

Ref.:

Brastir Beadwork file

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Heritage Audit Project WSU- Special Collections

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BACKGROUND

- The Broster collection has been named after Joan Broster who was a direct descendant of the British settlers in the Eastern Cape. She was born on the 13th of August 1916.
- 1934- Matriculated at Diocesan School for girls in Grahamstown.
- 1942-45 served the armed forces as Military nurse

- 1949- Technician at the Medical Research Institute in Johannesburg.
- 1949- Technician at the Dental Hospital of Witwatersrand University.
- 1950- Got married and moved to Qebe Trading Station in Ngcobo as Mrs. Broster.

- Amaqaba and Abantu ababomvu.

The boys of 7-12 years herded sheep, goats, cattle, etc and some of these boys would visit Broster as casual workers and she would prepare food for exchange and they used one spoon for all

....Background Continuation

- Elderly women used to sew beads at the Trading Station and Broster managed to buy them.
- Mothers brought their babies to a food clinic which Joan arranged at a Trading Station.

...Background continuation

- Qebe people were also desperate for medical help and a doctor from All Saints Hospital occasionally visited them at Broster's Trading Station.
- This Station also became a meeting place for friends and for those concerned with welfare of others.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COLLECTION

This collection attempts to cover all spheres of culture and it should be seen as related to other aspects notably **Religion** and **Social activities.**

- They are worn by both the simple and the sophisticated, the poor and rich and today they are used sporadically in fashion designs
- The widespread use of beads points to some priceless heritage. Indeed beads are remnant of the past. Their preservation is ideal for posterity. They link the past with the future.

AVAILABILITY OF COLLECTION **FOR DOCUMENTATION**

- Both collections are locked and kept in Africana in glass displays.
- Students and researchers are allowed to view these collections and consult them during the official hours.

SITE STAFFING CAPACITY

- Africana and Special Collections is manned by one professional Librarian and one Senior librarian assistant.
- There is a great need for additional staff (curator) etc.

EXISTING DIGITISATION

- Not yet but it is in pipeline.

EXISTING INVENTORY (BOTH PAPER AND ELECTRONIC)

- There is a catalogue of the Broster collection of Xhosa beadwork in place.

WAYFOWARD

- We live in a world where information is stored in many forms and formats. For our students and researchers at large to become information users in the fullest sense of the world, they need to be exposed to information sources regardless of where and how it is contained and this brings us to the concept of envisaged ethnological museum. That still remains as our greatest challenge.

THANK YOU

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