

INVESTIGATION BAINES PAINTINGS

In connection with the article on "Investigation Baines Paintings" by Mrs. P.E. Punt which appeared in Volume I, No. 2, of "Pretoriana", permit me to supply the following additional information.

One of the three paintings - the one executed for Mr. A. Brodrick - is in the possession of the City Council and is reproduced in the Centenary Album published by authority of the City Council. It is a view of Pretoria from the north-western slopes of Meintjes Kop, showing the Apies River drift (now Lion Bridge) on the left and Church Square and the surrounding areas in the background.

According to Baines, this painting and the other two were made for the fee of £10.10.0 each. (Incidentally, Baines says that one of the paintings was made for Mr. Hermann Jeppe, whereas the article in "Pretoriana" refers to Mr. Carl Jeppe).

The painting in the City Hall was acquired by the City Council in 1935, for £100 and it was stated by the person offering it for sale that it was bought in Pietermaritzburg in 1889. When the Council agreed to buy it, the seller wrote, "You can put the amount against that I owe on my sewerage loan, about £90, and the balance against an electrical stove and equipment which I am anxious to install and obtain through your Electrical Department".

This painting is an exact replica of the one made for Mr. Robert Lys except that the latter is painted in a very pleasing greyish colour whereas the municipal one has brick-reddish as the dominant colour.

In his diary Baines records that, "The price of Mr. Broderick's picture was nearly balanced by the store account. Mr. Lys gave me two good trek-oxen and Mr. H. Jeppe two Colonial notes for £5 each which passed in Pretoria for £9.10.0., the other 10/- remaining due." (The error in calculation is Baines's, not mine.) Baines's financial resources had been completely exhausted when he arrived in Pretoria in January, 1872, and the only way he could maintain himself and "the kaffirs" was by his work. I hope that one day all three these historic paintings will be in the possession of the City Council.

H. P. H. BEHRENS,
Public Relations Officer.