

SOUTH OF THE LAKE: NORTH OF THE RIVER: A TEACHER IN ZAMBIA 1965-1968

For years after I left my teaching job in Zambia in 1968 I hoarded the letters I wrote from there to my mother in Colchester Essex. These letters and other documents such as news cuttings from Zambian, Rhodesian and South African newspapers and magazines have been carted round my different homes ending up in Hobart when I took up the position of Lecturer in Commercial Law in the Faculty of Economics and Commerce at the University of Tasmania in 1974.

My former wife Christine wrote up a detailed log of our safari round East Africa in 1966 which I kept. My daughter Crystal urged me to write this chronicle of which I had completed two initial chapters some years ago and the result was earlier published in 2023.

While in Zambia I sent information on local political issues, such as petrol and water supply problems, to Geoff Chapman then news editor of the Times of Zambia who ended up as jazz critic for the Toronto Star. Cox Sicumba was a good friend and son of a local Tongan chief. He told me on my departure from Zambia that I shouldn't go and he would find me a wife and make me a chief. He died in a 1986 air-crash in Mozambique in circumstances which may have involved the then South African government. 2020 I made contact with Colin Carlin in Bath UK who with his father John ran the Lake Press in Abercorn (now Mbala) and gave me useful guidance on an earlier draft of my book. He said 'I have seen no other book that describes the adventures of those who spent a few early years teaching overseas in the post colonial period.'

In 1974 I was having drinks with staff of the University of Tasmania Law School. Sir George Cartland, then Vice Chancellor of the University and a former Governor of Uganda, said to Professor George Wade of the Geography Department (former member of the Ruanda volcano region expedition 1936) 'Don't believe a word he says-he's been to Africa.'

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