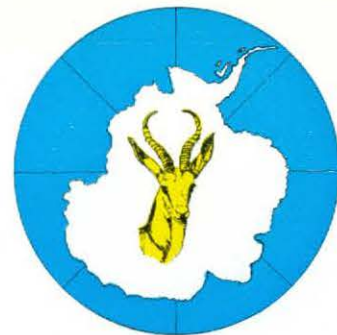




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Patrons/Beskermhers: Prof. S. P. Jackson, M.A., D.I.C., Ph.D.
Dr. S. Meiring Naudé, M.Sc., Ph.D., D.Sc.h.c., L.L.D.h.c.

Uitgegee deur die Suid-Afrikaanse Antarktiese Vereniging
Westbrook 605, Devenishstraat, Sunnyside, PRETORIA

Editor/Redakteur: Andre v. d. Merwe

REDAKSIONEEL — EDITORIAL

At the recent Antarctic Association dinner Mr. D. G. Kingwill said: "South Africa is a country which abounds in opportunities for individual contributions to research. This fact has been recognized from the earliest times mainly by visiting scientists. It is the special task of the CSIR and other government agencies to create the opportunities through which South African scientists can themselves exploit their unrivalled opportunities for research".

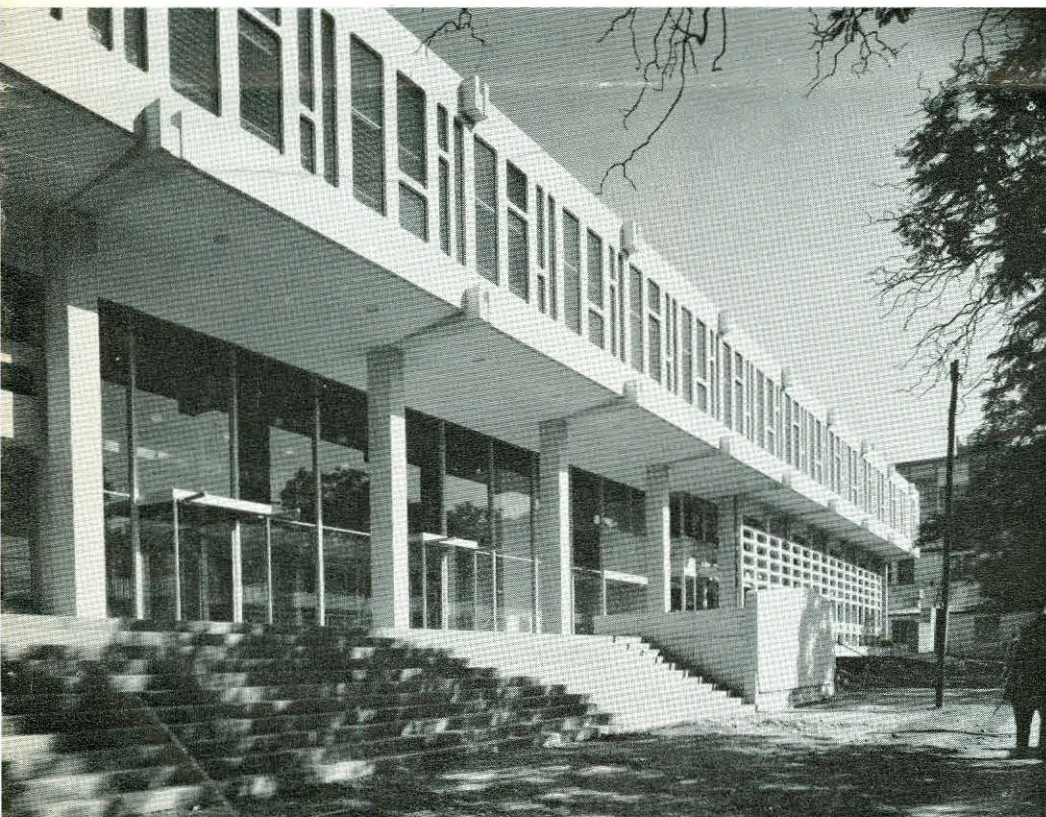
What has been said here is also true of Antarctica, and yet the question is often asked: "Why research in Antarctica? Cannot the same be done in the country at much lower cost?" This last question has also been put to the various Antarctic Scientific Advisory Committees. It is hoped that in later issues of the *Antarktiese Bulletin* members of these committees will give a reply, though it will not be necessary in cases where results have already provided the answer.

To the first question there is no better overall answer than: "Because it, Antarctica, is there." No one continent contains what another does. Besides the materialistic point of view there is the humanistic, which does not only apply to the individual but also

to the institute, the university and to the country as a whole. This has been very aptly put by Prof. Gledhill, guest speaker at the recent annual dinner of the Association: "What is the use of doing space research and why in Antarctica? To this latter portion of my question I got a reply from Doug. Torr who was ionosphericist at SANAE in 1963. He replied that by being the only man there who can do the job, you know you have got to do it. You exert yourself much more than you normally would and you find that you can do things that you never could do before, and you increase your own self confidence. If in fact the people who go down there get this out of it, then I suggest the same is true perhaps of the institutions and of the universities, who by doing this have got way out into the forefront of space research. We could not have done it had we not agreed to participate in this Antarctic research."

Prof. Gledhill's address, reported in this issue, is valuable not only for its contents, but because it shows how a "no-idea" can develop into an idea, and how an idea led to a unique scientific discovery which has put South Africa into the forefront of space research.

DIE MUSEUM VIR WETENSKAP EN INDUSTRIE IN SKINNERSTRAAT, PRETORIA



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