

11 *A new university takes shape*

Professor A. J. H. van der Walt regarded the Act of 1951 as "an experiment in the field of higher education in South Africa". The novelty of the new legislation lay, as he told students in the university's annual journal for that year, in the organization of the University of South Africa, rather than in the nature of the work which it undertook. As he pointed out, nobody then questioned "the long-accepted principle of external university studies".

Although it was true enough that the principle of external study was no longer in question, it was by no means universally accepted that the University of South Africa should be the only institution to provide the tuition. Nor did everyone consider it to be the best. The commercial colleges still smarted over the terms of the original legislation which had placed a state-aided competitor in the market beside them. For some years, they and their supporters continued to snipe at the university and the government which helped to finance it, although by 1955, students were coming to see that enrolment for tuition with the University of South Africa had certain advantages. By that date, more than 75% of the 5 586 prospective candidates for its examinations were also making use of the tuition offered by it.

What the correspondence colleges still hoped for was representation on Council in the name of the students enrolled with them and representation on Senate by eight members, selected from a list to be submitted by them to the governing body of the university. They also pressed for a more equitable method of

examining students and had come to see certain advantages in the use of numbers instead of names on scripts. Changes in the examining system were, in fact, brought about by the university Senate, but not as a result of pressure from the commercial firms. As for the other demands of the correspondence undertakings, both the Director and the Registrar were, for once, in complete agreement.

“The implicit assumption”, said Langham Murray, “that the Division is just another correspondence college, of the same clay as the members of the association (of colleges), is an impertinence”. The commercial firms did not represent students, let alone a majority of them, as they claimed, but merely themselves. Professor van der Walt was equally opposed to allowing the colleges any official part in university affairs. Commercial gain could not be recognized in academic circles!

Members of the House of Assembly made what political capital they could out of the case. Among those who spoke out for the commercial firms were Dr A. H. Jonker of the United Party and his colleagues Mrs Margaret Ballinger and P. A. Moore. They attacked the University of South Africa on the ground that it was only a correspondence college itself, competing unfairly for students against other institutions which were in the field as business houses. It was alleged, not without justice, that it had never been government’s intention to allow the Division of External Studies to survive, unless it proved capable of paying its own way. And now the state was footing an increasingly heavy bill, while the new teaching section and the University of South Africa were almost synonymous. Why, the institution was not a university at all, in any recognized sense! It should at the very least bear the title of the “University of South Africa for External Studies”, as had earlier been proposed.

The title had not only been suggested by Dr van Rhijn, but also by Professor E. G. Malherbe, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Natal. Moreover, it had a good measure of support from the staffs of the other residential universities. Langham Murray was strongly opposed to any change of name

and in February, 1951, demolished the arguments put forward in favour of a new designation at the previous meeting of the Committee of University Principals. There, Professor H. R. Raikes of the University of the Witwatersrand – in general, a supporter of the Division of External Studies – considered that the existing name of the university was misleading and gave the impression to the uninitiated that it was the foremost institution of learning in the country. To which the Registrar replied that, in many ways, it was! Professor Malherbe's view was that the reformed university had no right to inherit the proud traditions of the federal University of South Africa which, after all, was really made up of its constituent colleges. But, said Murray, what of the external students, whose numbers were not so insignificant, even in federal days? Some of them – and, inevitably, he included Senator Brookes in a short list – had made the most valuable contributions to South African life. He further questioned the right of the Principals to voice any opinion on the subject and reminded them that many graduates who could in 1918 and again in 1930 have joined the Convocation of other universities, had elected to stay with the University of South Africa.

Professor van der Walt was equally determined to defend the old name, but Council initially accepted the need for change. As Professor Malherbe said in 1953, "in university circles generally, particularly overseas, it is regarded as anomalous even to give the name 'university' with power to grant degrees, to an institution of this type". The University of South Africa, shorn of its constituents, was no longer akin to its sister in New Zealand, then in its last years. Neither had it been designed to answer the demands of those who, like Professor P. R. Skawran of the University of Pretoria, wanted a post-graduate institution, on the lines of the Australian National University in Canberra, as originally conceived in 1946. It was, to many, quite inappropriate that a mere correspondence school should bear a national title.

However, much the same hostility had been shown when the

federal university was first named and government decided that the opinions of University of South Africa graduates should be sought before any change was made. Letters were therefore sent to a selection of them and replies were received from rather more than half of those approached. Most were against the substitution of a new title and the matter was accordingly dropped. The hostility died hard. As late as 1957, Professor W. G. Sutton, then Principal of the University of the Witwatersrand, expressed the view that correspondence tuition for degrees was not genuine university education and that it was doubtful whether qualifications earned in this way through the University of South Africa had the same value as those obtained at the nation's other universities. It must be confessed that even the most enthusiastic supporters of the Division of External Studies had usually taken the line that external students missed the many advantages of community life in a residential university. However, the assumption that degrees awarded by the University of South Africa were inferior incensed the Director and his staff. The representatives of the other universities on Senate were always there to prevent any lowering of standards. Moreover, Professor van der Walt had assembled a team of high quality to take charge of the various departments of study and the care with which lecturers continued to be selected contributed greatly to the success of the university's teaching section.

Many of the newcomers were to play a prominent part in the affairs of the University of South Africa and of other universities in the country. To the Department of Bantu Languages came the Stellenbosch graduate, J. A. Louw, and D. Ziervogel, with a doctorate from the University of Pretoria. The latter at length became head of the department. G. van N. Viljoen returned to the Department of Classics on a permanent basis, replacing O. von Weber as departmental head. T. A. van Dyk, who subsequently moved to Potchefstroom University, joined the Department of Psychology, while B. S. van As was appointed as the first permanent lecturer in the Department of Native Administration, of which he later became head. The Department of

Sociology, then still allied with Social Work, gained the services of H. L. Crause, who in time migrated to the University of Port Elizabeth. Rhodesian-born J. A. Cilliers worked with L. M. du Toit in the Department of Accounting and E. H. Venter came from the Free State to the Department of Education and was later appointed to the Chair of Empirical Education in the Faculty.

F. van den Bogaerde, who received his early education in the Netherlands and Switzerland, arrived from the University of Stellenbosch to join the Department of Economics of which he subsequently became head. B. J. van der Walt and D. F. I. van Heerden were appointed to the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics. The former was long to remain with the university; the latter moved to the University of the Orange Free State. Another lecturer appointed at this time – D. E. Nel of the Department of Geography – also went to the Bloemfontein university. His successor, M. J. Louw, later joined the staff of the institution which became the University of the North.

Expansion also necessitated the creation of new departments. There was, for example, a demand for a properly constituted department to provide courses in German. The second World War was then a recent memory and fears were expressed in the English language press in 1951 that a permanent lectureship in that field might be offered to Erich Holm, who had been an announcer on Germany's short-wave radio transmissions during the late global conflict. However, this appointment was not made and the post was at length filled by B. A. T. Schneider, who was born in Berlin and subsequently came out to South West Africa. He obtained a doctorate from the University of Stellenbosch and later became head of the Department of German. Dr Schneider had lecturing experience at both the University of Stellenbosch and the University of Cape Town.

Another development at the end of the Van der Walt period in the history of the modern university was the institution of Departments of Bibliography and Librarianship, later amalgamated as the Department of Library Science. The courses offered

were arranged by the head of the Department of Philosophy, Dr H. J. de Vleeschauwer, and the Librarian, H. Zastrau. The library itself was steadily expanding and by 1953, had over 45 000 items on its shelves. A comparison was made at this time with the Merensky Library of the University of Pretoria. This indicated that students and staff of the University of South Africa made rather greater use of the facilities offered there than did their counterparts at the neighbouring university. Staffing, however, remained a problem for many years and, as the Librarian said, "die afdeling het hulpeloos te min personeel". It was nevertheless growing slowly and among the newcomers in the last period of Professor van der Walt's leadership was H. F. van Broekhuizen, who at the time of his retirement in 1972 was in charge of the documentary and special collections.

The creation of professorships would considerably enhance the status of the Division of External Studies, but despite a growing demand in the early fifties from the teaching staff, the representatives of the other universities on Council and Senate showed great hesitation in approving the step. Even so good a friend of the university as G. P. Lestrade was not at all in favour of professorial appointments within the University of South Africa. He agreed that the lecturers might well be given some sort of title, but "Professor", never! Financial considerations also delayed the introduction of higher posts for the teaching staff for some time, since this was the period when the Holloway Commission was investigating university finances in general. However, in 1954, fourteen professorships were created, of which nine were filled immediately. Six of those appointed had been among the first lecturers of 1946 and early 1947. These were D. H. Cilliers, Edward Davis, D. J. de Villiers, C. F. J. Muller, A. S. Roux and H. J. J. M. van der Merwe. The other three had come a little later: H. J. de Vleeschauwer, F. E. Rädcl and Dirk Ziervogel. There were six southern Africans by birth, together with a Belgian, an Englishman and a German who had made their homes in this country.

Even before these posts had been approved, the lecturing staff

had been accorded a further mark of confidence. In 1951, the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Advocate H. F. Sampson of Rhodes, resigned and his place was taken by Advocate Dawid de Villiers of the Division of External Studies. This appointment was soon followed by that of D. H. Cilliers as Dean of the Faculty of Education in succession to J. Chr. Coetzee of Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education. Shortly afterwards, J. A. van der Walt of the Department of Sociology replaced Professor D. C. S. du Preez of Potchefstroom as Dean of the Faculty of Social Science. The time was not far distant when all Deans would be members of the university staff. Gradually, too, the Division of External Studies provided the Chairmen of the various committees of studies.

These were small gains in a university still dominated by the representatives of the more orthodox institutions of higher education in the country. Professor A. J. H. van der Walt's standing was not yet as high as many people felt it should be. To them, it was illogical that the most important figure in what had become a teaching university in the fullest sense was not automatically the leader of the academic Senate, even though that body and its Executive Committee were controlled by other universities. Such a move, however, aroused strong opposition from those who regarded it as an attempt to wean the University of South Africa from outside control. This hostility had by no means been overcome in April, 1952, although in that month, sufficient support for the Director was forthcoming to ensure his election as Chairman of Senate in succession to Professor Barker. Another milestone in the development of the university had been reached.

Further reorganization took place after the retirement of Langham Murray as Registrar at the end of March, 1953. He had carried out his duties in an exemplary manner throughout a long and difficult period and it was not surprising that he should have been asked to give his services to another university institution in a similar capacity. This was the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, today the University of Rhodesia.

Langham Murray had, however, always insisted in Pretoria that the administrative and teaching sections of the University of South Africa should be kept entirely separate. With his departure for Salisbury, Council could consider again whether a system which prevented the staff of the Division of External Studies from seeing the Registrar's records and the Registrar from advising students was, in fact, really necessary.

The Assistant Registrar, Petrus A. Taljaard, was chosen from 87 applicants for the Registrar's post. Langham Murray welcomed his successor in a valedictory which appeared in the 1953 edition of the journal, *Student*. "I have stepped down", he said, "from the platform; but Amurath to Amurath succeeds and the mantle of Elijah (a black silk gown, with a narrow facing of scarlet silk down each side in front - *Calendar* - 'Academic Dress') has fallen upon a worthy Elisha". The gown of office was not long to drape the new Registrar's shoulders. Later in 1953, Petrus Taljaard became a member of the Transvaal Provincial Council and was given leave of absence by the university until the end of 1954, by which time he was due to retire.

The Secretary of the Division of External Studies, B. F. J. van Rensburg, was appointed Registrar in an acting capacity and his duties as Secretary were taken over by the Chief Clerk, L. G. van der Merwe. These posts were made permanent in January, 1955, while two years later, the Secretary became the Assistant Registrar. The examining section, in deference to the views of the commercial colleges, was kept separate under the supervision of J. J. Brits. His task was an arduous one, as his colleague, A. J. Vorster, pointed out in an article published by *Student* in 1954. The previous year's degree examinations had involved the handling of about 30 000 scripts from more than 4 000 students writing at 550 centres in southern Africa and overseas.

The Director attended a conference on correspondence education in the United States of America in 1953. Soon after his return, he reached the then retiring age of 60. His services, however, were so valuable that Council persuaded him to remain

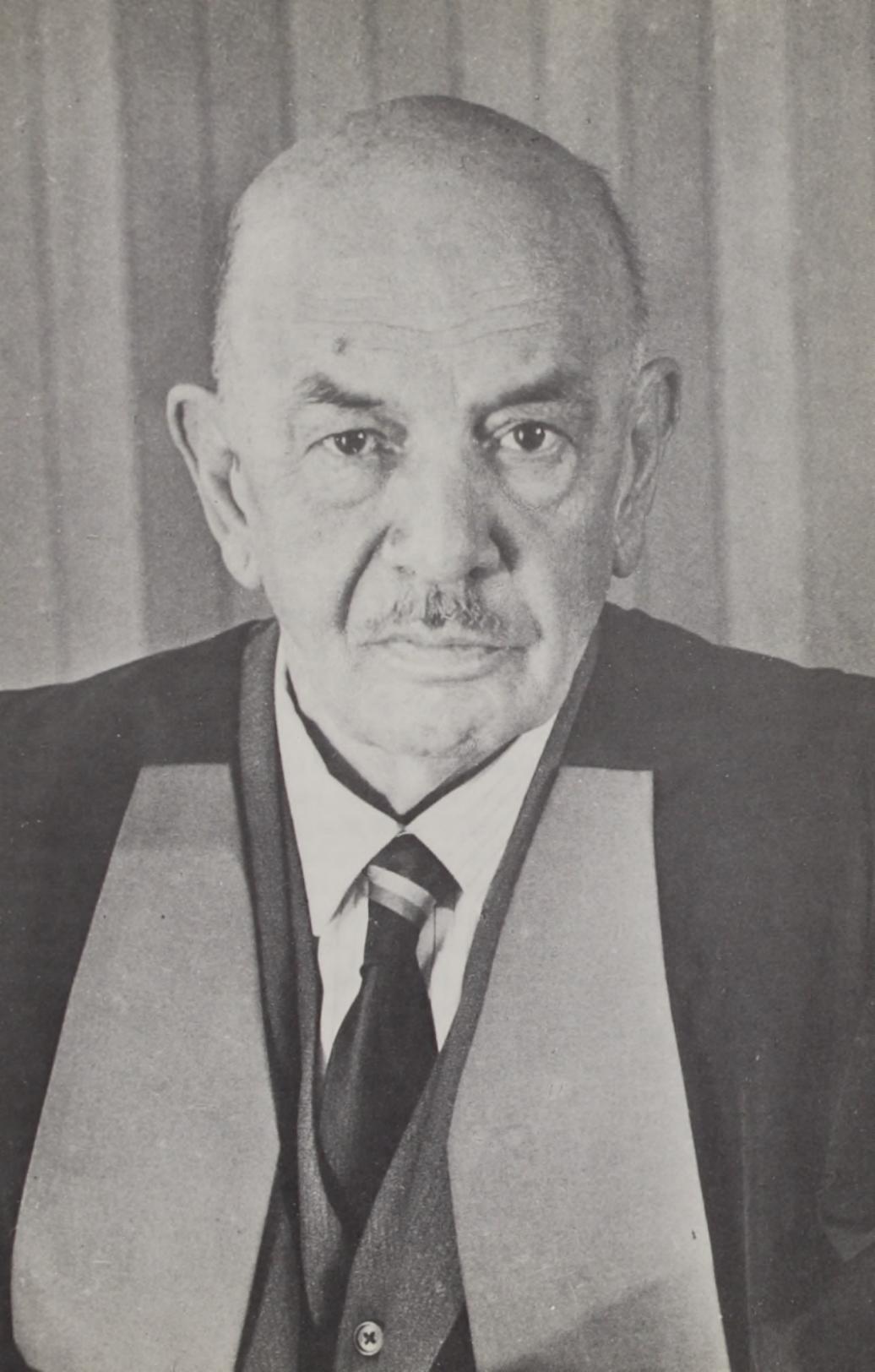
PETRUS ARNOLDUS TALJAARD was born on 2 December, 1894 on the farm Uitval in the Wepener district of the Orange Free State. He first attended school in the Bethulie concentration camp, continued his education in Wepener and matriculated at Grey College, Bloemfontein in 1915, winning a Thomas Robertson bursary. He obtained the B.A. degree at Grey University College in 1918 and the LL.B. at the Transvaal University College two years later.

He entered the service of the Department of Union Education in 1919, but six months later joined the small administrative staff of the federal university. Accountant in 1927, he became Assistant Registrar in 1934. He succeeded Langham Murray as Registrar in 1953, but was not active in the post, as he became a member of the Transvaal Provincial Council. He retired at the end of 1954, but returned to administrative duties with the university in a temporary capacity until his final resignation in 1969.

P.A. Taljaard was for many years active in local government. Four times Mayor of Hercules, he was also Deputy Mayor of Pretoria.

His death occurred in Pretoria on 8 September, 1970.

*Petrus Arnoldus Taljaard, B.A., LL.B.
Registrar 1953-1954*



with the university for a further period. The old title by which he had been known since the establishment of the Division of External Studies was replaced by that of Principal, so that Professor van der Walt was at last able, in his new capacity, to draw together the administrative and teaching sections, so long divided. He was also enabled to meet his colleagues on equal terms at meetings of the Committee of University Principals.

By this time, tuition was being offered in a wide range of subjects, although not all those in which the university provided examinations figured on the list. The sciences in particular were severely restricted. Students, naturally enough, had to show that they had carried out adequate practical work before they were admitted to examinations; there were, however, no departments offering tuition and Senate control was in the hands of outside advisers. Barker of Rhodes assisted in this way during the early fifties; so, too, did S. F. Bush of Natal. The Dean of the Faculty of Science throughout this period was Professor D. J. du Plessis of Potchefstroom. The question of courses in pure science was to be raised again.

Already there was a demand for degrees in pharmacy and the technical colleges carrying out diploma work in this field would have been delighted to provide students with graduate qualifications through the University of South Africa. The same was true of engineering and the time was not far distant when a Secretary of Education, J. J. P. Op't Hof, would publicly suggest that the university, like its London counterpart, should again institute degrees in this branch. Such developments would, however, bring to the fore the old problem of the relationship of technical colleges to university foundations and there was still widespread opposition to any blurring of the distinction between them. For the present, the Committee of University Principals merely asked the University of South Africa to help with science examinations while the institution considered future action with regard to courses of its own.

Fine arts, a sub-division of the Faculty of Arts, was also restricted. O. J. P. Oxley, Professor of Fine Arts at Natal until

1952, was the first Chairman of the University of South Africa's Committee of Studies in that field and afterwards acted in an advisory capacity. There was also a Committee of Studies in Music, under the chairmanship of Professor P. R. Kirby of the University of the Witwatersrand, but no separate Faculty of Music was ever created and the subject remains a division of the Faculty of Arts.

Divinity degrees were in abeyance, although a number of relevant subjects, among them systematic theology and Hebrew, were listed in the *Calendar* as examination options in the requirements for an arts degree. There was a Committee of Studies in Semitics under Professor A. van Selms of the University of Pretoria. However, the early Committee of Studies in Divinity under the chairmanship of Professor S. du Toit of Potchefstroom was replaced by an adviser, the Rev. W. Cosser of Rhodes University.

The possibility of obtaining an external degree undoubtedly attracted an increasing number of students of all races to register with the University of South Africa. By the end of the Van der Walt period, the institution had outstripped all its competitors so far as student numbers were concerned. It is not surprising, therefore, that a feeling arose that the university was not adhering closely enough to the obligation laid upon it in Act 18 of 1946. This stated that the University of South Africa was to satisfy itself that, when a student applied for registration, there existed "sufficient reasons preventing him from attending a university institution". Council, in order to silence complaints on this score, began to refer consideration of doubtful applications for registration to the other universities in 1953 and 1954. The changed procedure immediately laid a heavy burden upon university administrations; moreover, it occasioned angry comments from prospective students, who began to appeal to the Minister of Education, Arts and Science himself. Not every university in the country insisted on its rights in this matter. The University of Natal, for example, was quite prepared to leave all doubtful cases concerning registration to the University of South

Africa. Problems arose, however, in connection with the extra-mural courses offered by the University of Pretoria, for many there considered these entirely adequate to meet the needs of students living in the immediate neighbourhood. The Minister, J. H. Viljoen, found himself in a difficult position. It was, perhaps, undemocratic to refuse a suitably qualified student who was prepared to pay the University of South Africa's fees, simply because he might be able to attend some other institution. It was finally decided to return to the old system in the course of 1954 and thereafter the University of South Africa again selected its own students.

Financial difficulties continued to beset all universities in the post-war years and the Holloway Commission of 1951 decided to gain first-hand information concerning the problem by visiting the various institutions, including the college at Fort Hare. A memorandum was compiled by the University of South Africa in February, 1952 and presented to the commission in the name of the university Council. The memorandum took the opportunity of stressing one fact which it thought should be given serious consideration. It was felt that the University of South Africa could only do its work efficiently if the students who registered with it for examination purposes were compelled, except in special circumstances, to receive tuition with the university or with an approved teaching institution "wat voltydse of deelydse mondelinge klasonderrig verskaf". This would have the effect of driving the commercial correspondence colleges out of the field of undergraduate instruction and would enable the University of South Africa to demand higher standards of its students by compelling them to complete obligatory assignments of work.

The memorandum went on to suggest that compulsory enrolment with the Division of External Studies would not lead to increased government grants, since the cost of the extra staff required would be balanced by the additional income deriving from a larger student body. This was, perhaps, wishful thinking, but it was also argued that more money could be raised by

increasing the fees. At that time, it was alleged, fees were kept down in order to compete on favourable terms with the commercial firms. Such a policy, however, was expensive, as the university, unlike its rivals, had particularly heavy commitments. The University of South Africa considered that an adequate subsidy formula would have to be found for the Division of External Studies and suggested a sliding scale based upon income. This would provide state aid of R3 for each R1 on the first R10 000 of income, diminishing to 24 cents for each R1 in respect of income above R80 000. The university felt that the "token grant" of R4 000 for administrative purposes was quite unrealistic; losses had been incurred there for several years as a result of this parsimony on the part of government.

In connection with the whole question of subsidy, the memorandum drew the commission's attention to the fact that, with eight nominees of the Governor-General on its Council, "kan die Universiteit redelik verwag dat die Staat se belangstelling meer prakties getoon sou word". In addition, it reminded the members that the University of South Africa undertook certain functions in the public interest. It sought, against competition from overseas, to introduce "'n eg Suid-Afrikaanse gees in die S.A.-se musieklewe" and had also, partly at the request of government, initiated a series of examinations in speech training.

When the commission reported in 1953, an entire chapter was devoted to the problems of the University of South Africa. So far as compulsory enrolment was concerned, the members were not, for the time being, in favour. They considered that the high standard maintained by the lecturers of the Division of External Studies had an excellent effect upon the work of the commercial colleges. Moreover, there was good reason, they felt, to wait until a greater proportion of students chose to study through the university.

In tracing the history of the separate subsidy for the Division of External Studies, the commission recalled that, at the beginning, it had been thought that government aid would not long be needed. This expectation had never been realized. While the

University of South Africa could, to some extent, help itself by raising its fees, a satisfactory subsidy formula would nevertheless have to be found. The commission's suggestions here were not unreasonable, if perhaps somewhat stringent so far as the administration was concerned. A shorter sliding scale was recommended: R2 for each R1 on the first R20 000 of student fees, including registration, followed by a rand for rand subsidy for the next R20 000 and thereafter, 50 cents for each R1 of income received. The scale would include the administrative subsidy and it was expressly recommended that, as examinations should pay for themselves, no part of the sum allocated to the Division of External Studies should be used to make good any deficit incurred on them.

The University of South Africa was not yet to be treated on the same basis as the other universities for subsidy purposes, but at least, with the acceptance of the Holloway Commission's proposals, the financial outlook appeared brighter. There would be five-yearly revision of the subsidy and the Committee of University Principals, which completely took over the functions of the moribund Vice-Chancellors' Committee in 1955, was to be represented on the government's University Advisory Committee. More money would always be welcome – especially to finance such schemes as the provision of additional adult education and the founding of a publications series. However, with fee revenue of nearly R240 000 in 1955 – to which the state added about R160 000 – the University of South Africa enjoyed a very satisfactory surplus of some R24 000 in that year.

In other ways, too, as Professor van der Walt's period in office drew to a close, things went well for the university. The Vacation School continued to flourish and was able to make a modest profit each year. There was – exceptionally – a small decline in the attendance figures for 1954, when for the first time students from the European race group were in the majority. However, 393 prospective candidates for the university's examinations attended in the following year, of whom 206 were Europeans and 187 were from the other race groups. More

significantly, the statistics show that more than 19% of the non-European students enrolled with the Division of External Studies made use of the Vacation School – more than three times the proportion of European students.

Graduation ceremonies were also held each year as in the past. The former Kilnerton Institution continued to be used for African, Coloured and Indian students, but in 1955, the Degree Day function for Europeans was transferred to the Pretoria City Hall, where, on the occasion, the congregation was addressed by the Superintendent General of Education for the Cape Province, Dr J. G. Meiring, a member of the university Council.

The University of South Africa also assumed new responsibilities. The question of higher education for non-Europeans was made the subject of a government commission appointed in November, 1953. Its members were Dr Holloway, Professor Malherbe of the University of Natal and Professor R.W. Wilcocks of the University of Stellenbosch. The *Kolege ya Bana ba Afrika* was discussed in the commission's report, in part with reference to the University of South Africa's desire to see the two institutions develop in association. However, the college had never prospered and was far from providing education at undergraduate level. Nevertheless, the connection between college and university was a pointer to the possible direction higher education for non-Europeans in South Africa might take. Public opinion was by no means unanimous that a policy of separate development should be applied to university training by the creation of institutions reserved for specific groups of peoples. The Natal Indian Congress reacted to the possibility by condemning it; so, too, did the Convocation of the University of Natal. Moreover, the Principal of the University of Cape Town, Professor T. B. Davie, indicated that American universities were moving away from the practice of segregation in higher education.

However, if that was to be the pattern for the future, there were those ready to sponsor new foundations. The Town Clerk of Benoni spoke up for the creation of a non-European univer-

sity at Daveyton and the University of Pretoria was prepared to take an African university college in the north under its wing. There was undoubtedly a growing need for more facilities for non-Europeans and, as the Secretary for Native Affairs, Dr W. W. M. Eiselen, commented in 1956, the University of South Africa could play “’n baie geskikte moeder- of voogdyskapsrol”. It had a long tradition of association with colleges and, until the University College of Fort Hare had linked its fortunes with Rhodes University in Grahamstown, had enjoyed a special relationship with the one institution of standing in the short history of higher education for non-Europeans in South Africa.

An opportunity for the University of South Africa to show that it was capable of playing this role again came in 1955. The Catholic university college at Roma in Basutoland had been taken over by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, an order which had created the bilingual University of Ottawa in Canada. This Canadian institution helped to staff the Basutoland college, later named in honour of Pope Pius XII. Students there, mainly African, had been allowed the privilege of sitting as external candidates for the examinations of the University of South Africa. Now, after the South African Department of Education, Arts and Science and the British government had given their approval, it was proposed to bind the two institutions closer in a loose association. As a first step towards enhanced status, the Pius XII Catholic University College was permitted, in September, 1955, to hold its own graduation ceremony at Roma. Finally, on 27 September, an agreement was signed between the Rector, Father R. Guilbeault, and the University of South Africa, whereby the university was to have two representatives on the governing body of the college, with reciprocal arrangements for assessor members from Roma to attend academic meetings in Pretoria. The scheme did not work without friction, nor was it of long duration. It was important, however, as a move in a new direction. As Professor van der Walt said at the time: “Hiermee is myns insiens die grondslag gelê van ’n beleid wat in die toekoms van groot betekenis mag word in verband

met die organisasie en ontwikkeling van hoër onderwys vir die nie-blankes van ons land”.

Hard on the heels of this new development came another which, despite the claims of the protagonists, was neither in the best interests of South African university education as a whole, nor in those of the University of South Africa. A private foundation, created under the Companies Act of 1926, was proposed at the beginning of 1956. It was to be called the *Vrye Christelike Universiteitskollege* and was to be registered at an address in Bureau Lane, Pretoria. Its main purpose, according to the draft constitution setting out its intended functions, seems to have been the granting of degrees in divinity, but the door was left open for other degrees to be conferred as well. It was also prepared, if the occasion presented itself, to teach students of all race groups, although it was to be founded in the first instance for Europeans. The new institution hoped to provide both conventional lectures and tuition by correspondence.

This proposed development, as the Registrar pointed out, was “in direkte botsing met die huidige wetlike posisie, waarvolgens die Universiteit van Suid-Afrika die enigste inrigting is wat eksterne studie mag eksamineer”. It seems that, in 1956, the college had already started operations, but the Department of Education, Arts and Science did not recognize the graduate qualifications it was offering. However, what was then described as “’n gevaarlike ontwikkeling” was arrested by a general disinclination to allow its pretensions. The Committee of University Principals insisted that its wings be clipped by compelling those who wished to register it as a company to delete all references to “university” and “higher education” in its draft constitution. As for the subject for which it was primarily intended, the University of South Africa pointed out that the introduction of a full divinity course in the Division of External Studies was only a matter of time.

In 1953, the University of South Africa at length came into possession of a home of its own. On the morning of Saturday, 21 March, a ceremony took place at which the new three-

The ADMINISTRATION BUILDING in Skinner Street, Pretoria was constructed to provide an expanding university with a home of its own.

The foundation-stone was laid by the Chancellor, Judge President G.J. Maritz, on 21 March, 1953. The Division of External Studies moved into the new building on 1 June and the Registrar's section, housed since 1949 in Kerry Building, opposite the State Library in Vermeulen Street, joined the teaching staff in September of the same year.

Later, an adjoining block of flats was purchased and an extra storey added to the main structure.

Administration Building, 263 Skinner Street, Pretoria



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA
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storied building, approaching completion, was given an official blessing. The Vice-Chancellor, S. P. E. Boshoff, welcomed those present at 263, Skinner Street, Pretoria and the Director – not yet at that date the Principal – outlined the history of the university's accommodation in the past. Professor Steven of the University of the Orange Free State, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, conveyed the good wishes of the other universities. Others who addressed the gathering were H. S. van der Walt, Secretary for Education, Arts and Science, Jan H. Visse, Mayor of Pretoria, and W. D. Terry of the Heidelberg (Transvaal) Training College, a former student of the university. Finally, the architect, C. S. Lodge, handed Judge President G. J. Maritz, Chancellor of the university, the traditional silver trowel with which to lay the foundation stone.

At last, the University of South Africa was under one roof and the new building was even able at first to provide the facilities for the European Vacation School. A. J. Vorster described the many activities in each of the departments in an article entitled "Ons nuwe gebou", which appeared in the journal *Student* for the following year. *Student*, however, carried an editorial warning. Already, after only eighteen months, the building had become too small for an ever-expanding university. Soon, Edward Mansions next door would have to be taken over and a fund was also established to provide additional office and library accommodation. The City Council made a substantial donation to this and by the end of August, 1955, the sum of more than R42 000 had been promised or contributed by public bodies, staff, students and well-wishers.

By this time, the University of South Africa had made remarkable strides. Although it had not yet been completely accepted as an equal by the nation's other institutions of higher education, much had been achieved. The Division of External Studies enjoyed better representation on Senate than had been the case four years before. Council, too, continued to play its part in a wider sphere by appointing delegates to such bodies as the Joint Matriculation Board. It also nominated members of other asso-

ciations, among them the National Road Safety Organization and the South African Council for the Advancement of Music. For some years, Council, with praiseworthy impartiality, appointed a representative to two antagonistic bodies – the South African Institute of Race Relations which it had long supported and the rival South African Bureau of Racial Affairs. However, in 1962, it decided to withdraw from both associations. The governing body was also represented on the Council of the *Kolege ya Bana ba Afrika* by the Principal.

As a teaching institution, the University of South Africa had finally proved its worth. The tangible effect of this was seen in the passing of Act 54 of 1955, which was approved on 20 June. By this legislation, known as the University of South Africa Amendment Act, 1955, the Principal of the university became the Vice-Chancellor and the Division of External Studies simply a division of studies. Leadership in Council devolved upon an elected Chairman.

Professor A. J. H. van der Walt therefore succeeded Professor Boshoff as Vice-Chancellor, the latter being chosen to lead Council. It was as Vice-Chancellor and Principal that Professor van der Walt retired at the end of March, 1956 in favour of Professor Samuel Pauw, formerly Director of the Bureau of Social and Educational Research of the Department of Education, Arts and Science. Professor van der Walt's achievement had been a remarkable one. He had given to a small offshoot of a university's activity a standing which few in 1946 ever expected it to attain. He had shown tenacity in the face of much opposition and had skilfully taken every opportunity to advance the cause of the university's teaching section without exposing it to risks which might well have resulted in its disappearance from the higher educational scene.

Professor van der Walt prepared the defensive lines, giving to the Division of External Studies a firmly entrenched position. By 1956, the University of South Africa could go forward under new generalship, strong enough to move over to the offensive, to pioneer new ventures, to experiment and to make itself felt

SAMUEL PAUW was born at Elsburg, Transvaal on 25 August, 1909. After matriculating in 1925, he trained as a teacher at the Pretoria Normal College and in 1930, obtained the degree of B.Sc. at the University of Pretoria. An M.A. in sociology of the University of South Africa in 1939, he was awarded the D.Phil. degree by the University of Pretoria in 1946.

A teacher in Springs and Germiston from 1931 until 1936, he subsequently worked in Cape Town with the Juvenile Advisory Board. In 1940, he joined the lecturing staff of the University of Pretoria, becoming Associate Professor of Sociology in 1948. In the following year, he was appointed Professor and head of the Department of Sociology at the University of Stellenbosch. In 1955, he became Director of the National Bureau for Educational and Social Research, a post which he held until he succeeded Professor van der Walt as Principal of the University of South Africa on 1 April, 1956.

Professor Pauw built upon the firm foundations laid by his predecessor and under his guidance, the university expanded rapidly, acquiring a new standing among the nation's higher educational institutions. He retired from office on 31 March, 1972.

Professor Samuel Pauw, B.Sc., M.A., D.Phil.
Member of Council 1956-1972
Principal 1956-1972



John F. Kennedy
11/22/63

in every aspect of national life. However, the university would never have been able to do this had it not been for the dedication of its first Principal. It was in recognition of his invaluable services that, at the graduation ceremony in 1956, Professor van der Walt was awarded an honorary doctorate in literature by a grateful university. He remained a loyal supporter of the institution which he had done so much to create and for fifteen years more gave its governing Council the benefit of his wise advice in the many problems which faced it. His death on 16 August, 1972 was greatly lamented by all those still in the service of the university who had helped him to establish the teaching

12 *The pace quickens*

The second Principal, Professor Samuel Pauw, took office on 1 April, 1956. The University of South Africa stood on the threshold of a period of development unparalleled in its history.

The new Principal spoke in his first year of the university's need to advertise itself. Its growth to that date suggested that, so far as attracting students was concerned, it already enjoyed wide public recognition. There were, however, other reasons for making itself better known. To provide an even more efficient service, funds were required. As Professor Pauw was to point out in the following year, the amount of money privately donated in more than eighty years of South African university extension had been pitifully small.

The Principal also emphasized in 1956 the vital importance of fostering a group spirit within the university. There was still too slender a link between teacher and taught, and to many students, the University of South Africa was merely a means to an end, a shadowy, unsubstantial foundation with which they had little personal contact. To those who lived far from Pretoria, it was, as Professor Pauw described it, "onsigbaar"; not all would then have agreed with him, however, when he called it "’n lewende werklikheid".

Nevertheless, it was accomplishing much and if compulsory enrolment could only be introduced, still more could be done to strengthen the ties between the lecturing staff and the candidates for university examinations. Ministers of Education, however, were hesitant to give the University of South Africa the control it asked for. The commercial firms could not be left out of the

reckoning and whenever they felt that their rights were imperilled, they could threaten legal action and enlist the support of those able to make political capital out of any interference with private enterprise.

Yet the correspondence colleges were attracting a smaller percentage of the total registration each year. By 1960, when the number of students registered with the University of South Africa had topped the 10 000 mark, more than 90% of them were enrolled with the division of studies – a designation for the teaching branch which, incidentally, lingered on for a number of years in university legislation, but which was already falling into disuse. The annual growth rate of the university exceeded 10% and there was no doubt that the institution was proving most valuable in exploiting the nation's untapped intellectual potential. Expansion in one small department of study is an indication of that of the whole. The Department of Anthropology had some 240 students in 1955; four years later, it had almost three times as many.

Post-graduate work was also increasing in volume. The large number of candidates for the Bachelor of Education degree shows how popular the facilities offered were to teachers in service, but higher degrees in other fields – especially psychology and English at this period – were much sought after. There was no lowering of standards to sugar the pill for external candidates. Matriculation requirements for entry to a degree course were of the same nature as at the residential universities; moreover, despite the size of the registered student body, the number of degrees conferred annually by the University of South Africa was on a par with the yearly output of graduates at the Union's smaller institutions – the universities at Potchefstroom, Grahamstown and Bloemfontein.

Although external study for a degree presents special difficulties, the failure rate was excessively high. The examination results of unattached candidates were often deplorable, but even among the university's own students, the level of academic attainment left much to be desired. The introduction of compulsory assign-

ments on which a year mark could be based would undoubtedly effect an improvement in this regard, but the correspondence colleges were strongly opposed to this innovation, unless means were devised to extend it to all students. There were also frequent cancellations and withdrawals in the course of each year. In 1958, for example, it was estimated that almost 40% of the registered students fell away before the examinations were held. Many students were unsuccessful in their first year of study, but this was – and is – a common feature of the South African university scene. One possible solution was debated by the Transvaal Department of Education at this period – the lengthening of the school course to provide a higher standard of entry to university. The suggestion had more than once been made in the past, but had always – regrettably, in the eyes of many – been rejected. It met with no better fate on this occasion.

Significant new developments took place during the first seven years of Professor Pauw's leadership, both in the nation and in its oldest university. By the time South Africa had become a republic and had left the British Commonwealth, the reconstituted university which bore the national name had also moved far along the path which would lead to full academic independence. Its growth in these years was phenomenal. Student enrolments increased rapidly and many additions were made to the teaching staff in order to keep pace with the demand for tuition. Some came with reputations already established in the world of learning; others filled junior posts and remained to gain distinction in their fields and to play leading roles in the life of the University of South Africa. For several, too, the university was the workshop in which they learned their craft, before moving on to make their mark elsewhere. Among those, for example, who lectured under the guidance of Professor Muller in the Department of History in the early years of Professor Pauw's principalship were M. J. Swart, who became Professor of History at the University of Port Elizabeth, B. A. le Cordeur and Arthur M. Davey, today with the University of Cape Town, and G. N. van den Bergh, now at Potchefstroom University.

The professoriate was greatly expanded in this period, both in the established departments and in the new ones which were brought into being. The Department of *Afrikaans en Nederlands* gained the services of the distinguished writer, Professor P. de V. Pienaar, who joined the staff from the University of the Witwatersrand. Professor Pienaar subsequently left to accept a position at the University of Pretoria. A. C. Myburgh, formerly with the government's Department of Native Affairs, was appointed Professor of Anthropology. A graduate of the Universities of Stellenbosch and Pretoria, he had begun his career with the University of South Africa in 1956 as a member of the Faculty of Law. Professor Georg Marais, a Ph.D. of the University of Wisconsin with wide experience of South Africa's industrial problems, joined Professor Rädcl in the Department of Business Economics.

C. P. T. Naudé was promoted to a professorship in the Department of Classical Languages. Formerly on the staff of the University of the Witwatersrand, he had completed his academic training at Oxford and Leiden. Professor D. C. Krogh became head of the Department of Economics. Subsequently appointed Director of the Federated Chambers of Industry of South Africa, he had lectured at the Universities of the Orange Free State and Pretoria and had been made Assistant Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister early in 1961.

Professor C. J. D. Harvey of the University of Natal joined Professor Davis in the Department of English, but soon left to become head of this department at the University of Stellenbosch. Professor Davis resigned shortly afterwards, but his successor, Professor D. R. Beeton, formerly Librarian and Research Officer with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, was already on the staff of the university. Professor Beeton had studied at the University of Pretoria. Professor J. H. Moolman, who had long been attached to the Division of Planning of the Natural Resources Development Council, was appointed to the vacant Chair of Geography.

The Department of History, the largest of its kind in the

country by the early sixties, gained the services in 1958 of the well-known writer and historiographer, Floris A. van Jaarsveld. Subsequently promoted to a professorship, he was one of the many newcomers who brought to the university a wealth of experience in the school teaching field. With several other members of the staff, he later moved to the Rand Afrikaans University in Johannesburg, where he became head of the Department of History. He holds this post now at the University of Pretoria.

An outstanding scholar who joined the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics at this period was Professor Hanno Rund. In the course of a brilliant career, he had held appointments at the Universities of Freiburg, Bonn and Toronto, before returning to South Africa as head of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Natal. A member and prize winner of the *Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns*, he had made many valuable contributions in his field.

Professor A. M. T. Meyer came to the Department of Philosophy from the neighbouring University of Pretoria, where he had received his doctorate in 1949. Professor Meyer had also studied at the University of the Witwatersrand and in the Netherlands. The author of several publications, he had carried out research in London on English philosophical thought. F. W. Blignaut joined Professor Roux on the permanent staff of the Department of Psychology in 1957 and subsequently obtained a professorship. A graduate of the University of South Africa, he achieved distinction for his investigation into the effects of alcohol on mammals undertaken under the auspices of the National Council for Social Research.

It was in the early years of Professor Pauw's term of office as Principal that the subdivision of unwieldy departments began. The single department in the Faculty of Law was first divided into two: Roman-Dutch and Mercantile Law. At a later stage, Private and Public Law Departments were added, while more recently the departmental system has been further remodelled.

The extension of legal studies brought new men to the staff and led to the creation of additional professorships between 1959

and 1961. N. J. van der Merwe, who came to the university in 1957 from the University of the Orange Free State, was the first Professor of Mercantile Law; he was succeeded as head of this department by M. L. Benade, a graduate of the Universities of Stellenbosch and the Orange Free State who was appointed to the vacant Chair in 1965.

Professor Willem A. Joubert joined the university from the University of the Orange Free State, where he was Dean of the Faculty of Law. An LL.D. of the University of Stellenbosch who had also studied at London, Heidelberg and Zürich, he had begun his university teaching as a lecturer at Potchefstroom. Professor Joubert was appointed head of the Department of Private Law and long served as Dean of the Faculty. His colleague for a number of years was Professor P. M. Nienaber, who was born in Belgium where his father was then studying. Professor Nienaber, a Ph.D. of the University of Cambridge, came to the Department of Private Law from the University of Pretoria.

Also born in Belgium was Willy J. Hosten, who was appointed to the lecturing staff in 1957, later becoming Professor of Roman Law and Comparative Law and head of the department. He attended school at Middelkerke and Ostend before emigrating to South Africa, where he graduated at the University of Stellenbosch. Professor S. A. Strauss took charge of the Department of Public Law. A graduate of the Universities of Stellenbosch and the Orange Free State, he had also studied at Yale and Heidelberg. Professor Strauss had previously been attached to the university in Bloemfontein.

Shortly after this subdivision of the single department in the Faculty of Law, Professor D. H. Cilliers requested a similar separation between the various fields in the Faculty of Education. The single department at length became four: Method and Administration, Philosophy of Education, Empirical Education and History of Education. The first two have since been given new designations and a fifth has been added: the Department of Orthopedagogics.

In 1960, Professor O. C. Erasmus was appointed as head of

the Department of Philosophy of Education. A Doctor of Education of the University of Pretoria, he brought considerable teaching experience in South Africa, South West Africa and Swaziland to the service of the university. Professor I. S. J. Venter was promoted to a professorship in the following year as head of the Department of History of Education. He obtained his doctorate in education from the University of the Orange Free State in 1956, resigning as Vice-Principal of a Bloemfontein high school to join the teaching staff of the University of South Africa in 1957. Professor Cilliers remained head of the Department of Method and Administration – later Didactics and Comparative Education – until his retirement in 1972.

Appointments were also made to provide study courses in fields which eventually became autonomous departments within the various faculties. An offshoot of the Department of Mathematics was that of Mathematical Statistics, of which Professor H. S. Steyn became head in 1959. Professor Steyn received his early university education in Bloemfontein, subsequently obtaining doctorates from the Universities of Edinburgh and Pretoria. He lectured at the latter institution and at the University of Natal and immediately prior to his acceptance of a post at the University of South Africa, was in charge of a department in the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

The Departments of Criminology and Social Work separated themselves from that of Sociology. Both Professor P. J. van der Walt of the Department of Criminology and Professor I. J. J. van Rooyen of the Department of Social Work began their careers with the University of South Africa in the parent department. Professor van der Walt, a Doctor of Philosophy of the University of Pretoria, has been Mayor of Pretoria for two successive terms and has travelled extensively in Europe and the United States, where he has made a close study of the problem of juvenile delinquency. Professor van Rooyen graduated at the University of South Africa and was Secretary of the National Council for the Care of Cripples in South Africa. He later accepted a post at the Rand Afrikaans University.

The small Department of French of the early days blossomed into a Department of Romance Languages. A suggestion was made early in 1958 by the Board of Tutors that a lectureship in Portuguese should be instituted in order to strengthen the ties binding South Africa with neighbouring territories and in so doing, to extend the usefulness of the university. In the following year, Professor Marius Valkhoff of the University of the Witwatersrand, whose wife then lectured in French at the University of South Africa, kindly offered to undertake tuition in that language and in Italian. However, it was not until the arrival of P. Haffter in 1960 that further expansion became possible. Born in Switzerland and a Doctor of Philosophy of the University of Zürich, he came to the university with experience in both language teaching and journalism. He was appointed to a professorship in 1962 and under his skilful and energetic direction the Department of Romance Languages has made great strides. His journalistic experience, too, has assisted the university in a number of directions and he has been a valued Chairman of the Publications Committee. For some years, only Italian was offered, in addition to French, but in course of time, lectureships were founded in both Portuguese and Spanish. The department has pioneered the use of modern teaching methods in language tuition.

Another recommendation put forward by the Board of Tutors was implemented in 1960, when Mrs E. Foxcroft joined the staff to found a Department of Russian, the first to be established in South Africa. Mrs Foxcroft, born in pre-revolutionary Russia, had escaped as a child from her native land and had at length reached England, where she took her degree at Oxford. The department has remained a small one, but of the greatest importance in the field of international affairs. The success of Mrs Foxcroft's Russian Evenings has also done much to awaken a wider interest in the culture of her country of origin.

Several other departments date from the early period of Professor Pauw's principalship. A Department of Music, now known as the Department of Musicology, was founded under Professor

D. J. Roode, who for twelve years had been in charge of that subject at the University of the Orange Free State. Professor Roode, who retired in 1966, also became the university's Director of Music. The Department of History of Art and Fine Arts made a modest debut in 1961 with the appointment of Karin M. Skawran, a graduate of the University of Pretoria who also studied in Munich. Miss Skawran was promoted to a professorship in 1972.

At the beginning of 1961, A. H. van Zyl of the University of Pretoria became the first Professor of Semitic Languages. It was not his first contact with the University of South Africa, for he had worked there for a term in 1954 and three years later, had been appointed an examiner. An active Faculty of Divinity was brought into being in 1960, with the Rev. Cosser of Rhodes University as Dean. In that year, Professor J. A. Lombard joined the staff. A Doctor of Divinity of the University of Pretoria, Professor Lombard had studied in Europe as well and had worked under the distinguished theologian, Karl Barth. Towards the end of the following year, he was joined by Professor I. H. Eybers, another Pretoria graduate who had also obtained a doctorate at Duke University in the United States. The tutelage of an outside Dean was clearly no longer necessary and was soon brought to an end. The Faculty of Divinity was ultimately expanded into three departments.

The absence of tuition in science subjects resulted in an exceptionally low standard of attainment by candidates at the university's examinations. This was particularly marked in the field of chemistry. There were strong arguments, therefore, for the founding of a Department of Chemistry to provide the necessary instruction, in conjunction with practical work at approved centres with adequate laboratory facilities. Opposition was strong, particularly when it appeared that tuition implied research laboratories. It was thought that the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in Pretoria already provided research facilities and that, if the University of South Africa were determined to enter the science teaching field, it should restrict its activities to diploma

courses. Teletuition was still in an experimental stage and it might be academically unsound and harmful to the best interests of the South African university world for an institution primarily concerned with the advance of the humanities and social sciences to extend its functions in this manner.

So the arguments ran, but the university, encouraged by support from industry and basing its case on the irrefutable logic of statistics, stood firm. Finally a department, experimental at first, was set up under Professor G. W. Perold, a Doctor of Science of the University of Pretoria who had studied at Zürich under the Nobel Prize winner, Leopold Ruzicka. For ten years, he had been in charge of research at the Pretoria headquarters of the Iron and Steel Corporation. The department prospered, the research laboratories which had caused so much contention were constructed and tuition in physics was introduced, at first under the aegis of the department. No teaching has been offered in other science subjects and the courses of study in biology, zoology and other fields have remained in the care of committees of studies under the chairmanship of scientists from sister institutions.

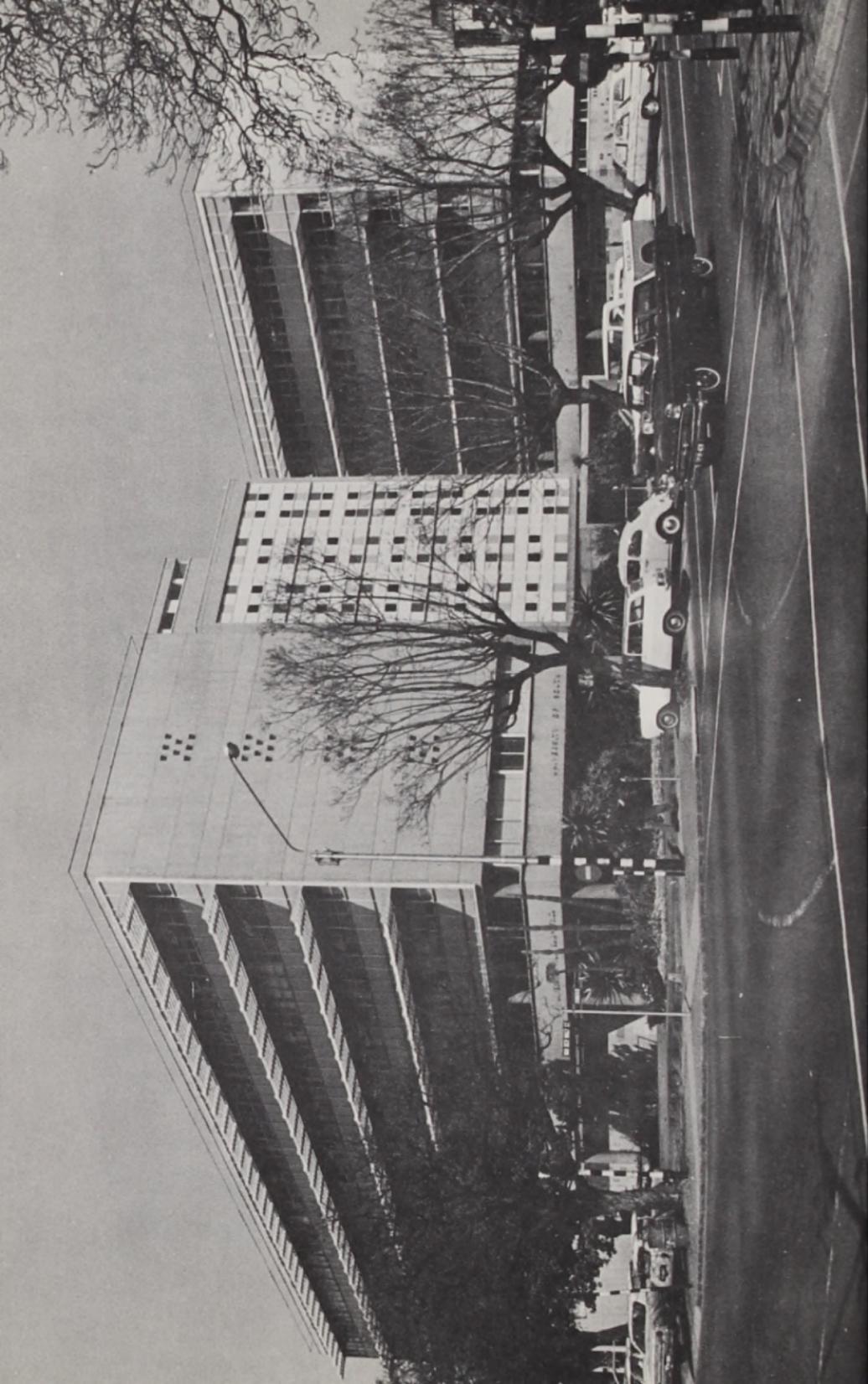
The introduction of tuition in physics in this manner had its parallels in other departments. The study of astronomy, for example, had been earlier introduced by the Department of Mathematics and in the Department of Anthropology, archaeology found its place. An anthropological museum was also set up in the latter department. The tendency, too, was to drop subjects for which syllabuses, but no tuition, were provided, if no adequate demand existed. For this reason, courses in certain African languages spoken outside South Africa were at length withdrawn from the curriculum of the department concerned at the request of Professor Ziervogel. Tuition, however, was retained in all the important African languages of South Africa.

The University of South Africa was reaching out to a wider circle and making an increasing impact upon national life in many spheres. One of its most successful ventures was the founding in 1960, through the initiative of Professor Rädcl of the

Department of Business Economics, of the flourishing Bureau of Market Research. Its primary purpose was to provide information for commerce and industry, to analyse market structure and trends and to place its conclusions at the service of the government in the planning of national economic policy. Financial support came from the university, the National Council for Social Research and the private sector. The Bureau of Market Research has published a series of valuable surveys on consumer purchasing and has conducted seminars in many centres throughout the country. The work of its first Director, Professor Rädcl, in this and other spheres, was recognized by the university in the presentation to him of the first Council Award for outstanding achievements.

A Committee for Academic Interests was established in this early period of Professor Pauw's leadership. This brought to the University of South Africa a steady stream of scholars from home and abroad to participate in seminars and to deliver papers. Among those who lectured in 1958 and 1959 were Dr J. T. Robinson of the Transvaal Museum, Professor P. M. Endt of the *Rijksuniversiteit*, Utrecht and Professor B. Lamar Johnson of the University of California in Los Angeles.

The university also undertook to promote academic publications. A *Communications* series was inaugurated which, for a number of years, enabled lecturers and students to publish the results of their researches. A new series, *Studia*, was later introduced. In addition, the journal *Mousaion* for library science, under the editorship of Professor de Vleeschauwer, was taken over as a university publication. The Faculty of Law's *Codicillus* was a worthy and widely circulated forerunner of several journals published by various departments, while the inter-faculty journal, *Acta Classica*, owed much to the initiative of the teaching staff of the Department of Classics. Professors and lecturers also played a large part in the founding of scientific institutes. Among these may be mentioned the South African Mathematical Society and the later South African Historical Society.



Continued rapid expansion soon made the administration building too small for the needs of the university.

On 27 June, 1958, the Chancellor, Dr F.J. de Villiers, laid the foundation-stone of the LIBRARY BUILDING on the south-east corner of Skinner and Van der Walt Streets. The library and offices were occupied in the following year. Before long, it became necessary to add another wing in what proved to be an unsuccessful effort to keep pace with the growth of the university.

The inadequacy of the new administrative building in Skinner Street to house an expanding staff made it imperative to speed the pace of fund raising in order to construct additional accommodation. The first member of the administrative section to devote himself to this task on a full-time basis was G. C. Kachelhoffer, but in 1957, the university appointed H. P. Dekker, for many years Assistant Registrar of the University of Stellenbosch, as Public Relations Officer. Shortly after his arrival, he conducted a nation-wide tour and through his efforts and those of his predecessor, funds soon accumulated. Construction of the new library building on the corner of Skinner and Van der Walt Streets began in November, 1957 and the foundation stone was laid in June of the following year. One of the architects of these handsome premises, Brian Sandrock, would play a further part in the physical development of the university. The library and additional office accommodation were occupied in 1959. Once again, the problem of living space had – temporarily, at least – been solved.

The library then possessed some 65 000 books and about 1 200 periodicals and was at last housed in a fitting manner. However, fears were expressed in *Unisa* for 1961 that the section of the building set aside for the library would prove inadequate within five years. The normal annual increase at that time of some 15 000 volumes was constantly being augmented by donations from various sources, among them the American government and the Carnegie Corporation. The accommodation problem did become a pressing one, although an efficient service was maintained. Every effort was made to ensure the prompt delivery of books by post to students living outside Pretoria and post-graduate students were able to avail themselves of the world-wide inter-library loan system.

A start was made in establishing a separate section in the library for Africa studies, but this plan was abandoned in favour of a more ambitious project. The autonomous Africa Institute of South Africa was founded in 1960 by the *Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns* in co-operation with the university,

and its offices and separate library were housed in the new building. Both the Chancellor and the Principal of the University of South Africa played a leading role in the affairs of its governing body, which also included representatives of the nation's other universities. The former Principal, Professor A. J. H. van der Walt, was connected with the Africa Institute in an executive capacity and as editor-in-chief of its publications section until his final retirement from active life. The present Director, Professor J. H. Moolman, was the former head of the Department of Geography; his successor, Professor P. Smit, was for some years a Research Officer with the institute.

The library building also provided many additional departmental offices and a well-appointed conference room, the Pretoria-Philadelphia Hall, named in commemoration of the founding of the city and in thanks to the municipal authorities for their generous assistance in the construction of the building. The staff, however, continued to expand rapidly and although an extra storey was added in 1959 to the administration building in Skinner Street, it became necessary two years later to extend the library premises by building another wing. More property was acquired in 1962, when the university purchased De Doorns Hotel on the corner of Prinsloo and Visagie Streets. This became the home for several years of the Departments of Anthropology, Bantu Languages and Native Administration. A residence was also provided for the Principal in George Avenue, Arcadia.

The steadily increasing enrolment of students necessitated the employment of a larger administrative staff. By 1962, some forty people were at work in the production section alone, under the Manager, S. J. Marais. This department was then almost as big as the entire administration of the University of South Africa of ten years earlier. The production and distribution of tutorial material has always been of the greatest importance to a university which relies so heavily upon the written word in its teaching function. The duties of Miss J. P. Gould and her team of translators in the department which later became known as the Language Bureau were also of vital significance in a bilingual

university. An Information Department was opened in 1960 to offer advice and guidance to students in the planning of their courses of study. The new service was placed in charge of G. C. Kachelhoffer, who retained control until October, 1961, when he joined the teaching staff as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mercantile Law. The work of the department was continued by Charl Cillié and D. H. van Eeden. The administration suffered a sad loss in 1957 with the death of the Accountant, L. Coetser, but a worthy successor was found in Alewyn J. Vorster.

The other universities still played their supervisory role in the life of the University of South Africa. When Professor Pauw took office, for example, almost two-thirds of the members of the Executive Committee of Senate were outsiders. Inevitably some differences of opinion arose, such as those concerning the introduction of a Department of Chemistry. Representatives of other universities also felt that supervision – if that was what was expected of them – had become redundant. And on Council, under the chairmanship of Professor Boshoff, there was uncertainty as to whether other Principals or their delegates should take part in the deliberations as individual members or as representatives of their own institutions. The University of South Africa was outgrowing the old order of things. When the various legislative measures governing its activities were consolidated in Act 19 of March, 1959, it was clear that the time was fast approaching when the university would have to be granted freedom to develop in its own way, commensurate with that enjoyed by other institutions of similar rank in the country.

By then, another change in the leadership of the University of South Africa had taken place. In 1957, the Chancellor, Judge President G. J. Maritz, resigned and Council selected Dr François Jean de Villiers as his successor. It was a happy choice, for Dr de Villiers was to be the first holder of that office to play an active part in university affairs. The new Chancellor was chosen not only for his ability in the cultural, academic and scientific spheres, but also for his outstanding contributions in the broader aspects of national life. In the course of his career, he had been

a leading figure in such bodies as the South African Chemical Institute, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the National Advisory Council for Adult Education and the *Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns*. Chairman of the Commission of Enquiry into Vocational and Technical Education, he was, at the time of his installation as Chancellor, the Organizing Director of Industrial Development in South Africa.

An important aspect of university expansion concerned finance. Although the report of the Holloway Commission had not placed the University of South Africa on the same subsidy basis as the other universities, the late fifties were not difficult years for the Pretoria institution. By the early sixties, however, the position was no longer as satisfactory and the decade opened with a deficit of some R13 000. A new basis would soon have to be found for the University of South Africa which would bring it into line with its sister universities.

There was also talk as the fifties drew to a close of the further extension of adult education. The university had always shown itself willing to shoulder new responsibilities and in 1956, had gone out of its way to assist the Boksburg municipality with a special course in local government. However, now that it was rapidly acquiring a standing in the country as a true university institution, the suggestion of a national board for extra-mural studies was not altogether welcome. It was considered undesirable in university circles that too many diploma and certificate courses should be introduced; the University of South Africa had already instituted several – among them, those in accounting and library science – and it was felt that any further development should be made primarily with graduate qualifications in view.

The Vacation School continued to attract an increasing number of students of all races. By 1958, the attendance approached 600 and four years later, had almost doubled. It soon became necessary to arrange separate classes for African students at Atteridgeville, on the western outskirts of Pretoria, and for other non-Europeans within the city itself. Graduation Day, too, had become firmly established as an important event in university

Legislation passed in 1959 made the University of South Africa the guardian of five UNIVERSITY COLLEGES for African, Coloured and Indian students. Four of these were to be new foundations; the other, the University College of Fort Hare, was of older date.

All at length gained independence. On 1 January, 1970, the colleges at Alice, Sovenga and Empangeni for African ethnic groups became the Universities of Fort Hare, the North and Zululand respectively. On the same date, the college at Kasselvlei for Coloured students became the University of the Western Cape. On 1 January, 1971, University College, Durban for Indians was transformed into the University of Durban-Westville.



University of South Africa



Fort Hare



the North



the Western Cape



Durban-Westville



Zululand

life. Among those who addressed the graduands, their families and their friends in the late fifties were the Minister of Education, the Hon. J. H. Viljoen, in 1956 and the Administrator of the Cape Province, Dr J. H. O. du Plessis, in 1959. In the following year, the present Prime Minister, the Hon. B. J. Vorster, spoke of the university's success in justifying its existence and in 1961, His Excellency the Governor-General, the Hon. C. R. Swart, soon to become South Africa's first State President, recalled the time when he had received a University of South Africa degree at the Pretoria ceremony of 1919.

A special function was held in 1959 at Engelenburghuis, Pretoria, in connection with the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the *Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns*. Honorary degrees were conferred upon three leading figures in South African and Dutch cultural life. Professor T. H. le Roux, long a tower of strength at the University of Pretoria and a notable contributor to Afrikaans language studies, received the degree of Doctor of Literature and Philosophy. T. E. W. Schumann, the son of a German missionary and an expert in the fields of climatology and meteorology, was awarded a Ph.D. The same degree was conferred upon M. W. Woerdeman, formerly Professor of Medicine at the Municipal University of Amsterdam, of which he was then *Rector Magnificus*. Dr Woerdeman, who had been similarly honoured by the University of Oxford in 1950, was Chairman of the *Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen*.

In the same year, a major development in the provision of higher educational facilities for non-Europeans was made. The association of the Pius XII Catholic University College with the University of South Africa proved to be an uneasy one and the authorities at Roma began to look elsewhere to ensure the future well-being of the Basutoland institution. After an abortive attempt to enter into a special relationship with the University of London, the college succeeded in gaining full independence in 1964. Professor van der Walt had been correct, however, in regarding the brief link between the Catholic foundation and the

University of South Africa as the forerunner of similar affiliations.

There was only one other institution of this type in South Africa in 1958: the University College of Fort Hare, then associated with Rhodes University, Grahamstown. Although it cannot be said that the policy of providing separate higher educational facilities for ethnic groups found universal favour in South Africa, legislation was passed in 1959 which brought the connection between Fort Hare and its neighbour to an end and created four more colleges: the University College of the North at Sovenga in the Transvaal and that of Zululand at Empangeni, Natal; the University College of the Western Cape at Kasselvlei and the University College, Durban. The first two, like that at Fort Hare, were for African students, the college at Kasselvlei was for the Coloured population and University College, Durban for Indians. These institutions were all placed under the control of the government departments responsible for the affairs of the race groups concerned.

In terms of Act 45 of 1959, the University of South Africa was made the guardian of the colleges as they moved along the road to eventual independence. It played a part in their government, supervised their academic life, helped to staff them and conferred its degrees upon their successful students. Each year, the college lecturers conferred with the departments of the Pretoria institution on the setting of examination papers and the marking of scripts. At length, on 1 January, 1970, four of the colleges were accorded full university status as the Universities of Fort Hare, the Western Cape, Zululand and the North; a year later, University College, Durban became the University of Durban-Westville.

For a decade, therefore, the university in Pretoria resumed its former federal role, although the relationship with its new charges was not of the same close nature as that binding the former constituents to the parent body. It resembled rather the link between the institution at Fort Hare – then the South African Native College – and the federation.

In 1960, the University of South Africa appeared set upon the broad highway of uninterrupted development, with a triple function as examiner, teacher and guardian of students, both internal and external. However, there was already a small cloud on the horizon which presaged a storm of considerable proportions. In May, 1959, the Secretary for Education received a letter from the Town Clerk of Boksburg. The municipality had heard that there might soon be an extension of university education on the Witwatersrand and wished to put forward a case for the building of any new institution on a site within the urban boundary. A few months earlier, a committee seeking improved higher educational facilities for Afrikaners in Johannesburg had written to the Minister of Education in connection with the possible establishment there of a teacher training college for Afrikaans-speaking students.

In his reply to the enquiry from the Johannesburg committee, the Minister, the Hon. J. J. Serfontein, pointed out that the provision of colleges of education was a provincial matter and therefore lay outside his control. In answer to the request from Boksburg, he explained that if Afrikaners on the Rand began to agitate for additional university facilities, the government might well be deluged by similar demands from English speakers in Port Elizabeth, Kimberley or the Free State goldfields area. The cost would be prohibitive, the problem of staffing enormous and the need questionable. South Africa already provided, he said, more opportunities for its citizens of European origin to obtain a university education than any country in Europe. There was therefore little justification for further expansion in that direction. Events would prove that this was not to be the final word. The issue was to be intimately bound up with the future of the University of South Africa.