging £500, Johannesburg Children Home £500, Langlaagte-weeshuis £500, Duitse Weeshuis, die Vliakte, Kaap, £250, S.A. Raad vir Kinderwese £1,500, Nasionale Peningsfonds £500, S.A. Kreupelsorgvereniging £250, Douglas Smit-hospitaal Shilwane £500, Duiwelskloof-hospitaal vir nuwe krasminnigting £1,500, Duiwelskloof-biblioteek £250, Worcesterse skool vir doofstommes £250, St. John-ooghospitaal £250, S.A. Nasionale Raad vir Doves £250, S.A. Nasionale Raad vir Greesiesiektes £250, S.A. Nasionale Raad vir Blindes £250, St. Dunstons £250, Star Seaside Pond £250, Die Vaderland se Strandfonds £250, C.S.V. £250, S.A.

Joodse Fonds £250, Vereniging teen diere mishandeling £250, S.A. Vereniging vir Wildbeskerming £250, Duitse Vrouevereniging Pretoria £500, Duitse Vrouevereniging Windhoek £500, Duitse Vrouevereniging Johannesburg £500, Kinderwelynsvereniging van Johannesburg £100.

# Newspaper clippings

## THE MAN WHO IS PAINTING SOUTH AFRICA GREEN Hills Crowned With Gum Trees

"Sunday Times" Special Correspondent

**DR. HANS MERENSKY**, famous as the geological discoverer of the Lydenburg platinum fields and of the diamond fields of Namaqualand, can look from the stoep of his house on the hill at Westphalia, Northern Transvaal, and see a million gum trees on his estate.

He is one of the men who have crowned the hills of the Northern Transvaal with trees. Long before he went to Westphalia the estate was already a landmark as the home of Sir Lionel Phillips, who had planted thousands of gums on the hills. Dr. Merensky added to the trees and added beauty to Westphalia.

Sometimes from his business in Johannesburg he slips home to watch the results of experiments which he has undertaken — experiments which will help in the development of South Africa.

Often he goes over to his estate in Mecklenburg, Germany, but even there half his mind is on Westphalia, for the experiments in Mecklenburg are linked with those in the Transvaal hills.

He has planted at Westphalia a plantation of yellow-wood trees.

He intends to grow avocado pears all the year round.

He is experimenting with perennial grasslands.

He is now building a dam which will cost £20,000.

Dr. Merensky was not home when I called. The road to the homestead runs through a rare avenue of gums.

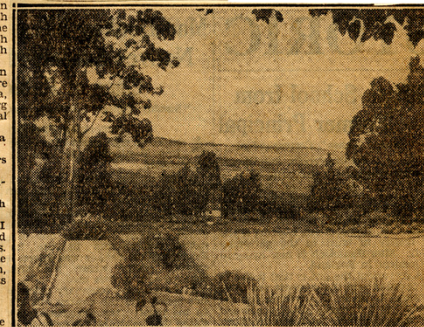
The house lies among trees. The gardens are brilliant. One of his men, a German, told me of the experiments at Westphalia.

Valuable Wood

"Dr. Merensky intends to show the value of yellow-wood plantations," I was told. "At one time in the Union the wood was used a great deal for making furniture, and old pieces still prove how durable the yellow-wood is."

In his efforts to produce the perennial avocado pear he is within sight of success. Ten varieties of pear are already at Westphalia.

"It is the same with getting pastures all the year round," his man said. "He has brought seeds from Mecklenburg. He has grown meales in Germany. He knows sell as few men know it. He made a fortune in the Union and he is giving it back in experiments to benefit the country in the future."



**VALE OF A MILLION TREES** — The view from Dr. Merensky's house at Westphalia, Northern Transvaal.



HOTEL KAISERHOF

BERLIN W 8

AM WILHELM- UND ZIETHENPLATZ  
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**RECEIVED**  
9 - FEB 1939

No. .... Encl. ....

BERLIN W 8, den 28. 1. 39

Toll ich wieder im Berliner Hotel schreiben?

Lieber Carl Fier!

Bin im tollen Parken. Am Nachmittage gehts nach Genne.  
 Möchte in Capstadt gleich mit dem Kots Train nach Jolly.  
 Habe nichts Interessantes für Lektüre. Fahre lieber später dann  
 extra nach Kapstadt. Bitte beachtliche Rossboven das ich  
 komme.  
 Großdies ist Peck. Werte schreiben im wörtl. und örtl. Teil  
 nachzulassen.  
 Die Phlogopit Platten sind untersucht, Resultat sehr gut.  
 Falls nach den Aufschlüssen sich viel gute Stücke zeigen  
 so sieht denn irgend möglich das Material der Thorophet Ges.  
 in dem der Glimmer vollkommen. ehe ich komme.  
 Der Wert des ganzen Vorkommens kann für uns nach  
 den letzten günstigen Feststellungen sehr gross werden.  
 Bewein Nette freut sich auf die Reise so dass es mir  
 eine grosse Freude ist ihr Alles zu zeigen den Männern.  
 Herzliche Grüsse Euch Allen, besonders Nati.  
 Dein Hans.

# Handwritten German Letter

THE HANS MERENSKY TRUST.

SECTION : R. OELOFSE.

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS TO NON-EUROPEAN  
EMPLOYEES MADE IN TERMS OF CLAUSE  
7(c) OF DEED OF TRUST EXECUTED BY THE  
LATE DR. HANS MERENSKY ON 4th MAY 1948  
AS AMENDED BY DEED DATED 6th FEBRUARY  
1952.



DATE 1953.	EMPLOYEES NAME	AMOUNT PAID	EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE.
---------------	-------------------	----------------	-----------------------

HEADBOYS:

	✓ Jim Kapa	£10. 0. 0.	.....
<i>On leave for 3 months</i>	<i>received on behalf of</i> Abraham Esambi	£10. 0. 0.	..... <i>R. Oelofse</i> .....
	✓ Sam B.B.	£10. 0. 0.	.....

30 0 0

OTHER EMPLOYEES:

	✓ Piet Mashaba	£ 5. 0. 0.	.....
	✓ Kandulu	£ 5. 0. 0.	.....
	✓ Jim Madume	£ 5. 0. 0.	.....
	✓ Frans Rasenga	£ 5. 0. 0.	.....
<i>in hospital</i>	<i>received on behalf of</i> ✓ Jim Maraseta	£ 5. 0. 0.	..... <i>R. Oelofse</i> .....
	✓ Whiskey Pegula	£ 5. 0. 0.	.....
	✓ Frans Masemba	£ 5. 0. 0.	.....
	✓ Janus Phiri	£ 5. 0. 0.	.....
	✓ Wilson Kasamula	£ 5. 0. 0.	.....
	✓ Ngwangoe	£ 5. 0. 0.	.....
<i>On leave for 3 months</i>	<i>received on behalf of</i> ✓ Abraham Mohalie	£ 5. 0. 0.	..... <i>R. Oelofse</i> .....
	✓ Jim Masilo	£ 5. 0. 0.	.....
	✓ John Kashaan	£ 5. 0. 0.	.....
	✓ Mackson	£ 5. 0. 0.	.....
	✓ Phillip Mapiet	£ 5. 0. 0.	.....
	✓ Andries	£ 5. 0. 0.	.....
	✓ William Shorty	£ 5. 0. 0.	.....
	✓ William Mohalie	£ 5. 0. 0.	.....
	✓ Jim Nakampie	£ 5. 0. 0.	.....
	✓ Gilbert	£ 5. 0. 0.	.....
	✓ Jacob Lewepie	£ 5. 0. 0.	.....

# Hans Merensky Trust

# Telegrams

M21/1566 30,000 Pkts. 11/20 S.A.E.P. Co. Ltd. 46679

**UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.—UNIE VAN ZUID-AFRIKA.  
POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.  
A. POSTTELEGRAAFDIENST.**

No. of Message..... T. 20.

Prefix.....Code.....	Class.....		Stamps to be affixed here and obliterated by clear impressions of Office Date Stamp.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.	Words.	Sent.	
	Charge.	At.....M	A Receipt for the Charges on this Telegram can be obtained, price one penny. Een kwitantie voor de kosten van dit telegram kan verkregen worden, prijs één penny.
		To.....	
		By.....	

**From—Van**

*Please Write Distinctly.  
Duidelik Schrijven a.u.b.*

**To—Aan**

Merensky.

Hornemann.

Springbok.

Wired	you	fifty	pounds	National
Bank	Springbok	to	enable	you
further	investigation	property	mentioned	to
Colliers	until	my	arrival.	

**N.B.**—The Department is not liable for losses incurred through incorrect transmission, delay, or non-delivery of telegrams.  
**N.B.**—Het Departement is niet aansprakelik voor schade ontstaan door onjuiste overseining, vertraging of niet-aflevering van telegrammen.

Signature of Sender *D. Merensky*  
Handtekening van Afzender  
Address *19 Central House*  
Adres *Vimondaleth.*

*5.7.27.*

# Telegrams

## T. 27. POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.—POS-TELEGRAAFDIENS.

§ G.P.-S.1695—1938—100,000-200. 8.

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Traffic Serial No. Verkeers-	Class. Klas.	Handed in at—	Ingelewer te—	Words. Woords.	Date. Datum.	Time of Handing in. Tyd van Inlewering.	Office Stamp.
AJB21	B	BERLIN	14 18	1430	<i>Mer. W. Schmidt</i>		
Route—		Route—		Service Instructions—		Diensaanwysing—	
Received, Omsvang At Om From Van By Door		TO AAN		RECEIVED 19 DEC 1938 <i>7000</i>		KANTOORSTAMPSEL JOHANNESBURG DEC 19 1938	
		GRANITE JOHANNESBURG				To Na By Deur	

PLEASE SEND THYSSEN BANK PARCELPÖST  
 VERMICULITE WITH COUNTRY ROCK FROM DEEPEST  
 SHAFT = MERENSKY

Doubtful words may be repeated. The Repetition Fee will be refunded if error in transmission is disclosed. This form should accompany any inquiry.  
 Twyfelagtige woorde kan herhaal word. Indien aan 'n seinfout te wyte, word die koste van die herhaling terugbetaal. Hierdie vorm moet alle navrae vergees.



# War Postcards Front and back





Hans Merensky

on his daily walk





# Bell from Botshabelo 1925



# The funeral



# Hans Merensky Memorial



# Dr. Hans Merensky – bibliography from Impala Publication – 17 February 1967

TZANEEN/ IMPALA 17th February, 1967.

HANS MERENSKY

Hans Merensky was born on 22 March 1871: his father was a missionary in the Transvaal Republic and returned to Germany while Hans was a young boy. There Hans received his education and trained as an engineer and geologist. He returned to South Africa to become not only a geologist of world repute, but a prominent prospector and pioneer.

Dr Merensky was the first to investigate thoroughly the possibilities of large-scale gold mining in Rhodesia. From there he went to South West Africa, where he was the first geologist to inspect the newly discovered diamond deposits. He also visited Portuguese East Africa, where he directed prospecting and discovered a large deposit of coal.

His discoveries were numerous. In 1924 platinum was discovered in the district of Lydenburg, Transvaal, and Merensky's decision to trace what is called the Merensky Reef to Potgietersrust and eventually to Rustenburg, revealed the richest platinum-bearing reefs in the world. Platinum was more prized than gold, so Merensky was referred to as the 'Wizard Geologist'.

In 1926 diamonds were discovered in Namaqualand and Merensky's theory that the diamonds originated from an undersea pipe, the Oyster Line Theory, was proved in 1927 when the diamond area in Alexander Bay was discovered.

Advancing years and a hard life left him a tired man and he bought Westfalia, an estate in the mountains outside Duivelskloof, in the northern Transvaal.

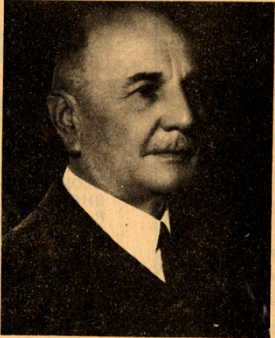
He intended putting away his prospecting tools, and for seven years he did not look at them. Then he became interested in the Orange Free State, where he conducted geophysical tests. After the discovery of gold, and because he had no intention of settling down to gold mining, he was chasing another mineral, chrome, and was rewarded. Then followed vermiculite, and once again the Wizard Geologist was successful when he laid bare one of the

largest vermiculite deposits in the world.

When World War II broke out, Merensky retired for the second time to Westfalia. The Hans Merensky dam was built to serve his farm and those of neighbours. But it was not the end of his geological ventures — he could not make a more triumphant exit than when he discovered vast phosphate deposits in the northern Transvaal, able to meet South Africa's need for the next century! Their value is estimated to be roughly R600, 000, 000.

During his lifetime Merensky was anxious that others should benefit from his 'windfall' and he turned philanthropist. Various educational authorities were given substantial donations. Before he died on 20 October 1952, he decided to vest 90 per cent of his fortune in a trust, to be known as the Hans Merensky Trust, to provide loans for individuals and institutions to carry out research in various fields. All the operations on his beloved Westfalia were to be carried on and not stopped after his death.

Hans Merensky is the most spectacular figure in South African geology. His enterprise and fantastic discoveries contributed substantially to the progress of this country. He was awarded the Draper Memorial Medal, the highest geological award of the South African Geological Society. Various honorary degrees and medals were bestowed on him, in this country as well as overseas.



DR HANS MERENSKY



Jane Plotz.

# Preparation for the digitisation of the Hans Merensky Collection



# Completion of the Merensky Collection

