

"Since I heard that my relatives' bodies were taken and cooked I am sick from sorrow and I will not recover from the shock for a long time. I wept for days."

Old Katje, widow of a San man
dug up by Poch's assistant Mehnarto,
at Kuie Pan, 26 January 1910

SKELETONS IN THE CUPBOARD

South African museums and the trade in human remains 1907-1917

Martin Legassick & Ciraj Rassool

with responses and notes by Alan G. Morris, David Morris and Leon Jacobson,
Graham Avery, Sven Ouzman, & Marilyn Truscott, and a reply by the authors.

Foreword by Patricia Davidson.

Collections of human remains in museums are tangible reminders of the attitudes and theories that were current in the early decades of the twentieth century. This volume challenges museums to acknowledge the unscrupulous methods used in building up such collections. It raises issues relevant to historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, museum curators and all those interested in the transformation of museum practice in Southern Africa.

Published by the South African Museum, PO Box 61, Cape Town 8000,
& McGregor Museum, PO Box 316, Kimberley 8300

First published 2000. 105 pp.

ISBN 0-86813-177-6