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ZAMBEZIA

a journal of social studies
in Southern and Central Africa

Vol. 1, No. 2, January, 1970

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
OF RHODESIA

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A Journal of Social Studies in Southern and Central Africa

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January, 1970

Edited by

R. S. Roberts

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF RHODESIA
SALISBURY

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Zambezia

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Editorial

This second issue of *Zambezia* has an even wider range of interest than the first. The Editor is particularly pleased that in addition to several articles on the social sciences he has been able to include studies on a Rhodesian poet and various aspects of the history of Southern and Central Africa. An informative letter has been received from the National Archives of Rhodesia on the use of the word *Zambezia*. The wide use of this term, at least for a short period, is of great interest to the Editorial Board of *Zambezia*, for it helps to draw attention to the policy of this journal to invite contributions from other parts of Central and Southern Africa. It has therefore been decided to reproduce, with its author's permission, the full text of the letter:

Although E. C. Tabler has entitled a book *Zambezia and Matabeleland in the Seventies*, the term "Zambezia" does not appear to have been used for the territory now known as Rhodesia before about 1889: the designations were "Mashonaland," "Matabeleland," "Banyailand," "Middle Zambesi," "Northern Goldfields," "South Central Africa," "Southern Africa," "Across the Limpopo," "Gazaland," "Manica," etc. An early use of the word may have been overlooked, but "Zambezia" was certainly not in general currency.

At the time of the granting of the Charter, "Zambesia" was put forward as a possible name for the new British possession, and other suggestions were "Cecilia," "Charterland" and "Rhodesia." At first "Zambesia" (sometimes "Zambezia") was most popular: *The Times* of 15th October, 1889, carried an article entitled "British Zambesia," and in October, 1890, a Stanford map was produced showing "Zambesia and Matabeleland." The predecessor of *The Rhodesian Herald* was *The Mashonaland Herald and Zambesian Times*. Mather's book *Zambesia, England's El Dorado in Africa*, was published in 1891 and Wills and Collingridge speak of "Zambesia" (Northern and Southern) in *The Downfall of Lobengula* (c. 1894). However Jameson favoured "Rhodesia" in a letter to his brother in December, 1890, and from October, 1892, *The Mashonaland Herald and Zambesian Times* became *The Rhodesia Herald*. More writers, especially when Matabeleland had been occupied and "Mashonaland" no longer covered the area of the British South Africa Company's administration, began to use "Rhodesia" frequently. In an Administrator's Proclamation of 1st May, 1895, "Rhodesia" was adopted as the official title of the whole of the British South Africa Company's territory, with the provinces of Matabeleland, Mashonaland and Northern Zambesia. Legislation up to that point had avoided using "Rhodesia" or "Zambesia," e.g., Matabeleland Order in Council, 1894. Parts of the Proclamation were eventually found to be *ultra vires*, and when it was replaced (by the Southern Rhodesia Boundary Regulations, 1897) "Southern Rhodesia" and "Northern Rhodesia" became the official names. Government Notice 82 of 1897, dated 1st June, 1897, confirmed that the Secretary of State had approved the term "Rhodesia."

However, the name "Zambesia" continued to be used, just as the title "Central African Federation" lingered on after the "Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland" had become the official designation. Companies such as the Zambesia Exploring Company and the Zambesia Rand Investment Company continued for several years and "Zambesia" was still used in tardily revised overseas publications such as *The Encyclopaedia Britannica* (1902 edition) and Stanford's maps (1901 edition).

Outside Rhodesia's borders, Zambesia is still, of course, the official title for a Province of Moçambique.