

# David Susman

**David Susman** (1925-2010) was a highly respected businessman and philanthropist in South Africa, but was also always involved with business in Zambia which meant a great deal to him, as did central Africa as a whole. He was born in 1925, in Livingstone, where he spent much of his childhood. His university studies took him to South Africa, to the University of the Witwatersrand, to read for a degree in commerce, but this was interrupted by military service in Italy in the Second World War and as an officer of distinction in the 1948 Israeli War of Independence. The next year, in England in 1949, he became a trainee manager at the British retail chain, Marks & Spencer, and married Ann Laski the niece of the Chairman, Sir Simon Marks. Back in South Africa in 1952, he became a general manager at Woolworths, the South African retail chain that had been co-founded by his uncle Elie. Managing director there by 1956, he later served as Chairman until 1993 presiding over the rapid expansion of the business and responsible for the transmission of the ethics and methods of Marks & Spencer to the Woolworth's chain, as well as to his family's Zambian businesses including Susman Brothers & Wulfsohn.

A staunch opponent of apartheid, David Susman insisted that his employees be appointed on merit, and not colour, and refused to have racially separate amenities for his staff. As a noted philanthropist, he gave generously both to general and to Jewish causes, and one of these is the Gateway Museum which he conceived and which he substantially endowed.



*David Susman*



*Ann and David Susman*

The eminent businessman **Edwin Wulfsohn** was born in Livingstone in 1942 to Harry and Trude Wulfsohn. A degree in Economics from the University of Cape Town led to an MBA from Columbia Business School in New York after which he joined Chase Manhattan Bank which seconded him to Standard Chartered Bank in London and in Johannesburg.

In 1966 Wulfsohn returned to Zambia to take control of the Copperbelt butchery business, Werners, which, two years after his father's death, was in difficulties; by 1970 he was back in London to take over Stenham and Company, a shipping firm, and also Vigers, Stevens, & Adams, a timber flooring business that had been bought in connection with Zambesi Saw Mills. Now called Stenham Gestinor, Stenham was built into a thriving financial service.

In 1993 Wulfsohn joined with David Susman, John Rabb, and Hillary Duckworth to found Trans Zambezi Industries (TZI) Ltd. Zambesi Ranching and Cropping, the surviving assets of the Susman and Wulfsohn families in Zambia, were taken over to raise \$70,000,000 on the international market for investment in central Africa and to finance the development of Zambeef into a dominant position in the butchery business in Zambia, and to extend its operations into Nigeria, Ghana, and other African countries.

Wulfsohn remained at the helm of Stenham Gestinor after Investec took over the company in 2001 but has since stepped down as chairman. He is deputy chairman of a group which now has more than \$3 billion under management and plays an active role in the community and the arts as a trustee and chairman of the investment committee of the Chelsea & Westminster Health Charity and as a trustee of the Contemporary Art Society and the Caine Prize for African Literature.



*Edwin Wulfsohn*