



J. C. VLOK

and he was on the sports staff of The Pretoria News from 1951 until his retirement in 1960.

He had a profound knowledge of Old Pretoria, its history and its people, and he contributed numerous articles to publications. Sport, however, was his main interest.

A Great Friend of Rugby.

He was a member of both the Pretoria Rugby and the Pretoria Cricket Clubs. On his insistence the Northern Transvaal Rugby Football Union inaugurated and established the under 19 league. He was the first club secretary to keep minutes in Afrikaans and English alterna-

tively, and the first person to publish a club rugby annual report in both official languages.

Mr. Vlok recently completed the history of Northern Transvaal rugby which is so comprehensive that only extracts will be published in due course. The major work will follow in later years.

His history deals with the game from the first match, played on Church Square, and the formation of the first club, Pretoria, till the present and gives a full story of the breakaway of the Pretoria Sub-Union from Transvaal to form the Northern Transvaal Rugby Union as a separate province in 1938.

Those who have read the script of Mr. Vlok's book describe it as the most interesting analysis of rugby ever written.

Prof. Fritz Eloff, president of the Northern Transvaal Rugby Union, said: "Mr. Vlok was a great friend of rugby — someone who knew the game well and made a great contribution to Northern Transvaal rugby firstly as a writer and later as a person who accomplished the very great task of writing the history of Northern Transvaal rugby to be issued in book form.

"One cannot really realise the amount of work it took to assemble this history.

"I feel the death of Mr. Vlok is a personal loss to Northern Transvaal rugby as he was such a popular and well-known figure."

A Great Cricket Enthusiast.

Mr. Vlok was a great cricket enthusiast and did a great deal to

foster cricket in the capital, being particularly interested in schoolboy and university cricket. In 1953 he was a national selector for the Nuffield Week when it was held in Pretoria.

He was an honorary life member of the Northern Transvaal Cricket Association.

Mr. Jimmy Potts, honorary president of the South African Cricket Association, said: "I was associated with Mr. Vlok for many years and he was a great friend of mine. He was always keenly interested in cricket and mostly associated with the Pretoria Cricket Club of which he was life president.

"He helped other cricket clubs, too, and for that matter any other sport, but cricket always seemed to be his first love. He did a good job of work for this game."

His Surviving Wife and Children.

He is survived by his wife, formerly Thelma Dyason, a daughter and two sons. The funeral will take place at 3 p.m. tomorrow at the Rebecca Street Crematorium.

In die aangehaalde artikel word die verdienstes van die heengegane hoofsaaklik met betrekking tot die beoefening van verskillende sportsoorte en die geskiedkundige verloop daarvan geskets, terwyl minder aandag aan Johan Christiaan Vlok as een van die beste kenners van Ou Pretoria gewy is.

In 1946 het skrywer die voorreg gehad om met „Oom Vlokkie”, toentertyd reeds sedert 1922 een van die redaksielede van „Die Volkstem”, in aanraking te kom. As 'n

veelsydige rubriekskrywer was Oom Vlokkie o.m. verantwoordelik vir diverse sportverslae, terwyl hy ook die historiese brokstukkies oor die Transvaalse en stedelike gebeure van 'n halwe eeu of 75 jaar gelede versorg het.

Waardeur ons altyd die meeste getref is, was deur Oom Vlokkie se bykans onbegrensde kennis en voorliefde vir die anekdotiese en die persoonlike in die geskiedenis, 'n voorliefde waarin hy sy sin vir die humoristiese volkome uitgelewe het.

Op laasgenoemde gebied sal sy bydrae „Pretoria had its characters” in die stedelike eeufeedsgedenkboek van 1955 altyd as 'n juweeltjie bly uitblink.

Hoe onderhoudend kon hy vertel oor hulle wat hy as redaksielid van „Die Volkstem” goed geken het soos dr. G. S. Preller vir wie se werk as geskiedskrywer hy 'n groot verering gekoester het. Hy kon vertel oor die skrywer Louis Leipoldt, oor sy kollega Nathan Levi, oor Markus Viljoen, die latere redakteur van „Die Huisgenoot”, oor sy voormalige hoofredakteur dr. F. V. Engelenburg of „dokter” soos Oom Vlokkie hom genoem het. Wanneer Oom Vlokkie die voormalige edituur van „Die Volkstem” beskrywe het, dan het sy heimlike bewondering altyd uitgegaan na die verfynde aristokraat vir wie hy 'n groot verering gekoester het.

Die sin vir die anekdotiese het ongetwyfeld die lewensaand van Oom Vlokkie verlig. Sels gedurende sy langdurige siekte het sy liefde vir die verlede meer as eenkeer sy aandag van die hede af weggetrek. Dan het hy homself weer verlustig, hom-

self weer ingelewe in al die komiese situasies waarin hy sommige van die hooffigure van sy Pretoriase skou-toneel op grond van eie ervaring of oorlewerings laat beland het.

Om só die verlede van Pretoria weer te laat herlewe was die gawe van Oom Vlokkie, daardie seun van dié Pretoria wat ons nie meer geken het nie, maar wat in die loop van sy

menigvuldige verhale weer deur hom tot nuwe lewe gewek is.

So sal ons dan, saam met ander Pretorianers, Johan Christiaan Vlok tot in lengte van dae bly onthou as een van hulle wat sy ou geboortestad innig liefgehad het en terselfdertyd daardie liefde in die harte van ander kon oorplant.

JAN PLOEGER

It is with the deepest regret that the members of the Old Pretoria Society learnt of the tragic death of Mr. Norman Eaton, the eminent South African architect and well-known Pretoria citizen. Mr. Eaton was for many years a valued member of the Society in whose activities he took the greatest interest and to whose work he made a valuable contribution as a member of its Executive Committee in 1961/2.

A tribute to Mr. Eaton by Prof. A. L. Meiring, Head of the Department of Architecture, University of Pretoria, is published in this issue and it is hoped to pay further tribute to him and his work in a later issue.

— EDITOR.

NORMAN EATON WAS THE FINEST ARCHITECT IN THE COUNTRY

WITH the tragic death of Norman Eaton, our city and our country have lost their finest architect. He was trained in the strict classic tradition under Dr. Gordon Leith (also an old Pretorian) and, as Herbert Baker scholar, at the British School of Architecture in Rome, but when he started practice in Pretoria in the thirties the new era in architecture had arrived. He was, therefore, never called upon to design in the style in which he was trained.

Nevertheless he used the disciplines of his classic education, especially as regards architectural scale and proportion and the correct use of materials.

He thus soon developed into being the link between the old and the new, and, in fact, was instrumental in showing the whole country how the transition from the old to the

new should be accomplished.

Thereafter he developed his own individual style, following neither the European (Corbusier) nor the American (Frank Lloyd Wright) trends so popular 20 years ago. In this he proved his worth as an independent thinker and designer, relying all the time on architectural perfection which he carried through

into every detail of his buildings.

He stood head and shoulders above the body of architects in our country in two respects.

The first was his ability to give each of his buildings its own distinctive character, painstakingly but beautifully developed.

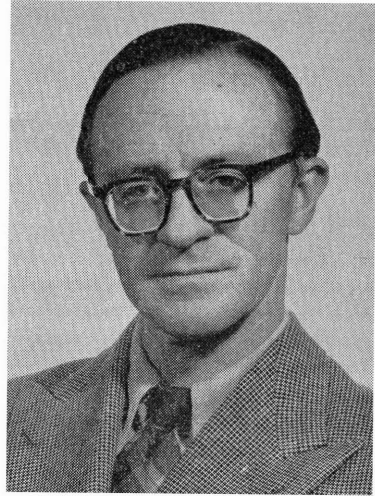
The second was his use of materials. The normal architect will sometimes design his building without giving much thought to the materials in which it is to be constructed, but Eaton would integrate them from the very beginning. Materials, especially our beautiful facebrick, were for him living things to be dealt with as the composer does with the various instruments making up an orchestra.

He had a shy and retiring nature and would never push himself. He preferred to speak through his work and in this his voice was clear and most inspiring.

There was a time, however, when he did assert himself on behalf of the architectural well-being of Pretoria. This was when he founded the Pretoria Architectural Society and kept it alive by his inspired leadership.

Matters such as the re-design of Church Square, the placing of the Kruger bronzes on the Square, the planting of trees, a redraft of municipal town-planning by-laws and the traffic pattern in and around Pretoria were discussed.

The City Council treated the society with respect and on its advice invited William Holford to visit Pretoria and submit a report on its future plan. It also agreed to the society's proposal to create an advisory town-planning committee



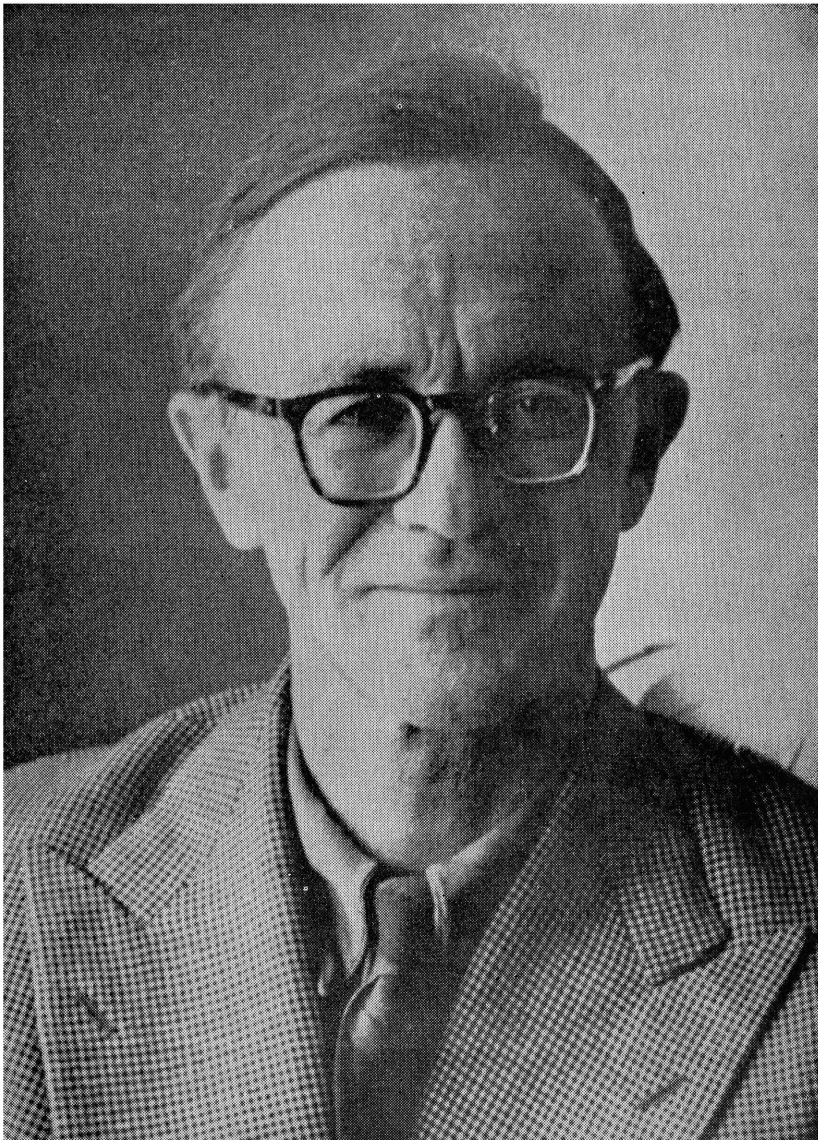
NORMAN EATON

which has, since its inception, been under the chairmanship of a loyal member of the now defunct Pretoria Architectural Society, Mr. Gordon McIntosh.

When I started the School of Architecture here and had to look around for architects to help me, I appealed in the first instance to Eaton. He willingly came in, giving us a lot of his valuable time and soon became an inspiration to the students.

This inspiration has lasted over the years and I can state as a fact that Eaton is thus directly and indirectly largely responsible for Pretoria's winning the reputation of being the leader in our country's architecture.

His own buildings, the Netherlands Bank, the Wachthuis (Polleys),



NORMAN EATON.

Fotos gepubliseer met die vriendelike vergunning van mnr. Tobie Louw, vriend en kollega van wyle mnr. Norman Eaton.

Photos published by the courtesy of Mr. Tobie Louw, friend and colleague of Mr. Norman Eaton.

the Little Theatre in Skinner Street and many houses in and around Pretoria, were rightly looked upon as the best there was to offer both in design and the use of materials. Many have been the occasions when these buildings have been held up to students as worthy of study.

And so a great architect, a student of the fine arts and music and a humble lover of all things beautiful, is no more. His death is just about

the biggest loss we could suffer in the architectural world. However, it is in this world that we have the monuments to remind us of their designers. These, and Eaton's human qualities, will keep his memory alive and continue to inspire those to whom architecture is the mother of the arts.

PROF. A. L. MEIRING.

The Pretoria News, 27/7/66.

NORMAN MUSGRAVE EATON, M.I.A., F.R.I.B.A.

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Biographical Notes compiled by Mr. Norman Eaton on special request in 1961.

BORN in Pretoria, Transvaal, on 11th October, 1902.

FATHER was the late H. R. R. Eaton, Former Commissioner of Customs for the Union Government who was born on his father's farm "Drooge Vlei" near D'Urbanville, Cape, where his grandfather Eaton had also farmed. Grandmother Eaton was formerly Miss Henrietta Musgrave, niece of Sir Benjamin D'Urban, one time Governor of the Cape. Great great grandmother Eaton was formerly Sarah Norman Ebdon. These last two account of the family names Norman Musgrave.

MOTHER was the late Maria Brand, born on farm "Zandvliet" near Faure, Cape, niece of Christoffel Brand, Speaker of the Old Cape House, and therefore also closely related to John Brand, one time President of the Free State. Grandmother Brand was Aletta Cloete, born on the farm "Klapmuts" near Stellenbosch and a direct descendant of the original Hendrik Cloete of Groot Constantia, Cape, — the old Simon van der Stel farm.

At an early age deep *impressions* were gained on old farms of mother's relations and from the 18th century buildings in and around Stellenbosch. Worcester and Cape Town of the harmonious and humanistic qualities of this great period of "Cape-Dutch" architecture.

EDUCATION. Kindergarden, Pretoria, Diocesan College, Rondebosch, Cape, 1915-1921. Witwatersrand University School of Architecture, 1923-1928 under Professor G. E. Pearce and at the same time articulated to the

architect Mr. (now Dr.) Gordon Leith M.C., F.R.I.B.A. of Johannesburg, opening a branch office for him in Pretoria as a 2nd year student in 1925. British School at Rome as "Herbert Baker" Scholar, 1930-32 during which time study travels covered most parts of Italy, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, England, Holland and Middle Europe generally.

Most lasting influences arose from a discovery of the significant qualities, such as scale, discipline and poise, which underlay the classic work of Egypt, Greece, Italy and the East.

PRIVATE PRACTICE. Started in Pretoria after return from Europe in 1933 and carried on continuously there to present day. Friendships with the sculptor Anton van Wouw — (designing and having built for him his last home and studio in Brooklyn, Pretoria, in 1936) — and the painter Hendrik Pierneef were strong influences in appreciation of the interpretive powers of Art — particularly, in their case, those revealing the special character of the Transvaal and its people.

STUDY VISITS. To South and North America for the S.A. Government in 1945 as architect for £3 million Ministry of Transport Building in Pretoria, designed and ready for construction in 1949 when it was stopped by change of Government. By road, rail, river, lake and air to most countries on African Continent on own behalf at different times from 1936 to present day. The traditional arts, crafts and buildings of ancient Africa have had subtle influences on own contemporary architectural thought and expression.

SOME EARLY WORKS include buildings for the S.A. Landbank in Potchefstroom, Kroonstad and Pietermaritzburg and Anton van Wouw's house in Pretoria.

SOME MORE RECENT WORKS include New Netherlands Bank, Pretoria, completed in 1953; Wachthuis (Polley's Arcade) Pretoria, completed in 1959. Restoration, as Hon. Architect, of the Historic Monument "Die Oude Pastorie", Graaff Reinet — (specially associated with the original Rev. Andrew Murray who lived there from 1822-1866) — completed in 1956. Larger private houses in Pretoria which gave scope for own special approach to design were for Dr. F. G. Anderson (Chief Govt. Horticulturist) and for Mrs. N. E. Greenwood — both near "The Willows" outside Pretoria and completed about 1951. Also a house for Dr. B. Holsboer (General Manager of the Netherlands Bank of S.A.) at Waterkloof, Pretoria, completed 1956. In another category is the new Art Centre Theatre, Pretoria — which is expected to be completed about July, 1961.

MEMBERSHIPS. S.A. Institute of Architects; Royal Institute of British Architects; S.A. Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, — (receiving its Gold Medal Award (1957 to 1960) for services to architecture in S.A.) — S.A. Association of Arts; Pretoria Music Society; Afrikaanse Musieklklub van Pretoria; Simon van der Stel Foundation; Pretoria Club; Old Pretoria Society (Vice-Chairman, 1961/2—Ed.).