**“A NEW ACROPOLIS”:**

**THE FIRST HELLENIC SCHOOL IN SOUTH AFRICA**

ALKIS DOUCAKIS WITH MEMBERS OF THE MARIA KATRAKIS SOUTH AFRICAN HELLENIC ARCHIVE



**110 A4 pages; 33 illustrations; 5 maps; detailed 17-page 3-columned index; 379 footnotes;**

**foreword by Adv. George Bizos; 115 gm2 Magno Gloss paper; set in Times New Roman 14 pt;**

**bibliography; 7 appendices; 2nd edition, 2019**

**About the book**

The most beautiful school in the former Transvaal Province was built in 1931 in the Classic Hellenic architectural style atop Johannesburg’s Malvern hill.  A former English-speaking pupil emphasised that "it was *a special place*".  So popular was the school that its numbers kept increasing with the result that it had to be replaced in 1944 by the far bigger Hillcrest Primary School just two blocks away.  Demolished in 1957, it made way for the Malvern High School.  Dubbed the "Hellenic school", it was one of a number of attempts that preceded the founding of the SAHETI school.

**Importance of this study**

The book documents an unusual occurrence in local education:  that the Transvaal Education Department, rather than building, leased a Greek school, paid for its teachers, furniture and running costs, and even agreed to give priority of admission to pupils of Greek descent over and above South African children.

**Reason it adds to South African history**

Few, if any, know of the school, which went by the name Hellenic Government School.  A unique institution, its location and name were unknown yet to this day it is remembered in the names of its four Hillcrest school houses -- Athenians, Spartans, Corinthians and Arcadians.

**This book will appeal**to Hellenophiles, to those interested in the history of South Africa’s unknown places and to members of the Hellenic community.

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