

54 DHLOMO Robert Reggie Rolfus

1. DhloMO was born in Siyamu (Siam) near Edendale, Pietermaritzburg, in 1900. He went to school at Edendale and Ohlange, and while at school started on his writing career. After leaving school he worked for ILANGA and later for BANTU WORLD, where he wrote the Woman's Page, and also was an amusing columnist, R.Roamer, Esq., In 1946 he published a serious work, his novel INDLELA YABABI. It is a pioneer social novel, and is highly regarded by students of Zulu literature.

Cartoon: Women laughing over R.Roamer's column ^{or} ~~on~~ his Woman's Page

2. In 1936 he began his biographical works on the Zulu kings, with USHAKA and UDINGANE running into many editions. They were followed by UMPANDE, UCETSHWAYO, and UDINUZULU, and by a novel and essays. Earlier he had written "An African Tragedy" in English. Then came the war of 1939, and he took over the editorship of BANTU WORLD from Selope Thema.

Cartoon: DhloMO in the editorial sanctum, or reading one of the first copies to come off the presses. In 1939 I believe all newspaper artisans were white.

3. In 1942 DhloMO took over the editorship of ILANGA from Ngazana Luthuli and was there till 1962. He continued to write for the paper until the year of his death, mainly on politics. He was the first Black journalist to cover the parliamentary session in Cape Town. He died in 1971, having made a lasting contribution to Zulu literature.

Cartoon: DhloMO in the Parliamentary Press Gallery in Cape Town