SPEECH FOR FUNCTION TO WELCOME NEW DIRECTOR OF 1820 MONUMENT TO GRAHAMSTOWN.

Grahamstown, for its size and isolated position, has an extraordinary number of institutions which are national in character: Most of its schools draw significant numbers of pupils from other provinces, as does its university; many of whose departments and institutes are active in areas remote from the Eastern Cape. It has become the home of the 1820 Settlers National Monument, the National English Literary Museum, and a growing number of museums and research institutes whose appeal is more than local; and it possesses an architectural heritage of which it - and the country as a whole - is slowly becoming aware.

W.G. Atherstone, one of Grahamstown's first distinguished scientists and intellectuals, said of Grahamstown in his old age: "She was cradled among bayonets: she is now a fair and beautiful city and a centre of education." By virtue of her history as the city which the British Settlers called their own, she is increasingly seen in a symbolical light: "What Stellenbosch is to Afrikanerdom, Grahamstown is to English-Speaking South Africa." is a sentiment I have heard expressed on more than one occasion. The parallel is not entirely apposite, but it is worth thinking about. Whether we Grahamstownians like it or not, Grahamstown stands for something more than itself, it is a living symbol, a city of the mind.

This complicates our lives in various ways: it is sometimes difficult to reconcile our local civic concerns with our national image and responsibilities. Grahamstown cannot afford to be parochial - least of all those members of its institutions whose 'brief' is national. One the other hand, those institutions will never be
successful unless they cultivate and nourish their relationship with the city and the Eastern Cape - whose history is the main reason for their being placed where they are.

The 1820 Settlers Monument would certainly not be here but for the work of rooted local people like Dr. Tom Bowker, and the devoted work over many years of citizens of both town and gown - I am glad to see Dr. Rennie here, for many years our Vice-Chairman. It is equally true that it would never have been built without the support of men from further afield - like Dr. later, Dr. Nico Malan, Dr. Douglas Roberts, Dr. Ian Mackenzie and many others; and like many of our institutions its council reflects this double focus. Financially, our institutions depend on the appeal which the ideas we represent can make to men in the private and public sectors throughout the country.

Good relationships between the city and the monument are clearly in the interests of both. There have been painful and stormy experiences in the past, some due to human error and fraility, more, I believe, to the growing pains of an institution which was still discovering what its own nature and function was. It is almost ten years since we opened our doors, and our national, regional, and local activities are all rapidly expanding. The monument has been accepted as a feature of Grahamstown life, a civic amenity, a place for social, artistic and other functions. Its Director holds a key position in this community; and this little function had been arranged to introduce Mr. Breytenbach and his wife to some of the many people of Grahamstown whom he needs to know, if he does not know them already.
We start with our Mayor and City Council; with the representatives of various civic interests; with the Heads of Museums and Schools who are in the same cultural exercise as we are; those who are interested in preserving our city's historical and architectural character, and in promoting it a place worth visiting.

In particular, we welcome those who serve on our many committees - from the Council through to advisory panels and Think Tanks and liaison committees, and to our Life Members. (We would have liked to have extended the invitation to include Ordinary Members, but our entertainment budget was not large enough!) We should like to thank Mrs. Thelma Neville for checking the list for us, to ensure that we had not inadvertently left out any of the "old faithfuls", without whose help in the 'fifties, 'sixties, and after there would be no such occasion such as this.

Having said whom we have invited, it remains to say something about the couple you have come to meet.

Extract from C.V. as you see fit)