

# Pretoriana



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*Mondstuk van die Genootskap Oud-Fretoria  
Verskyn in April, Augustus en Desember.*

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*Organ of the Association Old Pretoria  
Published in April, August and December.*



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## LIBERTAS — DIE PREMIERSWONING IN PRETORIA

**G**EDURENDE 1935 is aan argitekte van die Unie van Suid-Afrika die geleentheid gegee om mee te ding aan die ontwerp van 'n premierswoning in Bryntirion.

Die bedoeling was dat die gebou belangrik moet voorkom en 'n nasionale karakter dra. In die voorwaardes van die wedstryd is daar aan die hand gedoen dat die ontwerp gebaseer moet word op die pragtige tradisionele werk wat ons in Suid-Afrika het, gemoderniseer om aan die teenswoordige vereistes te beantwoord.

Die eerste prys is verower deur wyle dr. Gerard Moerdyk, wat daarna as argitek aangestel is.

Die gebou, met inbegrip van die aanlê en verbetering van die terrein, is in 1940 teen 'n koste van ongeveer £68,000 voltooi.

Die woning wek onmiddellik die indruk van waardigheid wat 'n mens by die amptelike woning van die Eerste Minister sou verwag.

Met sy ou Kaaps-Hollandse styl en meubels wat die 18de eeu en die groot kulture waarvan die huidige blanke ras van Suid-Afrika afstam, nl. die Hollandse, die Franse, die Duitse en die Engelse, verteenwoordig, besit dit 'n indrukwekkende atmosfeer van tradisie.

— *Oorgeneem uit: Die Stad Pretoria — Amptelike Gids.*



Amptelike Woning van die Eerste Minister.

— Libertas —

Official Residence of the Prime Minister

Argitek : Gerard Moerdyk : Architect

# Dr. GERARD MOERDYK

— IN MEMORIAM —

**D**R. GERARD MOERDYK, argitek van talle kerke in die Unie en van die Voortrekkermonument, is Saterdagoggend in die Nylstroomse hospitaal oorlede. Hy was 68 jaar oud.

Uit hoofde van sy openbare werk was dr. Moerdyk die bekendste argitek in die land. Op grond daarvan het hy 'n eredoktorsgraad van die Universiteit van Pretoria ontvang, terwyl hy ook deur die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns met 'n erepenning beloon is.

Wyle dr. Moerdyk se belangstelling vir die kuns was nie net tot die argitektuur beperk nie. Hy was besitter van een van die kosbaarste versamelings van Afrikaanse skilderye, en aan die skilderkuns het hy soms selfs ook meegedoen met waterverf. Ook die beeldhoukuns het hy op klein skaal beoefen — waarskynlik 'n gevolg van sy jarelange noue voeling met Anton van Wouw, met wie hy saam in Rome en later in Johannesburg gewoon het.

Hy het 'n verbasende aantal tale geken, en hy het 'n biblioteek vir homself opgebou wat getuie daarvan was. Benevens Afrikaans, Engels en Nederlands, was hy ook Duits, Italiaans en Frans magtig.

Gerard Leendert Pieter Moerdyk is in 1890 gebore in die distrik Waterberg as seun van mnr. J. L. Moerdyk, in lewe inspekteur van skole. Tot die uitbreek van die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog het hy in Pretoria en elders in Transvaal skoolgegaan, en in die oorlog is sy moeder met haar vyf kinders in die konsentrasiekamp op Standerton gehou.

Daarna het die ou egpaar Moerdyk in Pretoria gaan woon, waar Gerard gematrikuleer en as tekenaar in die diens van die Departement van Openbare Werke getree het.

In 1909 is hy na Europa waar hy aan verskeie argitekskole gestudeer het en in Londen het hy die hoogste onderskeiding in die argitektuur behaal, naamlik die titel A.R.I.B.A. Daarna het hy in Parys en Rome nog verder gestudeer.

In 1914 het hy na die Unie teruggekeer, en hy het met die uitbreek van



die Wêreldoorlog 'n betrekking by die Randse goudmyne aanvaar. In 1917 het hy sy eie praktyk in Johannesburg begin, en sedert 1925 was hy in Pretoria gevestig. Hy het hom veral onderskei as argitek van kerke, waarvan hy ruim 90 in die hele Unie ontwerp het. Baie van die geboue van die Universiteit Pretoria is deur hom ontwerp — hy was jare lank voorsiter van die Universiteitsraad.

In 1937 het hy in 'n landswyse kompetisie die prys verower met die ontwerp van Libertas, die Eerste Minster se ampswoning in Pretoria. Die kroon op sy werk as argitek is egter gespan op 16 Desember 1949, toe die Voortrekkermonument — sy grootste en beroemdste werk — voor 'n skaar van 'n kwartmiljoen ingewy is.

Hy is in 1918 getroud met mej. Sylva Pirow, wat hom oorleef. Drie kinders is uit die huwelik gebore, en daar is agt kleinkinders.

— *Die Transvaler*, 31/3/1958.

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## DR. NICOL SE HULDEBETOON

In 'n brief aan mev. Moerdyk, weduwee van wyle dr. Gerard Moerdyk, verklaar dr. W. Nicol as voorsitter van die Beheerraad van die Voortrekkermonument dat die Raad graag sy medelye met haar verlies wil uitspreek. Die Raad het sy werk en sy lewe gewaardeer. —

— *Die Transvaler*, 31/3/1958.

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## 'N DRINGENDE OPROEP AAN ALLE LEDE VAN DIE GENOOTSAP OUD-PRETORIA

**G**EDURENDE die afgelope jare het ons viermaandelikse blad „*Pretoriana*” steeds verbeter van gehalte en inhoud, sodat ons daarvan oortuig is dat dit vandag deur baie mense graag gelees word, maar soos u kan begryp het die publikasie daarvan steeds meer en meer van die beperkte fondse van die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria opgeslurp. Bestryding van die hoë drukkoste deur middel van vol- of halfblad-advertensies het op die duur nie doenlik geblyk nie, aangesien sake-ondernemings nie geneë is om in 'n blad van beperkte oplaag te adverteer nie.

In 1957 en 1958 is die proefneming deur ons redakteur gemaak om sekere firmas in Pretoria te nader vir 'n klein bydrae van sowat £3-3-0 waardeur die publikasie van 'n foto of die druk van sekere bladsye moontlik gemaak word, en waarby dan die naam van die betrokke firma wat die skenking gemaak het, gemeld word. In Nr. 25, 26 en 27, sowel as in hierdie en die vorige uitgawe van „*Pretoriana*” vind u verskillende voorbeelde van hierdie tipe „advertensie.” Dit het geblyk dat feitlik alle firmas

wat genader is hiertoe bereid is, en daarom het die Bestuur besluit om hierop uit te brei. In hierdie verband tree dr. J. M. H. van Aardt vanaf die einde van 1958 op as Sakebestuurder van „Pretoriana” en is hy onder andere verantwoordelik vir die werwing van skenkings deur firmas en privaat persone.

*Vir die werwing van die groots-moontlike aantal skenkings vir elke uitgawe het ons ook die hulp van ons lede nodig.* Aangesien u ongetwyfeld almal sekere vertroude firmas ken met wie u gereeld handel dryf, versoek ons u vriendelik dog dringend om dergelike toeseggings van die betrokke firmas te probeer verkry. Die skenking van £3-3-0 (of selfs minder ook), waarvoor in ruil weliswaar ’n beskeie advertensie verskaf word, sal seker deur geen enkele Pretoriase firma geweier word nie, veral as dit deur hulle gereelde kliënte gevra word nie. U word aangeraai om die vorige drie uitgawes van „Pretoriana” of Nr. 29 as voorbeeld aan die firmas te toon.

As ons lede hierin saamwerk, twyfel ons nie daaraan nie dat ons blad tot iets werklik mooi en kosbaar sal kan ontwikkel. U medewerking sal baie waardeer word. Skenkings moet gerig word aan: Mnr. G. Rissik, Die Penningmeester, Genootskap Oud-Pretoria, p/a. S.A. Reserwebank, Kerkplein, Pretoria. Aangesien die volgende uitgawe in Augustus 1959 moet verskyn, sal dit waardeer word indien u so spoedig moontlik ’n flinke poging sal aanwend om een of meer skenkings te probeer verkry. Die name van ons lede wat daarin geslaag het om skenkings te verkry, sal elke keer in „Pretoriana” gepubliseer en ook op ons jaarvergaderings gemeld word.

Ont hartlike dank vir voorbaat.

Die uwe,

F. J. DU T. SPIES,

*Sekretaris Genootskap Oud-Pretoria.*

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## AN URGENT APPEAL TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OLD PRETORIA

**D**URING the past years the quality and the contents of our four-monthly periodical “Pretoriana” have steadily improved and we are convinced that many people now read it with enjoyment; but, as can be understood, the publication of “Pretoriana” absorbs more and more of the Association’s limited funds. Defraying the costs by means of advertisements has not proved feasible in the long run, as firms are disinclined to advertise in a publication of limited circulation.

In 1957 and 1958 our editor made the experiment of approaching firms for a small contribution of, say £3-3-0, whereby the publication of a

photograph or the printing of certain pages, on which the name of the firm concerned was given as an advertisement, was made possible. In Nos. 25, 26, 27 and 28 and also in this number of "Pretoriana" you will find examples of this type of "advertisement". It was found that virtually all the firms which were approached were willing to make a donation, and the Committee has accordingly decided to extend the scheme. Recently one of our members, Dr. J. M. H. van Aardt, has been appointed as our Business Manager and in future he will be responsible for the canvassing of advertisements and donations.

For the purpose of obtaining the maximum number of donations for every issue of "Pretoriana" the help of our members is necessary. As you all undoubtedly know reliable firms with which you are in the habit of dealing, we appeal to you to endeavour to obtain similar promises from the firms in question. It is unlikely that any firm will refuse a donation of £3-3-0 (or even less) in exchange of an advertisement, even on a modest scale. You are advised to take this issue of "Pretoriana" to show the firms an example of what is meant.

If our members co-operate in the scheme, we do not doubt but that it will be possible to develop our periodical into something really fine and of value. Your co-operation will be greatly appreciated. Donations should be sent to Mr. G. Rissik, The Treasurer, Association Old Pretoria, c/o. S.A. Reserve Bank, Church Square, Pretoria. Our next issue of "Pretoriana" will be published in August 1959 and all donations received should be sent well in advance of the beginning of August. The names of our members who have succeeded in obtaining donations will be published in every future number of "Pretoriana" and also mentioned at our Annual Meetings.

Thanking you heartily in anticipation.

Yours truly,

F. J. DU T. SPIES,

*Secretary Association Old Pretoria.*

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## GELUKWENSINGS:

Die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria se hartlike gelukwense aan twee van sy Bestuurslede:

1. Dr. W. H. J. Punt, ons Voorsitter, wat deur die T.O.D. vir ses maande gesekondeer is na die pasgestigte Stigting Simon van der Stel;
2. Mnr. J. H. M. van Aardt, sakebestuurder van Pretoriana, wat op 18 April sy doktorsgraad in die Geskiedenis van die Potchefstroomse Universiteit ontvang het.

# GENOOTSKAP OUD-PRETORIA — JAARVERSLAG 1958

**M**ET genoeë bied ek u hiermee ons Genootskap se Jaarverslag vir 1958 aan:—

Ons ledetal het in die afgelope jaar op 170 te staan gekom. Vyf skole het lid geword en tans is daar reeds vyf lewenslede. Lewenslange lidmaat-skap word teen 'n betaling van £5 verkry.

Die volgende was die aftredende Bestuur:— Voorsitter: Dr. W. Punt; Ondervoorsitter: Dr. G. van W. Eybers; Sekretaris: Dr. F. J. du T. Spies; Penningmeester: Mnr. G. Rissik; Redakteur: Mnr. H. M. Rex; Argivaris; Mnr. A. M. Davey; Lede: Drr. V. FitzSimons en J. Ploeger, mnre. C. L. de Bruyn en J. Preller en mej. J. H. Davies; Verteenwoordiger van die Stadsraad: Raadslid B. M. van Tonder.

In die afgelope jaar het ons Genootskap in samewerking met die Transvaalse Museum planne beraam om gesamentlik op te tree ter verkryging van die S.A. Opelugmuseum. Ons verwag om eersdaags 'n onderhoud met die betrokke Minister te kry. ('n Verslag van hierdie onderhoud word elders in hierdie uitgawe gepubliseer — Redakteur.)

Hierdie jaar het 13 skole vir die tuinwedstryd ingeskryf. Almal is Afrikaansmediumskole. Dis jammer dat geen enkele Engelsmediumskool vanjaar deelgeneem het nie. Ons wil ons besondere dank en waardering aan die beoordelaars uitspreek vir hul harde en uitstekende werk. Die beoordelaars was mnr. W. C. R. Böhmer, Inspekteur van Skole, mnr. A. P. Cronje, Dosent aan die Pretoriase Onderwyskollege en mev. G. Rissik en S. E. Burg. Ook ons besondere dank aan mnr. Kingsley van die firma Kingsley & Marais, die Austin-motoragente, vir die skenking van £10 vir die tweede prys in die tuinwedstryd, en aan mnr. Gerard Rissik vir £5 vir die derde prys.

Verlede jaar was die wenners van die Skooltuinwedstryd die volgende skole: nl. Tuine-, Danville- en Pierneeflaerskool — respektiewelik eerste, tweede en derde — en vanjaar is die volgorde: Tuinelaerskool weer 'n keer eerste, terwyl Rachel de Beer- en Wonderboomsuidskool gesamentlik die tweede prys verower het.

Die opvoedkundige waarde van die skooltuinwedstryd word alreeds weerspieël in mooier skooltuine en in die feit dat etlike skole besig is om hul tuine vir die wedstryd gereed te maak. Hopelik sal daar in die nabye toekoms nog veel meer skole vir die wedstryd inskryf.

Ons blad „Pretoriana” word steeds meer gewild en verskeie biblioteke het intussen intekenare teen 10/- per jaar geword. Ons redakteur verdien alle lof vir die aantreklike wyse waarop die blad saamgestel word.

In die afgelope jaar het ons Genootskap op 24 Maart 1958 sy tienjarige bestaan herdenk. By hierdie geleentheid was ons Burgemeester, raadslid B. M. van Tonder, ook aanwesig. Prof. S. P. Engelbrecht het 'n boeiende lesing oor ou Pretoria gegee, terwyl mnr. Norman Eaton, die bekende



Pretoriase argitek, ons op baie interessante wyse oor die toekomstige Pretoria toegespreek het (Mnr. Eaton se toespraak is in die Herdenkings-uitgawe van „Pretoriana”, Nrs. 26 en 27, gepubliseer — Redakteur). Verder het die vergadering die gedenkbord goedgekeur. Ons dank aan mnr. Norman Eaton, drr. W. J. de Kock en F. J. du T. Spies en mej. J. Davies vir hulle raad i.v.m. die ontwerp van die bord. Ons vertrou dat elke lid tenminste een gedenkbord sal bestel. Nie-lede mag ook 'n bord teen £2 koop.

'n Besondere woord van dank en waardering aan dr. G. Eybers dat hy ons Genootskap op die Museumkongress in Grahamstad verteenwoordig het. Aan alle lede van die Bestuur sowel as gewone lede, my dank vir hul steun en samewerking in die afgelope jaar. Veral aan ons Sekretaris, dr. Spies, ons Penningmeester, mnr. Rissik, en ons Redakteur, mnr. Rex, dr. Van Aardt bedank ons vir sy gewilligheid om ons publiseitsake te behartig en mej. Davies vir haar uitstekende vertalings.

— W. PUNT, *Voorsitter.*

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## ASSOCIATION OLD PRETORIA — ANNUAL REPORT 1958

**I** HAVE great pleasure in presenting to you our annual report for 1958. During the course of the year there has been an increase in the membership of our association, and we now have a total of 170. Five schools became members and at present we also have five life-members. Life membership can be obtained on payment of £5.

The following are the retiring executive committee:

Chairman: Dr. W. Punt.

Vice-Chairman: Dr. G. W. Eybers.

Secretary: Dr. F. J. du T. Spies.

Treasurer: Mr. G. Rissik.

Editor: Mr. H. M. Rex.

Archivist: Mr. A. M. Davey.

Members: Dr. V. FitzSimons.

Miss J. H. Davies.

Mr. C. L. de Bruin.

Dr. J. Ploeger.

Mr. J. Preller.

Representative of the City Council: The Mayor of Pretoria,  
Councillor B. M. van Tonder.

During the course of the year our Association together with the Transvaal Museum discussed steps which could be taken in connection with the erection of the Open Air Museum. We hope soon to be granted

an interview with the minister concerned. (The Report is published elsewhere in this issue — Editor.)

This year 13 schools entered for the gardens competition. All were Afrikaans-medium schools, and it is a great pity that the English-medium schools did not participate. We wish to convey our grateful thanks to the judges, viz. Inspector W. C. R. Böhmer, Mr. A. P. Cronje, and Mesdames G. Rissik and S. E. Burg, for their invaluable assistance. We also wish to thank Mr. Kingsley of the firm Kingsley and Marais, the Austin motor agents, for the donation of £10 as the second prize money in this competition, and Mr. G. Rissik who donated £5 as the third prize.

Last year the winners of the Gardens Competition were Pretoria Gardens, Danville and Pierneef Primary Schools, in that order, and this year the competition was again won by the Pretoria Gardens Primary School while Rachel de Beer and Wonderboom South Primary Schools tied for second place.

The result of the competitions has been a marked improvement in many school gardens, and as other schools are still busy with the outlay of their gardens, many more entries may be expected in the future.

Our periodical "Pretoriana" is becoming increasingly popular and a number of libraries have subscribed at 10/- a year. Mr. Rex, our Editor, has been responsible for the attractive arrangement of the articles.

On the 24th of March 1958, our Association commemorated its 10th anniversary. On this occasion the Mayor of Pretoria, Councilor B. M. van Tonder, was present.

Prof. S. P. Engelbrecht gave an absorbing lecture on Old Pretoria, and Mr. Norman Eaton, the Architect, delivered a most interesting address on Pretoria of the future. (Vid. "Pretoriana", Nos. 26 and 27, Commemoration Edition — Ed.).

At this meeting also, the Commemorative Plate was approved. We wish to thank Mr. Eaton, Drs. de Kock and Spies and Miss Davies for their advice in connection with the design of the plate. We trust that every member will take the opportunity of ordering one of these plates. Non-members may also buy them at £2 each.

I should like particularly, to thank Dr. G. Eybers, for representing our Association at the Museum Congress at Grahamstown. To the committee members and ordinary members I also wish to convey my thanks for their loyal support and co-operation during the past year, especially to Dr. Spies, the Secretary, Mr. Rissik, our Treasurer and Mr. Rex, the Editor. We are grateful to Dr. van Aardt for undertaking the publicity and to Miss Davies for her excellent translations.

— W. PUNT, *Chairman*.

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**CROW PHARMACY:** CHEMISTS, OPTICIANS, PHOTOGRAPHIC DEALERS, CENTRAL HOUSE, c/o PRETORIUS AND CENTRAL STREETS, PRETORIA.

# A SHORT HISTORY OF THE TRANSVAAL MUSEUM

**O**N the initiative of the State Secretary, Dr. W. J. Leyds, the Government of the South African Republic decided in 1892 to found a State Museum for the Republic in Pretoria, and the following were appointed as a Board of Management or Trustees ('Curatoren'): Dr. N. Mansvelt, Dr. G. S. W. Lingbeek, Dr. H. G. Breyer, Dr. J. W. Fockens and Geo. Leith Esq. Of these gentlemen, Dr. Mansvelt (the Superintendent of Education) was ex-officio Chairman, and the Institution was placed under his Department. The first meeting of the Board was held on the 24th January, 1893.

As there existed no public collections of the Fauna, Flora nor Ethnography of the Transvaal at this time, the first aim of the new Institution was to collect these objects, as well as exhibits of historical and national interest. Though the primary aim was the scientific exploration of the State and the making and preserving of scientific collections, the second, and no less important aim, was the provision of practical aid to education. The teaching of the natural sciences was much impeded by the lack of suitable text books, and thus ocular and oral demonstration in the Museum was planned to assist in the teaching of these subjects, in which the few existing books were often of little value. Bearing this aspect in mind, a large collection of mounted exotic mammals and birds, representative of the different types figured in the few handbooks then in use, were purchased, and to this day still form a part of the Museum's collections. In addition, an extensive collection of minerals and fossils was purchased by the Museum to serve with the instruction in Mineralogy and Geology being given in the School of Mines; this collection has since been passed on to the Geological Survey Division of the Department of Mines and incorporated into its Geological Museum.

A further important aim of the State Museum, from its inception, was the fostering of love of country and national pride, and to this end special efforts were made to collect historical relics, both in connection with individuals and the country as a whole, by the distribution of printed circulars throughout the Republic.

The collections were initially housed in a room next to the clock-tower, on the top floor of the Government Building ('Raadsaal') on Church Square. At first the collections were too small and unimportant to warrant

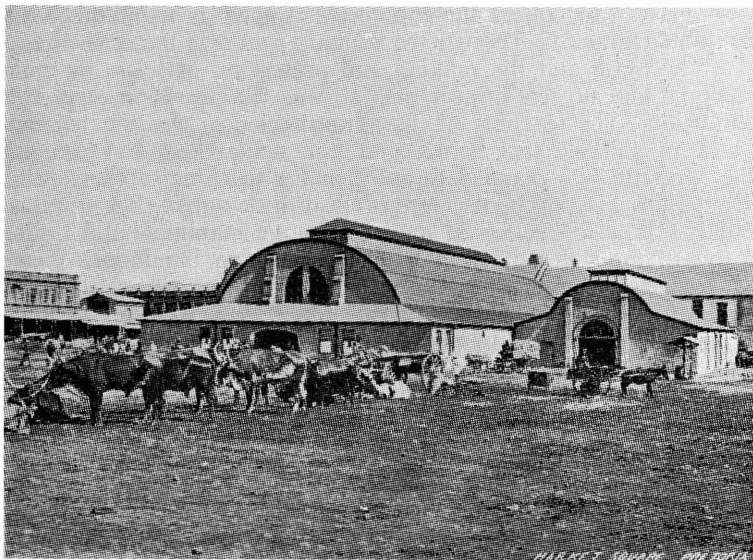
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**E. SCHWEIKERDT (EDMS.) BPK.: UITGEWERS EN KUNSHAN-  
DELAARS, QUEENSTRAAT, PRETORIA.**

the appointment of a qualified, full-time museum expert, but it soon became apparent that judicious organisation and scientific classification was necessary and Dr. H. G. Breyer (a member of the Board and also of the teaching staff of the 'Gymnasium') was appointed as Honorary Curator.

With the rapid growth of the collections, the original accommodation available in the 'Raadsaal' very soon proved inadequate and, after first considering a move into the former offices of the Mines Department on the North side of Church Square, the collections were, towards the end of 1893, transferred to the Small Market Hall, which had been hired for the purpose. After some months spent in arranging the collections, the Museum was officially opened to the general public by President Krüger on the 15th of May, 1894.

Under the honorary curatorship of Dr. Breyer the Museum continued to grow rapidly and towards the end of 1896 it was decided that the time had arrived when a full-time Director should be appointed, and to this post Dr. J. W. B. Gunning was appointed in 1897. Dr. Gunning almost



*The collections of the "Staats Museum" were transferred from the room next to the clock-tower on the top floor of the "Ou Goewerments Gebouw" on Church Square to the Small Market Hall (on the right) in 1893. Both buildings on the photo are still standing near the north-western corner of Market Square. The Zoological Garden was initially established in a small yard at the back of the Market Hall.*

immediately interested himself in establishment of a Zoological Garden, and to this end got together a small collection of some 50 or so live animals in a small yard at the back of the Market Hall. Through his indefatigable energy, Dr. Gunning eventually persuaded the authorities to purchase the farm 'Rus in Urbe' along the Apies River, on the North side of the town, to which the collection of live animals was moved on the 18th to 21st October, 1899, thus founding the National Zoological Gardens, which was placed under his directorship in addition to the Museum. This arrangement continued until April, 1913, when it was decided that the Zoological Gardens should become a separate entity under its own Committee and, later, Board of Trustees and Director.

As it was realised that the Market Hall could not provide a permanent home for the Museum, the Government agreed to the erection of a new building on the Zoo grounds in Boom Street, the foundation stone of which was laid by Dr. Mansvelt on the 22nd of July, 1899. With the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War, work on the building came to a standstill and it was not until 1902 that it was completed and the collections could be moved in. On the 15th of December, 1904, the 'Staatsmuseum' was officially opened to the public by the Acting Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Richard Solomon.

Shortly after the appointment of Dr. Gunning as Director, it became necessary to enlarge the staff by the addition of scientific assistants, and the first of these to be appointed was Mr. C. J. Swierstra as entomological assistant in 1897, followed shortly afterwards by Miss Leendertz as botanical assistant. Except for the ready-mounted specimens which were imported initially from overseas, practically all mounting of South African specimens was carried out, even from the earliest stages of the Museum's history, in the Museum itself by a succession of able taxidermists, the first of whom was appointed as far back as 1894.

It is of particular interest to note that during the last days of Responsible Government the Museum received an annual grant of £6,000, in addition to which the salaries of most of the staff were paid direct by the Department of Education, as state servants.

After Union, plans for a new and larger Museum, which had for some time been under discussion, were implemented by the Government and the building of the present New Museum in Paul Kruger Street was started towards the end of 1910. The main central block was finished early in 1914, but the original plan to have a wing at either end was interrupted by the outbreak of the first World War, and has not been taken up again to this day. Full occupation of the new building by the Museum was not immediately possible, as the Government insisted that a large part of it

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**JOHNSTON'S BPK.:** PRETORIA SE VOORAANSTAANDE MODE-  
HUIS, KERKSTRAAT 261, PRETORIA.

