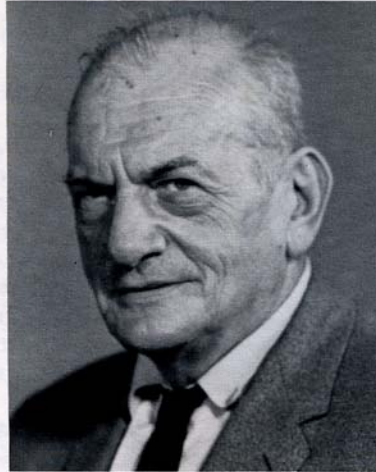


OBITUARY

PAUL FRIEDE
1903-1992



Dr Paul Friede was described recently in a very brief obituary in *The Star* as an Archaeologist - but he was much more than that. Paul had the unusual combination of a degree in engineering and a degree in psychology. In the early 1930s he was a psychologist in the service of the German State Railways and during the Second World War he served with the South African army in the Middle East. But he was, above all, a man with an extremely lively intelligence and an enquiring mind that delved deeply into the variety of subjects that interested him.

I first met Paul as the result of reading an article that he wrote for *Panorama* in June 1959. His rubbings of pre-historic rock engravings that illustrated the article attracted me to the Africana Museum to look for some originals and there was Paul seated on the floor making a rubbing of the petroglyph of a giraffe and tree which he had brought to the museum and which is still there. This bit of extra-sensory perception led to our making many journeys together in search of petroglyphs in the foothills of the Magaliesberg and the Klerksdorp and Schweizer-Reneke districts. This activity, in turn, generated the involvement of the South African Archaeological Society and the Africana Museum in the establishment of the Rock Art Museum at the Johannesburg Zoo to which petroglyphs were moved and placed under Paul's direction. The museum was opened by Professor Raymond Dart.

In those days it was still considered harmless to make

rubbings of petroglyphs and Paul developed techniques which enabled him to compile an outstanding set of rubbings, not only from South Africa but from countries such as Israel, Sweden and Italy as well.

In the course of conversation, Paul Friede mentioned pre-war days spent as a skiing instructor when he collected payment from Bavarian girls in the form of embroidered head scarves. He also had a magnificent collection of African beadwork and a collection of photographs of Ndebele houses and Italian doorknockers!

Paul was deeply interested in the decipherment of the Etruscan language in which he claimed some breakthroughs and in the study of the origin of numbers. He was also an accomplished photographer, in which capacity he was associated with the British Royal tour in 1947 and with the Rhodes Centenary in 1953 when he was in Bulawayo. An article on his photography of petroglyphs appeared in the *South African Archaeological Bulletin* in September 1950. His most challenging assignment was photographing diamonds for Sir Ernest Oppenheimer.

That Paul Friede lived to his ninetieth year is evidence of his physical toughness - something that he frequently demonstrated in our walks together in the Magaliesberg and the Drakensberg. He is greatly missed.

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