

HONORARY GRADUATE

Clive Sidney Menell

Clive Sidney Menell was born in Johannesburg in June 1931. His first school years were spent in South Africa and the United States of America. In 1945 he went to Rugby School in the United Kingdom, where he received his secondary schooling. After a year in Johannesburg he proceeded to Trinity College, University of Cambridge, where in 1953 he graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, subsequently obtaining the degree of Master of Arts. While there he captained the Trinity College First Cricket XI.

Returning to South Africa, Clive Menell joined the Johannesburg firm of auditors, Alexander Aiken and Carter, as an audit clerk. In 1956 he joined Anglo Alpha Cement Company Limited, part of the Anglovaal Group of which his father, S G ('Slip') Menell, had been a co-founder with A S ('Bob') Hersov in 1933.

Three years later Clive Menell enrolled at the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania, where he completed the degree of Master of Business Administration and lectured to undergraduate students in corporate finance.

Rejoining the Anglovaal Group, at which he has this year completed his fortieth year of service, he worked in Anglovaal Industries, becoming a Head Office Manager. In 1973, he became Group Planner and a year later, Deputy Chairman and Administrative Director. In those capacities he has played a major role in the repositioning of the Group to enable it to vigorously meet the challenges of the coming century. He and his colleague Basil Hersov, Chairman of Anglovaal, have built on the solid foundations laid down by their fathers, so that today the Anglovaal Group is one of the major industrial, mining and financial groups in South Africa and enjoys a high reputation for enlightened and efficient management and forward planning. Clive Menell is Chairman of Anglovaal Holdings Limited and a member of the boards of directors of all the major companies in the Group. In 1979 he was selected as one of the *Sunday Times* Businessmen of the Year.

In 1957-8 Clive and Irene Menell worked with a small group of friends, including Todd Matshikiza, the composer and writer, in creating the jazz opera, *King Kong*. The world premiere, which took place in this very hall (the only one at the time available to which non-segregated audiences were permitted to come), has been recognised as one of the most important events in South African theatrical history. Its overseas tour helped to launch the international careers of Miriam Makeba, Hugh Masekela, Jonas Gwangwa, Cai-phus Semenya, Letta Mbula and others, fulfilling the Menells' hopes that such great talents should be recognised and rewarded as they deserve.

In the early 1960s Menell was involved with Michael Stern and Gordon Milne in the establishment of Waterford School in Swaziland, the first private, non-racial, co-educational institution in this part of the world. Waterford School has become an important educational model.

Clive and Irene Menell also became involved in the American Field Service Student Exchange Programme in South Africa. From 1959 to 1972 over a thousand young South Africans were sent on a one-year programme to the United States, while more than three hundred American students participated in programmes in South Africa. During most of that period Clive was the South African Chairman, and he served on the International Board for six years.

Since 1970 Menell has been a member of the board of USSALEP (United States South Africa Leadership Exchange Programme), which in many diverse ways has enhanced understanding between peoples in South Africa, augmented the talents of leading members of our society, and improved understanding between South Africa and the USA through many difficult years.

Menell became one of the founders of the Urban Foundation, which he helped establish on 1 December 1976 under the chairmanship of Mr Harry Oppenheimer. He was the only member to serve on its Board from its inception, to its winding-up in 1994. He was also Chairman of its Transvaal Regional Board. The Urban Foundation was a unique body at its inception, and over the years it played an important role in advancing economic, political and social change in South Africa.

Menell also involved himself in the activities of the Consultative Business Movement in its important work of facilitating the vital process of negotiations leading to the democratic interim Constitution and South Africa's first democratic elections. He later became Co-chairman of the Consultative Business Movement. When the Urban Foundation and the Consultative Business Movement joined to form a new body, the National Business Initiative in 1995, Menell, became, with the Reverend Nvume Dandala, co Vice-chairman, under Dr A M Rosholt.

Invited by President Mandela to help him organise the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, to which the President has committed one-third of his personal salary every year, Clive Menell serves as Deputy Chairman of the Board of Trustees and acts for the President in his capacity as Chairman of the Board.

Some years ago Clive Menell founded and endowed the S G Menell Trust. The Trust provides educational and training opportunities in the fine arts for black South African children. Clive Menell himself is a gifted painter.

For the past twenty-five years Clive Menell has been a conscientious and concerned member of the Wits Council.

Clive Menell together with his wife, Irene, has given much to the wellbeing of this country in so many fields - in the promotion of education, in the emergence of a democratic government, in the arts, in the advancement of the underprivileged and in economic development. It is truly fitting that the University signify its appreciation of their life's work by conferring on him the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.