

May 29

Br PETER PARAVICINI 22 November 1834 – 29 May 1899

On 3 March 1880, just before he set out on his final journey to Mzila's, Law wrote to Weld, The English Assistant, 'precautions should have been taken to have people examined by medical men before being sent out' on the Zambezi Mission.

He had the two men at Old Tati in mind: Fuchs who died and Paravicini who almost did. Also, Depelchin wrote to Weld a little later that same month, that only northern



Europeans should come on the mission as Italians are too inclined to be homesick! Again he must have had Paravicini in mind though there was another Italian, Blanca, who was often a trial to members of the party.

Paravicini was born in Milan and entered the Society when he was thirty in 1864. He was among the first group who travelled up (see Law's drawing above of Crossing the Shashi River) with Depelchin in 1879. He wrote to a fellow brother in Italy that they were delayed two days on the way as they went to the aid of a ship that had mechanical problems and was stuck in the ocean for 21 days with food running low. They towed it into Sierra Leone (Freetown).

The plan was that one group, including Br Paravicini, would stay at Khama's place in Shoshong but when the king refused permission they had to move on to Tati where Fr Karl Fuchs and he remained when Depelchin pushed on to GuBulawayo. On the death of Fuchs from fever and with the near death of Paravacini, Depelchin sent the latter to Grahamstown to recover. He stayed there for some time working in the gardens.

In 1882, he returned north and went beyond Tati to Pandamatenga where again he worked in the gardens with Br Vervennes. But he had not fully recovered and soon had to be withdrawn, first to Zeerust and Dunbrody and finally, in 1887, to Europe. He later went to Brazil and died there.

