

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
Department of Library  
Services

# SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

*“Research and Reflection”*



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# BACKGROUND

- The Special Collections Unit dates from 1932, when it was first decided to build an Africana collection.
- Through various donations, particularly of entire, private book collections, the unit grew into what it is today.
- Our largest category of collections is our African Heritage Collections, comprised mainly of book collections, but also including some important archival collections.
- The Struggle Collection, which falls under the African Heritage Collections is a priority when it comes to our collection development and growth.



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# Research - The Struggle Collection

The Struggle History Collection became a consolidated collection after an audit of the individual collections we curate showed how certain collections could naturally be categorised together. This collection is one of our collection development priorities, particularly in terms of filling gaps in the collection and the decolonisation of the collections in general.

Thus far the collection comprises mainly archival collections, all of which have been digitised and are openly available on the University's institutional repository, UPSpace. However, during the course of this year we have received donations of various books and pamphlets which will also be added to this collection.

This is a unique collection with high research value and it is hoped that the consolidation, development, and improved accessibility and visibility of the Struggle Collection will generate new and diverse research projects.



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# Existing Collections

## 1. Rumpff Collection

- 3 volumes of court proceedings pertaining to the 1956 Treason Trial, a precursor to the Rivonia Treason Trial. In December 1956, 156 people, including Nelson Mandela, were arrested in a raid and accused of treason. The trial was held in Johannesburg from 1956 until 1961 and all the defendants were found not guilty. Some of these defendants were later convicted in the Rivonia Trial.
- two newspaper articles, appeal documents and the verdict of the Lesley Sikweyiya case.
- a collection of works and writings by Judge Rumpff.

## Black driver's plea to judge saves son from gallows

By CHRISTOPHER MUNNION in Johannesburg

A 21-YEAR-OLD Black man walked free from death row in a Pretoria prison after his father, a taxi-driver had won him an appeal hearing by making a late-night call at the home of South Africa's Chief Justice.

Lesley Sikweyiya, who watched 130 prisoners go to the gallows in his 10 months in Pretoria Central Prison, said yesterday:

"For months and months I prayed and prayed, asking God for my life. He gave it to me."

Mr Sikweyiya was sentenced to death for murdering a man with a screwdriver outside a nightclub in Bloemfontein in August last year. An application for leave to appeal was rejected.

But his father, Mr Mangaliso Sikweyiya, a 49-year-old part-time minister in his local church, believed there was still hope.

"I was desperate. My wife was very ill and everything was going wrong for my family," he said. "My lawyers told me there was not hope. The case was cut and dried."

### Conflicting evidence

Mr Sikweyiya went to the Supreme Court himself and bought a copy of the court record. He studied it and made notes of what he considered was conflicting evidence.

Then he went to the Bloemfontein home of the Chief Justice, Mr Justice Rumpff.

"At first I made a fool of myself," he said. "I met a guard, a white man, who I thought was the judge."

The guard took him to the back of the house and left him with the maid. "The servant said she would introduce me to Mrs Rumpff, who came through and listened to my story. Judge

Rumpff arrived about an hour later."

"I told him about the case . . . he was astonished and promised he would investigate the case," Mr Sikweyiya said.

Later the Appeal Court set aside the conviction.



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RIVONIA TRIAL : RIVONIA VERHOOR : 1963 - 1964



Front Row f. l. l. r. KLUSMAN, E., Adv. KROG, A.J., Dr. YUTAR, P., Adv. NAUDE, J.J.M., VORSTER, T.B. (Prosecutors/Aanklaers.)  
 Voorste Ry v. l. l. r.  
 Back Row f. l. l. r. D/W/O/S/A/O ERASMUS, G.N., Lt./Luit. van WYK, W.P.J., D/W/O/S/A/O DIRKER, C.J., D/Sgt. S/Sers. du PREEZ P.J.  
 Agerste Ry v. l. l. r. (Investigating Officers/Ondersoek Beampstes.) Const./Konst. BEZUIDENHOUT, P.J.J. (Administrative/Administratief)

1952

Die foto van ons som en boer, aan haar goeie herinneringe en  
 my mens-woorde van myn Mandela:  
 "Ado Maude, u was die enigste persoon, sydens die rehoor,  
 wat mi my menswaardigheid aangetas het nie."  
 Daarna, in handdruk, voordat hy die stappies na die selle  
 afgelei is, in die Pleis van Justisie vordjare op Kotten-  
 eland.

Don Marion, sekte 15 Augustus 1985, 52 jaar jank.

From the Rumpff Collection



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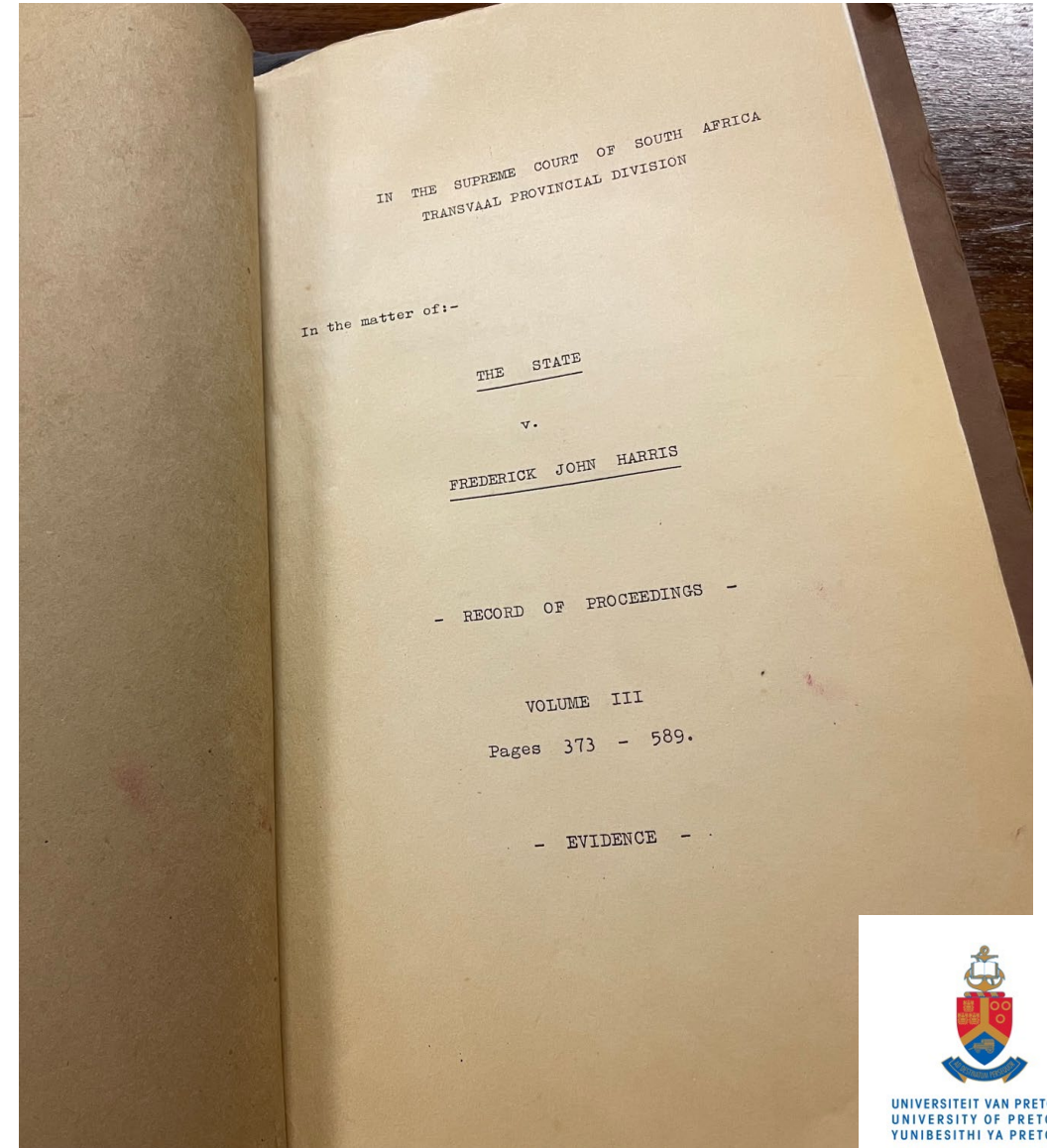
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## 2. Station Bomb Trial Collection

Frederick John Harris was a South African school teacher and anti-apartheid campaigner, who carried out a bomb attack on the Johannesburg railway station in 1964, in which one person was killed and 23 injured. He was tried at the Supreme Court of South Africa and was executed in 1965, the first and only white man to be executed for a politically inspired act in resistance to apartheid.

This collection consists of 5 volumes of trial transcriptions.



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### 3. Delmas Trial Collection

The Delmas Treason Trial was one of the lengthiest political trials in South African history, running from 16 October 1985 to 18 November 1988. The trial led to the conviction of four defendants on treason charges, and seven others were convicted of terrorism, with sentences ranging from five to eleven years in prison. The Appellate Division overturned their convictions at the end of 1989.

This collection consists of 88 boxes of court transcriptions.



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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA  
TRANSCVAAL PROVINCIAL DIVISION

In the matter of:-

THE STATE

v.

FREDERICK JOHN HARRIS

- RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS -

VOLUME I

Pages 1 - 205.

- EVIDENCE -

IN DIE HOOGGEREGSHOF VAN SUID-AFRIKA **Ass. 2**  
(TRANSCVAALSE PROVINSIALE AFDELING)

SAAKNUMMER: CC 482/85

DELMAS

BETHAL

1985-10-16

DIE STAAT teen:

PATRICK MABUYA BALEKA EN 21

ANDER

VOOR:

SY EDELE REGTER VAN DIJKHORST EN

ASSESSORE: MNR. W.F. KRUGEL

PROF. W.A. JOUBERT

NAMENS DIE STAAT:

ADV. P.B. JACOBS

ADV. P. FICK

ADV. W. HANEKOM

NAMENS DIE VERDEDIGING:

ADV. A. CHASKALSON

ADV. G. BIZOS

ADV. K. TIP

ADV. Z.M. YACOOB

ADV. G.J. MARCUS

TOLK:

MNR. B.S.N. SKOSANA

KLAGTE:

(SIEN AKTE VAN BESKULDIGING)

PLEIT:

AL DIE BESKULDIGDES: ONSKULDIG

KONTRAKTEURS:

LUBBE OPNAMES

VOLUME A

(Bladsye 1 - 46 )

From the Station Bomb Trial Collection

From the Delmas Trial Collection



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# Recent Acquisitions

1. A speech delivered by Dr William Nkomo in July 1954, recorded on two double-sided acetate records
2. 16 editions of *Die Nuwe Stem*, a pre-apartheid Afrikaans radical leftist newspaper
3. Various relevant books, booklets and pamphlets, a large number of which were published by the S.A. Institute for Race Relations



Dr W. F. Nkomo speech



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# Reflection - The Van Warmelo Collection

The Van Warmelo Collection comprises over 57 000 pages of writings, concerning different South African indigenous groups, collected whilst Van Warmelo was in the employment of the Department of Bantu affairs. These include manuscripts on the Xhosa, Zulu, Swazi, Tsonga, South Sotho (Sesotho, Tswana, North-Sotho (Sepedi)) and Venda (Tshivenda), the majority of which were written in the original language. These manuscripts include detailed information about the history, traditions, way of life, dress, laws, warfare and religion of the groups as well as the traditional life-stages that an individual goes through from birth to death.

The Special Collections Unit has collaborated with SA Heritage Publishers, who are currently undertaking the translation of the collection into English. The *Ancestral Voices* project is an enormous undertaking, as it involves transcribing and translating over 800 manuscripts. SA Heritage Publishers are also tracing descendants of the original authors of the manuscripts. This significant collection has preserved what was previously thought to be unwritten history, in a written form.



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Bundel		Outeur		Manuskrip	
No	Naam	No	Serie No	Titel	
<b>Xhosa</b>					
0	M M Balfour	11/3	132	Gcaleka history and customs	
1	S T Mnto	11/15	50	History and customs of Amatshezi	
2	S T Mhluzana	11/19	92	Hlubi history and custom	
3	A T Z Mbebe	11/21	87	History of the Hlubi	
	A T Z Mbebe	11/21	290	History of the Hlubi of Mt Fletcher, their country and some customs and law.	
4	M Nkopo	11/23	67	History of the Thembu and some customs.	
5	H D Mancotywa	11/28	84	Thembu custom.	
6	D J Mapekula	11/29	85	Bhaca history and incube.	
7	I B Gqwabaza	11/31	57	Hlubi history	
8	M A Dlamini	11/36	144	Bhaca history	
9	J Makalima	11/40	462	Various customs of the Fingo of Umtata district	
10	J Makalima	11/40	774	Account of Thembu law and custom.	
11	do	do	do		
12	T K Jubase	11/46	200	Mpondomise of Qumbu, history.	
<b>Zulu</b>					
13	R J A Magagula	13/1	35	Umulandu namasiko abantu	
14	R Dhlomo	13/3	152	Various items (22) of Zulu custom and four histories of the Bhaca, Sibiya, Sikhakhana and Cele.	
15	J F Mucunu	13/12	101	Ukuhlabela amadlozi (Zulu custom)	

Digitised by the Open Scholarship &amp; Digitisation Programme, University of Pretoria, 2016

The original Van Warmelo finding aid

132

K11/3 M. Balfour.

93

K11/3

1-93\*

PP-1793  
 M. M. Balfour K11/3 K11/3. 1  
 11/32 M. M. Balfour wase Teko Springs  
 slyngu-ke Bhunga.  
 Make Senze intshayelelo  
 fambisi Kokuba Sibalise.  
 Kacube ke wogonda umhlekarzi  
 ukuba imbali zama Xosa hezi-  
 qcinwa ngeentloko, zingabhalwa-  
 Nam ndandi hali-selwa ngu-  
 hawo u Makapela into ka Noyi  
 ssibonda sase Teko Springs kwisi  
 tili Sakwa Centane owa qgiba  
 ikulu sine Shumi ubudala (100)  
 ndapinda ndabaliselwa ngu-Nggaba  
 into ka Ncontso Edikeri ngo-  
 1888 Sifunda E Howardale Sinento  
 zo Mzimba David, No S. Honono  
 Ono William Botman Matchikwe  
 C. Koli Nkanye. Lamabali Siwatata  
 nako Tshuka, Matayo, Amalego naba-  
 nye. Ke sakunana sitata imilibo  
 ngaminye kwihali likantu.  
 ndaye-andisi ali-ngakubi-ndingcani!

masitane imveli Sibalise ngayo  
 Babesiti ababalisi isizwe esim-  
 nyama sapuma kunyana omnei  
 ka Nam ikhulwa ngu Kanana, Sa-  
 za ukwa hlekana kwezizwe.

A page from the manuscript MM Balfour/  
11.300/132/Gcaleka history and customsUNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
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# Conclusion – Hidden Treasures

The Struggle Collection and the Van Warmelo Collection are prime examples of how collections that have previously been regarded as less important can become our most valued research resources.

Periodic reflection and re-evaluation of our collections provides opportunities to rediscover hidden treasures.



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