


# National Archives of Zimbabwe Newsletter

JULY—SEPTEMBER 2014

 Issue 3 Vol 2

## EXCLUSIVE

3 pages of  
ESARBICA Coverage

The official logo for ESARBICA 2015 Conference is here!



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This is the official logo for the coming ESARBICA Conference 2015 in Victoria Falls. All ESARBICA 2015 related documentation will have this logo. Special mention goes to the Conference Programme subcommittee, headed by Mr Mazikana and Mr Muchefa who collaborated with a designer to come up with this logo. A showcase of the symbiotic relationship between archives and heritage, the logo depicts the importance of heritage management using the archives here illustrated by the hosting institutions, NAZ and ESARBICA and the Victoria Falls as a heritage site harmonising them together.

### Call for papers

The National Archives of Zimbabwe will host the 23rd Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (ESARBICA) General Conference in the exotic and scenic town of Victoria Falls from the 8th – 12th June 2015.

The Conference seeks to highlight the role of records and archives in a modern day society. The Conference begins with a two day Pre-conference Workshop followed by the Conference which will run from 10-12 June 2015.

The first call for papers has already been flighted and abstracts are now being accepted. A dedicated Gmail account has been established to receive abstracts and those willing to submit abstracts can do so at [esarbica2015@gmail.com](mailto:esarbica2015@gmail.com)

## ESARBICA Conference theme (excerpt from Call for Papers)

### ARCHIVES USES, ABUSES AND UNDERUTILIZATION.

Papers to be presented must address the following Conference sub-themes:

- Legal Framework and Legislation for Records and Archives
- Acquisition Policies/Practices and Access to Information
- Use of Records and Archives for Social, Economic and Political Development
- ICT in Records and Archives: Panacea or Headache!
- Abuse or Underutilization of Records and Archives

Those willing to present papers are invited to prepare and submit abstracts that cover any of the above listed sub-themes.

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**Archives uses,  
abuse and  
underutilization**

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### Submission Procedure

Those interested in presenting papers at the conference must submit abstracts by 30 November 2014. The submissions must indicate the sub-theme being addressed.

Submissions should also include the speaker's name(s), affiliation, postal address, e-mail address, telephone, a short one-paragraph biographical note, the title of the paper, and an abstract of not more than **500** words.

Papers accepted will be considered for publication in the *ESARBICA Journal* **provided the authors present their work at the conference.** Some selected papers will be considered for publication in the *Journal of the Society of South African Archivists*.

Expressions of interest and abstracts should be submitted to the ESARBICA email address at [esarbica2015@gmail.com](mailto:esarbica2015@gmail.com)

For any clarifications concerning abstracts and paper presentations, please contact the Organising Committee on:

Email: [esarbica2015@gmail.com](mailto:esarbica2015@gmail.com)

For calls you can contact the following:

Mr P. Mazikana on +263777 897 571

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## THE CROCODILE KING AND TAMATIE AND THE COMING OF ESARBICA TO VICTORIA FALLS 2015

By Livingstone wekwa Muchefa

John Walter-Soper popularly known as Jack Soper was a Londoner born in 1876, came to Southern Rhodesia via South Africa and settled in Victoria Falls in 1905 where he got his first job as a toll-collector at the Victoria Falls Bridge. In 1906, the toll on the bridge was abolished and he resorted to being the guard at the scenic bridge. In 1908, his friend, Mr Watson took him to Australia considering that he would brighten his life prospects. Alas, in 1909 he was back in Victoria Falls and started developing interest in trapping wild animals and domesticating them; baboons, leopards and crocodiles mainly. He was an expert in crocodile habits which saw him dubbed the 'Crocodile King'. By the time of his death in 1953 he had one big crocodile named Sam under his custody.

Victor Clark, born in 1903 at Livingstone resided in Victoria Falls much of his life. Clark, nicknamed "Tamatie", one always putting a neck tie, was the first one to drive a car (a Model T Ford) from Vic Falls to Hwange and back same day. The journey, which started at Gam, was completed at midnight. Tamatie was the photographer at the unveiling ceremony of David Livingstone statue and the opening of the power station by Sir Hubert Young in 1935. From a historical perspective, it will be 80 years after this memorable experience of Tamatie in his settler life.

Capt. J.J Reynard a member of the BSA Police and Regimental Association, a veterinary scientist, farmer, intelligence officer and great curator of the Victoria Falls from 1932 left a legacy of classic exhibitions in the resort town. He was the first to represent Southern Rhodesia regionally in the 1930s at an exhibition in Johannesburg.

The coming of ESARBICA in 2015 as a platform drawing delegates from the East and Southern African region serves to cement these dying memories of our country of those whose life activities are documented and confirm the role of NAZ as a national historical repository. ESARBICA will blend these aspects of appreciating nature, our natural heritage, our documentary heritage and exhibitions and tours to the game reserves among intellectual discourse engagements on issues to do with heritage and information management. Anyone who has been to Vic Falls will never afford to leave for good as what John Walter-Soper did.

A recent visit to the venue by the Organising Committee left everyone satisfied with the suitability of the host town upon considering aspects such as accessibility (transport networks), accommodation, entertainment, security, public health among other key resources. No wonder why Zimbabwe has managed to host the 2013 UNWTO Summit, the 2014 SADC Heads of State Summit, the 2014 SADC Council of Ministers and the SADC Lawyers Association's 15th Annual General Meeting and Conference all successfully hosted in the resort town of Victoria Falls. ESARBICA automatically follows suit.



*Livingstone wekwa Muchefa*

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### Opinion

#### Ten misconceptions about archivists, records and archives

By Samson Mutsagondo, Provincial Archivist, Midlands

1. The National Archives is sometimes regarded as the National Museums. Wrong. While the Archives are for documentary heritage, the Museums are for historical artifacts.
2. The National Archives is sometimes regarded as the National Arts Gallery. Wrong. We find historical artistic artifacts at the Gallery, but their documentation is at the Archives.
3. "Archives" is sometimes written as "Achieves". Wrong, even though the National Archives is known for achieving.
4. "Archivists" is sometimes written as "Activists". Wrong, even though archivists are known to be very active people.
5. Old, worthless files, books and newspapers are regarded as 'archives'. Wrong. Archives, even though, but not necessarily old, are the most important of them all.
6. Old furniture and equipment are regarded as 'archives'. Wrong. Historical significant furniture and equipment will find its way to the National Museums and their documentation at the National Archives.
7. Archivists are sometimes referred to as 'dead file clerks' (Bradsher: 1988). Wrong, as the definition does not spell out who is dead, the file or the clerk.
8. Archivists are sometimes regarded as curators or museologists. Wrong, even though their roles are inter-twined and do overlap.
9. The National Archives is sometimes thought to be in the Ministry of Arts, Sports and Culture or the Ministry of Information. Wrong. The Archives share a lot with those ministries, but in Zimbabwe, the Archives fall under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
10. Records managers are believed to be diploma and degree-trained specialists only. True and false. Everyone who has learnt to keep his or her birth certificate and national ID is but an amateur records manager.

### NAZ in pictures



L to R: Part of the NAZ stand at the Harare Agricultural Show held in August. A trio of ladies enjoying some of the displayed items at the stand.