



AL3045 - The Jill Geber Collection

Call Number: AL3045
Title: The Jill Geber Collection
SubTitle:
Creator: Unknown
Origination: Jill Geber
Inclusive Dates: 1980-1992
Bulk Dates:
Extent: 0.1 linear metre (1 archival box)
Language: English
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Access Restrictions: This collection is open for research
Use Restrictions: Copyright restrictions may apply. See SAHA copyright statement for Use Restrictions.
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Abstract: After graduating from the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg, Jill Geber studied for a South African Diploma in Archival Science from 1983-1985. She completed a Masters dissertation on the South African Archives Service through the University College of London. Her motivation to study the archive grew out of a concern for preserving information in light of the changes taking place in South Africa. Geber realised the threat posed by the destruction of records by the previous government in the transition period to democracy.

Introduction

In Jill Geber's words:

I was born in Johannesburg in 1961, studied history and theology at Natal University, Pietermaritzburg 1980-82. After graduating, I attempted to study independently for the South African Diploma in Archival Science, from 1983-85. When I completed the theory courses of the diploma in 1985, I was working in Transkei. I needed to work in an accredited Archives Depot to complete the practical part of the course. As the Transkei Archives Depot was set up by the SA Archives Service and its archivists trained by the SA Archives Service, I asked whether I could complete my training there, but was turned down.

At the same time, I became increasingly opposed to the apartheid regime in the charged climate of the States of Emergency of 1985-1986. As someone deeply interested in archives and the evidential value of their political and historical content, I began to wonder what might happen to such archives in South Africa.

A significant proportion of the archives and current records contained a mass of unique documentary evidence, including the exact details of decades of the oppressive policies of the apartheid regime.

If the regime were overthrown by a revolution as seemed a real possibility then, I was convinced that (if the track-record of similar oppressive regimes was anything to go by) the regime would try to destroy as much evidence as possible before its fall.

I decided to study for the MA in Overseas Archive Studies at University College London, to get an independent training and investigate the subject of the future of the South African Archives from outside of South Africa.

In London I was able consult the views of ANC officials and supporters and formulate some observations, propose some scenarios and strategies on how archivists might to deal with the situation and hopefully prevent archival disaster. These ideas were developed further as I completed the course in 1986-87 and my MA thesis was entirely devoted to an exploration of the SA Archives Service, its past, present and future.

Notes

This collection was donated by Dr Jill Gerber to the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It documents the



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research made by Dr Gerber whilst writing up her MA in Overseas Archive Study during the period 1986 to 1992. Notebooks and correspondence outline the details of the research process.

Classification

- A: Notebook and Notes
- B: Correspondence
- C: Publications
- D: Miscellaneous

Inventory

- A: Notebook and Notes
 - A1: Master's thesis notebook
 - A2: Points concerning decision to take the MA in Overseas Archive and Records Management
 - A3: Points concerning MA course
 - A4: Preliminary notes for thesis
 - A5: List of correspondent's addresses
 - A6: MA thesis proposal
 - A7: Points for discussion
 - A8: Full details of proposed studies
 - A9: Statement in support of application
 - A10: Education background and CV
- B: Correspondence
 - B1: Incoming June 1982 - May 1992
[June 1982 - May 1992]
 - B2: Outgoing August 1985 - June 1992
[August 1985 - June 1992]
- C: Publications
 - C1: By Jill Geber
 - C1.1: A survey of the Evolution of the Administrative Structure for the Control of African People in South Africa 1910 - 1986
[1910 - 1986]
 - C1.2: Guide to South African Sources in the Public Record Office. Kew, Richmond, Surrey
 - C1.3: A range of Sources Available for the Study of the African National Congress of South Africa
 - C1.4: National Register of Manuscripts (NAREM) South Africa
 - C1.5: MA in Overseas Archive Studies: Review and Development Proposal
 - C2: Others
 - C2.1: A Selective List of Documents Relating to Political Affairs in the Union of South Africa 1943 - 1957 held at the Public Records Office. Kew, Richmond, Surrey. Dominions Office and Commonwealth Relations Office
[1943 - 1957]
 - C2.2: The Southern African Materials Project 1973 - 1976. Compiled by Brian Willan. Edited by Patricia M Larby. University of London. Institute of Commonwealth Studies.
[1973 - 1976]
 - C2.3: Standing Conference on Library Materials on Africa. UK Library Resources for South African Studies. London, Scolma, 1984.



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- [1984]
- C2.4: Beyers, Coenraad. The State Archives of South Africa. Indian Archives Vol 1 No. 2. 1947. pp 109 - 113.
[1947]
- C2.5: Botha, C. Graham. The Public Archives - Their Value to Scientific Research. Value of Archives in South Africa. Presidential address to Section F, delivered July 11, 1924. pp 120 ? 130
[July 11, 1924]
- C2.6: Botha, C. Graham. The Science of Archives in South Africa. Presidential address delivered 5 July 1937. South African Journal of Science, Vol XXXIV, pp1-17, November 1937.
[5 July 1937]
- C2.7: Cilliers, JH. Dienslewering deur die Staatsargief. South African Archaeological Journal Vol 10, 1968. pp66-70.
[1968]
- C2.8: Cook, Michael. Archives Administration - A Manual for Intermediate and Smaller Organisations and for Local Government. 1977.
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- C2.9: Dominy, GA, The Education and Training of Staff Responsible for Manuscript Collections. Proceedings of the Symposium on Manuscripts in Southern Africa, 21-23 November 1984.
[21-23 November 1984]
- C2.10: Grimwood-Jones, Diana. British Library Acquisition of Material from the Third World. Library Acquisitions: Practice and Theory, Vol 7. pp71-79. 1983
[1983]
- C2.11: Van Gylswyk, A. Unisa Documentation for African Studies.
- C2.12: Harrod, LM. Librarians: Glossary. Gower. 1977.
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- C2.13: Johnston, IJ. The Zimbabwe Documentation Project. African Research and Documentation. No. 33. 1983.
[1983]
- C2.14: Ranger, T. Historians, Archives and the New Order. ECARBICA Proceedings. 1982.
[1982]
- C2.15: Kamba, Angeline S. and Mazikana, Peter C. Archive Repatriation in Southern Africa. Information Development, Vol 4, no. 2. April 1988.
[April 1988]
- C2.16: Kent and Lancour. Archives. The Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science.
- C2.17: Larby, Patricia M (Ed). New Directions in African Bibliography. Standing Conference on Library Materials on Africa. London. 1988.
[1988]
- C2.18: Leverton, BJT. The Archivist and the Genealogist. Africana Notes and News, Vol 16, No. 7. September 1965.
[September 1965]
- C2.19: Manyeli, M. The Role of Archives in a Developing Country. Pp63-67.
- C2.20: McIlwaine, John. Record Keeping in the Third World. UCL Bulletin.
- C2.21: Musembi, M. Poor Management a Critical Cause of Archival Under Development in the Third World. ECARBICA Journal Vol 6. October 1983.
[October 1983]
- C2.22: Otto, W. Die Argiefdiens se Bydrae tot die Ontwikkeling van die Transkei. SAAJ No. 6. 1964.
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- C2.23: Potgieter, M. Guides to Arranged Archives.
- C2.24: Smith, DJJ. Argiefadministrasie in Bantoetuislande. SAAJ. No.14. 1972.
[1972]
- C2.25: Cilliers, JH. The New Archives Act. SA Arch. Journal. No. 4. 1962.
[1962]
- C2.26: Bradlow, Frank R. The Importance of Accessibility to the Archives. Famlia VII. No. 1. 1970
[1970]
- C2.27: Archives Act of the Republic of South Africa (Act No. 6 of 1962). AS Arch Journal. No. 7. 1965.
[1962]
- C2.28: Chanaiwa, David. Historiographical traditions of southern Africa. The Historiography of Southern Africa. Proceedings of the Experts Meeting held at Gaborone, Botswana 7-11 March 1977. 1980.
[7-11 March 1977]
- C2.29: Davies, R., O'Meara, D., Dlamini. S. Ch 1: Setting the Scene. The Struggle for South Africa. Volume 1. 1984.
[1984]
- C2.30: South African Archives Fact Paper No. 58. May 1958.
[May 1958]
- C2.31: Marquard, L. People and Policies of South Africa. 1969.
[1969]
- C2.32: Catalogue of Parliamentary Papers. 1901-1910.
[1901-1910]
- C2.33: Kamba, Angeline S. Archives and National Development in the Third World. Information Development. Vol 3 No. 2. April 1987.
[April 1987]
- C2.34: Plissier, Ren. Comments on recent historical writings concerning Angola and Mozambique.

D: Miscellaneous

- D1: Newspaper clippings
- D2: Exam papers
- D3: Archival training information
- D4: Information on Julie Frederikse
- D5: Maps
- D6: Government administrative structures statistics and an organogram
- D7: Inventory for Francis Robert Moraes, Journalist and author
- D8: Motivation to computerize