

The John Laredo South African Archive. Interim Catalogue

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# Introduction

This archive records the writings and political life of John Laredo, a South African academic and activist against the apartheid regime, who later made a significant contribution to the study of social sciences at the University of Bradford.

This catalogue was written in 2002 for the Archives Hub. It is being made available online with minor edits as part of our Quick Wins programme, which will put much more information about our archives online quickly by digitising old lists.

It is an “Interim” catalogue because there is much more scope for detailed listing of the contents of the archive in future.

If you’d like to use this archive, do get in touch: our contact details are on the front cover of this catalogue.

Alison Cullingford, Special Collections Librarian.

# Collection description

## Reference code

GB 0532 LAR.

## Title

The John Laredo South African Archive.

## Dates

1950-1994.

## Level of description

Collection.

## Extent

2 linear metres.

## Name of creator

John E. Laredo, 1932-2000, social anthropologist.

## Biographical history

John Laredo was born in Pretoria in 1932, of an Afrikaner family. He studied History and Native Administration at Stellenbosch University, then read for a master's degree at King's College, Cambridge, returning in 1958 to South Africa. After lecturing in African studies at the University of Cape Town, he moved to Durban in 1959. From 1959 to 1960 he undertook anthropological fieldwork among Zulu-speaking Nguni in the Shongweni, Ndwedwe and Inanda areas, in one of the coastal reserves of Natal. While writing his report and teaching at the University of Natal, he registered for a Ph.D. with the University of Cape Town. In 1962 he was appointed lecturer in charge of Social Anthropology at the Port Elizabeth branch of Rhodes University.

John Laredo was one of a generation of white South Africans who opposed the apartheid regime. He was involved locally with the African National Congress, but also had been part of a movement in Transvaal to sabotage government installations. On 6 August 1964 he was arrested and detained under the "90-day" detention clause and was then jailed for five years after refusing to give evidence against his comrades. His report on land tenure, land usage and chieftainship was still being edited at the time of his arrest. It was issued (by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Natal) in a temporary form, with the intention of re-editing on his release. He applied for permission to work on his almost-finished thesis, but permission was refused, despite further requests from fellow-academics and Helen Suzman M.P.. On his release from prison in 1969, he was the subject of a banning order under the Suppression of Communism Act and left South Africa for the U.K. The banning order not only prevented him from publishing or submitting his thesis while he was in South Africa, but also prevented any South African university from accepting it.

From 1970-71, he was resident visiting fellow at King's College, Cambridge. He joined the teaching staff of the University of Bradford in 1972. In the Sociology Section of the School of Social Sciences he provided the comparative and historical dimension to a group whose main concern was the sociology of industrial societies. After 20 years lecturing at Bradford, serious illness forced him to retire in 1993.

John Laredo was a strong supporter of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, of which he was secretary through the 1980s. In 1992, he was able to return to visit a post-apartheid South Africa. He died in October 2000, aged 68.

## Immediate source of acquisition

Donated by Dr. Laredo’s partner, Ailsa Swarbrick, in June 2002.

## Scope and content

Field research in Ndwedwe : typed/handwritten notes and letters. Files on South African society : research papers, articles, press cuttings, handwritten/typed notes. Writings, including thesis drafts. Career : correspondence with South African and British academics, South African Commissioner of Prisons, etc.

## System of arrangement

Dr Laredo’s system of arrangement has been retained as far as this could be ascertained.

## Access conditions

Available to researchers, by appointment. Access to archive material is subject to preservation requirements and must also conform to the restrictions of the Data Protection Act and any other appropriate legislation. There are no restrictions on access to this material under current legislation.

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## Language of material

English, some Afrikaans, some Zulu.

## Note

Obituary of John Laredo in the *Guardian*, 18 October 2000, p.24.

## Archivist’s note

Described by John Brooker. Minor revisions for this edition by Alison Cullingford.

## Rules or conventions

ISAD (G) 2nd ed.

## Dates of description

July 2002 (with minor revisions in May 2013).

## Indexing

### Persons

Laredo, John E., 1932-2000

### Subjects

South Africa – History – 1909-1961

South Africa – History – 1961-1994

South Africa – Social conditions

Anthropology – South Africa – Ndwedwe

Nguni – Social life and customs

# Details of archive contents

## 1 - Ndwedwe fieldwork.

1/1. Ndwedwe : Field notes and diary.

1/2. Texts [Material from fieldwork, including correspondence 1959-60].

1/3. Ndwedwe : General data, Administration, Quarterly meetings, advisory boards etc.

1/4. Ndwedwe : Osiyane, Shangase.

1/5. Ndwedwe : Various (Cases, Isifunda & Isigundi, Land).

1/6. Ndwedwe : Various (Economic, Faction fights, Kinship).

1/7. Schedules [examples of sociological survey questionnaires].

## 2 - South African society ; notes and articles.

2/1. South Africa notes.

2/2. South Africa notes.

2/3. South Africa material.

2/4. South Africa notes [Press cuttings].

2/5. South Africa notes [includes University of Mauritius seminar 1979].

2/6. South Africa notes.

2/7. South Africa : Books.

2/8. South Africa : Administration and control.

2/9. South Africa : Afrikaners.

2/10. South Africa : Apartheid notes.

2/11. South Africa : Apartheid.

2/12. South Africa : Bibliography.

2/13. South Africa : Black consciousness.

2/14. South Africa : Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland.

2/15. South Africa : Censorship.

2/16. South Africa : Chronology.

2/17. South Africa : Community.

2/18. South Africa : Economic analysis.

2/19. South Africa : Education.

2/20. South Africa : Emergencies.

2/21. Southern Africa : Ethnos.

2/22. South Africa : External affairs.

2/23. South Africa : Family and marriage.

2/24. [South Africa : Health].

2/25. South Africa : History dates.

2/26. South Africa : History.

2/27. South Africa : History Economic.

2/28. Natal : History.

2/29. Natal : History and administration.

2/30. Natal : History ABCFM (American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions).

2/31. Natal : Regional surveys.

2/32. Natal : Shongweni.

2/33. South Africa : Housing.

2/34. South Africa : Human rights.

2/35. South Africa : Migrant labour.

2/36. South Africa : Labour.

2/37. South Africa : Land.

2/38. South Africa : Land Agriculture.

2/39. South Africa : Land Bantustans.

2/40. South Africa : Law “Native”.

2/41. L.P. (S.A.) [Liberal Party].

2/42. African literature.

2/43. Nguni polity and labour.

2/44. Zulu marriage.

2/45. Zulu, S.E. Nguni and South Africa.

2/46. Cape Nguni.

2/47. Nguni clans and chiefdoms.

2/48. South Africa : Nkosi.

2/49. South Africa : Political change.

2/50. South Africa : Political organisation.

2/51. South Africa : Political organisation : Political protest.

2/52. South Africa : Political prisoners.

2/53. South Africa : Population control inc. Pass laws.

2/54. South Africa : “ Race”.

2/55. South Africa : Race and class.

2/56. South Africa : SAI Race Relations.

2/57. South Africa : Religion.

2/58. South Africa : Reproduction and sex.

2/59. SADICC and Front line states [South African Development Co-ordination Conference].

2/60. South Africa : Sanctions.

2/61. South Africa : Squatters.

2/62. South Africa : State.

2/63. South Africa : Statistics.

2/64. South Africa : Taxation.

2/65. South Africa : Trades union.

2/66. South Africa : Urbanisation.

2/67. Mayer [Mayer, Philip - Townsmen or tribesmen (1963)].

2/68. South Africa : Urban administration.

2/69. South Africa : Wiehahn & Riekert.

2/70. South Africa : Women.

2/71. Namibia.

2/72. Mozambique.

2/73. Mozambique.

2/74. Zimbabwe.

2/75. Zimbabwe.

2/76. South Africa : Soc. of [Sociology of development course outline].

2/77. South Africa [Sociology of development course : statistical abstracts, bibliography, topics].

2/78. South Africa notes [Sociology of development course : spare copies of statistical abstract].

2/79. Seminar topics.

2/80. South Africa 1992 [Friends of the Springbok travel 1992 & photocopy of Mandela lunch invitation 1994].

## 3 - Writings (including thesis drafts).

3/1. *Preliminary report on Shongweni pilot study*. Report for I.S.R., accompanied by short preliminary report by A.N. Ross, the previous fieldworker.(circa 1960). Typescript.

3/2. *Umlazi, Umbilo Umgeni catchment areas : report on three rural African communities* (circa 1961). Typescript. [Presumably a draft of the I.S.R. report, 3/3 below].

3/3. *Patterns of socio-economic transition : a study in a Bantu Reserve in the Three Rivers district of Natal*. Bound typescript, produced by I.S.R., University of Natal, 1968.

### 3/4 to 3/19 : Chieftainship in a contemporary reserve : leadership and authority in an African community (drafts of Ph.D. thesis).

3/4. Thesis theory.

3/5. Ndwedwe draft 2.

3/6. Thesis and report : Tables of content, appendices, bibliography.

3/7. Thesis - [Tables].

3/8. Thesis - [Maps, genealogical tables, chapter 2].

3/9. Thesis - [chapter 1].

3/10. Thesis - [chapter 2, 3, 4].

3/11. Thesis - [chapter3].

3/12. Thesis - [chapters 2 & 9].

3/13. Thesis - [chapter 9].

3/14. Thesis - [chapter 14].

3/15. Ndwedwe draft 3 - [chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, ].

3/16. Folder : [Drafts of chapters 6, 8, 13 and Appendices A-J].

3/17. Folder : [Appendices A-J].

3/18. Folder : Bibliography [Catalogue of books, numbered, in subject order].

3/19. 4 notebooks : Bibliography [Numbered lists of books and articles].

3/20. *Land tenure and land use as an index of settler exploitation* (1971?).

3/21. *Migrant labour and home communities : the effect on the communities which migrant labourers leave*. (Seminar on Migration and Community Development, Dubrovnik, 1979).

3/22. *The geography of poverty : the search for a home*. (Chapter for book, 1981?).

3/23. File : “Articles, letters, various”.

Drafts of: *The development of capitalism in agriculture and the ‘poor white’ problem in South Africa* (jointly with Alan Waton). Review of: Rees, M., and Day, C. : *Muldergate, the story of the Info Scandal* (Jo’burg : MacMillan, 1980). Christian action journal for Winter 1974-5 containing review of: Paton, Alan : *Apartheid and the archbishop, the life and times of Geoffrey Clayton* (Cape, 1974). Obituary of Meyer Fortes from West Africa magazine, February 1983. Letters page of Guardian (11 November 1971) with letter from Laredo about Col. Swanepoel. Proof of newspaper article by Diarmuid Brogan (circa 1972) quoting Laredo on his interrogation by South African security police. Handwritten account by John Laredo of his arrest in 1964. Handwritten notes headed ‘Politics, violence and the liberation struggle in South Africa’. 1972 list of persons banned under the Suppression of Communism Act (as a Christmas card). Booklet: Human Sciences Research Council (of South Africa) education report 1981. Offprint: Allen, Sheila : *Domestic production and organizing for change*, Economic and industrial democracy, Vol. 3, 1982, pp. 381-411. Photocopy: van Onselen, C. : *3 The world the mineowners made, social themes in the economic transformation of the Witwatersrand 1886-1914*, Review, Vol. 3, Fall 1979, pp. 289-323, including comment and discussion. Imray, L., and Middleton, A. : *Public and private, marking the boundaries* (Working paper presented at the Annual Conference of the British Sociological Association, 5-8 April, 1982). Reality, Vol. 20, (4), July 1988 - edition of tributes to Alan Paton. A4 poster for departmental research seminar with John Laredo, *The end of the beginning : the South African elections and their aftermath*, 20th June 1994.

## 4 - Career.

4/1. Correspondence on report and thesis 1958-64.

4/2. Institute for Social Research, Durban.

4/3. Correspondence on thesis 1965-71 :

4/3/1. Letter from Prof. P. Mayer (Univ. Witwatersrand) to Col. Steyn (Commissioner of Prisons), requesting access for John Laredo to thesis material. Oct. 1965.

4/3/2. Letter from Commissioner of Prisons to Principal of University of Cape Town, rejecting request that John Laredo be allowed to complete his studies. Oct. 1965.

4/3/3. Letter from Ministry of Justice, Police and Prisons to Helen Suzman (M.P.), rejecting request to have access to thesis. May 1966.

4/3/4. Banning order, issued on release from prison. Oct. 1969.

4/3/5. Legal opinion by Arthur Chaskalson (Advocate, South African Bar) that JEL is not entitled to submit his thesis to the University of Cape Town, and that the University is not entitled to accept or publish it. 1970.

4/3/6. Letters from Prof. Monica Wilson (Head of Department of Social Anthropology, UCT) and Prof. B.Z. Beinart (Asst. Principal, UCT). Submission of thesis cannot be allowed, as this would be a criminal offence. April 1971.

4/3/7. Statement by John Laredo re the ISR report and the thesis. 1971?.

4/4. Bradford University.

4/5. Bradford University correspondence.

4/6. M.Sc. Diploma : Race.

4/7. Manchester External [external examiner].

## 5 - Relevant booklets and periodicals.

5/1. Institute for Social Research, University of Natal : *Proceedings of the Social Science Conference relating to problems arising from the structure and functioning of a multi-racial society* (Durban, July 1956).

5/2. Dept. of Economics, University of Natal : *Economic survey of the Shongweni Dam Soil Conservation area* (1957). [The *Preliminary report on Shongweni pilot study* (3/1 above) was preliminary to the companion sociological survey.].

5/3. *Report of the Commission of Inquiry into discontent in the Mangwende Reserve* (1961).

5/4. Bold, J.D. : *Dictionary and phrase-book of Fanagalo (Kitchen kaffir)* (Central News Agency, n.d.).

5/5. Suzman, Helen : *A digest of the Fagan Report, the Native Laws (Fagan) Commission* (Johannesburg : S.A. Institute of Race Relations, 1952).

5/6. Hellmann, Ellen : *Sellgoods : a sociological survey of an African commercial labour force* (Johannesburg : S.A. Institute of Race Relations, 1953).

5/7. Van Eck, H.J. : *Some aspects of the South African industrial revolution* (Johannesburg : S.A. Institute of Race Relations, 1953).

5/8. Houghton, H. : *Life in the Ciskei, a summary of the findings of the Keiskammahoek Rural Survey 1947-51* (Johannesburg : S.A. Institute of Race Relations, 1955).

5/9. Horrell, Muriel : *South Africa’s non-white workers* (Johannesburg : S.A. Institute of Race Relations, 1956).

5/10. Marquand, Leo : *South Africa’s internal boundaries* (Johannesburg : S.A. Institute of Race Relations, 1958).

5/11. Lewin, Julius : *An outline of Native Law* (Johannesburg : S.A. Institute of Race Relations, 1960).

5/12. Birley, Robert : *The African worker in South Africa* (Leeds U.P., 1971).

5/13. *Journal of racial affairs / Tydskrif vir Rasse-aangeleenthede* (Stellenbosch). Vol. 8, (4), July 1957 to Vol. 12, (1), October 1960.

5/14. *Race relations journal* (Johannesburg : S.A. Institute of Race Relations). Vol. 22, (2), 1955 to Vol. 29, (1), 1962 [incomplete].

5/15. *Searchlight South Africa : a Marxist journal of South African studies* (London). No.1, September 1988 to No. 9, August 1992, and No. 11, October 1993.