

# Ons Stad Groei

In die afgelope twee jaar vind daar 'n geweldige uitbreiding in die aanbou van geboue in Pretoria plaas. Die ou enkelverdieping winkel en hartbeeshuisie wat so kenmerkend van ou Pretoria was, word deur groot besighede en wonings vervang. Daaglik sien ons dat geboue daterende uit ons stad se kinderjare, gesloop word. Met versnelde tempo verander die voorkoms van die hoofstad en binnekort sal 'n nuwe moderne stad die rustige ou dorp Pretoria van weleer vervang het.

Die Genootskap Oud Pretoria sou graag sien dat 'n tipiese ou woning uit die stigtingsjare van die hoofstad, vir toekomstige geslagte aangekoop word. Gebrek aan fondse maak die uitvoering van hierdie gedagte deur die Genootskap jammer genoeg onmoontlik. Tog behoort 'n poging aangewend te word om 'n huis wat o.a. as voorbeeld van Pretoria se vroegste argitektuur sal dien, vir die nageslag te red.

In die stede van Europa word historiese huise met passende meubels deur verenigings, privaat persone of stadsrade, vir bewaring aangekoop. Hierdeur word die ryk geskiedkundige erfenis uit so 'n stad se verlede vir toekomstige burgers gered. Deur die aanwins van so 'n gebou word terselfdertyd die kulturele lewe van beide stad en land verryk.

Pretoria is nog geen eeu oud nie en ons oudste wonings word skaarser, maar die meerderheid van Pretoriane slaan geen ag op die verdwainende ou huise van ons stad nie. Tog is hierdie wonings, met vrugteboorde en water-erwe, voorbeelde van die boustyl en lewenswyse van die stigters van die hoofstad. Oor 'n paar jaar sal daar geen enkele voorbeeld van Pretoria se oudste huise meer bestaan nie en latere geslagte sal nie in staat wees nie om die mooi eenvoudige huise met geweltjies, van vroër te gaan besigtig nie. Indien so'n huis met sy oorspronklike meublement en tuin kon bewaar word sou besoekers, ook die van oorsee, 'n voorbeeld van 'n kulturele erfenis uit Transvaal se wordingsjare kan gaan sien. Wat 'n kunsskat sal die woning oor 'n paar eeue vir Pretoria en Transvaal wees!

Ou Pretoriane meen dat eer dit te laat is moet 'n tipiese ou woning vir bewaring aangekoop word en dat die Stadsraad van Pretoria die aangewese liggaam is om in oorleg met die Genootskap Ou Pretoria 'n outydse woning aan te koop. Mag hierdie wens, terwyl dit verwesenlik

kan word, in vervulling gaan. Intussen sal in „Pretoriana” fotos, beskrywings en ander besonderhede in woord en beeld van ou geboue uit ons stad se verlede gepubliseer word. Latere inwoners sal oor gegewens van die eerste wonings en winkels van Pretoria beskik. Ons blad word dus ’n uiters waardevolle rekord van ons stad se geskiedenis en argitektuur ens

„Pretoriana” is nou in die tweede jaargang, en dit is danksy die besonder gulhartige geldelike steun van die firma De Loors Bakkery en ’n bydrae van ons stadsraad moontlik gemaak. Die bereidwilligheid waarmee De Loors die aanbod van geldelike hulp vir die uitgee van „Pretoriana” gemaak het, getuig dat die vooraanstaande ou families van Pretoria bereid is om die kulturele belange van ons stad te steun. Ons stadsraad se bydrae word ook hoog op prys gestel want dit is ’n daadwerklike bewys dat Pretoria se stadsvaders die belangrike werk van die Genootskap nog meer begin te waardeer.

Ons is oortuig daarvan dat „Pretoriana” met die daadwerklike hulp van sy burgers en stadsraad nog vir baie jare sal kan verskyn. Die voortbestaan van ons blad onder die redaksie van Dr. T. S. van Rooyen is tans bestendig.

(Get.) W. H. J. PUNT,

Voorsitter.

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## Our City is Growing

In the past two years an enormous expansion has taken place in the construction of buildings in Pretoria. The old single-storey shop and “hartbeeshuisie” which were so characteristic of old Pretoria are being replaced by large businesses and flats. Daily we see buildings dating back to the childhood years of our city being demolished. The appearance of the capital is changing at a quickening tempo and very shortly a new modern city will have replaced the peaceful old town, the Pretoria of yore.

The Society Old Pretoria would like to see the purchase for future generations of a typical old dwelling from the foundation years of the capital. Lack of funds most unfortunately makes the carrying out of this idea impossible for the Society. Nevertheless an attempt should be made to save for posterity a house which would serve, inter alia, as an example of Pretoria’s earliest architecture.

In the cities of Europe historic houses, with corresponding furniture, are bought for preservation by associations, private persons or city councils. By this means the rich historical heritage of such a city's past is saved for the citizens of the future. By the acquisition of such a building the cultural life of both town and city is enriched.

Pretoria is not yet a century old and our oldest dwellings are becoming more rare, but the majority of Pretorians pay no attention to the vanishing old houses of our city. Nevertheless these dwellings with their orchards and water erwen are examples of the style of building and way of life of the founders of the capital. In a few years there will not exist a single example of Pretoria's oldest houses and later generations will not be able to see the charming, simple, gabled houses of bygone days. If such a house with its original furnishings and garden could be preserved, visitors, including those from overseas, would be able to see an example of a cultural heritage dating back to the Transvaal's years of genesis. What an art treasure such a dwelling would be in a couple of centuries for Pretoria and the Transvaal.

Old Pretorians consider that a typical old dwelling should be bought for preservation before it is too late, and that the City Council of Pretoria, in consultation with the Society Old Pretoria, is the obvious body to buy an old-time residence. May this wish, while it can still be realised, come to fulfilment. In the meantime photographs, descriptions and other particulars in word and picture of old buildings from our city's past will be published in "Pretoriana." Later inhabitants will have at their disposal data regarding the first dwellings and shops of Pretoria, and our paper will thus be an extremely valuable record of our city's history and architecture, etc.

"Pretoriana" is now in its second year and this has been made possible by the exceptionally liberal financial support of the firm Le Loor's Bakery and by a contribution from our City Council. The readiness with which De Loor's made an offer of financial help for the publication of "Pretoriana" proves that the leading old Pretoria families are prepared to support the cultural interests of our city. Our City Council's contribution is highly valued as a very real proof that Pretoria's city fathers are beginning to appreciate the important work of the Society still more.

We are convinced that "Pretoriana" with the active help of the citizens and the City Council will be able to appear for many years to come. The continuance of our paper is assured under the editorship of Dr. T. S. van Rooyen.

(Sgd.) W. H. J. PUNT,

Chairman.