

course the focus is a bit biased, the interpretation of what constitutes "the people" is debatable and the various racial groups are cast in rather conventional stereotypes. Apart from these interrelated flaws, I found it a most rewarding and stimulating experience to read the publication.

The author starts off with a positive interpretation of history as a possible means of helping to create a more just society. Personally I have no problem with this point of view, if the intention is to present reality in a multi-dimensional way, presenting "different people's points of view" (p. 18). However, the real test lies exactly in giving more than one point of view the opportunity to present its case as objectively as possible – in this sense the examples chosen to illustrate the arguments could have been more balanced, as already mentioned.

Generally speaking, the publication is really a most useful manual for the creative history teacher and even pupil. Matter of fact is that one is hardly able to think of any other publication presenting the writing of history in such a readable and systematic way. Most useful advice is given on local history, family history, oral history, sources, using photographs and the like. Furthermore advice on collecting evidence, on asking the right questions, planning an interview and interpreting it, are given. Throughout the approach is scholarly and in the concluding section useful information is given on sources and institutions where further information can be obtained.

This is a publication every history teacher should possess if he is interested to teach about the living past.

M.H. TRÜPELMANN

MALHERBE, C. & HALL, M., 1988, *Changing the land*. Pietermaritzburg: Shuter & Shooter. R10,10.

This is the fourth publication in a series founded and sponsored by the Literature Action Group of the Centre for African Studies at UCT.

Changing the land is a booklet about the farmers of the so called "prehistoric" period – of course one has to accept that this period was not without its history – only that information about this period of our history is largely archaeological.

One of the outstanding features of the publication is the vivid, yet scientific restructuring of quite a number of these early farming communities by the authors. We visit Broederstroom, Lydenburg and settlements along the East coast. Inevitably quite a number of conven-

tional myths are yet again uncovered – and hopefully set to rest.

At the back a list for further reading, a glossary and index help to make the publication even more accessible. A most useful booklet for the teacher of primary and junior secondary pupils.

M.H. TRÜPELMANN

BRADFORD, HELEN, *A Taste of Freedom – The ICU in rural South Africa 1924-1930*. Johannesburg: Ravan Press. 1988. (364 pp).

Die werk is baie korrek saamgestel en die geskiedenis van die ICU tussen 1924 en 1930 is baie deeglik en korrek nagevors.

Hierdie D.Phil navorsing onder promotorskap van prof. Van Onselen en geadviseer deur historici soos Maureen Swan, Shula Marks e.a. val buite die "tradisionele" geskiedskrywing, wat natuurlik lei tot 'n meer vars, nuwe siening en vertolking van die Suid-Afrikaanse verlede.

Helen Bradford noem haarself 'n "ex-mathematician" wat volgens my opinie deeglik slaag as 'n sosiale historikus. Haar werk is voorsien van deeglike voetnote, bronnelys en 'n effektiewe indeks aan die einde.

Bradford slaag daarin om 'n deeglike rekonstruksie te maak van die toestande op Suid-Afrikaanse plase tussen 1920 en 1930 en lig veral die verhouding tussen plaasboer en swart arbeider deeglik uit. Sy slaag voorts daarin om te wys hoedat nuwe ideologieë die ideologie van die tradisionele stamhoofde vervang het en hoedat Sosialisme en Nasionalisme uiteindelik deurgewerk het tot in die plattelandse gebiede waar onder leiding van die ICU daar in Transvaal, Zoeloeland en die Transkei tussen 1926 en 1930 heelwat verset en versetbewegings ontstaan het. Bradford lig die problematiek van die ICU om met die SA-regering te onderhandel ook netjies uit en vat dit mooi saam as sy sê: "*It is no easy struggle for Freedom*". Ek moet egter vermeld dat hierdie "struggle" soms baie eensydig hanteer word, maar die volwasse historikus sien dit oor.

Hierdie werk sal sekerlik nie by alle Suid-Afrikaanse lesers byval vind nie, maar vir die student wat bereid is om ook ander vertolkings van die S.A. historiografie te bestudeer, word Helen Bradford se werk sterk aanbeveel.

C.J. DE KLERK