

# INTRODUCTION

The publication of three issues of *English Usage in Southern Africa* has brought with it many new experiences in the art of lexicography, and the criticism which the first two issues elicited from interested readers is proving valuable. I dared to 'plunge into a sea of lexicography without having first been taught to swim', but now that the project has been launched and is properly afloat, its weaknesses can receive attention. One sound lesson I have learnt: English usage in Southern Africa is not as isolated from English spoken elsewhere as it may at first have appeared to be. It does belong to universal English and is making its particular contribution to a major language, one which is used as a means of communication around the globe today.

The current issue reflects some of the adaptations we are introducing in the presentation of our material; subsequent issues will reflect additional changes.

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