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978-0-521-12125-5 - Status and Respectability in the Cape Colony, 1750-1870: A Tragedy of Manners

Robert Ross

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Status and Respectability in the Cape Colony, 1750–1870

A Tragedy of Manners

In a compelling example of the new cultural history of South Africa, Robert Ross offers a subtle and wide-ranging study of status and respectability in the colonial Cape between 1750 and 1870. He describes the symbolism of dress, emblems, architecture, food, language and polite conventions, paying particular attention to domestic relationships, gender, education and religion, and analyses the values and the modes of thinking current in different strata of the society. He argues that these cultural factors were related to high political developments in the Cape, and offers a rich account of the changes in social identity that accompanied the transition from Dutch to British overrule, and of the development of white racism and of ideologies of resistance to white domination. The result is a uniquely nuanced account of a colonial society.

ROBERT ROSS is coordinator of African Studies at the Rijks Universiteit Leiden, The Netherlands. He has written widely on South African history, and his books include *Adam Kok's Griquas: A Study in the Development of Stratification in South Africa* (1976); *Cape of Torments: Slavery and Resistance in South Africa* (1982); *Beyond the Pale: Essays on the History of Colonial South Africa* (1993); and, most recently, *A Concise History of South Africa* (1999).

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For Jatti, Susie and Nigel
friends and colleagues

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Abbreviations

ARA	Algemene Rijksarchief, The Hague
AYB	<i>Archives Year Book for South African History</i>
BPP	British Parliamentary Paper
CA	Cape Archives
CMM	<i>Cape Monthly Magazine</i>
CPP	Cape Parliamentary Paper
DR	Dag-register
DRC	Dutch Reformed Church
JAH	<i>Journal of African History</i>
JME	<i>Journal des Missions Évangéliques</i>
JSAS	<i>Journal of Southern African Studies</i>
LMS	London Missionary Society; also the archives of that body, now the Congregational Council for World Missions, held in the School of Oriental and African Studies, London
LMS-SA	LMS archives, incoming letters, South Africa
NZAT	<i>Nederduitsch Zuid-Afrikaansche Tijdschrift</i>
PA	<i>Periodical Accounts Relating to the Missions of the Church of the United Brethren</i>
PEMS	Paris Evangelical Missionary Society
QBSAL	<i>Quarterly Bulletin of the South African Library</i>
RCC	G. McC. Theal (ed.), <i>Records of the Cape Colony</i>
RCP	Resolutions of the Council of Policy
SACA	<i>South African Commercial Advertiser</i>
SAHJ	<i>South African Historical Journal</i>
SHCT	<i>Studies in the History of Cape Town</i>
SSA	<i>Collected Seminar Papers of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London: The Societies of Southern Africa in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries</i>
UCT	University of Cape Town
UNISA	University of South Africa
VOC	<i>Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie</i> (Dutch East India Company); also the archives of that body in the ARA

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