



Signatures of Hendrik Hop, eleven of his burgher companions and his father, Jan Hendrik Hop.

The Journals of Brink and Rhenius

being

The Journal of
Carel Frederik Brink
of
the journey into Great Namaqualand
(1761-2)

made by Captain Hendrik Hop

and

The Journal of
Ensign Johannes Tobias Rhenius
(1724)

*Transcribed, translated and edited
with an introduction, brief lives
and footnotes*

by

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ILLUSTRATIONS.

Plate.

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INTRODUCTION

THE MANUSCRIPT

The source of our knowledge of Capt. Hendrik Hop's Expedition into Great Namaqualand in 1761-2 is a contemporary manuscript copy of the Journal kept by Carel Frederik Brink, which is catalogued *Kol. Arch. No. 4207* in the Hague Archives, where it was examined by the present Editor. A photostatic copy was later obtained. The handwriting resembles that of Brink but in an unusually ornate style. It is certified as *Copia Authenticq.* The circumstances under which it was sent to Holland are mentioned briefly on page 82.

The research entailed in the preparation of this volume has revealed that in this manuscript a curious hiatus in the events of the journey is present, that on the return journey a murder was committed by a burgher who was or had been the European servant or *knegt* of the leader. Reasons for believing that the MS. is not an exact copy of the journal as it was kept by Brink on the journey are given on pp. 58 and 66, notes 51 and 56. It is the opinion of the Editor that it is either a true copy of what Brink was ordered to write after he had erased all reference to the murder by the paranoiac Scheffer (p. 115, *Life of Scheffer*) or that the original, by order of the Cape authorities was altered to its present form by another hand, before transmission to Holland. To fill this hiatus, which has been present in all previous accounts of the journey, has been one of the objects of the Editor.

THE MAPS

To establish beyond doubt whither the Expedition went, Hop's route has been followed and most of his camping places examined. Two unpublished portions of a map from the Gordon Collection in Amsterdam are here published, which shew what was known, *circa 1790*, of the Northern routes south of the Orange River. That portion which shews Hop's route north of the Orange has been already published by the

Van Riebeeck Society, and appeared in Volume 15, *Journals of Wikar, Jacobus Coetse and W. van Reenen*, to illustrate the wanderings of Hendrik Jacob Wikar in 1779 along the Orange, then the "Groote Rivier". It is there, for brevity, described as "Brink's Map". The *whole* of the Gordon Collection Map is undoubtedly based on the combined work of Col. R. Gordon, Wentzel, Ponte, Leiste, Brink and probably others; the history of what appears to be the origin of the whole map is told in a Resolution of the Council of Policy of 1775 (*Cape Archives, C. 67, pp. 321-3*), which is mentioned below, and which is of special interest to students of our South African maps.

THE JOURNEY.

Hop's journey became one of exploration only after passing Warmbad (South-West Africa). The faltering footsteps of the early explorers (1659-1664), of whom Pieter van Meerhoff is the leading figure, took them to at least near the Spoeg R. (see *modern map, end of vol.*), where van Meerhoff tells us they saw a new sort of bird and vegetation, and that they saw giraffes. Olof Bergh (1682-3) twice returned baffled by the Kamiesberg, for its Western buttress Grootberg defied his wagons. Here ancient rock clearings to make a passage may still be traced, almost certainly the work of Bergh's party. The guides of Simon van der Stel (1685), profiting by Bergh's experience, found the southward flowing branch of either the Bitter or the Spoeg Rivers, and passed either just East or just West of the present site of Bethel as, approaching differently, Hendrik Hop did years later.¹ The dry river courses

¹ It appears certain that the "Cleyne Tafel Berg", which S. van der Stel's expedition, on 29th September, 1685, passed "leaving it on the right hand side", before crossing the Kleyne Doorn bos Rivier (Zwartdoorn R.), was the table-topped eminence which lies to the right, or East, of the present highway on Bruins Hoogte-Eenkoker, and not the present *Klein Tafelberg*, which lies far to the East, as might be expected from a cursory examination of the map of his journey. From there van der Stel — after crossing the Groote Doorn Bosch Rivier (Groene R.) followed the Bitter Rivier, leaving Grootberg to the West. No such certainty applies to Hop's route, and a case could be made for Hop's Expedition passing near Wallekraal West of Bethel. In the end-map of this volume preference has been given to the route by Uitkomst and Rietkloof, though both routes have been examined.

of the coast line between the perennial Oliphants River and the seldom flowing Buffels Rivier had been mapped eighty-six years before Hop's journey by the Governor's cartographers, but ever less correctly as they proceeded north. Hop's journey was followed by rapid settlement on farms in the Kamiesberg. Indeed, two months before he set out, the grazing on "Uitkomst below Cammiesberg" was already granted to the son of that Hendrik Beuke(r)s whose father in 1742 had laid information against Jan Hop (p. 74), and a few years later young Beukes was occupying Wolvepoort, the Aloekloof of Brink's Journal. The burgher Coenraad Hendrik Feijt, before 1777, was grazing cattle at "de Cammas Fonteijn situated on the Great River", the present site of Pella, and "Uitkomst between the Kousse (*sic*) and Groene Rivier", with several other farms of the Kamiesberg, was held from 1771 to 1786 by that Hermanus Engelbrecht whose home-farm (*geweesene plaats*) was the Roodeheuvel near Koekenaap (*Cape Archives, R.L.R. 21, fol. 325; 27, fol. 83*).

The inception of the journey made by Hop and something of its preparation is told in the section of his Life under "The Birth of an Idea", pp. 79-82.

THE LEADER AND HIS COMPANIONS

Hop's life has not before been told, nor, with the exception of Roos and Marais, have the identity and lives of his burgher companions. Though in Brink's Journal we see him through the eyes of a Company's official, it is as the leader of the early penetration into what is to-day the mandated territory of S.W. Africa, by South Africans led by a South African, that Hop deserves to be remembered. His description as a Captain of Stellenbosch Cavalry, though not incorrect, has become stereotyped, and obscures the Hop who was essentially a farmer and a man of affairs; one who took his public duties seriously and was fortunate in being the son of a selfmade and comparatively wealthy father. Fate reserved for him in his prime an end as tragic, if more slow, than that which we associate with the soldier or adventurous explorer. To know something of the lives of his fellow travellers, the many good, the few bad, and one mad, is to get, as in a cross-section, a glimpse of the lives

BRINK'S JOURNAL.

Dag Register, gehouden op den Landtogt gedaan door het Land der Kleyne en Grootte Namacquas, onder het Commando van den Captain der Burger Cavallery Sr. Hendrik Hop om het binnewaards ten Noorden van Cabo de Goede Hoop leggende land nader te ontdekken.

Nadat d' Instructie,* die den WelEdelen Gestr. Heere Rijk Tulbagh¹ Raad Extraordinaris van Neederlands-India, mitsgouverneur van Cabo de goede hoop met den Ressorte van dien, &&&a, beneevens den E. Agtb. Raad van Politie hadden gelieven te doen formeeren, voor bovengem. Burger Capitein Hop en de verdere hier na te meldene Persoonen, die zig tot het doen deeser voyagie, meede vrywillig hadden aangeboden, aan deselve voorgeleesen, en daerop by een yder beloofd en aangenoomen geworden was, zig daarna behoorlijk te gedraagen; Soo wierd gesamentlijk afspraak genoomen, dat een ijgelyk sig ten spoedigsten naar zijn woonplaats begeevende, men vervolgens sonder eenig tijdersuim soude maaken, op, oftegens den 16 der aanstaande maand Augustus aan de Oliphantsrivier, op de Plaats genaamd Koekenaap by malkanderen te zijn, en dan de reijze van daer verder voort te setten. Gelyk dan ook op heeden, weesende Donderdag den 16 July, hier van de Caap zijn vertrocken, drie wagens der E. Compagnie, yder met 10 ossen bespannen zijnde, behalven een schuijt gelaaden met 900 lb. buscruit en 2010 lb. loot neevens diverse noodsakelyke gereedschappen, mitsg^a eenige snuyseryen, die ten dienste deeser landtogt 's Comp: weegen zijn meede gegeven. Terwijl zig by deese wagens quamen te bevinden den ondergeteek: landmeeter Carel Fredrik Brink, ten eijnde niet alleen van de te ontdeckene, onbekende landen, een behoorlijke kaart te formeeren, maar ook van de dagelijx voorvallende saaken aanteekening te houden, hebbende wyders

* Hop's Instruction is given in outline on pp. 80-1 *infra*.

¹ Ryk Tulbagh. b. 1699 at Utrecht, d. 1771. Arrived at the Cape in 1716 in *Ten Horst*. Was successively clerk, member of Council of

BRINK'S JOURNAL.

Journal of the Inland Expedition under the command of Sieur Hendrik Hop, Captain of Burgher Cavalry, through the Land of the Little and Great Namaquas, to explore farther inland the country which lies northward of Cabo de Goede Hoop.

After the Instruction* — graciously formulated by the Rt. Hon. Ryk Tulbagh,¹ Councillor Extraordinary of Netherlands India, Governor of Cabo de Goede Hoop with the dependencies thereto, etc., etc., as well as by the Hon. Council of Policy, — had been read to the above mentioned Burgher Captain Hop and the other persons to be hereinafter mentioned, who had voluntarily offered to perform this journey,— and after each had singly pledged obedience thereto — it was mutually agreed that each would return to his home with the utmost speed and, permitting no delay, would assemble, on the 16th day of the forthcoming month of August, beside the Oliphants River at the place named Koekenaap, and from thence set out upon the journey.

Accordingly to-day, being Thursday, July 16th (1761) there left from the Cape three of the Hon. Company's wagons, each with ten oxen, inspanned and laden with a boat, 900 lbs. of powder and 2010 lbs. of lead, besides various necessary implements and some trifling presents supplied to serve the purpose of this Company's Expedition. Accompanying these wagons was the undersigned surveyor Carel Frederik Brink, for the purpose of both making a suitable map of the undiscovered unknown country and of keeping a journal of daily occurrences:

Policy, Merchant (a grade in the service of the Dutch East India Company), Secunde, and for twenty years Governor. Known by the burghers as Father Tulbagh.

diergelyke kleijne riviertjens versterkt, en ontlast zig vervolgens Z.W.lijk in de visRivier; het hier voor ons uijtleggende land is doorgaans vlak leggende, hier en daar eenige kleine bergen, Sijnde het veld met gras en Renoster bosjes begroeijt, en de Rivieren met Rood-houte en Doorn-boomen beset: ook sagen wy in de vlaktens groote troupen van verscheidene soorten van wild gedierte, als Renosters, Camelopardalis, Buffels, witte wilde Paarden, Ezels, quachas, Coedoes, Gemsbocken, Hartebeesten, mitsgs. Auerossen,⁴⁵ welk dier naar een ordinairen os sweemt, uijtgenoomen dat hetselve grooter en asgrauw van couleur, hebbende wyders een kleijne Kop en korte hoorens, alsmeede lang gekruld haijr op de borst en tusschen de hoorens, mitsgs. een lange baard, gelijk de bocken; dit Dier is seer snel in 't loopen, en word daarom by de Namaquas de baas gent; onze Cours en verheijd N.W. 2 mylen, breete 26 gr. 18 min. lengte 37 gr. 37 min.

Woensdag den 2 Decbr.

Quamen Jacobus Coetsee en Pieter Marais te rug, als door den Commandant uijtgesonden geweest zijnde, om naar het Pad en water tot naar de visrivier te sien; deselve rapporteerden, dat zy naar drie dagen rijdens aan de visrivier gekoomen waren, en het Pad seer goed, maar seer wijinig water gevonden hadden, soo dat de aldaar woonende hottentotten haar water door 't graven van Putten moesten bekoomen, om haar vee uyt bakken te drinken geeven. De visrivier was alsmeede uijtgedroogd en alleen op enkele plaatsen met eenige kuijlen waters, dog daar en teegen aan weer syden met tamelyke graswyden voorsien, ook verhaalden voorsz. uijtgesondene, dat de hottentotten daaromstreecx abundant van Vee voorsien waren, gelijk meede dat zig al aldaar een groote meenigte van groot wild gedierte, voornamentlijk oliphanten ophielden. Dat zyl. zig wyders naar de Damrocquas natie geinformeert, maar van deselve geene seekere berigten hadden kunnen bekoomen, zijn

⁴⁵ Blauw wildebeest, the Brindled Gnu (*Connochaetes taurinus*) Burch. *Wildepaard* meant the Zebra. *Muilezel* to P. v. Meerhoff in 1662 meant the Quagga (*Reizen in Zuid-Afrika, Linschoten-Vereniging, Deel I, bl. 47*). On "Brink's portion" of the Gordon Collection map (*V.R.S. Vol. 15, p. 289*) is depicted a faintly striped Quagga, with the following information:— "A kind of grey (vaale)

side and empties itself south westerly into the Vis R. The country extending ahead of us is everywhere level with here and there a few small eminences. The veld is covered with grass and Rhinosceros-bush, the river banks lined with Redwood and Thorn-trees. We saw on the plains great herds of divers species of game such as rhinosceri, giraffes, buffaloes, witte wilde paarden, ezels, quaggas, kudu, Gemsboks, Hartebeests, as well as "Auer-ossen", an animal which resembles the ordinary ox except that it is larger and ash-grey in colour with a smaller head and shorter horns, with long curled hair on the chest and between the horns too and a long beard like that of goats. This animal is very fleet of foot and therefore called "the master" by the Namaquas.⁴⁵ Our course and distance N.W. 2 miles. Lat. 26.18: Long. 37.37.

Wednesday 2nd December.

Jacobus Coetse and Pieter Marais returned, having been sent out by the Commander to search for a route and for water as far as the Fish River. They reported that they had reached the Fish R. after riding for three days and had found a good track but with very little water so that the Hottentots living thereabout had to obtain their water by digging pits, or water their cattle in troughs. The Fish River also was quite dry with only a few pools at some places, but notwithstanding this, with reasonable grazing along both banks. These two men reported too that the Hottentots there had stock in abundance and that great herds of big game, especially elephants, existed there.

They had informed themselves further concerning the Damrocquas Nation but were unable to obtain reliable news about them. They were, however, told by one of the guides that

kwagga, faintly striped with somewhat oblong markings (eenigsins Lankwerpig). This is the animal called *witpaart* in the journey of Hop." But on a portion of the map, as yet unpublished, which illustrates Col. Gordon's explorations along the Seacow and upper Orange Rivers are illustrated (1) the Cape Quagga, (2) Cape Zebra, and (3) a faintly striped animal which the mapper, probably Gordon, believed to be the progeny of the Quagga and Zebra.