



Newsletter

December 2018

DRISA in short

DRISA plans to present, on the internet, a searchable catalogue of the Transnet Image collection, with a thumbnail of each image, freely accessible to railway and history researchers all over the world.

DRISA simply provides raw thumbnails with brief descriptions. Images are not cropped or enhanced, with no attempt to remove duplicates. Should images be required for illustration or publication, the high-resolution versions are available from the Transnet Heritage Library. Users can digitally restore and enhance the images to suit their own purposes.

Since October 2018 ...

Since the previous newsletter of April 2018, DRISA continued to make progress:

- The past two months, the two interns concentrated on scanning of the N Collection. After a further major upload of images to the N Collection, there are now 6800 images from this collection available for browsing / searching on the internet.
- DRISA opted to prioritise a few selected towns and cities to demonstrate the breadth and depth of the non-railway material in the Transnet collections. The website now includes images of Barberton (205 images), Bethlehem (124), Colenso (112), De Doorns (152), Estcourt (64), Graaff-Reinet (130), Hermanus (286), Louis Trichardt (123), Montagu (254), Port Elizabeth (751), Tzaneen (220) and Vryheid (92). Bear in mind that there are many remaining photographs without descriptions at present, which will eventually increase the number of photographs for each town.
- The DRISA catalogue is steadily gaining recognition as a premier South African image resource, thanks to two write-ups in the Heritage Portal at www.heritageportal.co.za. Numerous newsletters for railway and historical societies already carry the DRISA link www.drisa.co.za. Please bring the website to the attention of your local newsletter editor to improve our exposure in this way.
- Two books were launched in the past months which drew heavily on images from the Transnet Heritage Library, properly recognised as such. The first is *The Last Hurray* by Graham Viney about

the 1947 Royal tour to South Africa.¹ The second is *Johannesburg Then and Now* by Marc Latilla.² Both are excellent in their respective genres – get copies!

How to find images for a specific town on the AtoM website

- Go to the DRISA website at www.drisa.co.za.
- Click on IMAGE COLLECTION and then next to “hosted here”.
- Click on the BROWSE block on the top left and then on ARCHIVAL DESCRIPTIONS in the dropdown list. The THL IMAGE COLLECTION appears in the centre panel.
- Click on the SEARCH block on the top left and type the name of the town, eg MONTAGU.
- In the centre panel, a total of 294 thumbnails will appear, 50 at a time. These thumbnails are either displayed in a matrix form, or as a linear list from top to bottom. To toggle between the two options, click on the icons shown on the right in the clip below. Look above the thumbnails at the top centre to find them:



- Form here, there are different ways to browse. One preferred method is to scroll through the thumbnails and rightclick on each image of interest to OPEN LINK IN NEW TAB. After selection, each image can then be inspected in more detail in the individual tabs.
- Do not be frustrated if you see the same image more than once. There is an inevitable degree of copying in such an old collection. Having duplicates allows serious researchers to pick those versions which would suit their planned publications best.
- The separate tabs show each picture with its associated metadata. At the top will be their numbers (or REFERENCE CODE in the words of AtoM) and a short TITLE. Below the picture, further information is shown regarding its type (negative or print, colour or black-and-white) and its size (in mm in the sequence height x width), as well as its keywords (ACCESS POINTS in the words of AtoM) regarding PLACE and SUBJECT. At the bottom of the panel on the right the box number of the original in the THL is shown.

Contact details

For questions and comments, please contact Johannes Haarhoff at johannes@haarhoff.org.za, Yolanda Meyer at Yolanda.meyer@transnet.net or visit www.drisa.co.za .

Newly uploaded images following ...

Montagu main street	1947	N52427
SAR Albion bus	1953	N61281
SAR Diamond T truck	1953	N61275
Waterpoort tunnel in the Soutpansberg	1951	N57802
Venda woman with child	1950	N57091

¹ <http://www.jonathanball.co.za/component/virtuemart/new-releases-1/2018-releases/the-last-hurrah-detail?Itemid=6>

² <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.co.za/book/johannesburg-then-and-now/9781775846178>



