

RICHARD MENDELSON: SAMMY MARKS "THE UNCROWNED KING OF THE TRANSVAAL". David Philip, Cape Town, 1991. R65,95.

This chronology of the life of one of President Paul Kruger's famous contemporaries provides valuable insights into a number of aspects of South African

history. This Russian Jewish immigrant made a fortune on the Kimberley diamond fields and from there moved to the Highveld where he established

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himself as a formidable economic power and public figure. He was founder of the coal industry, creator of the South African steel industry, a landowner and the proprietor of a notorious liquor distillery near Pretoria.

He is also the man who spun a web of influence around Paul Kruger and the man who helped persuade Boer leaders to abandon the struggle against Britain in 1902.