

Maart 2011

Dagsê al die belangstellendes in die geskiedenis van ou Pretoria,

Ek het verlede jaar hierdie gebou in die middestad van Pretoria afgeneem en besluit om te kyk wat ek oor die geskiedenis daarvan kan uitvind. Wanneer dit gebou is is nie bekend nie maar dit is sekerlik een van die oudste geboue in Pretoria. In my versameling kon ek drie ou foto's daarvan opspoor. Dit was oorspronklik bekend as die Kynoch Gebou.



Hannes Meiring sê in sy boek "Pretoria 125" die dubbelverdiepinggebou wat as een van die oudste oorblywende geboue in Pretoria beskou word is waarskynlik tussen 1876 en 1884 opgerig. Dit is tipies van die Oos-Kaapse platdakstyl [Mei-01 p46].

Die volgende artikel het in die Pretoriana van November 1986 verskyn en is geskryf deur Dr. C. de Jong [Pr-90 p43-44].

"On Church Street East, opposite the State Theatre, a small, somewhat dilapidated closed building leans wearily against the Samuel Marks or Mertocycle Building. It is called the Kynoch Building. Some people maintain that it is the oldest building in Pretoria. Thanks to them it narrowly escaped the shuffling of bulldozers round the Samuel Marks Building. Pleads are held to preserve it for posterity, combined with the more picturesque S. Marks Building.

It is said to date back to the 1880s and it housed the shop of a Mr. Kynoch who dealt in fire-arms and ammunition. The main facts of his life are recorded in the book by Barry M. Berkovich, *The Cape gunsmith*, published by the Stellenbosch

Museum in 1976 in English and Afrikaans, with three of his advertisements. He was born at Peterhead in Scotland in 1824 as the son of a tailor. He was educated at the local National School and started his career with a Glasgow insurance company. He soon joined the firm of Pursall & Philips in Whittall district, Glasgow. They manufactured percussion caps and cartridges. This was the first step in his lifelong career in fire-arms and ammunition.

The small factory was a serious danger to the surrounding densely populated area and several accidents did occur. Kynoch must have been an enterprising young man, for within five years he acquired the control of the factory. But in 1859 it was completely destroyed by an explosion which killed 9 of his 70 employees and injured many more. A new factory was built at Watton, three miles from Birmingham, and completed in 1862. Kynoch expanded this factory continuously. When the solid drawn brass cartridge came into use and was adopted by the British army, Kynoch patented a device to manufacture these cartridges. He founded another factory for rolling the brass for his cartridges. He became Britain's second largest ammunition manufacturer with depots and agents in several countries. By 1882 he also owned a fire-arms factory, a patent lamp factory and a printing works." [Apparently the Kynoch concern also made bicycles and/or motorcycles after George's resignation. An advertisement of the C. Dalton & Co. Cycle Engineers in Andries Street mentions among various brands of cycles Kynoch cycles, probably imported from Britain (Loc-01 p2)].



Die oudste foto van die Kynoch gebou wat ek kon opspoor. Weerskante van die gebou is daar nog leë erwe. Volgens Van Vooren en Oerder se kaart van 1889 is die erf [337] in twee dele verdeel en die Kynoch-gebou is op die oostelike helfte gebou. Die hoek-erf [nommer 338] is hier nog onbeboud.

“He needed capital for his growing business concern and in 1884 he founded a limited liability company to attract capital. But this caused his downfall. He was apparently a better technician than a financier and in 1888 the company was virtually bankrupt. He was obliged to resign as its head. Arthur Camberlain of a reputed Birmingham business family, reorganized the company. It prospered again and changed its name to ICI [Metal] Limited during World War I. Its factory was popularly known as ‘The Lion Works’ after the moulded lion figure above the main entrance.

George Kynoch had important business relations with South Africa. He had a partnership with Thomas Barnsley ... which lasted only in 1884-85. He founded an agency at Port Elizabeth and established branches at Kimberley and Pretoria. By 1888 he had a branch at Johannesburg and agents in several Transvaal towns. On 21 February 1884 he concluded a contract with the government of the Transvaal. He received a monopoly for the import of specified trademark fire-arms, ammunition, swords, sights and other military equipment. The contract was signed for the government by the State Secretary W. Eduard Bok, and by acting State President, P.J. Joubert, as the State President S.J.P. Kruger, was with the third Deputation in Europe. The contract was signed by Thomas Barnsley and Richard R. Hollins for Kynoch.

Kynoch needed a shop for his trade at Pretoria and in or round 1884 he established it in the building which was called after him.

No wonder that Kynoch emigrated to South Africa. He settled in the growing town of Johannesburg, but retained strong ties with Britain, where he had been a member of the British Parliament for Aston Manor. In 1890 he resigned as head of his South African business, probably because of ill-health. He died on 23 February 1891 and was buried in Braamfontein Cemetery. He seems to have been a popular person, for in March 1894 his former employees and constituents in Britain erected a monument on his grave.”



Volgens Lola Dunston [Dun-01 p154] is die geboue van regs na links op hierdie foto 'n slaghuis; dan 'n platdakgebou met 'n groot naambord op sy dak; die winkel van die geweermaker H.O. Miolee met 'n paar visstokke buite teen die muur; die gebou met die staandak was die winkel van T.C. Robertson wat gesluit was toe die foto geneem is. Dan die dubbelverdiepinggebou van George Kynoch. Die gebou heel links op die foto was eers die ateljee van die fotograaf H.F. Gros en later het Robinson die ateljee gebruik. Die groot boom links op die voorgrond staan voor die huis waar President Burgers eers gewoon het. Op die foto sien ons ook die nuwe kerk op Kerkplein, dus is die foto na 1882 geneem.

Die geweermaker H.O. Miolee trek later na die nuwe markgebou skuins oorkant die straat [Lon-01 190]. Die besigheid word later oorgeneem deur H. Groeneveld. In 1913 [Loc-01 p 340] word Groeneveld beskryf as 'n "gun and ammunition merchant".



Latere foto van die gebou. Die fotografie-ateljêe het nou plek gemaak vir die nuwe markgebou.

Die inskripsie op die grafsteen van George Kynoch in die Braamfontein Begraafplaas in Johannesburg is as volg:

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE KYNOCH,  
 MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR ASTON MANOR, ENGLAND,  
 FROM 1888 TO 1891; AND FOUNDER OF THE LION AMMUNITION WORKS,  
 WITTON, BIRMINGHAM, WHO DIED FEBRUARY 28<sup>th</sup> 1891.  
 THIS MEMORIAL WAS ERECTED BY HIS FORMER  
 WORKPEOPLE AND CONSTITUENTS MARCH 1894

Op 1 Julie 1884 verskyn die volgende advertensie in De Volksstem:

George Kynoch & Co.  
 Leveranciers en Wapensmeden van het Gouvernement van de Zuid Afrik.  
 Republiek.  
 Fabrikaten en Handelaars van en in alle soorten van  
 Geweren, Revolvers, Krijgsvoorraad en Jachtbenodichtheden.  
 Wij maken eene specialiteit om volgens order van onze begunstigers Geweren in  
 te voeren die in goedkoopte, sterkte, duurzaamheid en schietkracht in Zuid Afrika  
 niet oortroffen worden.  
 Dynamiet, Teniet, Ontploffers en Lonten van de beste kwaliteit en tegen de  
 laagste prijzen.

In 1889 het die personeel van George Kynoch bestaan uit C. Simmons - algemene bestuurder, Daniel Edge – 'Gunsmith and Machinist' en S.J. Dold – klerk [Dun-01 p7].

In 1899 is Daniel Edge nog steeds in Pretoria en hy werk nou in die Pretoria Armoury [Log-01 p190].

## Bronnelys

- Bol-01 Bolsmann, Eric. 2001. **Pretoria Artist's Impressions 1857-2001**. Pretoria: Protea Boekhuis.
- De Volksstem: 1888-10-25; 1889-01-07.
- Dun-01 Dunston, Lola. 1975. **Young Pretoria 1889-1913**. Pretoria: Lola Dunston.
- Loc-01 **Loghead's Guide Handbook and Directory of Pretoria**. Transvaal Reliable Agency. 1913.
- Lon-01 Longland. 1979. **Longland's Pretoria Directory for 1899**. Pretoria: The State Library.
- Mei-01 Meiring, Hannes. 1981. **Pretoria 125**. Kaapstad: Human & Rousseau.
- Pr-90 De Jong, C. 1986. **The checkered career of George Kynoch**. Pretoriana Nommer 90, November 1986.

Groete tot volgende maand,  
Rosa Swanepoel

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## Die volgende van Hennie Heymans

Ek sal bly wees indien daar lesers is wat foto's het van ou polisiestasies of "polisie-foto's" van ou Pretoria.

Baie dankie

Hennie Heymans

012-3 29-4229 [072-336-1755] Pretoria ZA

Geskiedenis: Polisie, nas-veiligheid & spoorweg:

<http://issuu.com/hennieheyman/docs>

History: Police, Nat Security & Railways: <http://issuu.com/hennieheyman/docs>