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Craftsmen for conservation

Restourateurs en restourasie - die toekoms

Die artikel hierby is besonder insiggewend. Hoewel dit betrekking het op Brittanje meen ons dat dit vir ons lesers ook van besondere belang is. Dr Bernard Feilden is 'n argitek van beroep. Hy spesialiseer in restourasiewerk, veral van kerke en het in Brittanje en Europa al algemene bekendheid op die gebied verwerf. Sy werk aan die kolossale York Minster dwing allerweë groot agting af. Die artikel handel oor werkgeleenthede in bewaring vir vaklui, die gebrek aan voldoende vaklui en die toestande wat met betrekking tot bewaring in die boubedryf ontstaan het. Dr Feilden sê dat daar tans die situasie bestaan waar daar op die kapitaal van vergange vaardighede en kennis geteer word. Bejaarde of afgetrede vakmanne se kennis en vaardighede word nie aan 'n nuwe geslag van vaklui oorgedra nie. Daarvoor behoort daar voorsiening te wees.

Dr Feilden is ook 'n dosent vir die bewaringskursus van die Universiteit van York se Institute for Advanced Architectural Studies.

Ons gee graag hiermee erkenning aan dr Feilden vir sy artikel en aan die Britse blad, *Building Technology and Management*, waarin die artikel in Oktober 1976 verskyn het.

Redakteur

Bernard M Feilden, CBE, D Univ, FSA, FRSA, AA Dip (Hons), RIBA
Conservation work calls for skills ranging from the simple practical repair of a timber frame or window, or the repointing of masonry, stone or brickwork, to the restoration of intricate plasterwork or the carving of replacements for decayed and weathered sculpture and ornamental features of buildings.

The humble vernacular cottage needs only the simple skills which a building craftsman can, with special tuition, easily master, yet all too often cottages are ruined by ignorance – in the same way that country churches can be ruined by well-meaning amateurs. Town houses may require more skills. These are nor-

mally found within the building industry, though the industry is at present not too well organised to make these skills available.

In the case of outstanding buildings, the picture is different, for outstanding skills are required; skills equal to those of the craftsmen who built them – the masons of Gothic cathedrals, the painters and decorators of Renaissance palaces and the plasterers and painters of Baroque churches.

I divide the skills somewhat arbitrarily into two lists: those that come within the aegis of the building industry, and those that are rather more decorative and deal with the furnishings of buildings.

Skills come from knowledge, practice and experience. Knowledge, which covers the peculiarities of each material and how these are best handled, is generally found in the techniques of the past, which are based on generations of tradition. The modern apprentice is denied this knowledge. Practice and experience come only from a sufficiency of work and from being given opportunities to tackle a wide range of problems. Tradition and craftsmanship can produce architecture of sublime qualities without self-conscious designers (v. Paul Rudolphsky's *Architecture without Architects*). These qualities come from repetition countless times of a set problem within fixed parameters.

In conservation work the parameters are never fixed: therefore a more conscious effort has to be made to analyse the problem before solving it. This is one of the extra dimensions that a conservation craftsman is expected to meet.

In Great Britain about one third of the building industry's resources are devoted to the repair and maintenance of buildings. A study by the Department of the Environment¹ shows that on average 1,8% of the capital value of buildings is required as an annual maintenance budget. For various reasons outside the scope of this paper this figure is probably higher in Britain than in the rest of Europe. Nevertheless, it gives an idea of the total scope of conservation work. Ideally, repair and maintenance should be so well done that 'decay is staved off

by daily care' and then it should not be necessary to restore an historic building. Nevertheless, all the evidence points the other way because, unless maintenance and repair are properly organised, it is only human nature to put off the evil day. Yet, particularly with roofs, it is much cheaper to renew the coverings at an early date rather than wait until rain-water has penetrated and caused damage – sometimes immense damage – to the supporting structure and decoration. Besides covering a wide range of skills, conservation work deals with a vast range of buildings which are generally repaired most satisfactorily by using traditional techniques and materials of construction. This is not to say that new techniques and materials should not be used, but only by understanding the traditional techniques in their full context can a reasonable attempt be made to produce a sophisticated modern substitute for old works. Therefore, it is essential that the old techniques should be fully understood and appreciated by designers and conservation craftsmen. Historic buildings, incidentally, act as 'spatial environmental systems' in a remarkably sophisticated way and, in fact, have much to teach modern technology: old buildings are laboratories of experience.

It would be wise at this point to define what is meant by various terms.

Maintenance is the process by which a building is kept in use. The standard is variable and depends on the user's needs. *Preservation* is the process of preserving a valuable individual building, including repair and restoration as necessary.

Restoration is returning a part or whole of a building to sound repair in its previous design, based on documentary and art-historical research.

Repair is the correction of faults in design and construction involving replacement of small pieces of fabric that are worn out.

Consolidation is repair without altering the appearance and using the original materials.

Renewal is the replacement of a major element of a building that is beyond repair. Technical improvements may be

¹Building Maintenance. The report of the Committee on building maintenance. Department of the Environment. Directorate General of Development. HMSO 1972 £1.10.

incorporated without changing the appearance of the building.

Reconstruction is the recreation of a vanished building in an exact copy of the original but using new material. Reconstruction can be held to reduce the archaeological value of the object. But in the case of a building it has justification if it was a setting for a historical event, eg the Ford Theatre, Washington DC, the scene of Lincoln's murder, or the historic centre of Warsaw.

Conservation of buildings is the creative use of techniques and skills to ensure the continued use of the building and its maintenance, repair and consolidation. The building may be altered and adapted to new uses. It may well be necessary to alter historic buildings in order to fit them for modern uses, and thus achieve effective conservation. Conservative alterations permit small changes in appearance, but none sufficient to alter the architectural character or historical value of a building.

Special skills required

The conservation of Grade I historic buildings presents problems in the most acute and urgent form, and requires special skills. Consideration of these skills illustrates the problems which will probably also affect the simpler skills within the next few years. The supply and demand of craftsmen skilled in conservation work is today determined by politicians controlling the national and local budgets and it is probably true that there are not enough craftsmen to carry out even a minimum programme, though it is still possible in London, and other metropolitan centres, to get high class work done if one is prepared to pay the high cost demanded.

Conservation work tends to be costly because the 'market' is fragmented and disorganised. With proper appreciation of the problem and proper organisation the cost should not be excessive. If costs can be reduced the national budget will enable more work to be done.

John G. Papaioannou speaking at the Amsterdam Conference² in his paper on the 'Future of the Architectural Heritage in the Year 2000 - some determining factors' writes (para 13 page 6) 'as we approach the year 2000 certain basic changes are likely to affect the image of what is likely to constitute the architectural heritage at that time. Above all, the rapid deterioration of the present architectural heritage, or of whatever still remains of it in the various categories, should be stressed here: if the effort for its preservation is kept to a level as low as the present one, or even only slightly higher the consequences will be disastrous for the whole of Europe.

Only a small fraction will survive

Only a very small fraction of this pre-

sent still-surviving architectural heritage will reach the year 2000, ie the fraction comprising (a) the most sturdily constructed buildings, that will be capable of withstanding the attacks of time by their own strength, (b) buildings of such paramount importance as to make it unthinkable that their protection will not be adequate, and (c) other buildings for which protective measures will be casually taken, for example, because some special agency may get an interest in them for some special reasons. All other buildings - a wild guess would be that these constitute over 90%, and in some European countries even 95% of the present architectural heritage, will have disappeared by then. This makes it crystal clear that if a meaningful fraction (the whole would be an unreal dream) of the present European architectural heritage is to reach the year 2000 the effort for its preservation will have to be many times larger than the present one, expressed either in the total expenditure for this preservation, or in skilled manpower involved in such an effort or in any other unit.'

Mr. Papaioannou goes on to say that with present expenditure we will probably save 1% of our architectural heritage and that he is hopeful of expenditure being raised so that 5% can be saved.

Another estimate by Mr McCall, CBE,³ says that England ought to spend £45m a year on the conservation of its listed buildings (at present 240,000 in number). This excludes 'scheduled' ancient monuments such as Stonehenge. This would mean employing approximately 12,000 to 15,000 conservation craftsmen.

The writer has estimated that there are possibly 4,000 conservation craftsmen available in Great Britain, and if the above estimates are accurate this means that at least three to four times the effort should be made to achieve a possible target of preserving the listed buildings alone. Although such global estimates are inevitably inaccurate, at least the conclusions are in the same order and paint a very real picture of shortage of money and craftsmen. The shortage of craftsmen was emphasised particularly at the conference held in September 1975 in Greenwich by the Department of the Environment and the UNESCO Rome International Centre for Conservation. Members of this conference confirmed that the shortage of craftsmen applied throughout Europe, and this shortage will be accentuated as the craftsmen with traditional super skills retire or die and are not replaced.

Modern building technology

To examine the reasons for the shortage of conservation craftsmen one must look at modern building technology and past policies of governments. In Britain, recent history has been disastrous for the small, traditionally-based concerns,

which generally were able to provide both the craftsmen and the materials needed for conservation. These concerns were vulnerable because of the change in modern building technology. If this change had been properly appreciated by the building industry it might well, logically, have organised itself into two sectors - that concentrating on the creation of new buildings and that concentrating on the maintenance of existing buildings. As the profits in constructing new buildings were generally greater than the difficult, time-consuming and tedious work of maintenance, the latter was generally neglected.

The training of men in traditional craft skills appears to lack adequate official encouragement, finance or co-ordination. Previously, 18-year-old apprentices were trained in five years on a day release basis of one nine-hour day a week for 40 weeks. After three years they would obtain a craft certificate for which the input was 1,800 hours of instruction. They would also have the benefit of highly skilled work during the week with considerable variety, especially if employed by a smaller firm. Nowadays a 16-year old apprentice works on the same day release basis for 2 years but his syllabus is more technical and has less emphasis on craftsmanship. At 18 he is considered fully fledged and can earn big money.

Previously a craft industry

The traditional building industry was a craft industry with craftsmen supported by labourers. Craftsmen served long apprenticeships during which they were taught to do intricate, decorative work. Within the last twenty years all this has been changed. More and more work for the building industry is done off the site, components being transported to the site, lifted by cranes, and put together. Mass production and repetition puts less of a premium upon the skilled craftsman. Reinforced concrete is also now used, involving simple formwork. The building work is done by the 'trowel trades' and the 'woodworking trades'. The operatives who do this work require lower skills than the very highly trained craftsmen who used to work on traditional buildings.

Architects have new aesthetics and often only put a decorative skin on a building designed by engineers. The objectives are to reduce the labour content, use mechanical plant to the maximum advantage and to use new materials either to demonstrate 'soi disant' originality or ability to create a fashion. The new

²1975 European Architectural Heritage Year. Amsterdam Conference organized by the Council of Europe.

³Secretary of the Metropolitan Boroughs Association, speaking at the Amsterdam Conference, November 1975.

materials are, incidentally, made in factories with high use of energy.

Many site construction managers today have not been trained as a craftsman and have no sympathy with the problems of the skilled man: they are more interested in programming. Neither time nor money is allowed for craftsmanship. In a complex building it is unreasonable to ask for good quality work if time is not allowed to the skilled men to do it. *In practice, the present situation is that the more skilled a building craftsman is, the less money he can earn.*

It may well be that the lack of recognition of the special skills of trained craftsmen contributes to this situation. A general tendency of craftsmen to steer clear of trade union membership is noted in Great Britain, and it is possible that the present shortcomings arise from a lack of sufficient and co-ordinated pressure for improvement from the craftsmen themselves. Whilst it is recognised that, in crude economics, supply and demand determine rewards, the present danger is that the supply will dry up and skills which have taken centuries to evolve will be lost. Then if demand revives it will not be possible to give the proper quality of supply.

Many modern buildings fail because they are not designed as 'spatial environmental systems'. The problems of maintenance, repair and renewal are rarely considered by the designers. If the work is commissioned by developers the running costs are often ignored. All that is required is a fashionable envelope enclosing spaces that can be readily let. In this situation it is unlikely that the building industry will continue to provide workmen suitable for repair and maintenance work, nor will they be able to produce men capable of conservation work, unless further training, possibly at mid-career, is introduced.

For conservation we are therefore living on the capital of past skills – the knowledge of old and experienced men who may be on the point of retirement. It is essential that their skills should be recorded and passed on to a new generation of conservation craftsmen.

Supply and demand of materials for conservation

If anything, the use of the building industry as an economic regulator has been even more disastrous for the suppliers of materials in Britain than for builders. Years ago in Britain there were numerous local brickyards supplying bricks which matched the vernacular buildings. Now these have virtually all disappeared. The problems of matching ornamental brickwork are immense, and life has not been made easier in Britain by the introduction of the metric brick which is only a partial match to the wide range of historic bricks in existence. Likewise, there used to be local lime kilns provid-

ing burnt lime of attractive colours suitable to the local materials. These have all gone and it is impossible to get hydrolised hydraulic lime in Great Britain.

The quarrying of stone has suffered a similar fate and it is only through the rationalisation of the stone industry that three or four quarries have been kept open. Scottish slates and granite have disappeared from the market. There is no quarrying of stone slates in the Midlands and only salvage materials can be used for conservation work.

Recently, the supply of true wrought iron has disappeared completely and the bell founders have not yet found a modern material which they can guarantee as a substitute for bell clappers.

It would be beyond the scope of this paper to go further into the question of supply of materials, but one very important point must be made, as it relates to craftsmanship. Professor Pye has pointed out in his book *The Art and Nature of Workmanship* that the essence of craftsmanship lies in overcoming the risks inherent in the material. To produce the special skills required for conservation the craftsman *must have the correct materials and know them properly through practical experience.*

The organisation of a conservation project

A conservation project is multi-disciplinary and involves many skills, including those of the archaeologist, the art historian, the architect, the structural engineer, the mechanical and electrical engineer, the quantity surveyor and essentially the builder. With a multi-disciplinary design team it is necessary that each member should understand the work of the others and respect their interests, but one professional must be in charge of the whole operation.

Generally speaking the architect is best qualified to lead the conservation team because he is able to make value judgements and balance aesthetic and technical and historical considerations. The architect should declare his policy of 'presentation' and obtain the client's approval to this before work is done.

Restoration or conservation inevitably alters the superficial appearance of the building but it should not destroy archaeological or historical values. The designer must indicate what materials should be salvaged if they are of historical interest as examples of past techniques or scientific interest as examples of decay. No materials should be removed from the site without the express approval of the designer. Sometimes after re-deployment there is surplus material which may be of value to museums or should at least be stored centrally.

Estimating the cost of conservation, which is extremely difficult, can be based

upon experience and the establishment of acceptable standards. In these times of inflation it is best to estimate the amount of labour required and the amount of material required, cost this out and add for overheads. The overheads in conservation work may range from 50–100% due to the nature of the work and are higher than those normally allowed in the building industry. In addition, an allowance should be made for recording the work with the techniques used.

Conservation work

It is usual for the architect to make a detailed inspection, noting and analysing every defect and then report and draw plans of the existing building. He will analyse its history and the way the building is put together, and then will be in a position to make feasibility studies for any new rises that may be considered appropriate. Often by his knowledge of the spaces and volumes in the building he will be able to relate modern requirements successfully to the historic building.

When the scheme and estimates are approved it will be necessary to have budgetary control and to review costs at frequent intervals. Any failures in the decision-making process will increase costs. The work can be organised by structural imperatives; or by crafts – though the use of scaffolding and the need to provide a continuous flow of work will often be over-riding considerations.

The rate of work will be determined by the appropriate cash flow and it should be pointed out that there is an economical and efficient rate for each particular project. Efficiency can be monitored by comparing labour costs with the costs of materials and plant and consumable stores. The project, if complex like the restoration of York Minster, may depend on the development of new skills such as that of horizontal drilling through masonry, timber and concrete. If such skills have to be developed time should always be allowed in the programme for experimental work and appraisal. Conservation work should, of course, use all the new skills, machinery, materials and management techniques in the proper way.

Generally, when organising conservation work, it is wise to identify the key craft skill and organise the work around the need to keep these key men continuously employed. It may be appropriate to divide the programme into stages with one craft dominant in each different stage. There should be regular meetings on the site to ensure good communication and execution of the designer's intentions. The designer should always make his intentions clear so that if an unexpected problem arises the craftsman can use his intelligence and skill to solve it. Difficult problems should

be discussed between the designer and the craftsman on the site: it is only by this collaboration that a sound solution can be found.

The craftsman brings his expertise and experience to the project and the designer brings his knowledge of the building in its totality and his knowledge of environmental problems and building construction. It is, in fact, one of the pleasures of conservation work for the designer to work with craftsmen and see the direct result of their collaboration.

It is essential that craftsmen should be made cost-conscious and also conscious of the designer's aesthetic intentions that the building should look 'old' whilst being structurally sound when the work is complete. It is found in practice that craftsmen tend to cut out good material because it looks aged and renew more than is necessary in order to do what they consider to be a 'good job'. Conservation craftsmen must be taught to respect ancient materials and realise that they are often better than new ones, whose limitations may not yet have been brought to light.

Accidents can occur due to insufficient attention to structural safety or carelessness. In conservation work it is essential that all temporary works should be properly designed by the contractor and approved by the structural engineer or architect. At the beginning of a conservation project it is wise for the designers to meet all the operatives and explain their intentions and discuss their aims and methods. The craftsmen should be reassured that if they have any observations or reports to make, they will be listened to. All concerned should appreciate the fact that, in work of this nature, the hand can teach the brain; in fact, this is one of the fundamental aspects of craftsmanship.

It should be appreciated that in restoration and conservation work it is often the case that the building is the real client.

Craftsmen

A highly skilled craftsman may survive if he is self-employed, but there are many difficulties in securing continuity of work and recognition of his skill. He may employ one or two assistants. Generally the difficulties of administration, book-keeping, VAT and other forms of taxation lower his morale. There are also difficulties of estimating and one gets what is called the craftsman's syndrome – because he loves his work he prices it too low for true profitability to meet his overheads and taxes. This leads, by a downward spiral, into bankruptcy. Generally, most craftsmen do not wish to manage their affairs but prefer to execute the work, but as history shows, there is not necessarily a conflict between being a good businessman and a good tradesman. As yet there is no form

of organisation that makes the greatest use of the craftsman's creative skills.

The craftsman may be employed as direct labour. A well-run direct labour organisation can produce conservation work at lower costs than any other method. Nevertheless there are dangers and difficulties; it all depends upon the leadership and morale. Direct works organisations can easily become slack and inefficient, and without incentives the laziness resulting from bad management can be stronger than the craftsman's urge to produce. With good supervision and programming and some form of cost control, direct labour can be efficient and give the craftsman good working conditions with continuity and security. One difficulty on complex conservation work is that no form of bonusing or incentive can easily be applied. Certainly piece work rates are totally out of the question, as each bit of material is different and has different problems which the craftsman has to overcome. Overheads can be kept low with direct labour and in Britain no VAT is paid on the work of direct labour. Paradoxically enough, VAT is not chargeable on new construction work and alterations, but is chargeable on repairs. This surely discourages conscientious owners in carrying out their repairs, which will have a detrimental effect on the conservation of historic buildings.

The skills of craftsmen can be provided by sub-contracting. Specialist firms who are outstanding in plastering work, ironwork and joinery exist in Britain, though their number is diminishing. They may not be cheap, and subcontractors inevitably have difficulty in fitting into the tight programmes of general contractors: they suffer greatly if the contractor changes his programme at short notice, as he often does.

General contractors sometimes retain specialist craftsmen, who do high class traditional work on (all too rare) occasions. They tend to lose their skill and efficiency due to lack of practice, and may not do as good a job as was hoped.

Craftsmen's organisations

Two forms of craftsmen's organisations exist which are suitable for conservation work. There are the Heritage Craft Trusts, the prototypes of which are the Chichester Cathedral Workshops and the York Glaziers Trust, which deals with conservation of historic stained glass in a way that involves many skills. Firstly there are the historical skills and the need for knowledge of iconography and heraldry. Then there are the scientific skills involving knowledge of the decay of glass and suitable means of arresting this decay. Lastly there are the technical and managerial skills as well as the aesthetic problems which involve the relationship between the stained glass

and its building. It is interesting to note that the building must be considered in its totality if the stained glass is to be presented correctly, and cleaning the building may greatly enhance the visibility of the glass by reducing the contrast between dark and dirty walls and translucent glass.

The York Glaziers Trust has a committee of management which includes consultants possessing the above skills, with the Dean and Chapter of York Minster. The repair work to the glass in York Minster is used as a 'flywheel' to keep the operation continuous and six or seven glaziers are permanently employed with approximately 40% of their work on the Minster and 60% on outside contracts. They give estimates for every project and carry out the work to the highest possible standards using sophisticated equipment which includes ultrasonic cleaning and the use of an 'isoprobe' to determine the age of the glass. The target is to make a 10% profit per year which is ploughed back into the project for scientific and educational work. The manager of such a Trust is the crucial figure. He must be sympathetic to the craftsmen but need not necessarily be one himself.

An alternative form of craftsmen's trust is the Co-operative Trust in which the profits arising from the teamwork of a group of craftsmen are shared annually between the members. This gives an incentive to efficient working and it is found that groups of six or eight skilled craftsmen achieve emulation which is a much more productive situation than destructive competition. Emulation prevents the slackness which is often found in direct labour organisations. Again, due to the craftsman's dislike of administration and competition, it is essential to obtain a manager who understands both the craft and the skill and business matters in order to make a success of a co-operative trust.

Nevertheless, both the Heritage Craft Trust and the Co-operative Trust are vehicles which could provide highly skilled work at a reasonable cost, and it may be worth central government and local authorities setting up such trusts to deal with specific problems. The craftsmen should be paid at the same scales as 'technicians' thus recognising their skill and giving a career structure which provides more remuneration for greater skill. Both the above organisations could sub-contract to the building industry.

Patronage and conservation

There are many types of patron who commission works of conservation through architects, surveyors and engineers. They range from private individuals to corporate bodies such as cathedrals, colleges and institutes, to local authori-

ties and central government with specialised agencies such as the Ancient Monuments Department in Britain, and museums. One of the difficulties is in providing an administrative framework which is sensitive enough to recognise two problems.

Firstly, that the building or the object itself is the 'client' and its demands must be met. Secondly, the problem of producing good craftsmanship at a reasonable price is extremely difficult to solve, and too frequently bureaucratic controls enhance the final cost of the work. If administrators can be flexible and alter their procedures to the requirements of the building, then the craftsmen will be able to give of their best. Links should be created between highly trained museum conservators and organisations of highly skilled craftsmen.

Needs of the conservation craftsman

The conservation craftsman needs above all continuity of work of high quality. Provided he is capable of quality he can be asked to do work quickly at a lower standard and yet this work will retain all the hallmark of his skill. The true conservation craftsman gets the right solution first time and does not fail to solve a problem. This is vital when dealing with objects of historic and archaeological value, because if a failure occurs much that is of value is lost. It is undoubtedly cheaper to have a well trained craftsman tackle a problem rather than let some inexperienced person bodge it.

Secondly, the conservation craftsman needs proper pay for his skill but, as has been said, in the building industry it is often the case that the higher your skill the less money you earn. This is a totally illogical situation and discourages craftsmanship. It is possible that the rates of pay of conservation craftsmen should be related to the NALGO rates for technicians. These are somewhat higher than those in the building industry and experience and knowledge can be rewarded by promotion from one scale to the next one above; length of service in each grade is rewarded by an annual increment as well as cost of living bonuses.

It need not be thought that higher rates of pay will necessarily increase the cost of the work. If conservation work is properly organised, and continuity is provided, with experience in solving difficult problems, work will proceed much faster than if these factors are not present. A 10% increase in wages is easily offset by a 20% saving in time in executing the work. If the conservation craftsman is treated as a technician, with various grades, then a career structure is provided which meets the requirements of paying more for greater experience. If this method is not adopted, then some alternative career structure must be provided so that a man is rewarded for his skill and experience.

Lastly, the conservation craftsman should be given special status, with publicity and praise.

If these matters are given attention, then the training of apprentices can become a profitable and rewarding matter. In the present circumstances, it is not uncommon for apprentices to join a conservation workshop and learn their skill, but just when they are becoming useful they leave because a factory offers them 50% more in money. In personal terms, much less job satisfaction may result, but nowadays even craftsmen are liable to leave when their hire purchase commitments become excessive soon after they have married and set up home. Some join the 'rat race' and may earn as much as £300 in a week in shopfitting, but at about 40 they have had enough and would be willing to retrain as conservation craftsmen. Generally, men over 50 will stay with an organisation to practice their skill, but many younger men are more materialistic.

In specialist fields, such as restoration of painted and stained glass, where there are only 30 full-time conservation jobs for conservation craftsmen in Great Britain, it is wrong to overenlist apprentices without giving thought to their future career structure. Craftsmen are becoming less and less willing to travel distances to practice their skill. This problem needs study, and properly structured incentives may well be necessary to provide an answer. The danger with some organisations is that they capitalise on job satisfaction to an unreasonable extent. This is discouraging to the overall solution of the problem of the craftsman.

Training of craftsmen

The training of conservation craftsmen presents special problems because, besides having their proper trade skills, they need to be instructed in the history

of their craft to recognise historic techniques and materials. They must know how their predecessors tackled problems and they must acquire the dexterity to work in these methods themselves.

They must also understand the aesthetics and principles of craft conservation; repairs should be invisible; any work should, if possible, be reversible and not prejudice future restoration; new material must not be too strong in relation to the old material; the maximum use should be made of the old material; the object must not be made to look new.

When the conservation craftsman has mastered the historic techniques, he is then able to assist in the development of new techniques. In this connection it is desirable that the conservation craftsmen should have links with museum conservators who can provide much useful information and guidance on appropriate techniques to solve unusual problems. Museum conservators have the scientific knowledge, the conservation craftsmen have the dexterity and skill - therefore they should form a partnership.

The conservation craftsman should be taught to make records of his work so that his methods can be studied by future workers.

With the training of architects it has been stipulated that specialisation in conservation should come only at mid-career when they have acquired the normal skills of their profession. Much the same principle should be applied to conservation craftsmen, who should already have acquired the basic skills of their trade. When they have acquired these skills they are capable of understanding the refinements of the instruction which they receive. They also should have discovered their own interest in conservation and achieved a high motivation to succeed.

Die Suid-Afrikaanse register van bewarings- en kultuur-historiese vakkundiges

The South African register of conservation and cultural history specialists

'n Nasionale register van Suid-Afrikaanse oudheidkundiges is in wording. Die register, van bewarings- en kultuurhistoriese vakkundiges, gaan letterlik 'n „wie-is-wie" van die hele spektrum van oudheidkunde en historiese bewaring wees. Mnr Willem J Punt, direkteur van die Stigting Simon van der Stel, sê dat daar goed met die samestelling van die register gevorder word. Die Stigting het die publikasie aangevoer omdat hy daaglik te make het met navrae oor bykans enigiets uit die verlede.

Die ervaring leer dat daar 'n behoefte bestaan vir 'n bron van inligting oormense wat aktief is op bewaringsgebied. Die Stigting ontvang daaglik navrae van persone wat in kontak gebring wil word met 'n deskundige op een of ander spesialiteitsgebied met betrekking tot bewaring. Daar word gesoek na 'n restaurasie-argitek, 'n kenner van Kaapse meubels of silwer, 'n boekrestoureerder, 'n kenner van Voortrekkerklere, 'n kenner van outydse landbou-implemente, 'n deskundige oor vergange boutegniese,

'n restoreerder van skilderye of 'n adviseur oor fortifikasies.

„Eintlik is dit die behoefte van navraers om uit te vind waar 'n mens kan uitvind,” sê mnr Punt. „Ons is byvoorbeeld onlangs gevra wie kan sê watter soort pluimvee op 'n Transvaalse plaas van die 1850's aangehou sou gewees het.” „As verwysingsbron gaan die register op landwyse grondslag volgens sleutelonderwerpe ingedeel wees, met kruisverwysings om verwante vakterreine te koppel.”

Kultuurgeskiedkundige vakterreine behels volksargitektuur, boutegniese en -materiale, gebruiksvorwerpe, vervoermiddels, landboutegniese en plaasimplemente, kleredragte en modes, museumkunde, voedselbereiding, interieurs, wapens, meubels, voertuie, handvaardighede, heraldiek, genealogie, historiese leefmilieus, handelsware, skilderye, alle vorme van restaurasiewerk, lewensgewoontes, en tensels alle fasette van die Suid-Afrikaanse oudheidkunde.

'n Seksie soos boukuns sal onderverdeel word om die deskundiges te lys oor die argitektuur van die verskillende streke, volksgroepe, tydperke en selfs soorte geboue soos kerke.

Die samestelling van die register is 'n baanbrekerstaak omdat daar weinig bronne oor ons eietydse kenners in die kultuur- en militêre geskiedenis en die antiekwariaat is. Mnr Punt het 'n opname onder 'n aantal kenners gemaak, en die resultaat toon dat daar 'n enorme skat van vakkundigheid in Suid-Afrika beskikbaar is, dog nie altyd benut word nie omdat belangstellendes nie weet waar om aan te klop nie.

Baie van die kenners is mense wat in beroepe staan waar hulle met geskiedkundige aspekte te doen het, soos vakkundiges by museums en aan universiteite. Ander is toegewyde „leke” wat die een of ander spesiale belangstelling of stokperdjie het.

Die persoon se naam, adres, kwalifikasies, ervaring, vakrigting(s), lidmaatskap van toepaslike verenigings, beskikbaarheid vir konsultasie, 30-50 woorde beskrywing van spesialiteitsgebied, sal opgeneem word. Foto, geboorteplek en geboortedatum is opsioneel. Inskrywings word geplaas in die taal waarin dit ontvang word. Geen evaluasie van intekenaar sal gemaak word nie. Die inhoud van die inskrywing sal die verantwoordelikheid van die intekenaar wees. Kommersiële advertensies sal aanvaar word. Individue, museums, plaaslike historiese verenigings, sakeondernemings kan aansoek doen om inskrywingsvorms.

Kommersiële ondernemings wat spesialiseer in restourasie van geboue, meubels, voorwerpe, klere of wat hoë gehalte replikas van sulke produkte vervaardig, sal ook in die register ruimte kan opneem, hetsy as inskrywing of volle advertensie.

Die basiese inskrywing sal gratis wees,

maar daar sal 'n heffing wees vir inskrywings oor 'n sekere lengte en vir advertensies.

Die Wie-is-Wie in Bewaring sal na verwagting teen die lente vanjaar verskyn.

Om die beoogde publikasie so verteenwoordigend moontlik te maak, word vakkenners genooi om met die Stigting Simon van der Stel in verbinding te tree by Posbus 1743, Pretoria 0001.

☆ ☆ ☆

A national register of South African history specialists is in the making. The register, of conservation and cultural history experts, will be a “who's who” of the whole spectrum of antiquity study and historical preservation.

Mr Willem J Punt, director of the Simon van der Stel Foundation, reports good progress with the compilation of the register. The Foundation initiated work on the publication as a result of the daily enquiries it receives on almost anything that has to do with the past.

Experience has taught that there is a need for a reference book on people who are active in conservation. The Foundation is regularly asked to refer people to experts on one or other of the specialised fields on conservation work. These requests are for restoration architects, experts on Cape furniture or silver, someone who is knowledgeable on Voortrekker dress, a restorer of paintings or books, an expert on old building techniques, an expert on old farm implements, an adviser on old fortifications.

“Actually the requirement of enquirers is to find out where they can find out,” Mr Punt says. “For instance, we were asked who could tell the kinds of poultry found on a Transvaal farm in the 1850's.

“As reference source the countrywide register will be split into key subjects, with cross referencing to link related fields.”

Cultural history subject fields include vernacular architecture, building techniques and materials, utensils, transportation, agricultural practices and farm implements, clothing and fashions, handcrafts, heraldry, genealogy, museum science, historical lifestyles and environments, trading goods, vehicles, weapons, paintings, all kinds of restoration work, and in fact all facets of the South African past.

A section on buildings will be subdivided to list experts on the architecture of the various regions, national groups, periods and even kinds of buildings such as churches.

The compilation of the register is a pioneering project since sources on the present-day experts in cultural and military history and antiquity are almost non-existent. Mr Punt has conducted a survey amongst a number of experts and the results of the survey reveal that an

enormous wealth of expertise is available within South Africa, but it also indicates that the know-how is not always utilised because interested parties do not know whom to approach.

Many of the experts are people whose professions have a bearing on historical aspects, as at museums and universities. Others are dedicated “laymen” having some or other special interest or hobby. The person's name, address, qualifications, speciality, experience, membership of appropriate associations, availability for consultation and a 30-50 word description of speciality will be published. Photograph, place and date of birth optional. Entries will appear in the language in which they are received. No evaluation of the person will be made, the contents of the entry will be the entrant's responsibility. Commercial advertisements will be accepted.

Individuals, museums, local historical societies and business houses may apply for entry forms. Commercial undertakings who specialise in restoration of buildings, furniture, clothing, artifacts or the manufacture of high quality replicas of such products will be able to take up entry or full advertising space in the register. Africana and antique dealers will be able to do the same. Basic entries will be free but a charge will be made for entries over a certain length and for adverts.

The Who's Who in Conservation should be on sale in the spring of this year.

To make the envisaged publication as representative as possible, subject experts are invited to contact the Simon van der Stel Foundation at PO Box 1743, Pretoria 0001.

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Die Duitse walvisjagboot RAU 9 as voorbeeld vir die Suid-Afrikaanse museumskip

C DE JONG

In 1976 is namens die Stigting Simon van der Stel die walvisjagboot *Pieter Molenaar* van die Union Whaling Company in opheffing te Durban aangekoop en tot drywende walvismuseum en die eerste museumskip in Suid-Afrika bestemd. Dit het 'n passende voorbeeld in die jagboot *Rau 9*, een van die museumseeskepe van die Duitse nasionale skeepvaartmuseum in Bremerhaven. Die *Rau 9* was tot die onlangse aankoop van die *Pieter Molenaar* die enigste skip van die moderne walvisvaart wat bewaar is, hoewel hierdie bedryf sterwende is.¹

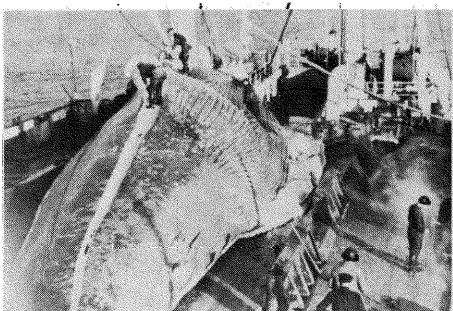
In 1936-39 het Duitsland aan die walvisvangs in die Suidelike Yssee deelgeneem en 'n moderne walvisvloot gebou. Een van die nuwe Duitse fabrieksepe was die *Walter Rau*, genoem na 'n groot fabrikant van margarine wat 'n walvismaatskappy opgerig het. Dit is gebou te Hamburg in 1937 en deur die Geallieerdes in 1945 buitgemaak en oorgedra aan Noorweë, wat dit onder die naam *Kosmos IV* gebruik het. Die *Walter Rau* het 'n vloot van tien jagbote gehad, almal *Rau* genoem.

Die *Rau 9* het egter geen diens vir hierdie moederskip gedoen nie. Sy is in 1939 op die werf Seebeck in Bremerhaven ge-

¹Die aankoop van 'n walvisjagboot vir Suid-Afrikaanse museums is bepleit deur C de Jong in sy artikel "A whaleboat the first museumship in South Africa?" in *Restorica* Nr 2, August 1976, p 77-78, en deur W J Punt Jr in die artikel deur Carolyn Howie, "Natal whaling museum", herdruk in *Restorica* Nr 3, November 1976, p 25-26.

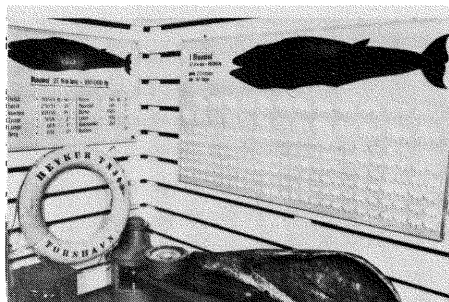
Aan boord van 'n walvisfabriekskip. Die walvis word geflens (oorgesny) en die vel en spek word met stoomkatrolle weggetrek.

Bron: E. Winterhoff, *Walfang in der Antarktis*, 1974, Stalling, Oldenburg en Hamburg



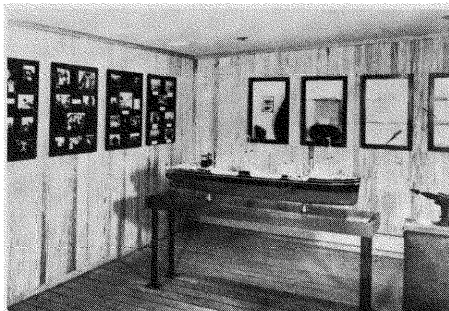
bou en was bestem om die jagstoet van die *Walter Rau* te vergroot. Maar Wêreldoorlog II het uitgebreek en sy is as voorpostboot en onderseerjagter in Duitse krygsdiens gestel. Gedurende enkele jare ná die oorlog het sy as mynveër vir die Geallieerdes gevaar. Daarna is sy ewenas die *Walter Rau* aan Noorweë oorgedra en onder die naam *Krutt* na die Suidelike Yssee gestuur. Later is sy aan 'n Yslandse walvislandstasie verkoop en *Hvalur V* (Hvalur beteken walvis) gedoop. Vervolgens is sy aan 'n landstasie op die Skape-eilande (Faeröer) oorgedra en *Heykur* genoem. Die na-oorlogse jagbote was baie groter en vinniger en *Heykur* kon nie daarmee wedy nie. By die Skape-eilande het sy nie die groot- maar die kleinwalvisvangs uitgeoefen. Haar neergaande loopbaan is beëindig in 1969 toe die vangs van klein walvisse gestaak is.

Iemand het die opgelegde *Heykur* opgemerk en dit aan Dr August Dierks in Bremerhaven berig. Dr Dierks was voor die oorlog regsadviseur van die Wesermünder Industrie- und Handelskammer en het toe bygedra tot die vestiging van die Duitse walvisvaart; hy het ook ná die oorlog gewyerd vir die hervatting van



Bo en onder: Interieur van 'n walvisvangsmuseumskip, die *Rau 9* in Bremerhaven, Wes-Duitsland.

Bron: E. Winterhoff, *Walfang in der Antarktis*, 1974, Stalling, Oldenburg en Hamburg



dié bedryf, maar tevergeefs; die agteruitgang van die walvisstand het sy strewe beëindig. Hy het in 1969 geld van die *Walter Rau* - Teutoburger Margarinewerke en *Walter Rau* - Neusser Ölwerke ontvang en die *Heykur* vir DM 15 000 gekoop. Enkele professionele mense en vrywilligers het die skip van die Skape-eilande op eie krag en onder sy oorspronklike naam *Rau 9* na Bremerhaven teruggebring.

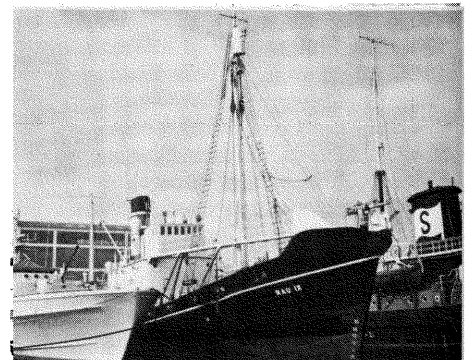
Hier is die veteraan van die walvisvangs oorgedra aan die Duitse skeepvaartmuseum, waarvan Dr Dierks lid van die raad van bestuur is, ingerig as museumskip en vasgemeer in die ou hawe, waar ook die ander museumskepe, elk met sy eie, bewoë verlede, vir die publiek oopstaan.

Die opknapping en inrigting van die *Rau 9* in 1970 is grotendeels kosteloos deur plaaslike skeepswerwe en uitrustingsbedrywe in Bremerhaven en Bremen verrig. Die ou, afgejakkerde jagboot moes natuurlik 'n grondige opknapping ondergaan. Die stoommasjien is in die skip gelaat. Die enigste verandering van betekenis is dat in die voorskop die lyn-, harpoen- en kruittkamers asook die stookoliebunker omgevorm is tot 'n klein walvismuseum. Daarin is afbeeldings en dele van walvissoorte, soos botte, baarde (baleinplate) en potvisstange - ruwes en versierdes (scrimshawing) - walvisgereedskepe soos harpoene, granaathulse en flensmesse, skeepsmodele van die *Walter Rau* en sy jagbote en foto's van die bedryf op die *Walter Rau* en sy jagters uitgestal. In 1972 het ek daar 'n kort, maar uitstekende swartwitfilm van die bedryf gesien. By my tweede besoek in 1976 was die film na die museumgebou oorgebring.

Die afmetings van die *Rau 9* is 42 meter lank, 8 meter grootste breedte, diepgang 4½ meter, inhoud 394 bruto registerton, vermoë van die drie-ekspanie-stoommasjien 1550 pk. Sy is 'n klein, maar aantreklike museumskip wat die gewenste gevoel van die romantiek van die walvisvangs by die publiek tuisbring en dan ook vele besoekers aantrek. Veral die

Die walvisjagboot, *Rau 9*, museumskip van die Deutsche Schifffahrtsmuseum in die ou hawe te Bremerhaven.

Foto: C. de Jong





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jeug klim met geesdrif af na die ruim masjienkamer en na die museum voorin, en op na die brug met sy offisersshutte, kaartkamer en sturrat en kyk vanaf die oop brug uit oor die skip en die hawe om daarna oor die smal loopbrug (jagterbrug, catwalk) na die platform voor op die stewe te gaan en daar die harpoenkanon, van harpoen versien, te swaai en omlaag te rig asof hulle 'n opduikende walvis digby wil skiet. Slegs 'n klimtog na die uitkyktoring bo in die mas word nie toegelaat nie.

Die *Rau 9* is in baie opsigte 'n goeie voorbeeld vir die *Pieter Molenaar* as Suid-Afrikaanse museumskip. Ook op die *Molenaar* dien ruimte te kom vir 'n klein uitstalling van die bogenoemde sake asook van modelle van die landstasie van die Union Whaling Company en sy talryke verfynde walvisprodukte, van sy fabriekskip *Abraham Larsen* wat in 1946-56 na die Suidelike Yssee gevaar het, en van een of meer van sy jagbote. Daar is ook vir vertoning op die *Molenaar* verskeie historiese en resente swart-wit- en gekleurde films oor die bedryf van die Union Whaling Company van 15 tot 20 minute lengte beskikbaar om die besoekers 'n roemryke en amper uitgedoofde tak van visserij te wys.

Whaler wailers

WILF SEIFERT

The last word on Durban's remaining six whalers has been spoken. For four of them it is the death sentence.

Towards the end of the month they are to be towed to Maputo for scrapping.

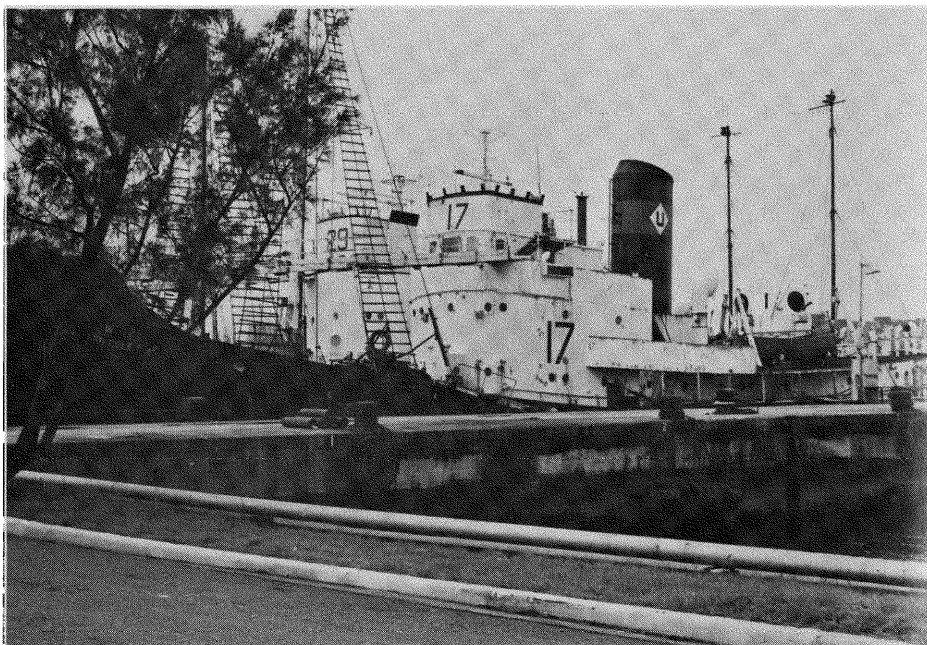
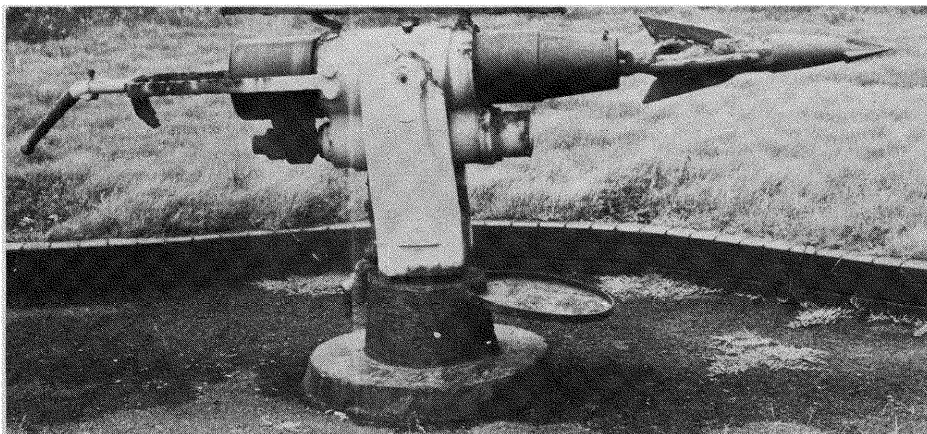
Two, understood to be the *Peter Molenaar* and the *C G Hovelmeier*, have been acquired by the Simon van der Stel Foundation for their widely commended plan to restore and preserve at least one as a floating whaling museum.

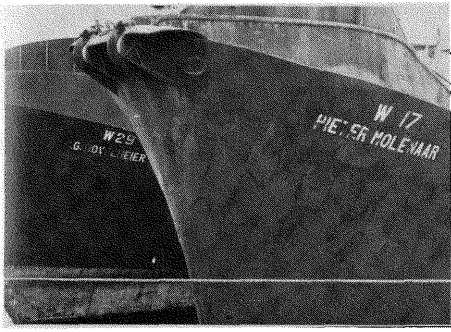
The Foundation's director, Mr Willem Punt, told me from Cape Town yesterday that the Foundation was thrilled about its success but that it had been caught off balance financially with the purchase of two whalers instead of one. "We had no choice. The offer was simply: Buy two or none," he said.

Reason is that quotes for towing the vessels to Maputo breakers relate to pairs. Hauling them one by one all the way north would alter charges dramatically.

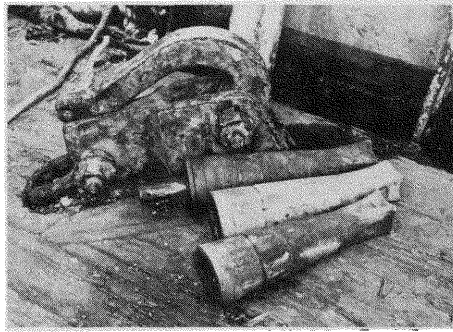
Towage will probably be carried out by the Land & Marine & Salvage Contractors' tug, the *Agulhas*.

Walvisbote die Pieter Molenaar en die C.G. Hovelmeier.

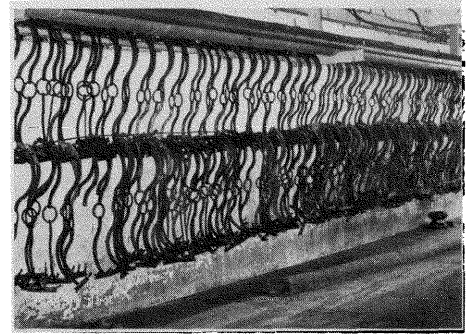




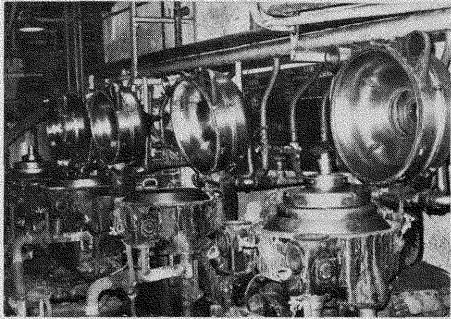
This bow will never break the Antarctic ice again.



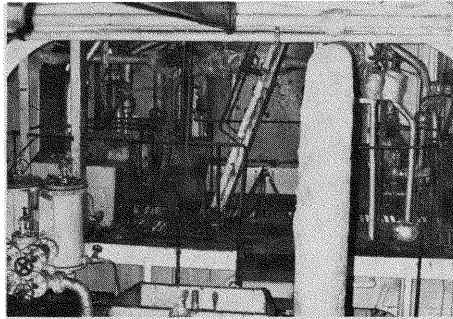
Harpoengranate, eenvoudig maar dodelik.



Meat hooks. Frozen blocks of whale meat - no longer on the menu.



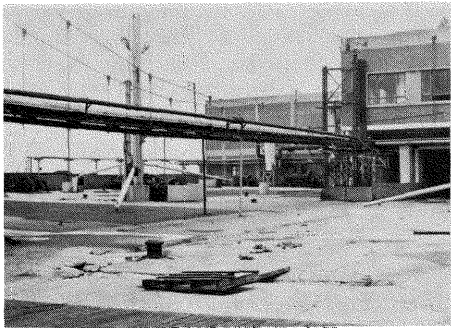
Skeiers - die fynste olie vir die fynste parfuum.



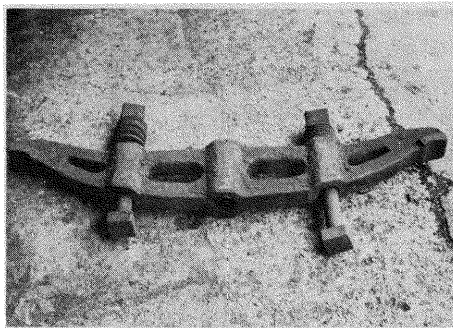
The last head of steam long gone.



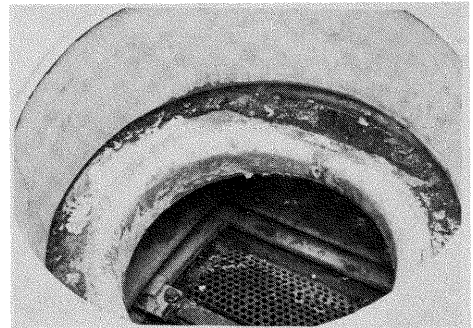
Flensvloer - 20 minute om 'n seereus vir verwerking op te sny.



Union Whaling Company, Bluff, Durban - flensing area.

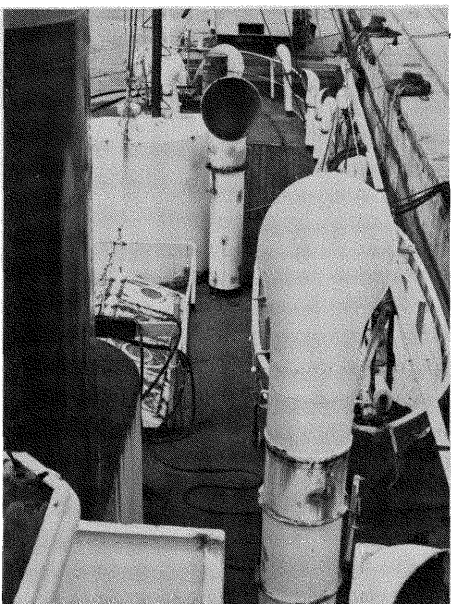


Kookpotsleutel.



Pressure cooker set in concrete floor.

Aanboord die Pieter Molenaar.



Union Whaling Company, Bluff, Durban : largest and most scientific whaling station in the world now being dismantled.

This was confirmed by Captain Bob Liptrot, LMSC superintendent in Durban.

Meanwhile, Mr Punt is seeking the broadest possible financial support for Operation Save Two Whalers.

At present, he said, a minimum of R10 000 was needed for the first target to restore and preserve one whaler. Later upkeep alone would cost an estimated annual R12 000 for one ship.

The Foundation, the South African National Trust responsible for preserving historical monuments and museums, hopes to station one of the floating museums in Durban, the other at a Cape port.

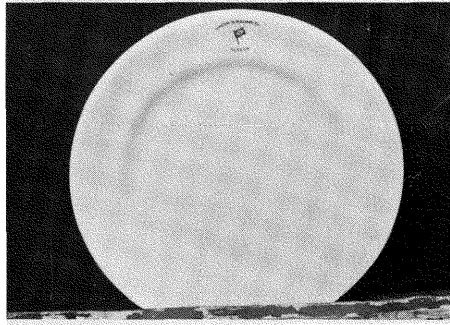
It was reliably learned that further negotiations between Union Whaling and the South African Navy have failed and that the company's former ship repair and supply base at Salisbury Island will revert to the Navy after removal of the six whale catchers.

This spells the end of more than 60 years of whaling with a once 24-strong fleet.

A local whaling museum would be the only one in the Southern Hemisphere and one of two in the world. The other is the one at West Germany's Bremerhaven.

Mr Punt said they had to act hurriedly in a bid to secure some of the classic whaling tools such as harpoons, grenades, harpoon shafts, cannons, radio, marker masts, detonators, flensing knives, crockery, rope and whale end products.

"We were disturbed to find during recent stripping operations on the whalers that a lot of the stuff had disappeared without trace - presumably stolen. We have collected what was left and stored it in Durban," he said.



He admitted to having "taken a chance" by buying two whalers but stressed that the decision was in the interest of the country.

"We sincerely hope that everyone interested in the preservation of the ships will help swell the funds."

The Natal Mercury,
December 14, 1976

The whale - South Africa is no longer part of the killing game

Efforts are still being made in various parts of the world to stop the destruction of whales. A mock funeral, attended by Spike Milligan, among other celebrities, was held outside the Japanese Embassy in London. In 1976-77 a total of more than 15 500 Antarctic great whales will be killed.

South Africa will not be involved. Our whaling industry has closed down and four of the six whalers, now in Durban, will be towed to Maputo for scrapping. The Simon van der Stel Foundation wants to convert one of the remaining whalers into a whaling museum, just for memory's sake!

The Union Whaling Company, the biggest land based whaling company in the world, has now stopped operating because drastic reduction of quotas (500 whales) is not enough to allow for a profit.

The whaling station in Durban is up for sale, retrenched workers have found other jobs.

Meanwhile, in October, Japanese and Soviet whalers left for the Antarctic with quotas of more than 13 000 whales to kill. Dr Paul Spring, a Canadian ecologist called the continuation of whale hunting "tragic" and "insanity". He said that whole areas of the Antarctic were already closed because of total denudation of the whale populations there.

When South Africa announced its intention of stopping whaling activities, its quotas were shared among other nations. The International Whaling Commission's authorised catch in 1977 of mink and sei whales is 8 900 and 1 833 respectively. Sperm whale catch quotas for 1977 in the Southern Hemisphere are 301 for Japan, 3 841 for Russia (mostly male whales) with Australia and Brazil also receiving a "cut" of the 597 quota originally given to South Africa.

In 1974 a world wide appeal was made to place a 10-year moratorium on all commercial whaling, but countries engaged in whale-catching were not in favour. Conservationists urged that products in which whale oil is used should be boycotted, including lipsticks, candles, linoleum and glycerine.

The sperm whale yields a different quality or class of oil compared with other species. Whale liver oil has a content comprising 70 000 international units of Vitamin A per gram.

The sperm whale weighs up to 90 tons and eats octopi and squids, and is capable of crushing a small boat to pulp. This whale yields a substance called ambergris, found in the intestine, which resembles brown, sticky india rubber. It has a vile smell but after chemists have dealt with it, it is used in the manufacture of perfumes as a fixative to prevent evaporation. It is not used as a perfume itself!

Blue whales (there was an estimated 100 000 of them 50 years ago) are the largest creatures known on earth and can yield up to 150 barrels of oil apiece. By 1966 the species had dwindled to about 1 000, yet by 1973 conservation had succeeded in bringing the total back to 10 000.

Another endangered species is the Humpback whale whose melodic songs have inspired symphonies and have even been made into a popular record album. There is rhythm and a repeated theme.

Grey whales after decades of total protection, are making a recovery along the Pacific coast of the United States.

The Finback whale dropped in numbers from 400 000 to 33 000 over a 50-year period, while the sei whale was reduced by a third in 10 years. The Greenland Right whale was wiped out by hunters by the end of the 19th century, and the number of whales killed by man between 1804 and 1877 in the Southern Hemisphere and north Pacific, mostly from rowing boats, was 193 522.

Neither meat nor oil from the sperm whale is suitable for human consumption. But sperm meat, after extraction of oil, is used as an ingredient in animal rations.

In early 1973 the biggest pet food manufacturers in Britain took delivery of the last loads of whale meat under a voluntary ban on imports. It was estimated at that time that 1 000 whales were being harpooned every year for pet food.



The hit and miss days of Moby Dick in whale catching have passed. Aircraft and asdic are used to track the world's biggest mammals.

The problem today is to find substitutes for whale products. The lubricating industry, for instance, uses vast quantities of whale oil as an additive for high pressure oils used for gearboxes and hydraulic equipment. Whale products are used in the food industry as food flavouring, particularly in dehydrated soup powders. Cold, filtered sperm oil is used as a base in the chemical industry.

A wild plant growing in the American south west may yield a lubricating oil to replace sperm whale oil. It is called Joba.

Canada's Greenpeace Foundation, a sea-going environmentalist group, has claimed successes in its fight to protect whales. They claim to have saved 1 300 last season.

The Citizen,
December 30, 1976

The death of a whale catcher

WILF SEIFERT

Colin Frye, one of two Durban whale catchers under tandem tow behind the tug *Agulhas* to a Maputo scrapyards, sank on Friday morning three weeks ago in more than 200 fathoms about four nautical miles off the coastline some 20 nautical miles south of Ponta do Ouro on the South African-Mozambique border.

She made her way stern first to the bottom of the sea in such a hurry that the *Agulhas* crew under Captain T J Cowley failed to cut the heavy tow line in time.

With the second whaler dangerously close to her stern at the time the *Agulhas* narrowly escaped what could have turned into serious trouble from the little ship that had decided to end her career in style rather than to die in instalments at the breaker's yard.

"At that point," a crew member told me, "two strands of the tow wire were still left to be cut and the guy doing the job was forced to move with the wire on deck to complete it (the separation with a welding torch) in time."

The Natal Mercury,
January 28, 1977

Heritage over the Wensum - the conservation of the city of Norwich

The Simon van der Stel Foundation is pleased to be able to present an exhibition of photographs of the conservation work being done in the City of Norwich on the River Wensum in Norfolk, England. The exhibition has been presented in Europe as well, coming to South Africa after completing its tour of Germany.

The city of Norwich, capital of Norfolk, is just a hundred miles to the north-east of London. The present population is 120 000 and its area 2 600 hectares.

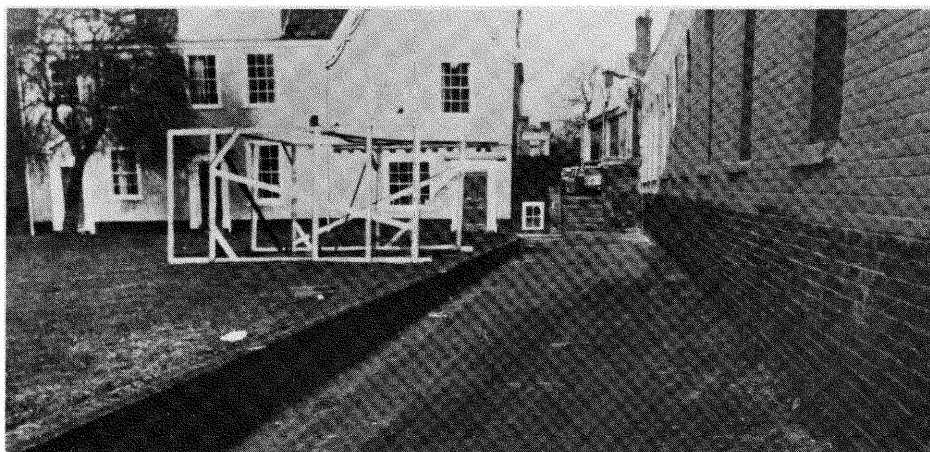
One of the greatest English cities in the middle ages, Norwich had only limited expansion during the nineteenth century industrial revolution. To a marked

degree it retains the form, character and buildings of a mediaeval walled city. Increasing pressure from developers in such a small scale city lead to inevitable conflicts. In response in 1970 the City Council designated seven 'Conservation Areas'.

This Exhibition explains this project. Re-organisation of motor car parking and of public transport services returned the interesting squares and streets to pedestrians and gave vies of buildings previously obscured.

Buildings of architectural and historic interest were listed and protected.

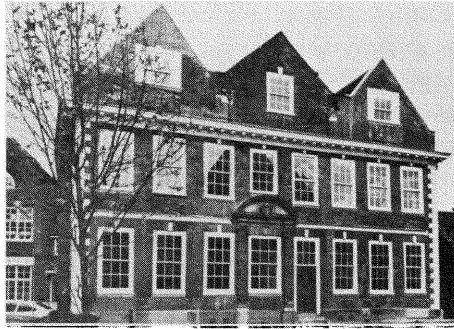
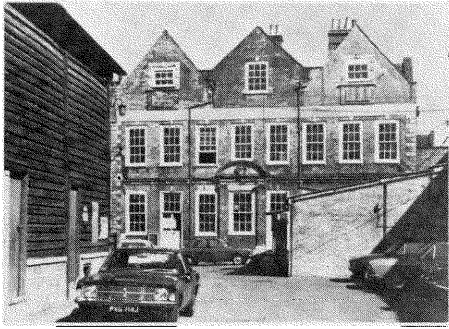
Citizens of the city formed the Norwich Society and this Society has exercised an



St. Miles Alley. Two groups of cottages are linked by this section of alleyway and flanking wall. Both were in a shabby condition and have now been improved by a collaborative effort. The wall was repainted by pupils from the Blyth Jex School, and the City Engineer then repaved the footway to complete the scheme.

Photos: *Philip Armes*





Colegate. Georgian town house before and after restoration.



Queen Ann Yard, Colegate. The Norwich Preservation Trust has combined infill development with restoration of delapidated cottages to give this corner a new lease of life.

Photos: Trevor Wood and Philip Armes



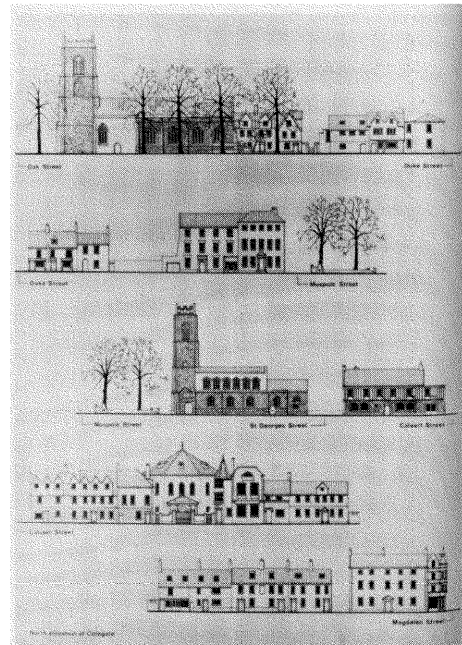
important influence including the rehabilitation of areas which had decayed into slums.

The river Wensum, so long neglected where it flows through Norwich is also being brought back to its former importance as an asset to a fine city.

We can learn from the conservation of Norwich much that has urgent application in South Africa in cities, towns, villages and in the country scene.

The exhibition started its tour in Cape Town on 22 February 1977 where it was opened by Sir David Scott, British Ambassador to South Africa. After its successful Cape Town run, the exhibition went to Port Elizabeth in March and Bloemfontein in April. The exhibition goes to Johannesburg in May, Pretoria in June, Pietermaritzburg in July and Durban in August.

In presenting this exhibition in South Africa, the Simon van der Stel Foundation records its thanks to the British Council which has brought it to South Africa. The sponsorship of the Norwich Union Life Insurance Society for the travelling costs of the exhibition within South Africa, is gratefully acknowledged. We also gratefully acknowledge the co-operation of the Eastern Cape Committee of the Institute of Cape Architects in Port Elizabeth, the Department of Architecture, University of the Orange Free State in Bloemfontein, the History of Art Department of the Rand Afrikaans University and the Johannesburg Historical Foundation in Johannesburg, the Northern Transvaal Arts Association in Pretoria, the Macrorie House Museum Board of Trustees in Pietermaritzburg, the Department of Architecture, University of Natal in Durban and of the Foundation's regional committees in Cape Town, Bloemfontein, Pretoria and Pietermaritzburg.



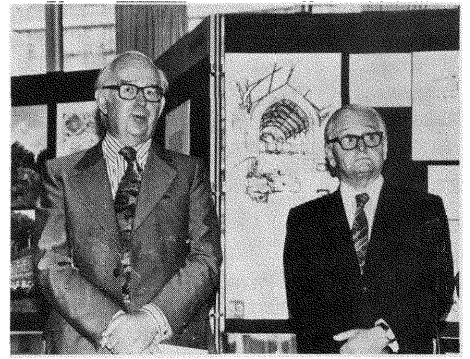
Sir David Scott, British Ambassador, opens Norwich exhibition in Cape Town

Can I say how delighted I was that the Simon van der Stel Foundation asked me to participate in the opening of this exhibition concerned with architectural conservation in the City of Norwich. The showing of this exhibition in South Africa is a happy combination of efforts on the part of organisations which have a common interest in the preservation of our architectural heritage. These are the Norwich City Council itself which has produced the exhibition, the British Council which has brought it to South Africa, the Simon van der Stel Foundation who are responsible for the exhibition's showing in this country, the Norwich Union Insurance Company who have kindly agreed to finance the presentation of the exhibition in South Africa and British Petroleum who have provided the venue for the first showing here in Cape Town.

In commending this exhibition to you could I remind you, as if this were necessary when talking to members and friends of the Simon van der Stel Foundation, that we must not necessarily rely entirely upon government action to see to the preservation of historical buildings and areas of outstanding natural or architectural beauty. This was realised by that small band of concerned people in Britain at the turn of the century who were concerned in setting up what is now the National Trust for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The National Trust is now the largest private landowner in Britain, and has over 400 000 members. It protects for the benefit of the public 160 000 hectares of land, 200 historic buildings and a large

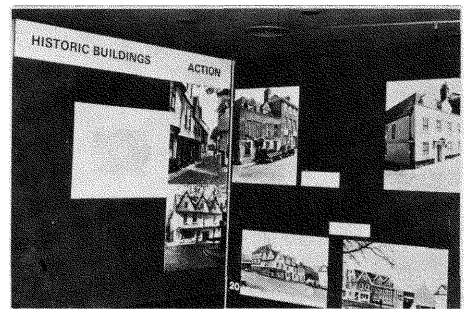
stretch of coastline. There is a similar trust for Scotland. Efforts will be required to persuade the ordinary public of the need to preserve that which is worth keeping. People must be informed of developments which are likely to destroy important examples of our architectural heritage. In this materialistic world we must realise that commercial interests are not always inconsonant with the idea of preserving buildings and other structures which have apparently outlived their usefulness. At times funds will have to be raised through public subscription to purchase properties in order to give them a new lease of life. In this respect we are all appreciative of the work that the Simon van der Stel Foundation is undertaking in this country. This aspect of conservation is important. Old buildings, and indeed, whole towns and cities cannot be expected to survive as museum pieces. Life and work must go on. This point is clearly made in Norwich's main contribution to European Architectural Heritage Year 1975, of which this exhibition is a record. In its conservation activities Norwich has aimed at the revitalising of a complete sector of the mediaeval city by creating a new community in its heart. The centre of Norwich has for too long been just a work place from which people flee to the suburbs at the end of their working day, leaving the streets silent and empty. The City Council of Norwich has not been disappointed in its belief that people would welcome the opportunity to live in the old city.

I am sure that you will agree this ap-



Mnr Douglas Andrews (regs), Voor-sitter van die streekkomitee Skiereiland, luister aandagtig na sir David Scott, Britse ambassadeur, wat die tentoonstelling van foto's geopen het.

Foto: M.W. Marsh

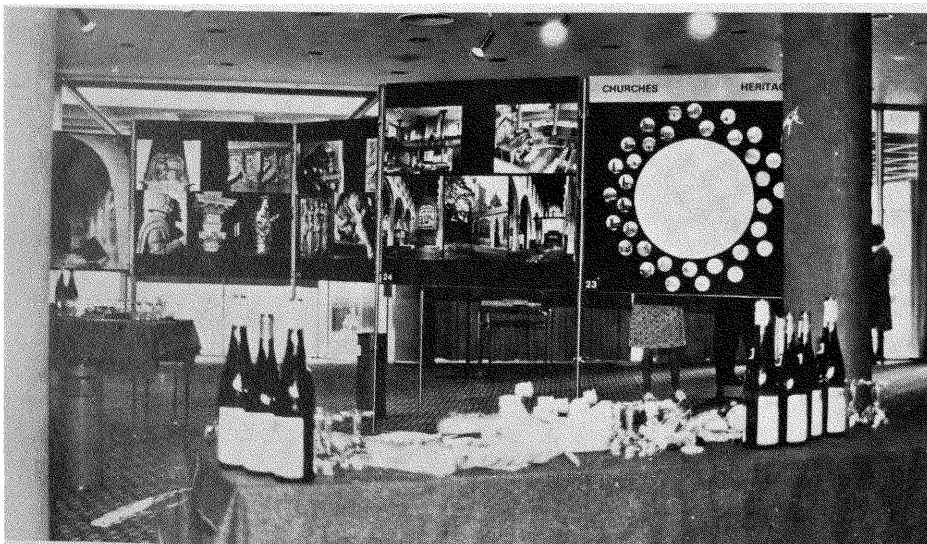


In gesellige luim by die fototentoonstelling.

Bo: v.l.n.r. Kol. I.P. Terblanche, lid van Skiereilandse streekkomitee, mev. H. Louw, skakelbeampte van B.P., mev. Y. Chedburn, sekretaresse Weskaap-takkan-toor, mnr. W. Punt en dr. S. Meiring Naudé.

Onder: v.l.n.r. Mev. Hester Marais, mnr. Johan Marais, mnr. Gawie Fagan en dr. C. Pama.

Foto's: M.W. Marsh



proach of reviving a possibly decaying city centre is perhaps preferable to the wholesale destruction of existing buildings whose character has evolved over the course of time. Too often we have seen such areas in a city replaced, at often considerable economic and social cost, by lifeless structures completely out of character with their historical surroundings.

I am sure that this aspect of conservation will be the concern of citizens of Cape Town. As also will be the way in which Norwich has waged war on the motor car's invasion of its city streets.

In conclusion could I thank again all those concerned with the mounting and circulation of this exhibition in South Africa. I hope that the Simon van der Stel Foundation and its work will benefit by the interest, the architectural conservation, this exhibition may generate among the general public.

Minister bepleit bewaring

Die Minister van Nasionale Opvoeding, Sy Edele dr. Piet Koornhof het by geleentheid van die opening van die tentoonstelling van die Reisacher-skilderye op 2 September 1976 'n beroep vir die

behoud en bewaring van ons kunsskatte gedoen.

„Na aanleiding van die bevindings van die Komitee van Ondersoek na die Uitvoer van Kultuurskatte, het die Minister van Nasionale Opvoeding reeds in 1974 goedgekeur dat die Departement 'n opvoedingsveldtog loods wat op die bewaring, versorging en behoud van die land en volk se kultuurskatte toegespits moet wees. In die raamwerk van dié opdrag word onder kultuurskatte onder andere verstaan:

- Manuskripte, gedrukte stukke en boeke van letterkundige of wetenskaplike aard wat enig of seldsaam, waardevol en onvervangbaar is;
- Kunsskatte wat in Suid-Afrika geskep is of wat van elders bekom is en van estetiese of kultuurhistoriese waarde is;
- Alle ander roerende voorwerpe van historiese, kultuurhistoriese of wetenskaplike belang,” het die Minister gesê.

Hy het voorts daarop gewys dat vir dekades reeds kosbare stukke van allerlei aard hul weg na die buiteland gevind het.

„As voorbeeld dien die feit dat ons groot kunsmuseums en kunsversamelings betreklik min Suid-Afrikaanse skeppingswerk besit. Verder is dit 'n feit dat daar ook kosbare meesterstukke van Europa in die besit van Suid-Afrikaners was, wat later by die kommersiële kunstlokale aan buitelandse kopers of spekulante van die hand gesit is en so vir ons verlore gegaan het,” het hy verklaar.

„Ek wil derhalwe van die paslike geleentheid gebruik maak om hierdie open-

bare opvoedingsveldtog vir die behoud, bewaring en versorging van ons kultuurskatte ook op Ministeriële vlak hier te help bevorder. Onderliggend en deurlopend aan hierdie omvattende, volgehoue opvoedingsprojek, is die aankweek van liefde en waardering vir die kultuur-eie, insonderheid vir die kultuurskatte. Kultuurhistoriese, natuurhistoriese, literêre en kunsskatte is die leerstof vir kulturele ontwikkeling; dit is die bates in die proses van geestesverryking en veredeling en móét behoue bly vir ons kinders se kinders, sodat hulle ook visionêr eendag kan terugkyk op 'n trotse herkoms, om daarin weer hul toekoms uitgespel te sien. Maar om dit alleen te behou, is nie versekering genoeg nie: dit moet bewaar word op plekke en in omstandighede waar dit deskundig versorg kan word teen verweer en verval,” het dr Koornhof gesê.

Hy het afgesluit deur te sê: „Ek vra selfs meer as dit van my volk: dit moet eendelik aan die hele volk behoort om uitgestal te word waar almal dit kan sien, geniet, waardeer en geestelik verinnig en verwerk tot blywende besieling vir deurlopende handvlyt en kuns. Ek wil die versugting lug dat ons hele volk daaraan sal dink om ons natuurhistoriese, kultuurhistoriese en kunsinrigtings die blywende bewaarplekke van ons kultuurskatte te maak.”

Museum-Memo,

Nasionale Kultuurhistoriese- en Ope-lugmuseum, jg. 4 no. 4, November, 1976

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Vorder bewaring?

C PAMA

As 'n mens vandag die verslae lees van talle bewaringskongresse, simposiums, 'werksinkels' en so meer, kry jy die indruk dat daar 'n gees van bewaringsgesindheid in die wêreld posevat het en dat die klimaat om te behou wat ons nog het, nooit gunstiger was nie. Die vraag is egter of ons hiermee nie bedrieg nie en of dit nie maar net skyn is nie. Daar is natuurlik in die afgelope jare wel veel verander en ongetwyfeld is daar vandag aansienlik meer bewaringsbewustheid as voorheen. Hierdie beeld kan egter gemaklik uit sy perspektief geruk word, want ook die slopers het vermeerder en hulle het die een doelwit na die ander gevind om hul planne te verwesenlik.

Die bewaarders trek altyd aan die kortste end want wat gesloop is, kan nooit weer werklik herstel word nie, ook al verander die planne van die „ontwikkelaars” dalk later. In elk geval was die resultaat van die toenemende bewaringsbewustheid tot nou toe baie teleurstellend. Die slopers gaan nog altyd ongehinderd deur met hul afbraak.

Hoewel hulle vandag graag lippehulde bewys aan die bewaringsgedagte, verhinder dit nie die deurvoering van hul planne nie. Daar was nooit meer bewaringsbewuste mense in Kaapstad as in die afgelope tien jaar nie, en hulle het ook beslis nie stilgesit nie, maar in dié tyd is daar ook meer gesloop as ooit tevore!

Dit lyk dan ook of ondanks alle kongresse die tydsgees meer slopings- as bewaringsbewus is en dat dit wensdromery is om die teenoorgestelde te dink. Daar is byvoorbeeld by ons 'n hardnekkige geloof dat in ons stamlande alles beter gedoen word. Wat 'n onnoemlik ryk en oud kulturele erfenis het hulle nie in vergelyking met ons s'n nie, en kyk wat doen hulle desondanks om alles so goed moontlik te bewaar! So glo ons. En ons grond dan ons geloof op wat ons in die buiteland in die toeristesentrums sien.

Veral Brussel word dan met graagte as voorbeeld genoem. Staan daar nie, nog ongerep, die pragtige Grootte Markt met sy stadhuis en eeue-oue burgerhuise nie? En gaan die restourasie van die omliggende strate nie voortdurend verder nie? Natuurlik, ons is nie heeltemal dom nie, en ons het dus natuurlik wel opgemerk dat – wat die omliggende strate betref – dikwels maar net die ou gewels geres-toureer of volgens ou tekeninge opnuut opgebou word en dat agter dié fassade volkome eietydse kantore skuil.

Dat selfs die voordeure van die „huise” tot niks toegang gee nie en maar bloot versierings is, soos ook sommige vensters. Maar goed, die algemene stadsbeeld is in elk geval bewaar en as jy deur die strate loop, kry jy inderdaad die indruk dat die ou hart van Brussel nog ongeskonde gebly het, ondanks twee wêreldoorloë.

En eerlik gesê, dit was ook waarlik 'n wonder dat Brussel nie in een van daardie oorloë gebly het, soos Rotterdam of Dresden, of Warschau nie. Die skending wat daar nou wel op groot skaal plaasvind, is dus nie te wyte aan oorlogsellende nie, maar wel aan die welvaart; en veral ook aan die twyfelagtige eer wat Brussel te beurt geval het om die „hoofstad van Europa” te word, dit wil sê die administratiewe sentrum van die Gemeenskapsmark. Dit het 'n onvoorstelbare bouery veroorsaak en dié slooping gaan nog onverpoos verder.

Die ontluistering van Brussel het al 'n eeu gelede begin, toe die riviertjies en beke wat deur die onderstad gestroom het en 'n skilderagtige aspek daaraan gegee het, oordek en „gesaneer” is. Die huidige breë lane was daarvan 'n gevolg. Daarna het, aan die einde van die vorige eeu, die gedugte argitek Joseph Poelaert ter wille van die bou van 'n enorme Paleis van Justisie nie minder as 26 000 vierkante meter van die oudste en mees karakteristieke deel van Brussel, die sogenaamde Marollen, met die grond gelyk gemaak. Hierdeur is 'n swaar bres geslaan in 'n wyk wat ongeveer 'n vyfde van die Brusselse stadsgebied beslaan het. Die Marollen was as't ware 'n stad in 'n stad met sy eie markplein en bevolking. Hy het ongeveer by die Hallepoort begin, die Hoogstraat met sy talle systrate en stege omvat en ten slotte opwaarts geloop tot aan die Koningstraat.

'n Mens sou hierdie buurt met die Amsterdamse „Jordaan” kan vergelyk, veral ook omdat die bewoners hul eie taal-tjie, die sogenaamde Marols gepraat het, 'n mengelmoes van Waals en Brabants wat baie taalkundiges al tot wanhoop gebring het.

In hierdie wonderlike doolhof van steil straatjies en stege het in die lente en somer die talle kaartspelers op die sy-paadjies sit en speel en tydens die oorlog was die Radijzenstraat 'n berugte broeines van smokkelaars en swarhandelaars. 'n Mens kan vandag oor die Marollen eintlik net nog in die verlede tyd praat want die aanslag daarop is in ons dae voltooi, nie net omdat hier die Europa-stad verrys het nie, maar ook weens die beheptheid van meer as een geslag van stadsontwikkelaars om 'n Noord-Suid-

verbinding deur die hart van Brussel tot stand te bring, sowel spoorweg as snelweg.

Soos altyd, en in alle stede (dink net aan ons Oosboulevard en ons nuwe ring-pad) is alles genadeloos aan hierdie groot visie opgeoffer. Daar moes 'n enorme hoofstasie gebou word wat deur ondergrondse lyne met die ou Noord- en Middestasies verbind is en gevolglik is die vernietiging van hierdie deel van Brussel nou volkome.

Onder die geboue wat in die slag gebly het, was onder meer die Busskietershuis wat 'n ereplek beklee het in die Brusselse stadsgeskiedenis. Bowendien staan kerke soos St. Huybertus nou geïsoleer en selfs die Middeleeuse en beroemde kerk van St. Goedele, wat eens in volle harmonie omring was deur vername ou herehuise, soos dié van Oursel, staan nou naak teenoor 'n karakterlose Europa-plein.

Die beroemde Kunsberg, insluitende die winkel waarin die outeur Paul Colin in 1943 deur 'n student neergeskiet is, het ook verdwyn. Die Marollen is ook bekend omdat Pieter Breughel die Oude hier gewoon en gewerk het. Hy lê in die Kappellekerk begrawe.

Brussel het dus, op die altaar van 'n verenigde Europa, die enorme offer van 'n byna volledige verlies van sy eie identiteit gebring wat nie vergoed word deur die Potemkinagtige „restourasie” van die strate rondom die Grootte Markt nie.

Hierdie ou mark self is trouens nie meer werklik oorspronklik nie. Ná die bombardement van Brussel op bevel van die Franse maarskalk De Villeroy in 1695, was die hele Middeleeuse plein 'n puinhoop en van die stadhuis het net nog die toring en mure gestaan.

Die stadsbestuur het tot van dié ramp gebruik gemaak om die mark as 'n boukundige eenheid in sy teenwoordige vorm heroptebou. Hy het daarby 'n bewaringsbewustheid getoon wat in dié dae seker uniek was en wat die teenwoordige stadsbestuur tot voorbeeld kon gedien het. Ongelukkig is die werklikheid anders.

Wildlife trust nears goal

The Wildlife Heritage Trust is a giant step nearer the R250 000 they have to raise by December 1977 to buy a 660 ha tract of the Umgeni Valley near Howick, as their headquarters for an educational conservation programme aimed at schoolchildren of all races.

The trust has raised in the region of R16 000 in a recent competition, the first prize being a caravan. The fund is now approaching R150 000.

The Pretoria News,
November 10, 1976

Architects on conservation

Gwen Mills recently conducted a survey of architect's opinions on the preservation and restoration of historic buildings in the Republic.

Dirk van Velden Visser

Architect Cape Town
Member of Cape Town Regional Committee
Simon van der Stel Foundation

In the past buildings were seldom in danger unless their functions ceased to exist. Today with our modern techniques of building construction, the preservation of the older and smaller buildings, becomes a problem. We are able to demolish so efficiently and with mechanical tools and inventions at our disposal – very effectively.

It is much easier for the developer to effectively clear the chosen site for development of all existing structures and to start with a clean slate. The task of the planner is also made easier and without any complications. He need not take into consideration any existing buildings, which would be a constraint on his operations.

Until the 20th century, buildings remained in use, as long as they were sound. These buildings were only adapted, as needs changed. Wholesale demolition was practised in periods of great prosperity. Examples where buildings have been “placed” are in Bokryk in Belgium, an open air museum, and in our own Natural Open Air Museum at Pretoria.

The problem here, in spite of the many advantages, is one of the setting of the buildings. This is a problem, extremely difficult to resolve.

In this field, as in others concerning our heritage of buildings the campaign should be carried through steadily, rather than rapidly. The Simon van der Stel Foundation can play an important part. The new building would usually then be a replacement of an architecturally inferior older building.

One must question, whether there is merit in preserving historic buildings?

To be able to answer this question it is necessary to take into consideration the need of a people to have as far as possible a visual contact with their history.

The building then presents its own historic valuation; both the appearance and design of the building go concurrently with its history and earlier social background.

With the change in lifestyle, it can be argued, it is valuable and necessary for us to see the circumstances under which

our ancestors lived. Towards this end, the preservation of their earlier environment is essential, and should be encouraged, instead of the steady erosion and loss of buildings and monuments in the Republic.

Which buildings must be preserved?

If we have to make a decision as to whether a building merits preservation, the decision could be based on various grounds.

For example:

(a) The building is a particularly fine example of its kind.

Quote: Boschendal in the Rhodes Fruit Farms Estate, Groot Drakenstein.

(b) Though not an exceptionally good example, it is a rare or perhaps the only example of its kind.

Quote: No 71 Wale Street, Cape Town. A modest, flat-roofed house in the Malay Quarter . . . “one of only two surviving examples of a type of parapet with a wavy, moulded outline”.

(c) It forms a part of a group of buildings which as a whole would suffer through the demolition of one.

Quote: Kerkstraat, Tulbagh.

(d) The building has exceptional architectural merit.

Quote: Groot Constantia, in the Constantia Valley, Cape Town.

(e) The building is the first of its kind – a prototype.

Quote: Governor Willem Adriaan van der Stel's original home Vergelegen at Somerset West.

(f) The building has important historical associations with either people or events.

Quote: Treaty House. The House in which the Treaty of 1806 was signed near Bromwell Road, Woodstock, Cape Town.

The emphasis should be placed on the preservation of buildings in these categories, rather than on the precipitate restoration of such buildings.

In the 19th century, we must remember it was largely due to the existence of corrugated iron that so many of our 18th century thatched houses were preserved, without financial assistance. To a great extent their preservation was also due to careful maintenance by responsible owners, especially in the Republic during the times of depression.

In our campaign we are interested in **Preservation – Restoration** comes after, if necessary.

The consideration being given to shifting buildings is interesting. It is possible in certain cases to move buildings to new sites. But, our Cape Dutch buildings however, do not lend themselves to this treatment.

The reason is – mainly because of the type of construction practised when these houses were built.

In addition it should be emphasised that the removal of buildings to new sites should only be resorted to when no other means of preservation is feasible. Naturally buildings may be treated as *artifice*, to be displayed in museums!!

Douglas Andrews

Architect Cape Town
Chairman Cape Town Regional Committee
Simon van der Stel Foundation

To plead successfully the cause of architectural preservation requires a clear definition of aims and methods.

Among buildings that claim preservation are a few that lack all architectural quality but are linked with some or other historical event.

From these we turn to those buildings displaying architectural design of varying quality and which not infrequently add to this some historical association and sociological significance and from the architect's point of view this latter aspect is of importance.

The definition of architectural quality must necessarily be somewhat subjective. The earlier buildings of the so called Cape Dutch period and those of the English period have found ready acceptance. More recently we have come to realise the importance of preserving Victorian and even Edwardian examples of architecture.

We are realising too the importance of preserving not only isolated buildings but of street facades with the street paving, street lamps and other typical external fittings and finishes.

The question as to the future use of the restored building must arise. The requirements and comfort standards of people in regard to buildings they occupy have inevitably changed over the years. The facilities which satisfied the prominent De Wet family when they lived in Strand Street would by a comparative family today be regarded in many aspects as quite inadequate.

I suppose that a church is one of the few buildings which in spite of age can continue to perform satisfactorily the function for which it was originally built.

We must I think divide buildings to be preserved into two classes. Those few, very important examples which must be preserved as far as possible in the original form, even if this makes them largely uninhabitable. They become museums and with suitable furniture provide a source of interest and instruction to the visitor.

Nevertheless some aspects of life depart from such buildings and there has been a wise move in recent years to make additional use of these museums. Thus in Cape Town the old Supreme Court, the

old Town House and even Groot Constantia have been used for suitable gatherings.

The other class are those buildings that must continue to be used to fulfil a living function whether as a dwelling, a place of workshop or a commercial office.

Sometimes this may entail some compromise in the interior planning but in this way the building is preserved and the example not infrequently inspires neighbours to do likewise.

Restoration requires considerable research on the part of the architect. Norman Eaton's restoration of Reiniet House, at Graaff-Reinet and Gabriel Fagan's work at Tuinhuys and at Tulbagh were the outcome of patient investigation and careful application of the knowledge so gained. F K Kendall who restored Groot Constantia after the disastrous fire in 1925 was instructed to restore the house as Simon van der Stel had built it. After careful investigation Kendall satisfied himself that to do this would include the demolition of the gables. Clearly, here the proposal to restore the building to its original form would have been disastrous and a less drastic formula – to restore Constantia at its best was adopted.

F Lamond Sturrock

Architect, Cape Town

The emphasis today on conservation of scarce resources must cause us to question the extravagancies of yesterday and to seek ways and means of living at a human scale, adequately and within our means. Although the history of building is studded with examples of extravagance, there is the continuous trend of simple basic building providing functionally for human beings with an instinctive understanding of needs, climate control, and logical use of available materials and craftsmanship. This is not to plead for a return to the past, but the application of simple principles of the best resources we can command today.

The relatively short period of civilization in South Africa renders the preservation and restoration of historic buildings all the more important.

J D P van der Merwe

Argitek, Kaapstad

Suid-Afrika is 'n land met 'n snel-ontwikkelende industriële ekonomie. Dit plaas hom onmiddellik in 'n tweespalt-situasie wat wentel om die behoud van die historiese behoudwaardige aan die een kant, met ontginning en uitbouing van sy groeipotensiaal aan die ander.

Laasgenoemde het tot dusver hiertelende ordelik en rasioneel geskied. Maar pogings tot eersgenoemde het vir soveel jare sporadies en ongekoördineerd staccatogewys plaasgevind, met emosionele

beroepe en pers-kampanjes as rugsteun wat soms meer kwaad as goed gedoen het. Gelukkig is die omstandighede besig om te verander en groter begrip het ingetree vir 'n gesonde bewaringsfilosofie wat, paradoksaal nogal, stukrag verleen aan vooruitgang. Vandag lê die veld braak vir die boodskap van die Bewaarders en die Bewakers van ons fisieke erfenis. Om hierdie boodskap sinvolle inhoud te gee, is egter die dilemma. Ons moet seker harder probeer, dis al!

Ian Fulton Ford

Architect, Cape Town

The whole reason for preservation and restoration as applied to buildings, as I understand it, is one of maintaining some form of humane balance between what has been (or exists) and what is to be.

In the highly complex process of man made development in general, no phase can be entirely isolated in time as a static and final statement and no building, monument or structure can stand completely alone. Relationships, whether positive and direct, or subtly implied, do exist and thus each specific part relates to the whole, creating a varied and living texture of old against new, simple against ornate and large against small.

This coming together of different aspects of the built environment appears to be, in essence, why preservation should be of such great importance. A sense of precedent and continuity is basic to man and all he creates.

Hannes Meiring

Argitek, Pretoria

Ontwikkeling verswelg dikwels enkelstaande geskiedkundige geboue. Dit mag natuurlik nie die stryd ter bewaring van enkele geboue laat verflou nie. Hoewel dit 'n ontnugtering is om te vind dat in die geval van die Ou Opera-huis te Pretoria, dit slegs die voorste muur is wat behoue gebly het, bly die dekoratiewe aansig tog 'n welkome onderbreking in 'n andersins vervelige Pretoriusstraat. In 'n meer interessante straat, Langstraat, Kaapstad, word die behoud van die Zending Gesticht 'n steeds meer onontbeerlike faktor te midde van ontwikkeling.

Bewaring kan en behoort egter veral toegepas te word in stads- en dorpsdele waar wonder bo wonder, selfs vandag nog tot 'n groot mate 'n estetiese argitektoniese eenheid bestaan, byvoorbeeld groot gedeeltes van Langstraat, Kaapstad; Dorpsstraat, Stellenbosch; Hoofstraat, Paarl; Pastoriestraat, Graaff-Reinet; Grahamstad en sommige strate in Pietermaritzburg. Weens stadiger vooruitgang op die platteland bestaan daar in ons land nog talle unieke geleenthede om eenheidsbewaring toe te pas. Op 'n onlangse reis van Johannesburg na Kaapstad en terug het die volgende plekke 'n besondere in-

druk gelaat. Utrecht, Natal, Rhodes, 'n klein Victoriaanse dorpie aan die voet van die Drakensberge, tussen Lesotho en die Transkei, Fort Beaufort, Adelaide en in besonder Bedford, Mosselbaai – 'n baie aangename verrassing wat die eenheidskarakter betref, maar waar optrede dringend noodsaaklik is om dit te behou as 'n hawestad met byna soveel atmosfeer asof dit aan die beroemde Middellandse See geleë kon wees. Dit was 'n groot plezier om Waenhuiskrans te besoek waar herstelwerk daadwerklik aangepak word. Op Wuppertal, die sendingstasie in die Sederberge, is daar gevaarlike tekens van verval en vernuwing wat die eenheidskarakter skend. Clanwilliam is nog steeds vol potensiaal, Carnarvon met sy byna "Griekse Eiland"-bruin woonbuurt en sendingkerk in die dorp, ook so buurdorp Williston met klipkerk in die middel en ongebruikte sendingkerk daarnaas. En dan die groot verrassing op die terrein, Vosburg, 'n oase van reuse-denbome langs grondstrate en waterleivoortjies omdat dié Karoodorpie sy eie fontein het. Dit is op plekke soos hierdie waar bewaringsliggame met woord en daad 'n praktiese taak het om te vervul. 'n Aardskuidding is tog nie meer nodig om dié besef wakker te maak nie.

Helen Holt

Retired architect, Hermanus

One aspect which has concerned me recently is whether we are doing enough to interest and inform young people on the subject of preservation of historic buildings. It seems to me that most of our activities are directed to older people. Are we not therefore merely preaching to the converted?

I recently spent some months in Holland. It is obvious there that the authorities are very concerned with this matter of cultivating interest and informing the public generally, especially the coming generation. For instance, in many of the towns ancient monuments, such as cathedrals or castles, displayed excellent and informative collections of blown-up photographs, simple plans and sections of various types and aspects of historical buildings with a straightforward explanatory text. Parties of schoolchildren were taken to these with an informed guide, and appeared not only to be interested, but to enjoy the experience. Are schoolchildren here shown such exhibitions, or taken on educational tours of our historical monuments?

Perhaps business firms could be persuaded to sponsor various schools to become members of the Foundation, and the latter could arrange school-parties with guides to visit historic buildings, show photographs or films, and possibly organise school competitions on the subject.

Museums such as Rust en Vreugde with its maps and models of Old Cape Dutch

houses would be an excellent start. This museum does not receive the interest and support it deserves.

Parents spend large sums of money sending their offspring on cultural tours of Europe, but similar tours could be organised locally – Paarl, Stellenbosch, Oudtshoorn, Graaff-Reinet for example. An interest in culture begins at home!

The many excellent books and periodicals dealing with Old Cape Dutch architecture are aimed at an adult, highly educated audience. Surely something could be produced on a more simple scale to inform and interest the young? In short, I am sure we should be building up an interest in the subject in the rising generation, rather than almost exclusively exchanging appreciation and interest among older and well informed people.

Brian W Watson

Architect, East London

Nearly all the German settler villages in the border of the Eastern Cape stand on land to be purchased in order to consolidate the Ciskei Homeland. Some have been recorded by various persons under the “crash” programme organised by the East London Museum. Only one stone house has been declared a National Monument. This belonged to an officer of the German Legion of 1857 and is situated in Charlottenburg (Berlin).

An example of the unique turf sod houses that have stood for over 100 years needs to be protected, as well as one or more of the beautiful churches. The preservation of a whole village, either Keiskamahok or Frankfort could be made viable by retaining the hotel, thereby forming a tourist attraction. The schools, churches, halls, dwellings, shops and forts of each village and the wagon making works in Keiskamahok should then be included in the preservation scheme.

Kenneth Gardner

Architect, Cape Town

Preservation? Yes. Worldwide it is important that buildings of historical and/or architectural interest should be preserved wherever possible. Apart from the archaeological/historical/aesthetic needs of posterity, it is good for our own souls and sense of continuity to have around us the “frozen music” of our predecessors. Apart of course from the Bushman rock paintings, our cultural-aesthetic heritage is (compared for instance to the millennia of the Middle East) relatively recent in origin. This makes the preservation of our architectural heritage, which is of a high order, more important, rather than less.

Restoration? Yes, but with reservations. Buildings rebuilt, perfect in every detail, tend to be as dead as mutton. Let us not build curly gables wherever we think

they might once have been, or otherwise strive for non-authentic 18th century environments. Cape Dutch, yes – fake Dutch, no!

Will science and greed make earth unfit to live on?

Harvey Day

LONDON

Past civilisations have vanished for various reasons; some were wiped out by disease; others by war.

In the Middle East and the Sahara which were once heavily wooded, Man used timber without replanting and transformed those regions into deserts.

One of the lessons history teaches us is that Man tends to destroy himself and the human race has to start all over again. If that did not happen the world would, perhaps, become overpopulated and starve or be wiped out by some virulent plague. It is Nature's way of cleansing the earth.

Today scientific achievements have outrun morality and commonsense, and greed has overtaken humanity and compassion. Scientists have been able to create and synthesise new materials for our wellbeing and comfort, but in doing so have produced residues which pollute the air we breathe, the soil in which crops grow and the sea with its abundance of fish, weed and other wild life. This pollution, which increases with horrifying speed and which has already resulted in death and destruction throughout the world will, unless we check and reverse the trend, be death of us all.

By the end of this century the world may become a place unfit for human habitation.

We regard oil, for instance, as liquid gold but the waste from oil tankers which discharge into the Mediterranean has so poisoned its waters that many species of fish have been wiped out and the coasts are growing filthier each year.

Unless steps are taken to stop pollution the Mediterranean will become a stinking, disease-ridden lake by the end of the century.

This does not necessarily mean that countries surrounded by vast open seas are very much better. Japan, whose shores are washed by the mighty Pacific has great problems for she is heavily industrialised.

Fishermen from the Bay of Tokio to Osaka Bay have abandoned these waters because many species of fish cannot live in them and the oyster beds have been poisoned. The air is so polluted by sulphur and other chemicals that the

incidence of TB and asthma has increased alarmingly and children are growing up stunted and mentally retarded.

Hitherto unknown diseases have appeared because of chemicals discharged into the sea. In 1951 the fishermen of Minimata Bay started to complain that muscles in their legs and arms grew weak and numbed and eventually speech and vision were affected, but not until 1959 did doctors identify “Minimata Disease” as having its origin in the methyl mercury discharged from a chemical plant. Equally disturbing is the bone disease known as Itai, caused by the discharge of cadmium into the basin of the River Itai by a local mining and smelting company.

Los Angeles, where once the air was clear and bracing, now suffers from some of the worst smog in the world; and each time an atom bomb is exploded the atmosphere is further poisoned.

Scientists have created a wonderful new range of plastic materials, now to be found in every home. Unfortunately it is difficult to get rid of empty plastic containers and worn out plastic goods, and when these are dumped into the sea and washed thousands of miles out they form floating islands. Mariners say that the Sargasso Sea, once consisting only of weed, now also contains masses of indestructible plastic which is killing plant life.

Hedges and woods on the banks of rivers or fringing the shores of seas that are polluted by smoke, shrivel and die and animals and insects move elsewhere or starve. Scientists are now bending their energies and brains to get rid of plastic and other refuse by recycling it or turning it into compost.

Perhaps one day we shall realise that no factory should be granted a licence to operate unless it first builds a plant to recycle its wastes or to render them innocuous. Only then can we be sure of survival. If that is not done – and done soon – the world will become a vast dustbin.

The Pretoria News,
November 27, 1975

HABITAT United Nations Conference on human settlements

The reason why

What does it mean that the population of the world will double in the next 30 years, adding 3 500 million people to the human family?

- First, nearly all these new millions are going to live in towns and cities. That means building the equivalent of 3 500 cities of one million inhabitants each.

In the world today, there are still fewer than 300 cities with one million population.

- What about housing? Even with an average family of 6 (too many, say demographers), 3 500 million people would need nearly 600 million housing units, more than exist in the entire world today.
- Then, think about children. At current birth-death ratios the number of children who will be born and survive through childhood in this 30 year span will exceed 5 000 million. How many doctors, teachers, schoolrooms and playgrounds are needed for such a number of young people?

The challenge of the future is awesome. Towns and cities of the world already in crisis, failing to provide basic facilities and services. Problems of unemployment, pollution, congestion, slums and squatter settlements, inadequate transportation, social alienation and crime are mounting everywhere. Past solutions have not worked. We need new techniques, new ideas and new forms of social organisation.

This is the reason for HABITAT: The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements. If you are concerned about the world your children will inherit, this conference is your business.

Habitat exhibit

The HABITAT Secretariat is preparing a special exhibit on human settlement problems and solutions throughout the world. This exhibit will be made available for showing in schools, public buildings, museums or outdoor exhibitions. It will be offered without charge to official or private organisations upon request, in most cases with no obligation to return. It will also be shown at Vancouver during the Conference.

Focus on Solutions

This conference will bring together in a way never before attempted the entire sweep of human settlement issues – formulating objectives, debating policies, assessing the current state of planning and programmes, evaluating alternative uses of resources and studying the role of institutions and the individual citizen.

But HABITAT will be different from conventional conferences in its strong orientation to solutions rather than simply to a definition of problems. It will bring forward and compare actual examples of methods and techniques which have already been applied successfully under diverse physical and socio-economic situations. Conference material will

be designed to be practical and useful, suggesting approaches and combinations of techniques which can be adapted to meet the needs of human settlements in many parts of the world. Each nation will come to the conference to teach and to learn, but the follow-up of implementation of ideas and programmes will be primarily in national hands. HABITAT will stress the need and right to be different, to elaborate human settlement policies in accordance with real national and cultural needs.

Conference objectives

Policies and programmes to meet the needs of future human settlements will never work – economically, socially, politically or morally – if they are not based on a firm commitment to achieve minimum standards of a decent existence for all people. This means that the highest priority must be given to alleviation of the plight of the most deprived strata of human society, both nationally and internationally. Within this basic premise our objectives will be:

- To proclaim and ask all nations to subscribe to a commitment pledging that the future human settlements of the world will be places of human dignity and well-being;
- To build among the peoples of the world a better understanding of human settlement problems and the challenge they will pose in the years to come;
- To demonstrate that the most pressing problems of human settlements can be solved with existing technology and systems if the political and social will can be marshalled to use them;
- To formulate a programme of international activities in support of human settlement improvements which will give priority to the strengthening of financial mechanisms and institutions dealing with these problems in developing countries.

Dorpe het 'n bewaringsplig

Mense op die platteland kan veel meer doen om te verhoed dat hul dorpe hul eie karakter verloor. Weens die groot-skaalse sloping van oorspronklike geboue begin al die plattelandse dorpe dieselfde lyk.

„In sommige gevalle is dit al so erg dat die dorpe na 'n groot vulstasie begin lyk,”

sê mnr Willem Punt, direkteur van die Stigting Simon van der Stel.

„Dit het gebeur omdat baie van die ou geboue afgebreek is en die kern van die dorpe sodoende verlore gegaan het. Tog kan daar nog in baie dorpe bewaringswerk gedoen word.

„Die gemeenskap weet dikwels van die geskiedkundige geboue, maar weinig word gedoen om hulle te behou. 'n Buitestaander is nodig om hulle bewus te maak van die waarde van die geboue,” sê mnr Punt.

Volgens mnr Punt is 'n dorpe soos Pelgrimsrust wat in sy geheel bewaar kon word, uitsonderlik. Daar is egter nog heelwat dorpe wat baie het om te bewaar.

Hier dink mnr Punt aan dorpe soos Heidelberg, Barberton, Tzaneen, Warmbad, Hendrina, Volksrust en Potchefstroom.

Op Hendrina is die huis van Hendrina Beukes, die vrou aan wie die dorpe sy naam te danke het, nog te sien. Die gebou is nog in 'n goeie toestand en kan teen 'n lae koste bewaar word.

Die Totiushuis op Potchefstroom is pas gerestoureer. Hier is ook die Pretorius-huis, die ou Stadsaal en die ou Hervormde Kerk wat behoue gebly het.

Lydenburg het sy ou Voortrekkerkerkie gerestoureer. Volksrust het nog 'n groot veld vir bewaring en op Carolina kan daar ook nog iets gedoen word om die dorpe se karakter te bewaar.

Baie plase het ook nog geskiedkundige geboue wat gered kan word. Op 'n plaas naby Wakkerstroom is daar nog 'n ou poskoetsstasie. Op sommige plase is daar meulens en van die oudste nedersettings op die platteland.

Mnr Punt sê dat huise op die platteland dikwels gesloop word ten spyte van die bewaringsmense se raad. Daar word aangevoer dat dit te duur is om te restoureer, maar eintlik is dit goedkoper as om van nuuts af te bou.

Die beste manier vir 'n dorpe om te sorg dat sy erfgoed behoue bly, is om 'n plaaslike historiese vereniging te stig. Inwoners kan 'n restourasiebank stig om voorrade op te bou en inligting oor die besondere geboue inwin.

Volgens mnr Punt het so 'n geskiedkundige gebou nie net geskiedkundige en kulturele waarde nie, dit oefen ook 'n invloed op die omgewing uit.

Daar is ook sielkundige en sosiologiese voordele. Die gebou word nie soseer bewaar vir die waarde wat dit op sigself het nie maar vir die betekenis wat dit vir die mense het.

Hoofstad,
3 Desember 1976

Hierdie bladsy geborg deur die Munisipaliteit, Paarl



Van der Walt vereer

Die Silwer Ere-penning van die Stigting Simon van der Stel is op 31 Maart 1977 aan Sy Edele B J van der Walt toegeken uit erkenning vir sy buitengewoon belangrike en deurslaggewende bydrae tot die hervestiging van die Stigting in SWA en die bevordering van bewaring daar.

Die penning is tydens 'n luisterryke noenmaal in Windhoek aan mnr Van der Walt oorhandig namens die Stigting se Nasionale Raad deur Sy Edele Minister H Smit, minister van Kleurling-, Rehoboth- en Nama-sake. Die noenmaal is bygewoon deur bykans 200 gaste en is aangebied deur die Stigting se streekkomitee in Windhoek onder leiding van mnr Hendrik Venter.



Die Stigting se direkteur verduidelik die simboliek van die ere-penning.
Vnr: Sy edele H Smit, mnr Hendrik Venter, mev Riëks van der Walt.

Sy edele H Smit oorhandig die penning aan sy edele B.J.van der Walt [links].



Nuwe bedeling vir monumenteraad

'n Nuwe bedeling vir die Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede het pas begin. Die Raad het 'n veteraan-lid, prof J J Oberholster, gewese hoogleraar in geskiedenis aan die Universiteit van die Vrystaat, as direkteur gekry. Boonop is die personeel by die hoofkantoor in Kaapstad, van die aanvanklike een en die huidige sewe vermeerder sodat daar oor 'n maand elf voltydse amptenare sal wees. En verskeie vakatures moet nog gevul word.

Prof Oberholster, wat 'n kwarteeu van diens in die eertydse historiese Monumente-Kommissie en die huidige Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede agter die rug het, is vol geesdrif vir die taak wat voorlê – en uitnemend goed toegeus daarvoor.

Met 'n voltydse direkteur kan die pas van die Raad se werk versnel word, het hy gesê. Beleidsake sal uiteraard deur die volle Raad bespreek en beklank moet word, maar waar die beleid reeds bepaal is, sal die direkteur nou onmiddellik kan optree en die bewaringstaak van die Raad in baie opsigte kan aanhelp.

„'n Tweede, en baie belangrike aktiwiteit van die direkteur, sal die skakelwerk wees tussen die Raad en die Regering, die Provinsiale Owerhede en ander organisasies soos munisipaliteite en so meer.” In hierdie opsig, so meen prof Oberholster, is daar vir hom baie werk. Hy is voornemens om persoonlik kennis te maak met alle mense en instansies wat moontlik by bewaring betrokke kan wees, en op dié manier die standpunt van sy Raad en die saak van bewaring in die algemeen probeer bevorder.

Alle bewaringsbewuste mense sal verheug wees om te verneem dat prof Oberholster dit as 'n saak van dringende noodsaaklikheid beskou dat die lysing van alle bewaringswaardige geboue en plekke in Suid-Afrika voltooi moet word. Prof. Oberholster het gesê dat sy kantoor die hulp van alle belangstellende organisasies en liggame sal gebruik vir die insameling van gegewens. Dit sal die totstandkoming van 'n argief-biblioteek in die kantoor van die Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede tot gevolg hê, wat daartoe sal bydra dat die skakeling met die publiek nouer sal word.

Die opstel van die finale lys is 'n reuse-taak wat opgeleide navorsers sal kan be-

hartig maar dit is 'n noodsaaklike vereiste vir sinvolle bewaring.

Die Burger,
5 Januarie 1977

Prof J.J. Oberholster, Direkteur van die Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede.

Foto: *Die Burger*



Eric Vertue honoured

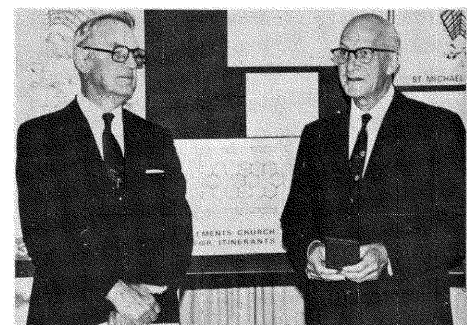
Mr Eric Vertue of Cape Town was presented with the Simon van der Stel Foundation's Silver Medal of Honour last week in Cape Town by the Foundation's National Chairman, Dr S Meiring Naudé.

The presentation took place at the opening of an exhibition of the conservation work being done in the City of Norwich in England.

Mr Vertue, a well-known and respected figure in the world of conservation and the care of monuments, was awarded the medal for his significant contribution to conservation and services rendered to the Foundation over a period of 17 years. In making the presentation Dr Naudé said: "My Council are pleased to be able to honour their ex-colleague Eric Vertue on this occasion. He joined the council of the Foundation in 1962 and served on it until 1974. Before retiring in 1976 he took a term as chairman of the Foundation's Cape Town Regional committee. During his 13 years of service in an official capacity with the Foundation he gained the respect and friendship of hundreds of conservationists in South Africa.

"Eric Vertue's energy has also permitted him to serve on the National Monuments

Foto: *M.W. Marsh*



Council, which he still does, and the board of Historic Houses of S.A. Ltd. He also played a significant role on the Tulbagh Restoration Committee.

"When the subject of calendars crops up, sooner or later the name of Eric Vertue will crop up. For 20 years, annually, 200 000 S.A. Permanent Building Society calendars have been distributed. These calendars, bearing reproductions of historical paintings and sketches of the early South African scenes, have become collectors items.

"This is a photographic exhibition and Mr Vertue is as well-known for his photography of Cape Dutch architecture as he is for his work for their preservation.

"I believe there can't be a photographer, amateur or professional, in the Western Cape who hasn't been inspired by Eric Vertue's work. As a member of the Cape Photographic Society, he has become well-known for his photographs of our Cape Dutch architectural heritage. As witness to this I need only mention the exhibition of his work presented by the National Monuments Council here in Cape Town about a year ago.

"To belie any bias to buildings only, Mr Vertue is also a member of the Table Mountain Preservation Board."

Dr Naudé went on to say that Eric Vertue retired as West Cape regional general manager of the S.A. Permanent Building Society in 1975. He was, however, pleased that Mr Vertue's retirement from active business seems not to have meant any decrease in his efforts for preservation.

Gwen Mills se penning oorhandig.
Die Stigting se brons ere-penning is verlede jaar aan mev Gwen Mills toegeken. As gevolg van haar langdurige siekte kon sy nog nie die penning persoonlik in ontvangs neem nie. Die Stigting se Nasionale Voorsitter, dr S. Meiring Naudé het dus by geleentheid van die opening van die Norwich-uitstalling in Kaapstad die penning aan mev Mills se suster, mev Cooper, oorhandig.

Foto: M.W. Marsh



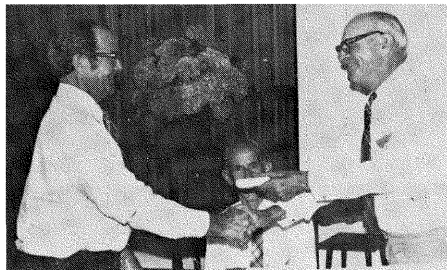
Geoff Palmer presented with medal of honour

Dr J M Hyslop, Eastern Cape member of the National Council of the Foundation Simon van der Stel, presented the Foundation's Bronze Medal of Honour to Mr Geoff Palmer. The award was made in

recognition of Mr Palmer's very valuable contribution to the restoration of the Bradshaw Woolmill at Bathurst, owned by the Foundation Simon van der Stel. Mr Palmer built and installed the 4,57m diameter mill wheel.

Dr Hyslop sketched the history of the mill briefly. Samuel Bradshaw brought out a party of settlers in 1820 numbering 64. He had been a weaver in Gloucestershire, England, and was 34 years of age when he arrived at the Cape. Almost at once he decided to build what was to become South Africa's first wool mill. He was assisted by Richard Bradshaw, Isaac Wiggall and Jeremiah Goldswain whose diary is so well-known.

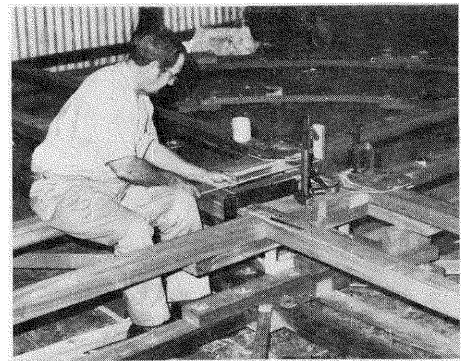
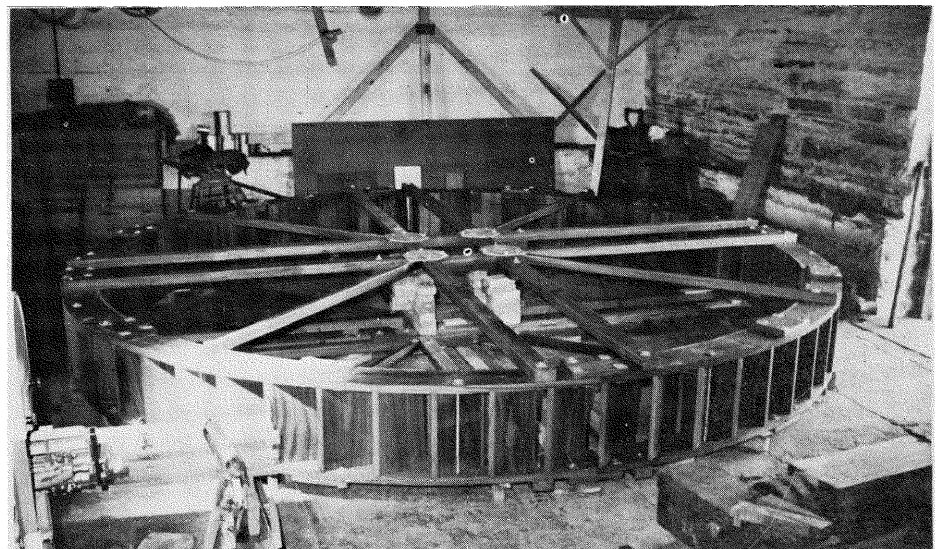
In 1835 the mill was burnt by Xhosas, the machinery was destroyed and production ended. The Simon van der Stel Foundation purchased the mill in 1959 and restoration proceeded for several years but no wheel was included in the restoration. Subsequent to 1970, Mr Palmer offered to construct a mill wheel. Much research was done, a model was constructed and a suitable wood, chamfuta, was chosen. Mr Palmer's son, Mike, was deeply involved in all work to do with the mill. Finally the wheel was completed in 1975. For Mr Palmer it was a



Mr Geoff Palmer (left) receives bronze medal from Dr J.M. Hyslop, Port Alfred. Mr Alf Basson, in background, is the chairman of the Lower Albany Historical Society.

Photo: Tom Wright

Wheel of Bradshaw wool mill at Bathurst.



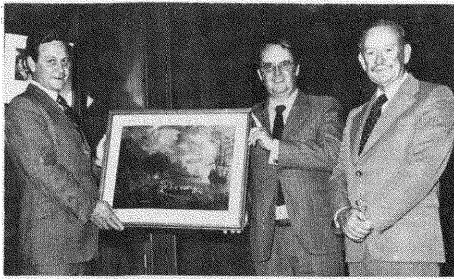
Mr Geoff Palmer at work on the wheel of the Bradshaw wool mill.

labour of love, the restoration of a National Monument and a tribute to the initiative of an 1820 settler.

Dr Hyslop said Mr Palmer has inscribed for himself a page in settler history. Future visitors to the mill will be told: "This is Bradshaw's Mill and that is Geoff Palmer's Wheel."

In his reply Mr Palmer conveyed his thanks to the Foundation's National Council for the honour done to him. He was pleased to be so intimately involved with the Bradshaw Mill project and is happy to have been able to make a contribution such as the mill wheel which is such an integral part of a mill as such.

Mr Palmer also expressed his thanks to Dr Hyslop and to Mr Alf Basson and members of the Lower Albany Historical Society for the occasion of the presentation and for their interest in and contribution to the restoration of the mill. He specifically referred to Mr T Fitzgerald, honorary custodian at the mill, who for quite some time have been looking after the mill and who was responsible for the digging out of the wheelpit and waterdrain at the mill so that the wheel could be installed. Mr Palmer also thanked Mr C Acton for his assistance with the assembly, installation and operating adjustments.



V.l.n.r.: Mnr Peter von Broembsen, Pretoriase bestuurder, S.A. Permanente Bouvereniging, mnr Willem Punt, direkteur, Stigting Simon van der Stel en mnr Gerald Guiney, Noord-Transvaalse streeksbestuurder, S.A. Permanente Bouvereniging. 'n Afdruk gemaak in 1952 van 'n skildery van Willem van der Velde [1633-1708] getiteld "Hollandse Kolonisten lande aan de Kaap de Goede Hoop". Die skildery is in besit van die S.A. Permanente Bouvereniging en die afdruk is gemaak by geleentheid van die 300-jarige eeufees in 1952. Die oorspronklike skildery is tans in bruikleen by die Africanamuseum in Johannesburg waar dit nou krities ondersoek word omdat daar twyfel bestaan of dit wel 'n egte Van der Velde is. Die S.A. Permanente Bouvereniging het hierdie rare afdruk aan die Stigting geskenk.

Top Natal historian dies

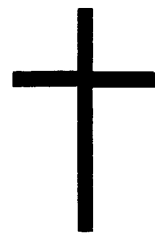
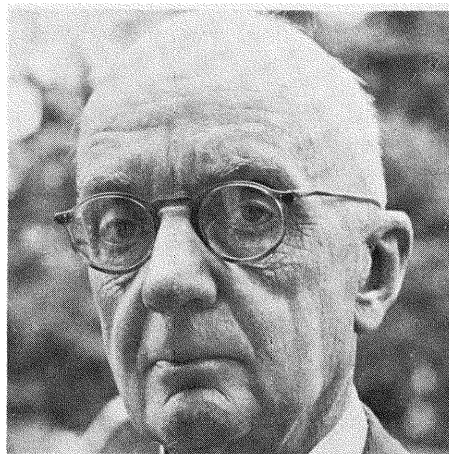
The doyen of Natal historians, Professor (Emeritus) Alan Frederick Hattersley, died in Pietermaritzburg at the age of 83.

Professor Hattersley, who was professor of history and political science at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, was the author of 23 books and hundreds of articles. Among his best-known works on the British settlement of Natal were *More Annals of Natal*, *Later Annals of Natal*, *Portrait of a Colony* and *The Nataliens*.

As a resident in Pietermaritzburg for more than half a century, he was considered its leading historical expert and documented its past and modern growth in two volumes, *Pietermaritzburg Panorama* and *Portrait of a City*. His last and greatest work, published in 1969, was entitled *An Illustrated Social History of South Africa* spanning 258 years.

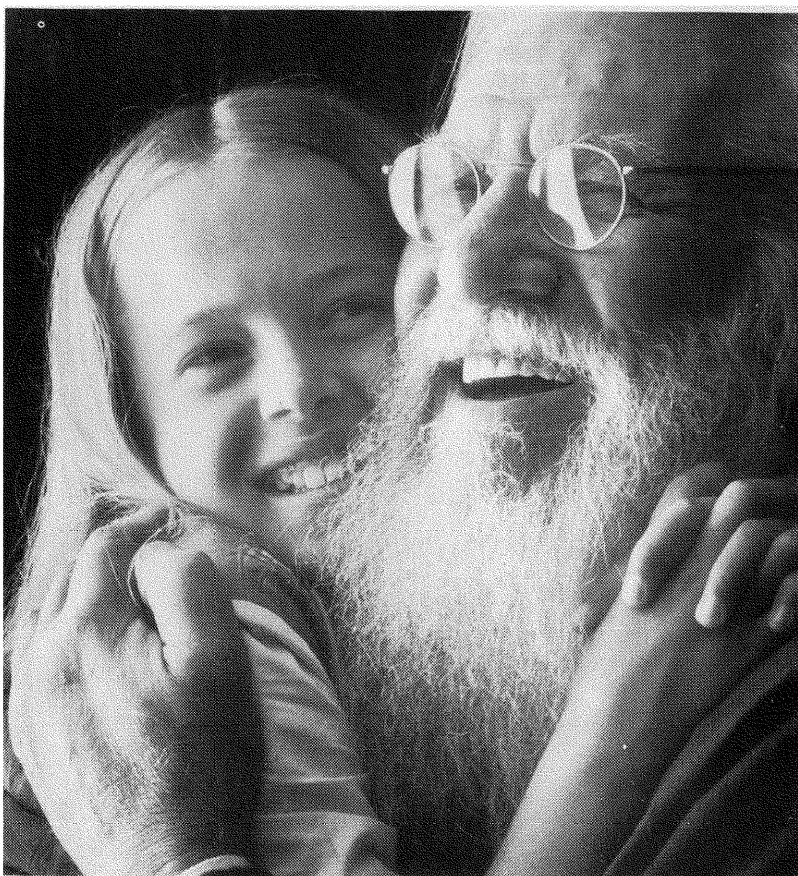
Professor A.F. Hattersley.

Photo: John Clark



In memoriam

Prof D Bax, Kaapstad
Mr E A H F Behnsen, Windhoek
Dr J B Bekker, Wynberg
Mnr A P W Blatt, Windhoek
Miss D G Forsdike, Hermanus
Mr L F Forsyth, Pietermaritzburg
Mr B T Hall, Johannesburg
Mr E R Hammond, Kimberley
Dr M D W Jeffreys, Johannesburg
Mnr A Jentsch, Windhoek
Dr E G Jordaan, Paarl
Prof M S B Kritzinger, Pretoria
Prof dr A J la Grange, Pretoria
Dr H A D Penn, Louis Trichardt
Mnr J H H Richter, Kaapstad
Mr E J L Scholtz, Fish Hoek
Mev H Steenkamp, Vryheid
Mr A A Telford, Johannesburg
Mnr C L Viviers, Stellenbosch



Volkskas praat die taal van kundiges.

Die taal wat Volkskas praat, val soos klinkende munt op die oor van die vernuftige belegger.

Volkskas kan bekostig om soos 'n kenner sy sê te sê: want sedert die vroegste dae groei Volkskas saam met die land en sy mense. Ken hy hulle aard, hulle behoeftes, hulle lojaliteite.

Daarom praat Volkskas saam... in 'n tradisie van diens en kundigheid.

Kom praat met die bank wat verstaan.





Suidwes-Afrika - South West Africa

Damara-en-Namakwahuis, later Woermannhuis in Swakopmund

Dr N MOSSLOW

Die Damara en Namakwa Handelsgenootskap Beperk is teen die einde van 1894 met 'n kapitaal van 300 000 Mark in Hamburg gestig. Die aandeelhouders was die firma C Woermann, die firma C Wischmann, prokureur dr Scharlach, die Hanseatiese Land- en Mynbougenootskap, en die South West Africa Company. Die stigter van die genootskap en die direkteur daarvan was A Woermann met sy hoofkwartier in Hamburg.

Die handelsgenootskap het hom aan die begin van 1895 in Swakopmund gevestig en van die eienaars van die kusstrook – Deutsche Kolonialgesellschaft – 'n wyd uitgestrekte stuk grond gekoop, waarop hulle hul winkels en administratiewe geboue opgerig het. Die eerste saakgestigte was Georg Schluckwerder. Max Brock, die susterskind van A Woermann, het vanuit Hamburg die winkels behartig met handelsware, en in die jare 1895 en 1903 het hy handelsreise na Suidwes-Afrika onderneem. Sedert 1899 het die Suidwes-Afrikaanse ondernemings onder die leiding van Edward Wardesky gestaan, en behalwe die ondernemings in Swakopmund is daar ook handelsondernemings in Windhoek, Rehoboth, Keetmanshoop, Lüderitz, Karibib, Omaruru, Outjo, Otavi, Tsumeb en Grootfontein gestig. Die handelsgenootskap het boumateriaal, ysterware, landboumasjinerie, boerderybenodigdhede, sowel as lewensmiddele, vervaardigde goedere, huishoudelike toebehore en drank verskaf.

Die ontwikkeling van Swakopmund soos ook die hele land, het in 1895 begin en dit was te danke aan die verskeie handelsgenootskappe wat hulle daar gaan vestig het, en waarvan die Damara en Namakwa die grootste was. Die pryse het gedaal as gevolg van die direkte invoere uit Duitsland.

In April 1909 het die Damara en Namakwa ontbind, en hulle aandele is oorgepra na C Woermann, en die opvolgers het hulleself "Woermann, Brock & Co" genoem. E Wardesky het aangebly as bestuurder, en as betekenisvolle persoonlikheid in die sakeonderneming is hy in 1910 deur die goewerneur tot lid van die landraad (die destydse gelykstaande aan die huidige Wetgewende Vergadering) benoem.

Dit is nie moeilik om te verstaan waarom die handelsgenootskap van sulke hoë aansien wat so kapitaalsterk was, onder leiding van A Woermann in Hamburg, in

die jare 1905-06 'n so buitengewoon groot en indrukwekkende huis opgerig het nie. Die Woermanns was werklik "koninklike kooplui", en hierdie huis het byvoorbeeld die goewernewoning wat deur Curt von Francois gebou is, oortref, en kon slegs die aansien van die firma laat styg.

Die grondvlak van die huis bestaan uit 'n vierkant (ongeveer 45 by 40 meter), met 'n binnehof met arkades, wat ongeveer 23 × 16 meter groot is. Die voor-aansig van die huis is na die see, sy middelste gedeelte is 'n dubbelverdieping, en het aan die voorkant twee gewels. In die noordoostelike hoek is 'n vyfverdieping-toring wat ongeveer 25 meter hoog is. Die styl van die gebou is soos om en by 1900 gewild was, en is 'n mengsel van verskillende stylelemente, byvoorbeeld buite met paneelraamwerk van vergange eeue, met Romaanse boë vir die arkades in die binnehof, waar origens bont teëls met die destydse tipiese versiersels in "jeugstyl" in die kolonne van die pilare ingelaat is.

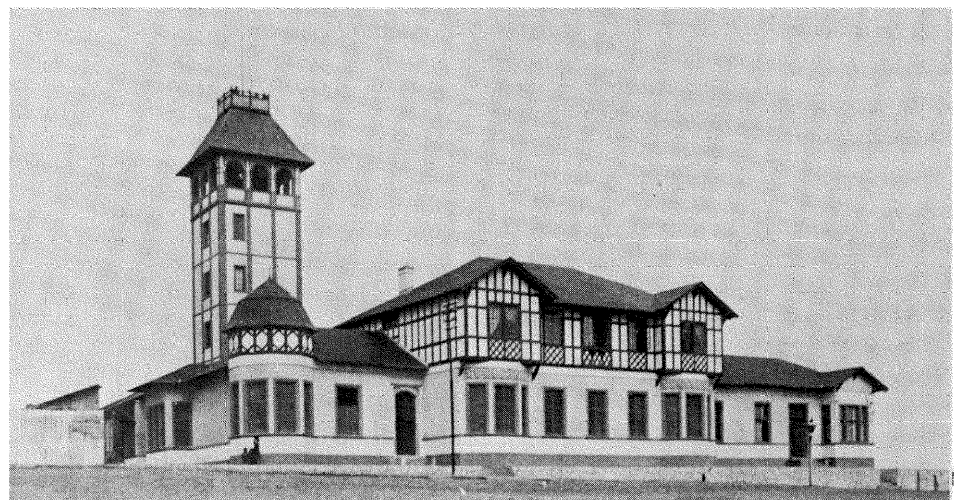
Van die argitek van die Damara en Namakwa Handelsgenootskap is min bekend. Die bouplanne en kosteberekening het ook nie behoue gebly nie. Net

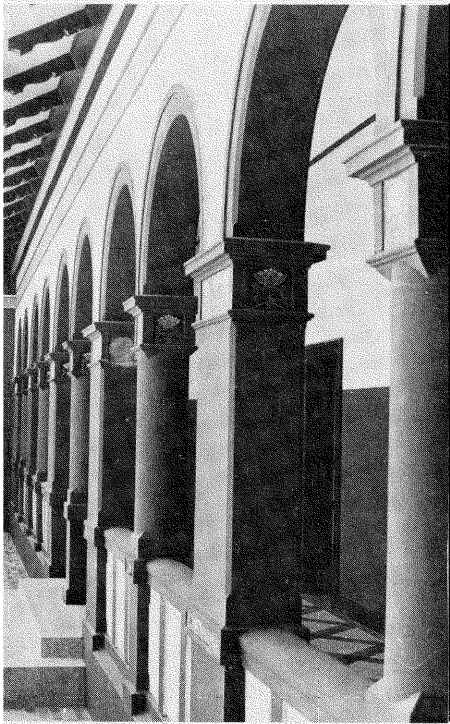
in die dokumente van die Keiserlike distriksamp van Swakopmund (in die Windhoekse argief) is 'n skaars reproduceerbare bloudruk voor hande wat, "as tekening van 'n nuwe gebou as woonhuis vir die Damara en Namakwa Handelsgenootskap" beskryf is met die inskrywing "Höft, Argitek, Swakopmund, Julie 1904". Die plan is op 13 Julie 1904 deur die regeringsboumeester Laubschat in Swakopmund goedgekeur. By die hoeksteenlegging is 'n hoeksteen gelê met die volgende spreuk uitgebeitel: "Möge ein gutes Geschick über diesen Gebäuden walten und es der Erbauerin zum Segen erreichen."

Dit is opvallend dat die toring op hierdie bloudruk makeer! Waarskynlik is dit oorspronklik nie oorweeg nie en het die "koninklike kooplui" – die Woermanns – later daarop besluit. Die vermoede dat dit 'n watertenk moes dra, is foutief aangesien daar 'n ander watertoring op die perseel was. Die toring moes eerder as versiering dien, en was daarbenewens 'n uitstekende, van ver af sigbare oriënteringspunt vir aankomende skepe.

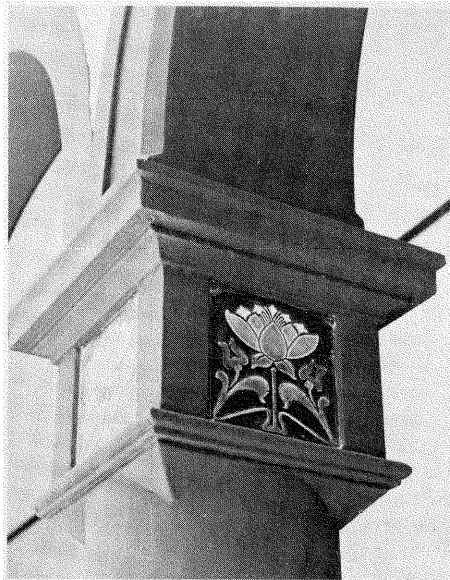
Die bouwerk is aan die begin van 1905 voltooi, en die volgende is daaroor berig: "Op die hoë toring van die Damara

Die Woermann-huis is op 10 Desember 1971 tot historiese monument verklaar.

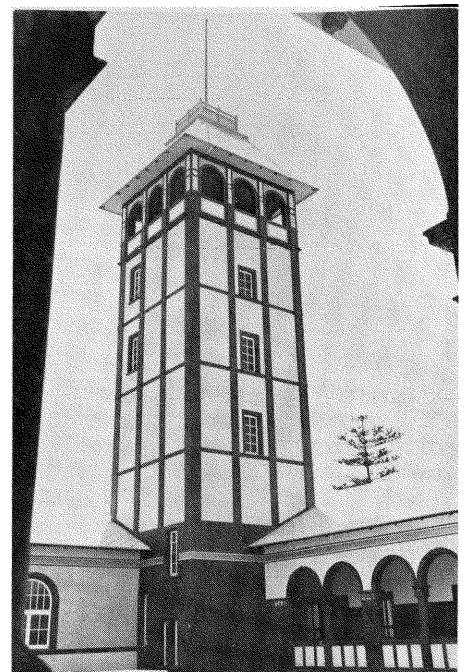




Boë in die binnehof van Woermann-huis, Swakopmund.



Die teëls van naby.

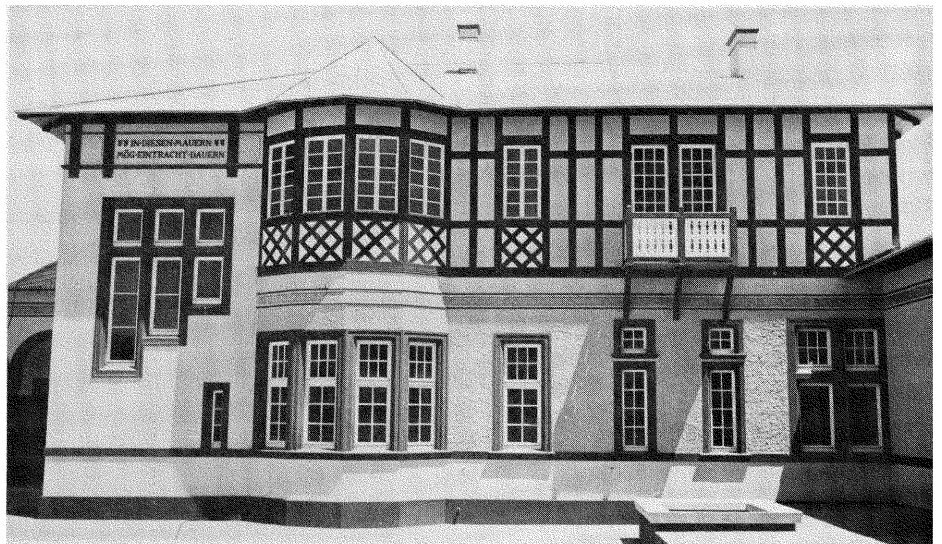
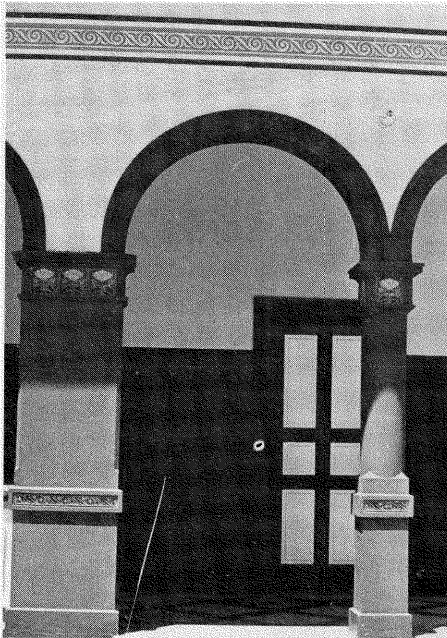


In die noordoostelike hoek van die Woermann-huis is 'n vyfverdieping-toring van ongeveer 25 meter.

Al die foto's van die Woermann-huis, Die ou Turnhalle en die Von Estorff-huis kom uit die versameling van dr. N. Mossolow, Windhoek.

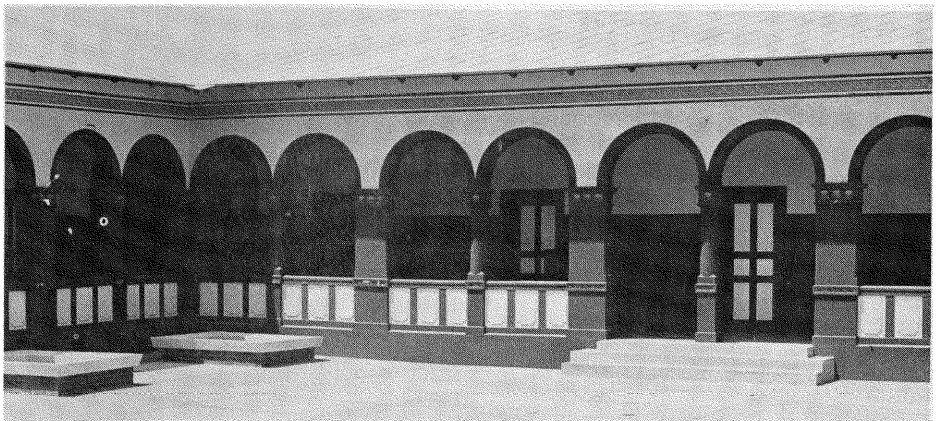
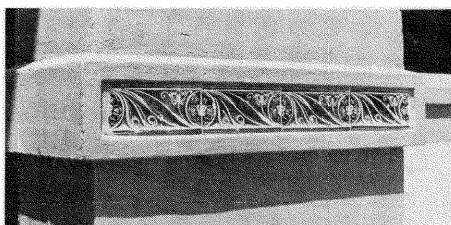
Gerestoureerde Woermann-huis, Swakopmund

Bont teëls versier die pilare van die binnehof.



Binnehof met arkades.

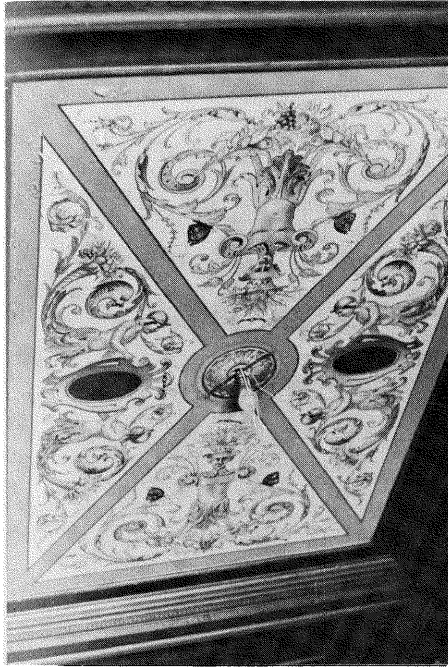
Tipiese versiersels in die "jugend stil" in die kolonne van die pilare ingelaat.



& Namakwa Handelsgenootskap wat hoog bo Swakopmund uittoon en die kenteken van die plek sal uitmaak, wapper vandag (7 November) vir die eerste maal die Hamburgse vlag.”

Die binnenshuise inrigting is ’n jaar later voltooi, en in Oktober 1906 is soos volg berig:

„Die Damarahuis waarvan tans die binnenshuise inrigting voltooi is, en wat met sy hoë toring die kenteken van Swakopmund uitmaak, maak ’n werklik verneme en indrukwekkende indruk . . . die groot en hoë vertrekke met hulle passende meubelstukke van waardige en smaak-



Interieur van die Woermann-huis.



volle eenvoudigheid, en met beplante agterplase herinner aan niks meer as die oorspronklikheid en ontoeganklikheid van verhoudings in Afrika . . .”

Aan die voorkant, op die grondvloer was die woonvertrekke van die gesin Wardesky. Die slaapkamers was ’n trap hoër. Bereikbaar deur die arkades was die kamers vir werknemers en gaste. Langs die toring en die klein eetkamer (d.i. die “Ontbytkamer”) is die kombuis en werkkamers geleë. Die trappe na onder lei na die wynkelder.

In die noordelike vleuel van die huis is die sogenaamde „Vorstekamers”, dit is die ontvangskamers, musiekkamer en die eetsaal waar daar vir 60 persone tafel gedek kon word. Hierdie vertrekke verdien om van nader betrag te word.

Die treffende groot en hoë vertekke is afgewerk met hout en panele wat in Duitsland vervaardig is in die styl wat teen die einde van die 19de eeu gewild was, en wat elemente van die vergangse tydvakke weergee en op sigself nie eintlik iets oorspronklik daarstel nie. Op hierdie manier is ook teen die einde van die laaste eeu baie klubs, privaat villas en ook die wonings van welgestelde Berlyne burgers en van ander groot stede versier.

Die naam “Vorstekamers” is aan die drie vertrekke gegee toe Prins Joachim Albrecht van Pruise in April 1907 in Swakopmund vertoef het. Hy het in die Woermann-huis ingewoon en sy verneme geselskap is hier ontvang, terwyl die algemene ontvangste in die Fabersaal plaasgevind het, waarheen 150 persone uitgenooi was.

Prins Heinrich van Pruise het in Augustus van dieselfde jaar in Swakopmund vertoef, maar hy het egter by die landdros Boesel ingewoon. Moontlik is hy ook in hierdie vertrekke van die gesin Wardesky ontvang.

Die Beierse veldmaarskalk, “die koninklike jagter” (der königliche Waidmann), Prins Leopold van Beiere en sy seun, Prins Georg van Beiere, het in Mei 1909 as gewone privaat persone na Suidwes-Afrika gekom om te jag. Hulle was vergesel van ’n geneesheer. As jag-gids is die bekende kunstenaar Erickson, die seun van die jagter en handelaar, die “ou Erickson” aan hulle toegesê. Hulle het eers in die Kuiseb gejag en daarna na die Etoshapanne getrek. “Die koninklike jagters” wou geen amptelike ontvangste hê nie, maar dit is nie uitgesluit dat hulle in die privaat in die Woermann-huis ontvang is nie. Daar kon egter nie vasgestel word waar Prins Leopold en sy seun in Swakopmund gewoon het nie. In Windhoek is hy deur Goewerneur Von Schuckmann en die bevelvoerder van die Schutztruppe, kolonel Von Estorff, met die eerste motor in Windhoek, ’n “Mercedes Colonial”, wat ’n jaar tevore ingevoer is, op die stasie ontmoet en na die “Hotel Stadt Windhoek” geneem.

Daar kon ook nie vasgestel word waar

die Duitse goewerneurs in Swakopmund gewoon het nie, maar waarskynlik was dit in die residensie van die landdros, dit is in een van die wonings in die agterplaas van die huidige administrateurshuis. Goewerneur dr Seitz het op 15 Desember 1911 na Swakopmund gegaan en wou weens die siekte van sy vrou geen amptelike ontvangs geniet nie, en hy het op 18 Desember met verlof na Kaapstad vertrek. Hy moes egter tog later twee keer in die Woermann-huis ontvang word – aan die begin van November 1915 na die oorgawe van Khorab toe hy in die huis van E Wardesky gewoon het, wat kort voor die uitbreek van die oorlog op verlof na Duitsland vertrek het, en waar hy vir die duur van die oorlog gebly het. Hierna het dr Seitz na Alt-Heusis in die Khomas-Hoogland getrek, en hy het in April 1919 hom vir die tweede keer in die Woermann-huis gaan vestig terwyl hy op repatriasie gewag het.

Die Woermann-huis was andersins altyd vol bewoon. Werknemers en leerlinge was daar gehuisves en versorg – die leerlinge in die toring – sowel as boere wat een maal per jaar met een of twee ossewaens na Swakopmund gegaan het om hulle groot jaarlikse inkope te doen, en kapteins van die Woermann-linie, offisiere van die Schutztruppe, en deurreisende geleerdes.

E. Wardesky het na die einde van die oorlog na Swakopmund teruggekeer en in 1929 gesterf. W Brock was sy opvolger. Op 18 Junie 1924 het die firma Woermann, Brock & Co die erf met die Woermann-huis (Erf 1308, 5 999 vk. m.) aan die Administrasie van Suidwes-Afrika verkoop. Die Administrasie het Woermann-huis met ’n stuk grond van 3 367 vk. m. van bogenoemde erf op 1 Julie 1975 aan die gemeenskap van Swakopmund oorgedra. Op 10 Desember 1971 is Woermann-huis tot ’n historiese monument verklaar. In 1972 is die koshuis wat jare lank daar gehuisves was, ontbind en daar is in 1976 met restaurasiewerk begin wat R230 000 gekos het, en waartoe private persone ruimskoots bygedra het.

Op ’n stadium was daar aan sloping gedink. Die redding van die gebou is te danke aan die energieke bemoeiing van ’n lid van die Monumentekommissee, dr Alfons Weber en mev Olga Levinson, sodat die “Damaratoring”, die kenteken van Swakopmund ook in die toekoms van ver af sigbaar sal bly.

Twee spreuke wat in die hoofgedeelte van die binnehof aangebring is, durf ons nie vergeet nie, want hulle sal moontlik ook vir die toekoms van betekenis bly:

“Jeder lasse hier die Zwierracht vor der Tür.”

(Almal laat hier die tweedrag voor die deur), en

“In diesen Mauern mög Eintracht dauern.”

(In hierdie mure laat eendrag duur).

The old Turnhalle in Windhoek

Dr N MOSSOLOW

Since September 1st, 1975, the Turnhalle has been in the political limelight. The peoples of South West Africa must decide upon their own future without external influence or influence from the side of the Republic of South Africa. This is a brief resumé of the building which has now become so important.

The Turnhalle was formerly the property of the "Turnverein Windhoek", which was founded on February 15th, 1900. The chairman, during the first 17 years, and also co-founder, was the secretary of the Survey Department, Gustav Thomas, who was vernacularly known as "Deutsche Eiche" (the German oak). After his term of office he was elected honorary chairman.

The gymnastic exercises were commenced in May 1900, and at first they took place in the open air. In 1901 these gymnastic exercises took place in the hall of the "Hotel Stadt Windhoek", and in 1905 it was decided to purchase a plot for the erection of a drill hall, but the Herero rebellion delayed this undertaking. The purchase, therefore, took place only on March 16th, 1906, and the agreement was signed by the chairman Thomas, on the one hand, and the magistrate Boesel on the other hand, on that date transferring the property measuring 4 388 square metres. The price amounted to 2 199 Mark. In the same year it was decided to build the Turnhalle at a price of 10 000 Mark, which with the passage of time doubled.

A member gymnast, the building contractor Otto Busch, offered to draw up building plans free of charge. Then, at a meeting, it was decided to build the Turnhalle. Dressing and other rooms were not at the time considered. These were to have followed in a subsequent undertaking with regard to the building project.

Bricklaying work was commenced in March 1909 by the Ahrens brothers, and in October of the same year the erection of the building had advanced so far that the association could commence with their activities. On July 9th, 1909, the Kaiserliche German government in the person of Governor Bruno von Schuckmann granted a loan at five per cent interest, as a bond, for the amount of 15 000 Mark, and additionally a lottery raised 4 000 Mark, and subsequently there were no problems in the way for the erection of the Turnhalle.

A member gymnast, Fritz Dietz, described the inauguration of the Turnhalle.

According to the programme the inauguration was as follows:

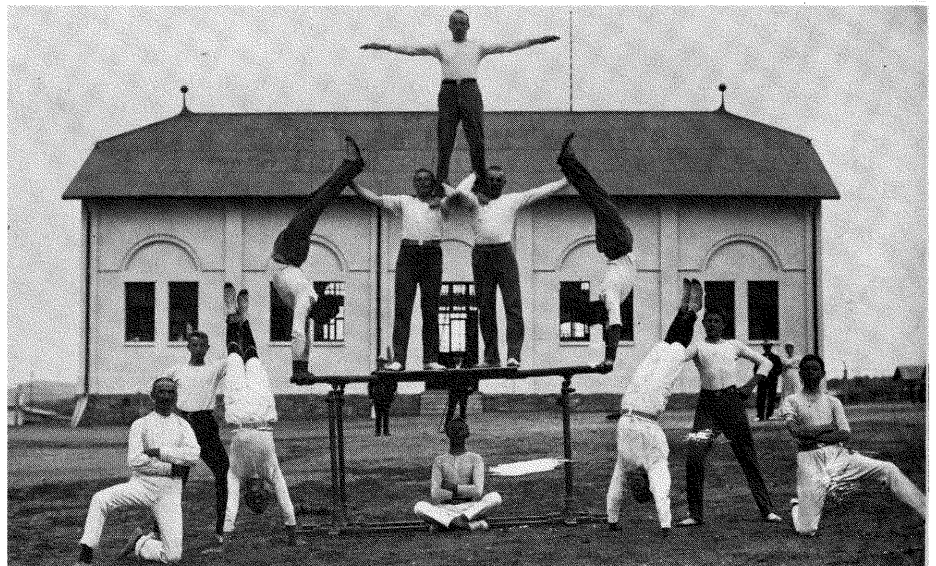
"The inauguration of the Turnhalle would take place festively on the 11th, 12th and 13th of December 1909. These three festive days were really festive. On Saturday there was a torch-bearer parade through the town, and a pleasant get-together was held in the "Kaiserkrone" Hotel. On Sunday at 17h00 there was a call-up, at 17h30 there was a council meeting, and at 18h00 the com-

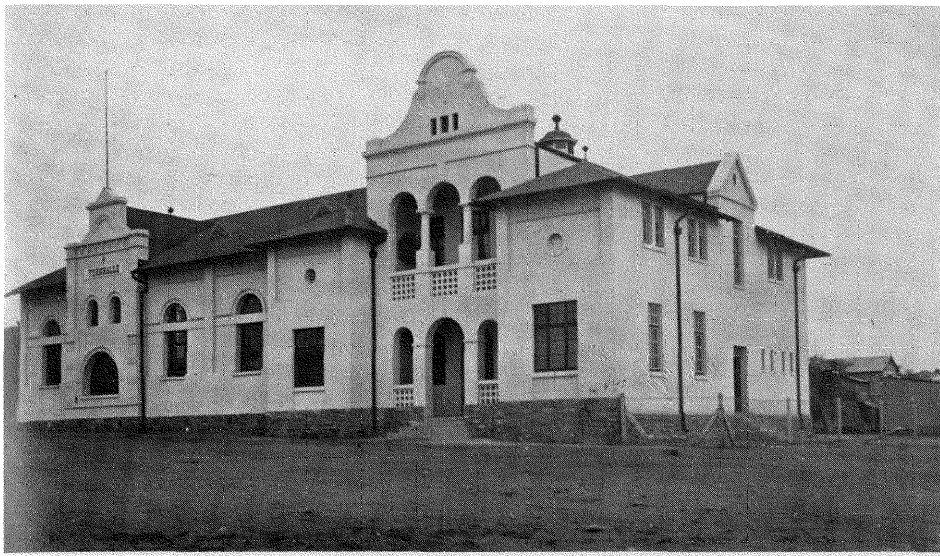
petitions commenced. The following morning from 10h30 until 12h00 a tippel session was held at the gymnastic hall. In the afternoon a festive parade took place, as well as the inauguration of the Turnhalle and displays of all sorts. In the evening celebrators were in the "Grünen Kranz". On Monday there was a sight-seeing tour through the town, a communal breakfast at "Ludwigslust", an afternoon pause and in the evening a ball in the Hotel "Rheinischer Hof". It could only be said that these festive days were something very particular for the association itself. Gymnastics could now be undertaken in their own hall. During the year interest in gymnastics developed with the pupils of the Government School and the Convent of the



Die Turnhalle, Windhoek, soos dit by voltooiing in 1909 daar uitgesien het.

Gimmaste voor die Turnhalle in 1909.





Die Turnhalle na aanbouings in 1911.

Holy Cross. As from September 1910 between 50 and 60 boys and between 30 and 40 girls of the Government School and between 20 and 30 girls of the Convent participated.

In 1911 extensions were added, as additional rooms and dressing rooms were lacking. On March 18th, 1912, the Gymnastic Society obtained a second loan of 18 000 Marks from the Deutsche Kolonialgesellschaft (at 5 per cent) in Swakopmund, and extensions were commenced, which were finished and commissioned in April 1913. At the same time a bar was opened where a bottle of beer cost 80 Pfennig, a litre of draught beer 75 Pfennig, which was to the satisfaction of members. For deletion of debts coupons for 100 up to 2 500 Marks were issued. Additional funds were produced by a masked ball in the Hotel Stadt Windhoek. After the occupation of Windhoek by troops of the Union of South Africa (on May 12th, 1915) the Turnhalle was, in order to avoid commandeering, turned into the United Service Club, and leased for 600 Marks per annum. The Gymnastic Society (Turnverein) retained the ground in front of the Turnhalle and the equipment. The lease agreement was terminated on September 9th, 1916.

In March 1918 the Gymnastic Society demanded the return of the Turnhalle, which Major Cormac refused. At the end of 1919 the United Services Club were given notice and the Gymnastic Society took over the hall on January 1st, 1920. On January 6th of that year the first exercises took place, and on February 15th the Gymnastic Society celebrated their 20-year jubilee. At a meeting it was furthermore decided to apply for the renewal of the former liquor licence for a club bar. New furniture and gymnastic equipment was acquired. The firm of Howald & Vollmer supplied a new and modern electric lighting system for the amount of 300 pounds sterling. After the outbreak of the Second World War the

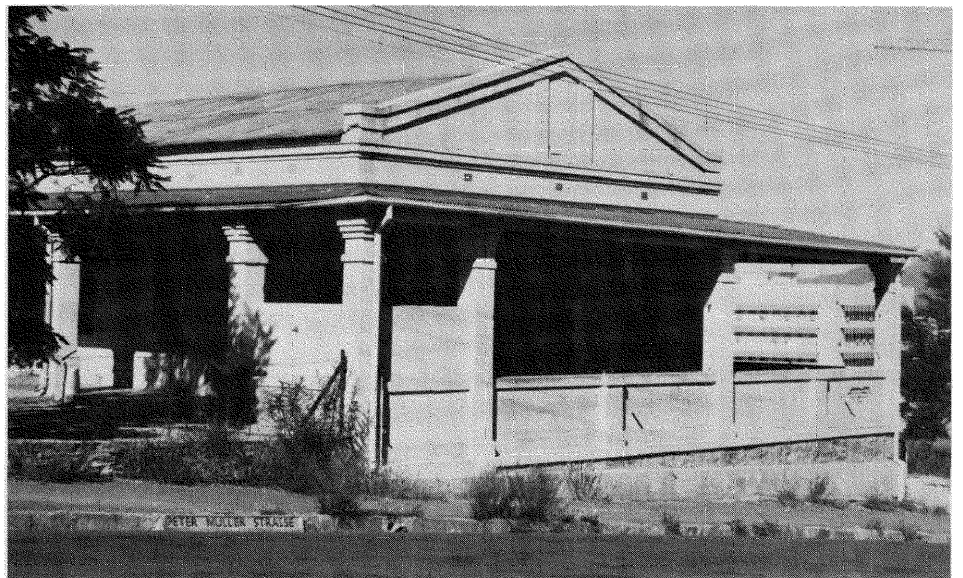
Turnhalle was attached by the South African military authorities. Attempts were made to purchase it from the Society, but in vain. In the middle of 1940 an expropriation order was issued and 10 000 pounds sterling as compensation was offered. On April 30th, 1948, the Turnhalle was transferred in the name of "the Government of the Union of South Africa, expropriated by the Administration of South West Africa".

Later the Gymnastic Society was compensated with 19 000 pounds sterling and this amount was used for the erection of the Sport Club Windhoek.

The Turnhalle remained virtually unaltered in appearance. A few alterations were brought about, as for instance additions were made in 1929, when a skittle rink was added to the bar room. In 1933 the office of the defence force were added in the backyard of the Turnhalle. In 1975 the Turnhalle was altered to comply with the purpose of parliamentary congregation in modern style, with interior decoration suitable to contemporary design, and with all modern acoustic equipment adapted to accommodate the best of taste and lighting and furnishings.

Generaal Ludwig von Estorff (1859-1943) het van 1900 tot 1903 in hierdie huis gewoon. Sy kantoor was ook daar, en in sy hoedanigheid as waarnemende goewerneur het hy daar op 13 November 1902 'n ooreenkoms met die verteenwoordiger van die Boere gesluit wat in Berlyn nie goedgekeur is nie. Omdat hy nie gewillig was om die ooreenkoms te kanselleer soos Berlyn van hom verwag het nie, het hy as waarnemende goewerneur en kommandant van die Schutztruppe bedank. In 1907 het Von Estorff weer in die huis ingetrek en tot 1910 daar gewoon.

(Trümpelmann, *Die Boer in Suidwes-Afrika*, Argiefjaarboek vir S.A. Geskiedenis, 1948, 11, kap. VI en die argiefbronne)





The battle of the Embankment

DANIE THERON

Proposals by the City Engineer's Department of Durban to increase the traffic capacity of the Victoria Embankment, the well known Durban Bayside area, has met with strong opposition from conservationists and the Durban public. Recommendations for the redesign of the Embankment were first made in the Holford Plan for Durban in 1968, envisaging increased capacity for the Victoria Embankment and the addition of a third track to the existing two railway tracks to provide a commuter service to the central business district and the harbour, with a new station situated between Field Street and the Gardiner Street jetty. The same report also proposed that two parking garages be built on the bay side of the Victoria Embankment providing 600 and 1200 parking spaces respectively and that these be linked to the central business district by vehicle and foot bridges over the Victoria Embankment. Whilst the report expressed doubts about the Railways and Harbours Administration's agreement to the provision of the parking garages, it pointed out that there were advantages in locating these on the Embankment, particularly the possibility of providing for boat owners' weekend car parking when normal central business district parking needs were off peak. They would also have released reclaimed ground for boat parking and other associated uses. Also envisaged was the re-alignment of Victoria Embankment to allow for a landscaped fringe against the buildings on the northern side of the Embankment rather than against the railway tracks as is at present the case. Such planting on the city side would contribute towards the insulation against traffic noise and the green space would be immediately accessible to people from the central city area. It would also provide space for service access to buildings fronting the Victoria Embankment and for approach ramps for pedestrian bridges to the parking garages and the new commuter station between Field and Gardiner Streets. The current proposals of the City Engineer's Department, almost ten years after the Holford Report, appears at first glance to incorporate only the worst aspects of these proposals.

Towards the end of 1975 the Natal Branch of the Institute of S.A. Architects learnt for the first time of these propo-

sals and appointed a subcommittee under the chairmanship of John Frost to investigate these, especially in terms of their impact on the environment and on future city development.

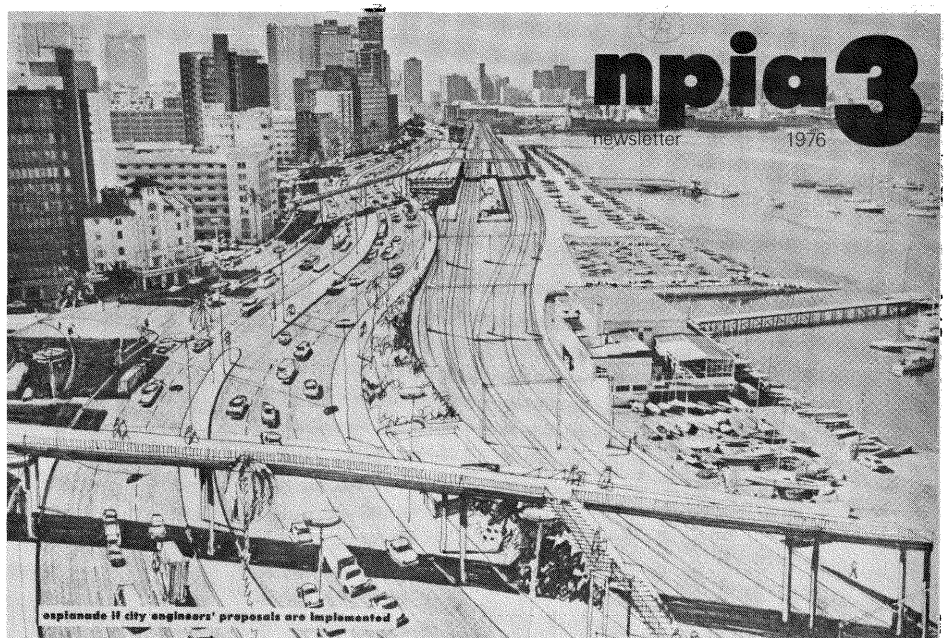
Historically the Esplanade, as it is also known, constituted, and still does, one of the city's unique and major attractions. Since it was established in the 1890's as a public promenade and an ornamental walkway, along the Bayside, successive "improvements" have steadily eroded its original beauty and tranquility until extensive railway and road development has made it almost impossible for pedestrians to reach the bay from the city side. The major change occurred in 1936 when the bayside railway line was built on land reclaimed from the bay. Although the original cast iron railings were re-used the curvilinear form of the bayside promenade disappeared, to be replaced by a rather bleak path following the line of the railway. The areas between the railway tracks and the old Embankment were filled in by unemployed professional men during the de-

pression years and although attempts were made to landscape these, the charming character of the old Victoria Embankment had disappeared forever. Since that time motor traffic volumes have steadily increased until at present the road is used by almost 65 000 vehicles per day. The traffic barrier to the bayside has become so extensive that access from the city to the bay has become a pedestrian hazard. Even the Holford Report for central Durban, despite its many destructive proposals recognised the unique and magnificent asset of the Bay for the city and referred to it as "a bright facet in the image of the town and important to its tourist role".¹

Water leisure activities like sailing, rowing, fishing, power boating and water skiing are all still permitted on the bay at the discretion of the harbour authorities. By far the biggest concentration of boating activities takes place from the small craft basis which is protected by a

¹Durban 1985. A plan for Central Durban in its Regional Setting. Vol. 1: November.

Montage photograph of Institute's illustration of the implications of the City Engineer's Department's proposals.



mole at its western end. These recreational activities and facilities, vital to the urban community are increasingly endangered by Durban's overriding need for full development of harbour activities in the bay. Recreational water is being gradually reduced in the area and controls on movement of small craft is becoming more restrictive, although a lease agreement with the Railways and Harbours Administration, which establishes the area for small craft will only expire during the early part of the next century. The preservation of these facilities, which at the moment suffer from inadequate access, parking and mooring space and a lack of imaginative design, forms an integral part of the Victoria Embankment problem.

The investigations of the sub-committee appointed by the Natal Provincial Institute of Architects resulted in a preliminary report which spelled out the destructive nature of the City Engineer's proposals. The report described the Victoria Embankment as an area which, seventy years ago, was one of the most sought after residential areas of Durban. At present it has a resident population of approximately 7 000, but its potential as a desirable residential area has already noticeably declined. Increased noise and traffic volumes and the destruction of much of the indigenous subtropical growth along its bank, providing a vital lung for the workers in the city, could only lead to further deterioration. In contrast to small parks in the central city like the Medwin Gardens, the Victoria Embankment provides a linear park along the length of the business district and "although its effectiveness is limited by traffic barriers, it provides an open end to all North-South streets, a view of trees and a foil to the hard finishes of the commercial area to the visitor and resident alike. The close relationships between the buildings, trees, gardens, water, yachting and shipping activities provides an experience which is Durban itself, and the destruction of this, Durban's most priceless environmental asset, would mean to many people the destruction of the essence of Durban".² These conclusions were widely publicised in the local press and drew response from a large number of persons, housing and rate payers associations within the affected area expressing strong support for the Natal Provincial Institute in its campaign against the City Engineer's proposals. At the same time the Institute also liaised closely with the School of Architecture at the University of Natal, and a number of final year students did studies on the Victoria Embankment as part of their studio programme. These studies were exhibited at various public venues.

Encouraged by the public support, the Institute formulated a set of objectives

for the redesign of the Victoria Embankment. It believed that any proposals should:

- (1) Enhance the unique character of the area in terms of the special relationships that exist between buildings, vegetation, water and views and the advantages that these hold for Durban in terms of leisure, recreation, tourism as well as for residential purposes.
- (2) Preserve and extend all possible visual and physical links between the city, the residential area along the Embankment, and the Bay.
- (3) Preserve and enhance the green character of this area, especially in terms of its sub-tropical nature.
- (4) Maximise the amenity of the bay edge for the use of people. Any reclamation of land from the bay should be for the exclusive use of people, and the relationship of land space and water space, and of all facilities associated with these, should respect this.
- (5) Minimise the barrier effect of vehicular ways, walls, fences and utility buildings along the Victoria Embankment.
- (6) Solve the problems of noise and pollution which are inevitable by-products of increased traffic, thus avoiding further deterioration of what could be one of the finest urban residential and tourist areas in the country.

At the same time the Institute resolved to proceed with a detailed design proposal to illustrate how these objectives could

be met. After finalisation of these detailed proposals, the City Engineer was invited to attend a meeting of the Natal Provincial Institute of Architects to discuss the merits of their proposals and ways and means in which the Natal Provincial Institute and other instances interested could assist the City Engineer's Department in developing the Esplanade as a pleasant place to live in and as an asset to Durban. At this meeting the City Engineer explained that his Department's proposals were not final and that further work still had to be done, but it became apparent that the Department had no intention of deviating to any appreciable extent from its original proposals.

In order to mobilise public opposition to the destructive aspects of the Department's proposals, the Institute prepared a number of montage photographs to publicise the devastating effect that these would have on the Embankment. Support came readily from the local newspapers. The editorial leader of one evening newspaper read as follows:

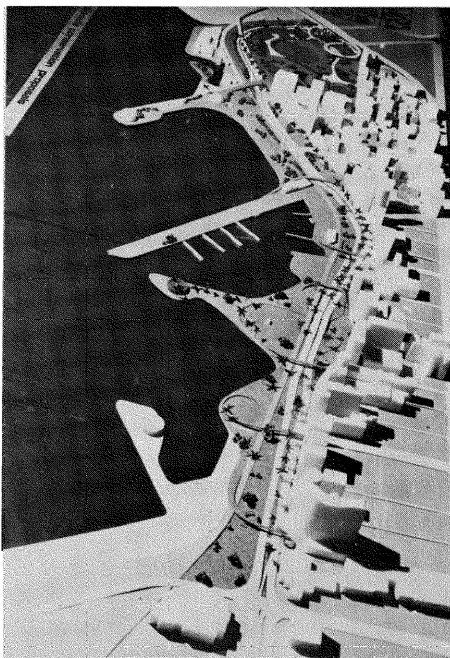
"If the citizens of Durban were asked to vote on the issue, there is little doubt that the vast majority would prefer to see a reduction of traffic on the Victoria Embankment and its restoration as a park preserve for people. Combining as it does a grandstand view of a bustling seaport, tropical palm trees, green lawns and the varied colours of flowers it is the city's most important scenic attraction. It is a view that people are prepared to pay premium rents for in the city's towering office blocks, and it is an important recreation area for thousands of hardy souls who daily run the gauntlet of low flying motor vehicles and exhaust fumes separating city from park.

City Council plans for a mighty high-speed highway which, together with a widened railway line, would spread over almost the entire present parkland area, would obviously destroy its scenic beauty. But they would do worse than that for they would make adjoining property attractive only for warehousing and service industry and inevitably would set in train a process of slumgenerating decay.

With the massed traffic of West and Smith Streets already carving a swathe through the city's pedestrian traffic, and both Pine Street and Commercial Road destined for major route treatment in the future, the city is surely making adequate provision for traffic. Should not Victoria Embankment be returned to the people? Could it not feature open air restaurants, art exhibitions, more flowers and more people?"³

Response from the public was equally enthusiastic and it supported, without exception the objectives of the Natal

Students' model showing alternative development for the Esplanade to safeguard green areas.



²N P I A Newsletter No. 3, 1976.

³Daily News, January 17, 1977.

Provincial Institute. For Durbanites the City Engineer's Department's proposals are yet another threat to remove a part of familiar Durban; for the residents there is the added threat of declining property values as more affluent tenants move out to find alternative accommodation. One tenant commented – "I wouldn't consider buying my flat with all the uncertainty over the future of this area".⁴ Another one said – "If these things are left to the City Council I am afraid they will just destroy everything".⁵ Support also came from many conservation groups in Natal, which supported in principle the Institute's suggestions to limit through traffic; to provide additional links between the city and the bay and to plant the seed for revitalisation of the area to the benefit of Durban as a whole and to the dweller, worker and visitor specifically. Whilst the battle for the Victoria Embankment is continuing unabated, the Natal Institute of S.A. Architects are pressing for further co-operation from the City Engineer, together with all other interested instances in the evolution of a humane redevelopment plan for the Embankment that would conserve all those things and values that people rate highly in their living environment.

⁴*Ibid*, January 21, 1977.

⁵*Sunday Tribune*, January 23, 1977.

Battle of the Esplanade

COLIN VINEALL

There has been more reaction to the draft proposal by the Durban City Engineer to widen the Esplanade to take more traffic – a plan which has been heavily criticised by the Natal Institute of Architects.

Although City Engineer Don MacLeod emphasised in *Tribune Property* recently that the plan was purely a provisional measure, residents in the area have condemned any idea that the Victoria Embankment should lose its character.

One tenant in a block of flats in the area said: "I'm in favour of the architect's plan – one which would preserve the natural greenery of the area and the trees which are so much a feature of the Embankment. If these things are left to the City Council I am afraid they will just destroy everything."

And already the threat of the plan is affecting property movement. *Tribune Property* was told that a person who had planned to buy his flat had now shelved the deal until decisions are taken.

Tom Linley, director of the City Council's Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches said: "This is a policy matter which I cannot comment on. I have not seen the city engineer's plan for the Esplanade area. But speaking in general terms it is always a pity to see green areas disappear. I am sure however that the City Council will balance carefully the need for progress and the need to preserve."

Terry Toohey, director of the Durban Publicity Association, said: "I personally have not studied the plan in great detail. But I think that the Esplanade with its natural setting and great beauty gives a lot of character to our city and if it is going to detract from that then it is going to be a great pity. But obviously there has got to be progress.

"If in the year 2000 we cause snarl-ups of traffic through lack of planning in the urban area the generation that follows is not going to thank us."

The Sunday Tribune,
January 23, 1977

The city that's losing its heart

The Institute of Architects demanded immediate action from Durban City Council this week to draw up a list of priorities to ensure the preservation of old buildings.

The institute also wants a study group to discuss future growth in the city, especially with regard to old landmarks threatened with demolition.

Mr Danie Theron, spokesman for the institute, said new development should blend into what already exists and not merely replace it!

He said: "With the recession and slow growth, now is the time to re-evaluate which buildings are of historical architectural importance, and which are not. Otherwise the traditional character of Durban might be lost forever."

The institute had already given the council a list of buildings it believes should be preserved – but with little reaction.

Mr Theron said old buildings represented a documented history of the city but thoughtless planning and the lack of effective public support had already resulted in the demolition of certain important buildings.

Durban's Central Station now faces imminent destruction. One of the few structures that still stand as a reminder of the city's Victorian past, it is the victim of a central ring-road plan.

However, Durban architect Ivor Daniels, who has made a study of railway stations, says the station is an invaluable asset

to Durban and proposes it be revamped and transformed into an exhibition centre.

Durban City Councillor Sybil Hotz expressed concern over the destruction of old buildings and said little imagination in planning the future growth of the city had been used.

"There is tremendous potential for creating little shops and cafes in buildings such as the station and the Telephone Exchange," she said.

Among Durban landmarks which may be destroyed are:

- The Victoria Embankment, which has to make way for new development.
- The Emmanuel Cathedral, which lies in the direct path of the new Western Freeway link-up.
- The former Queen's Tavern in Greyville.
- The old part of the Edward Hotel.

The Sunday Tribune,
January 30, 1977

Stirring up a station storm . . .

COLIN VINEALL

The growing feud over the future of Durban's central railway station took a new turn this week when it was disclosed that the National Monuments Council is still pondering whether it should be preserved.

The row blew up last month when *Tribune Property* reported that the new railway station was coming into partial use, and the old station's demolition was nearer.

Since then, conservationists, architects and others have clashed again over the station's existence, and this week city councillors were split on the issue.

George Chadwick, Natal member of the National Monuments Council, said the body was still investigating the matter but stressed that no final decision had been taken.

Mr Chadwick would not be drawn further. It is noted, however, that the Post Office, the town gardens in the centre of Durban, and the open ground at the corner of Church Street and West Street have been declared monuments, and sources pointed out that it could be considered logical to add the station to the list in that area.

A further shock could be in store for the city ratepayers if the final crunch comes and the station is knocked down.

A spokesman for a large Durban demolition firm, stressing that he had not

studied the station nor knew just what would be pulled down, gave an educated guess at a bill of at least R100 000.

"It all depends how much of the complex has to go," another expert told me. "If the platforms have to be levelled, costs will go up accordingly, and if they want to build something else then the foundations will have to come out."

Senator Eric Winchester came down on the side of the preservationists.

"We take years to build things up and then we knock them down so fast - it is near sacrilege in some cases.

"This applies to any structure. We shouldn't be hasty about breaking down anything.

"It is strange that we can raise so much steam about wild life and game parks, but we can't raise steam over our building heritage."

Controversial city councillor Cornelius Koekemoer who praised architect Ivor Daniels for his stand on the station issue in a letter to the Editor of the *Sunday Tribune*, said there had been reaction by his fellow councillors who opposed views, and his wanted the station pulled down according to the Holford-Kantorowich town planning recommendation.

He pointed out a previous example of the council's mistake in development: The Soldiers Way bridge which had been built for R100 000 was demolished three years later at a cost of R110 000.

Mr Koekemoer said his fellow council-

lors should have watched a TV film of the Old Market in Johannesburg which had been redeveloped and yet would have been destroyed if certain people had their way.

The Sunday Tribune,
October 24, 1976

To destroy or preserve?

PENNY SWIFT

For 50 years Durban residents have been fighting about whether to destroy or preserve the much maligned old red-brick railway station which stands on the corner of Pine and Gardiner streets.

"Tear it down," shout its opponents, while equally ardent voices cry for it to be made a national monument.

The most recent wrangle was sparked by former city councillor Pat Geary, who advocated the destruction of the building so often described as a "badly iced cake". In a *Tribune Property* report she called it a monstrosity.

The Natal Provincial Institute of Architects were quick to challenge her and renew their call for its preservation.

And this week Durban architect Ivor Daniel, who is determined to save the

old station, outlined its history for *Tribune Property*.

"It was commissioned by the Natal Government Railway at the same time as Point and Pietermaritzburg railway stations in 1891," he said. "It was built in three stages and eventually completed in about 1903."

The architect was Mr William Street-Wilson, an English immigrant living in Durban and the entire building was built by Durban firms.

Although it resembled Canada's Montreal Station, reports that the roof had been designed for winter snow were not true, he said.

"It was designed specifically for Durban."

Mr Daniel said the architectural style of the station building was a particularly good example of the Queen Anne Revival style of the late Victorian era.

"It has the only Victorian railway shed left in South Africa."

He said he would like to see the old station converted to a conference and exhibition centre particularly as Durban City Council had committed itself to building such a centre. By using the existing building, between R10 and R12 million could be saved.

"But the railway station also lends itself to many other uses; as long as they keep it and make good use of it I don't really mind."

The main unique quality of the station was its siting, especially in relation to the city centre, he said. Standing at an oblique angle to Gardiner Street it gave a "certain presence" to the centre.

"Only when it is gone will people realise what they have lost."

Commenting on Mrs Geary's move to have the whole site cleared for development under the Holford-Kantorowich plan for the central Durban area, he said: "Holford and Kantorowich also did a planning scheme for Pietermaritzburg and they recommended the city hall be demolished - except for the central tower. It's laughable.

"Times have changed so radically since their planning schemes were prepared that not everything they said is of value now."

The Sunday Tribune,
October 10, 1976

Scene of the 50 year controversy - Durban's station.

Photo: Frik Dreyer



Save our historic shack

PENNY SWIFT

Durban City Council's refusal to help save the city's old toll house has dismayed historians and architects throughout the country.

The historic wood and iron building is threatened with destruction after a year-long struggle to preserve it.

It is the only remaining toll house in

Natal and one of the last corrugated iron houses of its type left in South Africa.

Unless immediate steps are taken to remove it from its present site in Kloof it will be demolished. The deadline is February 28.

"We haven't given up yet," Mr Brian Bassett, chief professional officer of the National Monuments Council in Cape Town, said when he learned its appeal for help from the Durban City Council had failed.

"It isn't just a little nondescript corrugated iron building – it's of national importance historically and architecturally. We are extremely disappointed that Durban doesn't want it."

The decision to abandon the old toll house – which once stood at the corner of Berea and Ridge Roads – was made at a recent City Council management committee meeting.

Councillors were not interested in spending money on preserving a building they felt had no special historical value, according to the town clerk, Mr Gordon Haygarth.

"It would be cheaper to build a replica," he said, "And if it was built of something like plastic it would also cost less to maintain."

He said the city engineer had assessed the cost of dismantling, transporting, storing, repairing and re-erecting the house at a minimum of R10 000.

But the National Monuments Council is convinced this is excessive. A verbal quote to them from the Natal Provincial Administration for dismantling and storage was R1 000 to R1 200.

"And the School of Architecture at Natal University has storage space which can be used until money to rebuild it is available," said Mr John Frost of the Institute of Architects, which is also fighting to preserve the building.

The National Monuments Council has agreed in principle to declare provisionally the old toll house a national monument. It has also agreed to pay R750 towards saving it. A replica would have no historical value.

The house, built in 1866, was donated to the council by Rosslyn and Alain Rouillard, who have lived in it for three years.

But the Rouillards have until the end of February to move into their new house less than a metre from the toll house. And before they can move, the old house has to be demolished.

"The Kloof council has already granted us a threemonth extension and now the deadline is February 28," said Mrs Rouillard. "If it isn't removed by then it will have to go."

"It will be such a pity if it's demolished," said Mrs Dorcas Livingston, 80, who lived there for more than 30 years and remembers the toll house before it was moved from Berea Road to Kloof by a German farmer.

Now the fight to save the building has intensified and the Kloof Town Council and Natal Parks Board have also been approached to help.

"While we would prefer the toll house to be re-erected in Durban because of its link with the old town and its importance in the history of South African travel and communication, we have approached the Kloof municipality as well," said Mr Bassett.

The Kloof Town Clerk, Mr Hercules Hattingh, said the municipality could not provide a site or help financially, but the council had agreed to act as a medium to find a suitable site. Money would have to be raised by the National Monuments Council, service organisations and interested businesses, he said.

"We have written to the Parks Board asking for a piece of land possibly in the Kranskloof area. The house is of historical value and could become a national exhibit."

A Parks Board spokesman said the council's letter had not yet been received but the proposition would be considered.

Meanwhile the Institute of Architects has decided to ask large firms to sponsor the preservation effort.

Mr Frost said they supported an earlier proposal that the toll house be rebuilt in one of Durban's parks.

The Sunday Tribune,
February 6, 1977

Hermannsburg building becomes national monument

Sixteen bachelors arrived in Hermannsburg in August 1854 – 8 missionaries and 8 colonists. The residence which they built and named 'Saxon House' has now been proclaimed a National Monument and is probably the only example of German-Saxon architecture still standing in South Africa.

The 16 had left Germany in the ship "Kandaze" to establish mission stations in Somaliland. However, they were not permitted to land there and so they sailed back to Durban. Pastor Louis Harms suggested to the group that they establish a mission station in Hermannsburg and this they did, on the farm "Perseverance".

A small house was built first and then the 24 roomed Mission House.

Among the 8 colonists was a blacksmith who soon had a highly efficient smithy going. The smithy unfortunately no longer exists.

The big house was originally thatched, but today is under iron. A number of the rooms still have their yellowwood floors and all the ceilings, doors and window

frames are of yellowwood. An enormous loft crowns the house – the bannisters of the loft's staircase worn smooth over a 122 years of children sliding down.

A number of the rooms have been enlarged by converting two into one. Despite the fact that anyone over 165 cm tall must bend to pass through the doors the house gives a feeling of airy spaciousness.

There is a verandah running right round the house – the original wooden supports have been replaced, but the feeling of space has been retained.

After the settlers had organised their accommodation thoughts of marriage were obviously entertained and Pastor Harms undertook to arrange for the necessary number of suitable females to come out from Germany. It is reported that he also decided who was to marry whom!

The 16 bachelors met their prospective brides on the Ahrens hill, which has since been known as Freudenhohe (Heights of Joy).

Missionaries were soon sent out from the Hermannsburg mission to Zululand, Transvaal, other parts of Natal and Bechuanaland.

The famous Hermannsburg School was started shortly afterwards with the first headmaster being the Rev H Muller, one of the 8 original missionaries.

In this day and age when the trend seems to be that any building over 76 years old must be pulled down to make way for some modern monstrosity, it is very encouraging to find a handsome old structure as well preserved and cared for as the Hermannsburg Mission house.

The Greytown Gazette,
July 23, 1976

Commercial Road cemeteries register

The Natal Society Library has taken over the registers of people buried in the Commercial Road Cemeteries from the Pietermaritzburg Parks Department. The registers will be kept in the library's reference section.

The Simon van der Stel Foundation is at present developing a comprehensive alphabetical index to the entries in the register and will check all gravestones against the index for omissions. Dating back to 1880, these registers have become an important source of historical information on early residents of the Capital. The cemeteries contain many early and interesting graves – some prominent Pietermaritzburg residents, including Governor Martin West, are

buried there. The cemeteries were closed by the City Council in December 1972.

The Natal Witness,
December 9, 1976

Old clock winds its way back to Pietermaritzburg

The clock removed from the first Presbyterian Church of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, in 1893 returned home to the Capital earlier this week. A party of members of the Simon van der Stel Foundation – an organisation dedicated to the preservation of South African heritage – went to collect the historical timepiece from the Greytown Museum. The clock's history dates back some hundred years. In 1850 the Natal Government donated a site in Pietermaritzburg to the Presbyterians from Scotland, on condition that a clock was installed in the church they built. Building started in 1852 and, due to lack of funds, was only completed two years later. The church, the first Presbyterian church in Natal was opened on October 1, 1854. The church committee set about ordering a clock from J Smith and Son, London, watchmakers, for the sum of £200 in accordance with their agreement. The clock arrived in 1874, but it was found that the tower was inadequate to take the weight of the clock. A new tower of brick was erected. The clock was placed in position and, according to the minutes of the church committee, was "set in motion" in 1875.

In 1879 the church was enclosed in a blockade, that now forms the site of the Supreme Court in preparation for the expected Zulu onslaught that did not occur.

The clock was made redundant in 1893 when the first City Hall – later destroyed by fire – was completed. The church bell and clock were sold to the Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee committee in Greytown in 1893, for £120.

The clock was installed in the Greytown Town Hall where it served as a tower clock from 1903 until 1970 when an electric clock took its place.

The clock lay in the corridor of the Greytown Museum until Dr J A Pringle, honorary secretary of the Simon van der Stel Foundation, launched an appeal amongst its members to raise R750 to have the clock restored. The Greytown Town Council agreed to return the clock on condition that it was installed in the original tower, and a contribution was made to assist the Greytown Museum.

All the pieces of the clock have now been

taken to a local engineering firm, where they will be cleaned and restored. It will be erected in the old Presbyterian Church in the near future.

The Natal Witness,
January 28, 1977

1979 will be the centenary of two great battles

IAN PLAYER

Recently I took my 70-year-old friend Magqubu Nthombela to Isandhlawana and Rorke's Drift.

Magqubu's father had fought with the Zulu army in the Ineobamakhosi regiment. All his life, Magqubu had wanted to visit these famous battle sites. We sat below the sphinx-shaped hill discussing the battle.

On January 22, 1879, 20 000 Zulus armed only with assegais and shields, swept down from the Nqutu Heights. They advanced at a trot straight into the deadly volley fire of some of Britain's finest red-coated regiments of the line.

When one Zulu fell, another unhesitatingly took his place.

A rocket battery was overwhelmed, some warriors pushing their fists down the barrels. It is no wonder that the words "bravery" and "Zulu" became synonymous.

Within a few hours, the Britons and their levies were overwhelmed. Twelve-year-old drummer boys calmly waited the death thrust from assegais. The Natal Carbineers and Natal Police who were mounted and could have fled, chose to stay and die. It was a day of unsurpassed bravery on both sides but it was a Zulu victory.

From the Isandhlawana an impi of 4 000 men under the command of Dabulamanzi disobeyed Cetewayo's orders and made for Rorke's Drift.

A small force of 140 men, some sick or wounded, fought ferociously to save the honour of the British Army. A grateful nation later awarded eleven VCs, the largest number ever given at one time. These hallowed battlesites are, in my opinion, sadly neglected.

Nothing has been erected to the glory of the brave Zulus who died fighting for their land and way of life. On the Isandhlawana plain, buildings grow among the cairns of white stones. A road department is taking soil from below Isandhlawana Hill. With few exceptions, the monuments are stereotyped and the interpretative service is poor.

A diorama, some pamphlets and one Zulu are the only interpretative aids. In spite of all this, the battlefield has an overpowering atmosphere. The same cannot be said for Rorke's Drift. More

and more buildings are going up and the layout of the final stand is pitiful.

Surely there are enough English-speaking people who care for their history to insist that something be done.

The National Monuments Commission should either do a proper job with a recreation of the battlefields, provision of interpretative officers and centres, museums and fields or the mob should be handed over to the provincial authorities. I wish people could see how the American National Park Service looks after their historical areas.

They would never forget a visit to the major battlefields of the United States. No detail of history is overlooked and the concrete-stone-and-brass plaque mentality has long been defeated.

1979 will be the hundredth anniversary of the Zulu war.

Why can't we be imaginative and have some show pieces we can proudly show the world? Surely we owe it to those men, the Zulus, Britons and Natalians who died there.

The Pretoria News,
January 21, 1977

Fort Amiel ook herstel

Die geskiedkundige Fort Amiel by Newcastle gaan moontlik gerestoureer word en boeregrafte in die omgewing van die Noord-Natalse dorp gaan ook na die terrein oorgeplaas word.

Dit volg op 'n besoek verlede week aan die fort deur lede van die Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede.

Die groep was vergees deur mnr Thys van Lingen, die LPR vir Newcastle, die burgemeester van die dorp, mnr. W J Schoeman, mnr C J Fourie, direkteur van biblioteek- en museumdienste van die Natalse Provinsiale Administrasie en ander munisipale amptenare van Newcastle.

Na raming sal die koste verbonde aan die restourasie van die fort wat op 23 Mei verlede jaar tot 'n nasionale gedenkwaardigheid verklaar is, ongeveer R7 000 bedra. 'n Gedeelte hiervan sal waarskynlik deur die Staat en die Provinsiale Administrasie in die vorm van 'n subsidie aan die stadsraad betaal word.

Die terrein om die fort is reeds opgegruim en omhein teen 'n koste van bykans R3 000. Die plan is ook om die terrein met gras te beplant en verversingsgeriewe te voorsien.

Die Historiese Grafte-kommissie het reeds sy bereidwilligheid te kenne gegee om in samewerking met die stadsraad, die stoflike oorskot van die boere wat tydens die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog in veldslae hier gesneuwel het, by die fort te herbegrawe.

Tempo, 16 Julie 1976



Bothsabelo-fonds

Voorheen met dank erken	R2 560,00
Mev I E Markotter, Pretoria	50,00
Mev S Atkinson, Randburg	25,00
Mev M en Mej R Brune, Pretoria	50,00
Mev M I Jensen, Middelburg, Transvaal	50,00
Mev M Beuster, Plumstead	5,00
Mev M du Toit, Pretoria	200,00
Mnr en Mev G Hughes en Mnr C Beuster	50,00
TOTAAL	R2 940,00

Voor- (suidelike) aansig van die groot kerk Botshabelo, met sy oorspronklike kerktoringhorlosie.

Foto: Coen en Hennie



Totius-huis gerestoureer

JOHAN DE RIDDER,
Argitek

Totius, (Prof Dr J D du Toit), die beroemde Afrikaanse volksman, digter, skrywer, teoloog, Bybelvertaler en Psalmbermymer was die seun van Ds S J du Toit, die leier van die Eerste Taalbeweging en is op 21 Februarie 1877 in die Paarl gebore. Vanaf 1896-1899 het hy te Burgersdorp aan die eerste teologiese skool van die Gereformeerde Kerk as predikant gestudeer. Met die uitbreek van die Tweede Vryheidsoorlog sluit hy as Kaapse rebel by die Boeremagte aan en neem onder andere deel aan die beroemde slag van Magersfontein.

In 1900 word hy deur vriende oorreed om na Amsterdam in Nederland te gaan waar hy in 1903 aan die Vrye Universiteit as doktor in teologie promoveer. Dieselfde jaar keer hy na Suid-Afrika terug, tree in die huwelik met Maria Postma en word hy predikant van die Gereformeerde kerk in Potchefstroom.

Agt jaar later in 1911, word hy Professor in teologie aan die teologiese skool van die Gereformeerde kerk, wat sedert 1905 van Burgersdorp na Potchefstroom verskuif is en betrek hy die huis langs die skool in Molenstraat. In hierdie huis wat tans gerestoureer is, woon hy en sy gesin tot 1924.

Van die vernaamste verse wat tydens sy verblyf in hierdie huis die lig gesien het, was *Wilgerboombogies* (1912), *Rachel* (1913), *Trekkerswee* (1915) en *Kinderverse* (1920).

In hierdie huis het Totius en sy gesin ook die donkerste dae beleef toe hulle twee kinders, Francois (ongeveer 1 jaar oud) op 7 November 1920 en Wilhelmine (13 jaar), op 31 Desember 1920, binne 'n bestek van 2 maande aan die dood moes afstaan.

„Dit was smartlike dae,” skryf sy dogter mev Bettie Smit, „en g'n pen kan beskrywe hoeveel trane daar gestort is en hoeveel gebede daar opgegaan het. Onder die wolk van beproewing, twee kinders in ongeveer ses weke af te gee aan die dood – was ons lewe nooit weer dieselfde nie.”

Eerste stappe

Reeds in 1971 het die teologiese skool van die Gereformeerde kerk die behoefte gevoel om 'n museum ter ere van Totius daar te stel en is 'n vertrek vir die doel in die huidige teologiese skoolgebou in Kerkstraat daarvoor ingerig.

Verskeie persone het egter gevoel dat die inrigting van 'n huis waarin die digter gebly en gewerk het, as museum veel meer paslik en besienswaardig sou wees. Onder diegene was Dr V E D'Assonville, Dr Dieter Brand en mnr en mev Dirk du Toit wat die gedagte baie sterk bepleit het. Veral is gevoel dat die huis in Molenstraat vir die doel die geskikste sou wees, omdat Totius daarin die langste tydperk deurgebring het.

In April 1972 is 'n Totiuskomitee in die lewe geroep wat op sy beurt dadelik 'n museumkomitee onder voorsitterskap van wyle-Prof G C P van der Vyver aangestel het, met die opdrag om die huis te verkry en om die inhoud soos meubels, skilderye ens, wat toe in die besit was van familieledede, te bekom.

Die komitee het die heelhartige samewerking van die stadsraad verkry wat ingewillig het om verantwoordelikheid vir die verkryging van die gebou, restaurasie, instandhouding en die personeel vir die museum, te aanvaar.

Op 20 September 1973 het die stadsraad besluit om oor te gaan tot die restaurasie van die huis, maar moes finale goedkeuring van die teologiese skool van die Gereformeerde kerk verkry word vir die oordrag van die huis aan die raad.

Op 29 Mei 1975 het die raad sy magtiging verleen dat 'n 99 jaar huurooreenkoms met die teologiese skool aangegaan word vir die verkryging van die huis, waarna oorgegaan is tot beplanning van die restaurasie.

Die toestand van die huis voor restaurasie (1975)

Die huis, wat in 1906 opgerig is, is in Molenstraat, Potchefstroom langs die eerste teologiese skool van die Gereformeerde kerk geleë. Die agterkant front na Molenstraat aan die westekant, terwyl die stoep en voordeur aan die oostekant

is, met 'n uitsig oor die sportvelde van die Mooirivier-laerskool.

Dit is 'n eenvoudige reghoekige huis met klipfondamente en witgekalkte mure, sinkstaandak en hout-opskuiframe. Kenmerkende Victoriaanse styl houtrelings, pilaartjies en versierings verleen egter aan die huis 'n interessante voorkoms en besondere bekoring.

Voordat met restourasie begin is, was die huis in 'n verwaarloosde toestand en op die oog af in verskeie opsigte gewysig om diens te doen as 'n koshuis. Die oorspronklike kombuis en spens was omskep in toilet- en wasgeriewe. Die sit-eetkamer is gebruik as kombuis-eetkamer. Alle houtvensters aan die westekant was vervang met moderne staaftensters. Die houtwerk was op baie plekke verweer, terwyl die relings in geheel ontbreek het. Geute was vervang met moderne halfronde geute en dakventilators en versierings op die dakke, het ontbreek. Aan die binnekant was die houtplafonne oorgeverf, prentelyste ens het ontbreek en alle muurpapier was verwyder.

'n Moderne motorhuis is met verloop van tyd aan die straatkant opgerig, in die plek van die oorspronklike buitegeboue wat tussen die huis en die straat gestaan het.

Besluite oor restourasie

'n Baie waardevolle en duidelike foto wat van die huis geneem is nadat dit voltooi is, is van Dr V E D'Assonville, wat intensiewe navorsing oor die digter gedoen het, verkry.

Dit het dit moontlik gemaak om die buitekant van die huis met sekerheid tot sy oorspronklike voorkoms te restoureer. Die kleure kon ons vasstel van die dogter van Totius, mev Bettie Smit van Pretoria, wat ook aan ons ander waardevolle inligting verstrek het. Die kleure was soos volg:

Dak – rooi

geute en fassieplanke – beige

houtraliewerk – bruin en beige

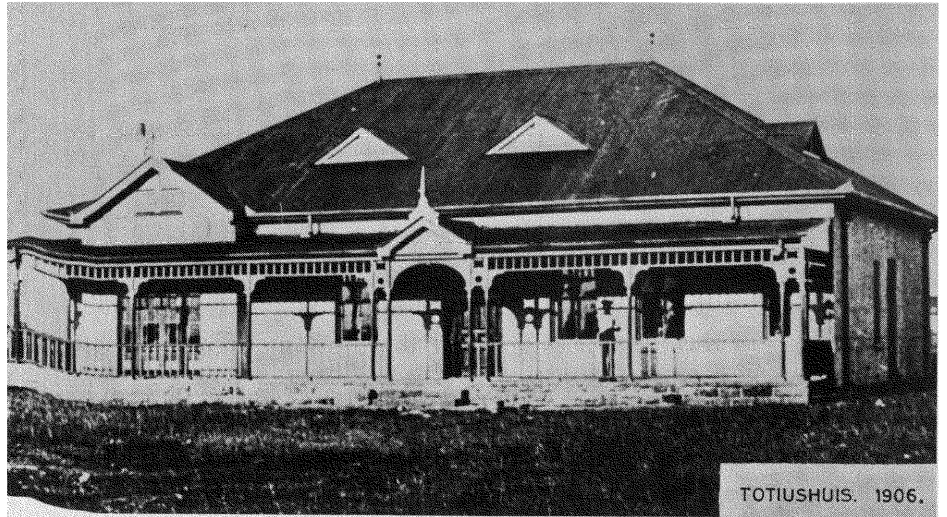
vensters en deure – bruin en beige

mure – wit.

Benewens mev Smit is inligting ook verkry van mev Lettie van Rooy, die dogter van Ds J Lion Cachet, wat vanaf 1906 tot 1911 in die huis gewoon het.

Die oorspronklike buitegeboue en agterplaas

Daar was twee buitegeboue aan die westekant van die huis langs Molenstraat. Die een aan die noordekant het volgens mev Smit bestaan uit 'n koeistal, waenhuis en 'n buitekamer wat as slaapkamer vir een



TOTIUSHUIS. 1906.



TOTIUSHUIS. 1975



TOTIUSHUIS 1977.

Foto's van Totius-museum: Joban de Ridder.

seun, (Prof S du Toit) gedien het, asook 'n ommuurde ruimte oos van die stal, dit wil sê, tussen die stal en die huis. In hierdie ruimte was 'n bad waar die kinders op sonnige dae gebad het en hier het Totius ook sonbaddens geneem.

In lyn met die buitegebou, maar aan die suidekant daarvan was 'n tweede, bestaande uit 'n bedienekamer, 'n bediendetoilet en 'n toilet vir die gesin. Tussen die twee buitegeboue was nog 'n oop ruimte waar die bakoond gebou was. Beide buitegeboue wat reeds voor 1975 gesloop is, het plat sinkdakke gehad wat skuins afgeloop het na die huis se kant. In die lig van die koste en die betrokke geringe geskiedkundige waarde is daar besluit om nie die oorspronklike buitegeboue her op te bou nie.

Binnewerk van die huis

Uit gesprekke met mev Smit kon ons vasstel dat alle vertrekke behalwe die kombuis geplak was met muurpapier vanaf vloer- tot prentlyshoogte en dat die houtplafonne en -vloere oorspronklik is. Mev Smit kon goed onthou hoe die muurpapier in die sit-eetkamer, studeerkamer en twee slaapkamers gelyk het, waarvolgens 'n keuse van geskikte nuwe papier gemaak kon word.

Die kombuis het 'n skoongeskropte plankvloer gehad, terwyl die onderste gedeelte van die mure tot 1200 mm hoogte afgewerk was met bruin emaljeverf met 'n swart randjie.

Die boonste gedeelte van die mure was wit geverf. In die suid-oostelike hoek het 'n steenkoolstoof gestaan en teen die noordemuur 'n opwastafel wat oorgetrek was met plaatyster en toegerus was met 'n ge-emaljeerde opwasbak.

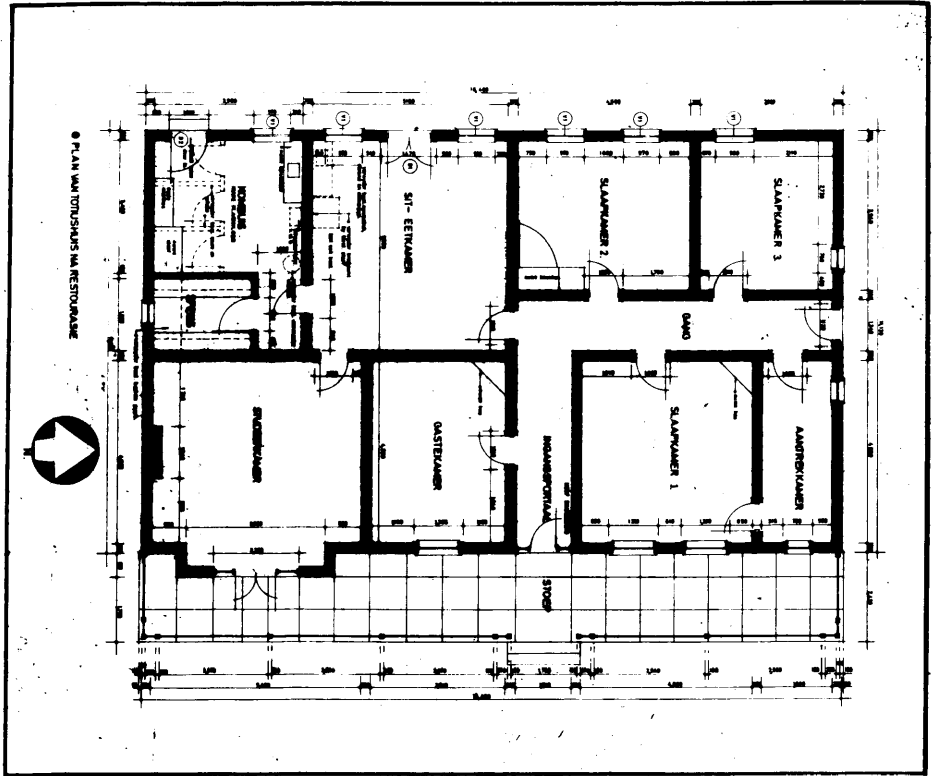
Restourasie

Die huis is tans ten volle gerestoureer en in gebruik geneem as 'n Totiusmuseum. Alle vertrekke behalwe die slaapkamer langs die sit-eetkamer is weer opnuut gemeubileer en ingerig soos dit oorspronklik was met meubels, skilderye, boeke en bykomstighede wat goedgunstiglik deur familieledede van Totius geskenk is. Die genoemde slaapkamer is ingerig as 'n museumvertrek vir uitstal-doeleindes.

Die restourasie is moontlik gemaak deur 'n baie ruim persoonlike skenking deur Dr en Mev Anton Rupert en ander bydraes deur die publiek.

Die bouwerk is uitgevoer deur die firma T H Bolton (Edms) Bpk. Muurpapier, gordyne en lampskerms is gelewer deur die firma Interieurs van Pretoria, terwyl die binnenshuise versiering en inrigting van die hele huis behartig is deur die Potchefstroomse Museum onder leiding van die Kuratrise, mev Mione du Toit.

Die Totiusmuseum is op 19 Februarie 1977 amptelik ontsluit deur mev Hubert Rupert as deel van die vierings ter herdenking van Totius se geboortedag op 21 Februarie 1877.



Plan van Totiushuis na restourasie.

Dorp se ou gebou word museum

Krugersdorp se ou landdroesgebou is 'n historiese gebou waarvan die hoeksteen in die vorige eeu deur pres. Paul Kruger gelê is. Die gebou wat die afgelope tyd verwaarloos is, gaan waarskynlik 'n museum word.

Dié besluit is geneem toe 'n deputasie, wat veg vir die behoud van die verwaarloosde ou gebou, samesprekings met die

bestuurskomitee van Krugersdorp gevoer het.

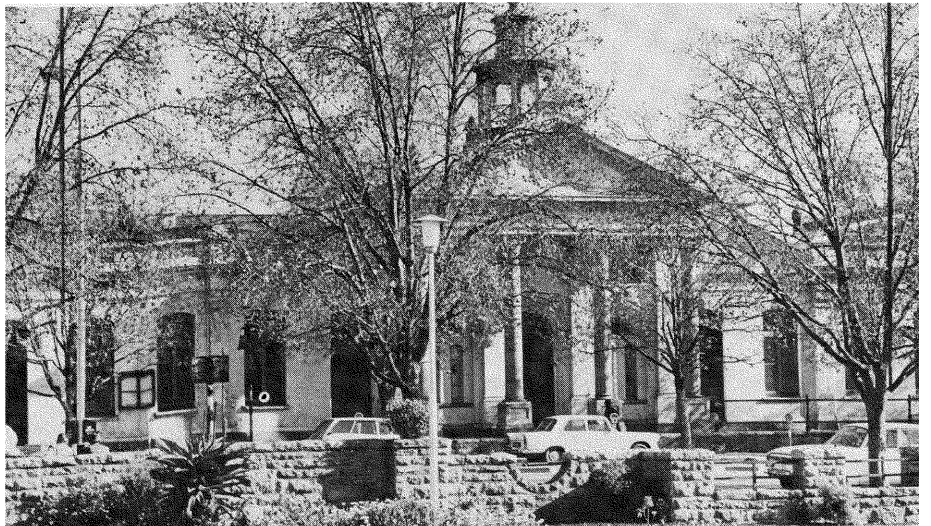
Voorheen was daar al sprake dat die Departement van Openbare Werke die gebou aan die stadsraad van Krugersdorp sou skenk, maar daar was verskeie voorwaardes.

Een daarvan was dat die gebou gerestoureer moes word tot die bevrediging van die Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede.

Ná afloop van die samesprekings is besluit dat die stadsraad van Krugersdorp 'n nuwe deputasie sal saamstel wat later die Minister van Openbare Werke sal spreek. Die deputasie sou probeer om

Die ou landdroeskantoor op Krugersdorp wat in 1891 amptelik in gebruik geneem is.

Foto: Enrico Charraz



die skenking te bewerkstellig sonder die voorwaardes wat die Departement vroeër vasgestel het.

Die stadsraad van Krugersdorp sal dan, sodra die gebou herstel is, volle verantwoordelikheid vir die gebou aanvaar en die gebou inrig as 'n museum, waarin onder meer 'n argief oor die geskiedenis van Krugersdorp gehou sal word.

Onder die lede van die deputasie wat gister se samesprekings met die bestuurskomitee van Krugersdorp gehad het, was dr Willem Punt, uitgetrede direkteur van die Stigting Simon van der Stel.

Dr Punt het daarop gewys dat Krugersdorp se landdroskantoor die enigste historiese landdroskantoor in die land is wat nog gerestoureer kan word.

Die Transvaler,
9 Junie 1976



Die eens pragtige ou landdroshof op Krugersdorp is erg vervalle. Verwering het oral reeds ingetree.

Foto's: *Die Beeld*



Opknop nou die ding

Die helfte van Pearl Assurance House, die nuut opgeknapte kantoorblok in die finansiële hart van Johannesburg, is reeds verhuur, net vier maande nadat die opknappingswerk voltooi is.

Volgens Dunlop Heywood, wat verantwoordelik is vir die opknapping en die verhuring, is die jongste huurders Federale Bank en Rössing-Uraan, wat elk 300 vk m geneem het. Die gebou bied nou geriewe gelyk aan dié van die nuutste ontwikkelings en die gevraagde huurgeld is R4,03 per vk m.

'n Woordvoerder van Dunlop Heywood, mnr Roland Walker, voorspel dat heelwat van die Goudstad se ouer geboue mettertyd opgeknap sal word. Dit kos veel minder om op te knop as om te herbou. Boonop stel dit die eienaar in staat om 'n mededingende huur te vra.

Rapport,
4 Julie 1976

A city pays price of progress

HELEN ARON

Murray Gordon Mansions was the first block of flats in Johannesburg. Now it has been demolished.

To appreciate how the building reflected the city's history one only has to recall the values and aspirations of Johannesburg society after the First World War.

Sir Herbert Baker's arrival in Johannesburg had a powerful influence on a whole generation of architects. A neo-Baker school emerged and to one such architect, John Waterson of the firm Waterson and Veale, fell the task of giving the city her first communal block of "flats".

His was the "castle in the forest" concept, in keeping with the rural retreat ideas of the Garden City theory. The year was 1918.

High up on Westcliff Ridge, Waterson gave the city an image reminiscent of the paintings of Poussin – a romantic point of reference for a city that today is starved of such vistas.

The Baker clientele of the day – the restless mining men, the judicial and political men, the entrepreneurs of Parktown and her Garden City younger sister, Westcliff – were already familiar with the Bakeresque influences adopted by Waterson.

These were the rusticated stone base, stuccoed walls, Mediterranean courtyards, soaring Cape Dutch chimney-form gables and shuttered windows – the latter removed long before demolition.

The building had one outstanding feature – one that endeared it to all who had ever lived or visited there. It had a marvellous relation to the human scale, intimate yet gracious.

It seemed to open its arms to the city in a way modern fortress architecture, "functional brutalism", seems unable to do.

Murray Gordon Mansions did not only inform architecturally; it also told us a great deal about the people of the day.

Mrs Stella Loewenstein, daughter of the pioneer developer, Samuel Sondheim, recalls: "The grounds were six acres, all laid out by my father who was a keen gardener. There were also two championship tennis courts, a croquet lawn and a children's playground.

"Any of the trees worthy of being called trees were planted one Sunday when my father had a private Arbor Day and everybody living in the flats was given a tree to plant."

Mr Sondheim's Anglo-Austrian Cafe in Pritchard Street was burnt down by anti-German mobs. Yet he retained the spirit of public-minded men of the day, such as Eckstein and Beit.

They espoused a debt-to-society ethic which gave the term "city fathers" the kind of substance rarely evident today.

Now this 50-year-old landmark has been demolished.

Surely the municipal town planner must have known it was the first block of flats in Johannesburg. Why is it that the Historical Monuments Commission seems to have taken no interest in the building, despite the fact that its "historical" value was undisputed?

After all, the public protested strongly, thereby expressing a sense of loss to the city, its character and development. Only now that the mansions are in ruins, Mr Bob Charter, chairman of the City Council's Environmental Committee, says:

"The council would like to do everything in its power to preserve old buildings – even if it means taking them over.

"When the council hears of a property owner seeking a demolition order for a worthy old building, the council could offer a land swap. If the owner agrees, the council will give him of its own land and take over the historic property with the building intact. The council will let out the old building and collect the rent."

It is only very recently, and after years of public protest, that there is any intention of doing anything about preserving the few buildings that are left.

Mr G M van der Waal, an architectural researcher with the history of art department at Rand Afrikaans University, estimates that in the central area of Johannesburg alone, 150 buildings have already been demolished, mostly accompanied by public protest.

In Britain the public have not looked to the city fathers for help. There the National Trust is a private body, classed as a charity. This year it celebrates its 80th birthday. It is Britain's largest land-owner, possessing some 320 000 ha of field, stream and heath, and it can call on the support of 465 000 members. The National Trust is funded by rents and profits from its lands, forests and farms; legacies and gifts; endowment funds which donors give for the upkeep of the country houses presented by them; membership subscriptions and admission fees paid by the public – last year a record four million people visited National Trust houses.

The time is ripe to look again at the suggestion by Dr Selma Browde, MPC, that the City Council be empowered to accept donations and private funds as a start towards a national trust.

The council already accepts advice from the Johannesburg Historical Society and Rand Afrikaans University, and could set up a permanent advisory committee to include the architects, town planners, historians and Africana experts who have the city's heritage at heart.

The Rand Daily Mail,
November 20, 1975

New Roads: Irene people won't be railroaded

Irene residents are to petition the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, in protest against the latest road plans proposed by the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging (PWV) consortium.

At a meeting recently, ratepayers showed that they were not prepared to sit back and accept the planned three roads, including a double-lane freeway, which threaten to suffocate the tranquil village. Mr David van der Byl, Irene's representative on the Verwoerdburg Town Council, told the meeting of the Irene Vigilance Association that the latest proposals still showed the PWV 6 freeway cutting through more than 30 homes in northern Irene.

The position of the K54 had not changed either – the secondary road, with a 62m road reserve was still destined to pass through the picturesque golf course and the houses bordering Nellmapius Drive. However the road to the east of the village had been sited further east and now avoided the black farm school and several farm homes.

The meeting instructed the Vigilance Committee to petition the Minister of Agriculture, Irene's MP, stating that the residents were not satisfied with the consortium's latest proposals.

The Minister is also directly responsible for the Animal and Dairy Science Research Institute to the south of Irene and the Vigilance Association would like the K54 moved south to pass through the institute's land.

Mr Dan van Onselen, immediate past chairman of the association, requested the committee to investigate the influence of developers with townships surrounding Irene on the PWV consortium.

Commenting on progress made with the possible resiting of the SAR coach marshalling yard from east of Irene, Mr Van der Byl said it seemed "hopeful" that the yard would be moved north of the Eastern Bypass, near the stone crushing quarry.

The Pretoria News,
November 18, 1976

PWV-padplan geregverdig?

M J Oosthuizen, Posbus 92, Kempton Park, skryf:

Ek het met belangstelling die brief „Rompslomp verdrag proklamasie" (*Beeld* 16 Desember 1976) en die ekonomiese redakteur se antwoord daarop gelees. Die aangeleentheid staan in verband met die PWV-padplan.

Ek wil graag uitbrei op hierdie voorgestelde plan deur te verwys na die volgende aspekte:

Die vraag ontstaan by my, en seker by baie van ons, of daar werklik 'n behoefte of regverdiging bestaan vir die bou van hierdie paaiekompleks, wat na raming die kolossale bedrag van sowat R500 miljoen sal verg.

Hierby moet in ag geneem word die probleme wat die padplan reeds meegebring het met betrekking tot proklamasie van dorpsgebiede; bevriesing van dorpsgebiede of gedeeltes daarvan; moontlike geldelike verliese deur ontwikkelaars en kopers; en sloping van bestaande geboue. Dit is almal moontlik bydraende faktore wat die koste van die paaie, direk of indirek, sal opstoot.

Voorts kan verwys word na die voortdurende daling in die verkope van motors; duurder brandstof, stappe wat geneem word om brandstof te bespaar; die gunstige oorweging van stappe om massavervoer aan te moedig; ekonomiese klimaatstoestande; en die verspreiding van kantoorure. Dit is faktore wat aanleiding kan gee tot 'n aansienlike daling in die getal motors op ons paaie. Dit is baie moontlik dat die paaie as gevolg hiervan nie produktief genoeg gebruik sal word om die groot uitgawe daaraan verbonde te regverdig nie.

Die Beeld,
19 Januarie 1977

Eerste posgebou bestaan nog

Die gebou waar die eerste poskantoor aan die Witwatersrand baie goed in 'n rooi jener-kis op die toonbank van 'n kroeg gefunksioneer het, bestaan vandag nog.

Mnr Merwyn Emms, kurator van die Poskantoor-museum in Pretoria, het met 'n onlangse besoek aan Muldersdrift hierdie groot ontdekking gedoen terwyl hy altyd onder die indruk was dat die gebou nie meer bestaan nie.

Hierdie poskantoor-kroeg wat aan mnr Arthur Ballantyne Edgson behoort het, is ouer as al die geboue in Johannesburg. Volgens mnr Emms is daar geen argitektoniese waarde aan die gebou nie, maar die historiese waarde daarvan is onberekenbaar.

Arthur Ballantyne Edgson het uit Engeland na Suid-Afrika gekom met die doel om hom aan te sluit by Stanley se ekspe-

disie wat Livingstone gesoek het, maar het in 1871 in Muldersdrift vasgeval. Volgens berigte was dit nie seker of die swaar reën of die mooi dogter van een van die Mulders van Muldersdrift hiervoor verantwoordelik was nie.

Hy het 'n winkeltjie, wat later tot 'n hotel en kroeg omgeskep is, opgerig en hierdie gebou was ook die eerste poskantoor.

In hierdie poskantoor-kroeg het menige pionier eers ietsie geniet voordat hy sy pos in die rooi jener-kis gesoek het.

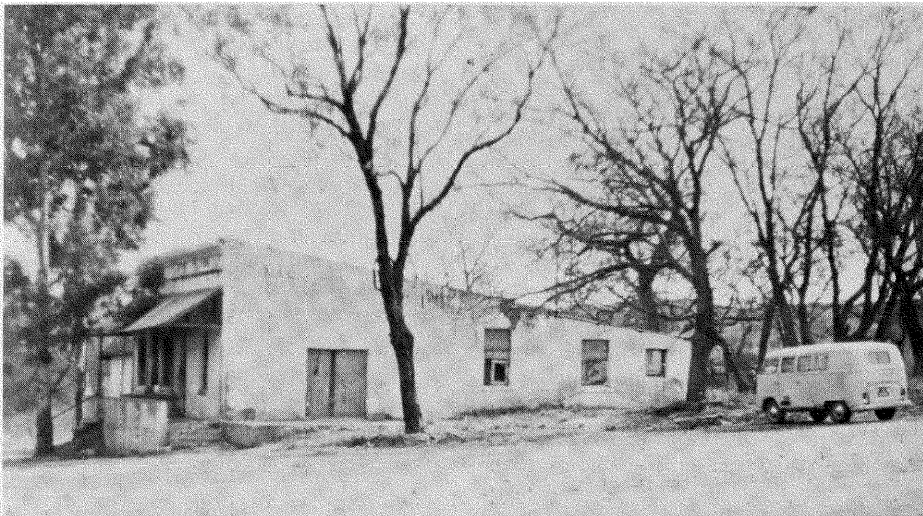
Die gebou behoort vandag aan die eienaar van die Muldersdrift Hotel, mnr B. Garlick. Mnr Garlick het gesê dat hy daaraan dink om die gebou te restoureer en weer as 'n kroeg in te rig.

Beeld,
31 Augustus 1976



Die ou gebou by Muldersdrift naby Krugersdorp was die eerste poskantoor aan die Witwatersrand en het al bestaan voordat daar nog enige permanente geboue in Johannesburg was. Die poskantoor was ook 'n klein negosiewinkeltjie en 'n kroeg.

Foto's: Merwyn Emms



The giant that sleeps in Parktown

PETER BUNKELL

On the drawing board, Johannesburg's M6 is probably the biggest highway in the world.

It is also the subject of a controversy that has raged for 16 years.

And the question behind that controversy, which was revived again this week, is simply this. Is this mammoth highway going to be built or is it not?

The City Council says no. It maintains it has never agreed, even in principle, to the M6.

But residents of Parktown, the regal old suburb through which the M6 was de-

signed to slice, are still convinced it is only a matter of time before the mooted transport corridor becomes an awful reality.

They point to mysterious moves and happenings around the council which could indicate that the M6 is far from being a dead duck.

Their fears are compounded by the Public Transport Bill, which seeks to create highway dictator boards with the power to override local authorities.

Parktown residents believe the new Bill will allow the city council to go ahead with the building of the M6 by proxy, without carrying the stigma of it.

So, should the development prove unpopular, councillors could simply pass on the blame and responsibility to the appropriate highway board.

Because they are so concerned about the M6 – the road that has been dubbed the “phantom freeway” – the residents this week requested their representative in the council, Mr Sam Moss, to ask a series of questions. The answers he received have created renewed anxiety. Mr Moss wanted to know what recommendations a firm of consultants – hired by the council – had made in relation to traffic problems in Parktown. Part of the answer he received was that the consultants had confirmed it was possible to accommodate “the freeway”. Mr Moss asked whether “the freeway” was in fact the M6 as proposed in the Greater Johannesburg Area Transportation Study (GJATS). The answer: “Yes”.

What worries the people of Parktown is that the work done by the consultants was completed in mid 1972.

When the GJATS was made public in March 1970, there was an immediate public outcry. It was withdrawn several months later.

Why, the Parktown residents want to know, were the consultants appointed to establish whether it was possible to accommodate the M6 when the plan that created it had been condemned two years earlier?

Parktown people gain little consolation from the thought that when it does become a reality it is unlikely to be quite as monstrous as originally planned.

It was supposed to be almost 200 metres wide, cutting through Parktown from east to west and eventually joining up with the M3 in Auckland Park.

In addition to something like 10 lanes of traffic, it was hoped to lay two railway lines along an inner corridor.

It seems, however, that nobody – not even the central Government – has that kind of money.

In spite of this Parktown residents still feel that the M6 – albeit a smaller version of the original – is on its way.

The consultants were specifically asked whether it would fit into a particular 132-metre strip.

That reduces its width by a mere 70 metres – and still leaves an awfully big road.

The chairman of the city council's town planning committee, Mr Eddie Magid, dismisses the significance of the appointment of consultants to investigate the proposed M6 route.

“We were instructed to appoint the consultants by the Director of Local Government. At the time, a property developer has applied for a rezoning in Parktown. The council was opposed to the application.” Mr Magid told me the Director of Local Government said he could make no decision until he knew if the rezoning would interfere with any proposed freeway route.

“He instructed us to carry out an investigation and because we were the lower authority, we had to obey.

"I want to stress that the council has never agreed to a policy for an M6, or any other freeway, through Parktown.

"Confusion has arisen because an official presented a possible scheme showing a freeway through Parktown. This scheme was rejected by the council."

Mr Magid's explanation is unacceptable to Mrs Flo Bird, secretary of the Parktown Residents' Association. She does not doubt his honesty, but feels he has had the wool pulled over his eyes.

Mrs Bird argues that although the GJATS was rejected by the council it remains, to this day, the only transportation scheme that has ever been produced for Johannesburg.

Furthermore, it was submitted, in spite of its rejection, to both the Driessen Commission and the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging Consortium.

One great fear is that, even if the council is telling the truth about the M6 and will never support its development, it is something that could quite easily be imposed by a higher authority.

And then still other factors worry the Parktown people. These are some of them:

- The city council's continuous purchases of land along the M6 route.
- The council's ambivalent attitude to applications for rezonings. There has been little or no objection to applications for rezonings of property away from the M6 route. Applications for rezonings along the route have either been opposed, or the council has imposed severe building lines.
- The constant reference to the M6 at meetings of the Townships' Board.
- A statement as late as July 1975 by the developers of the new Milpark project that they had difficulty building because of plans for the M6. They said they got their information about the

highway from municipal and provincial officials.

- The alignment of the east-west roads contained in the city council's latest plan for Parktown. The two roads follow the M6 route.

The council has started buying up the land between the east-west roads. It says it wants the ground for park and ride purposes.

This is something that Mrs Bird dismisses out of hand.

In the first place, the owners of the land are asking R60 a square metre. At that price the council would be able to build a garage for the same number of cars on the land it already owns.

The residents' association is vehemently opposed to the east-west roads, mainly because they follow the M6 route. It would be easy to turn them into the M6 whenever it was deemed necessary.

The association has devised an alternate plan which it believes is superior to the council's proposed road system.

Tomorrow, a group of residents will attend a meeting of the town planning committee to present their plan.

Mrs Bird told me this week it leaves the west-east section of the council's highway where it is and brings the east-west section much closer to it.

This means that the huge corridor between the two roads – the corridor which the residents believe will eventually house the M6 – is eliminated.

Councillor Eddie Magid says he is willing to listen to the association's plan with an open mind.

"My committee will listen to their proposals and eventually we will adopt whichever plan we believe to be in the best interests of the people of Johannesburg."

Mrs Bird said: "If the council accepts our plan, we will believe them when they tell us the M6 is dead."

Sunday Express,
August 1, 1976

The urban transport bill – passing the buck

This legislation is intended to speed up and co-ordinate transportation planning on a metropolitan basis. Since the Central Government will have to supply the bulk of the finance it has ensured that control remains at the top. The various committees are heavily weighted with members of Government Departments. The massive bureaucratic superstructure does not bode well for speedy decisions. There appears to be no provision for consultation with the public. The final authority is the Urban Transport Commission and extraordinary powers are invested in the system – bulk factors within the radius of the transport system fall under the control of this superbody, effectively taking the major planning device from the local authority. Any land may be expropriated, including sites of national monuments.

The Administrator delineates the metropolitan area and appoints a core city which then advises on planning and finally implements the accepted scheme. This advisory function is our biggest headache. Clearly the core city will be most influential, but as the function is advisory it seems likely that this authority will be delegated to the City Engineer. This means quite simply that the citizens will have no way of knowing what advice has been given.

Will the Council shirk its responsibilities and hide behind the Commission when the Scheme becomes public?

Will the Council submit its plans for the M6 in secret and then put the blame on higher authorities?

It is clear from the Parktown Development Plan that the Council is safeguarding the route of the M6 in Parktown East. The Town Clerk has already been authorised to enter negotiations for the purchase of one of these sites.

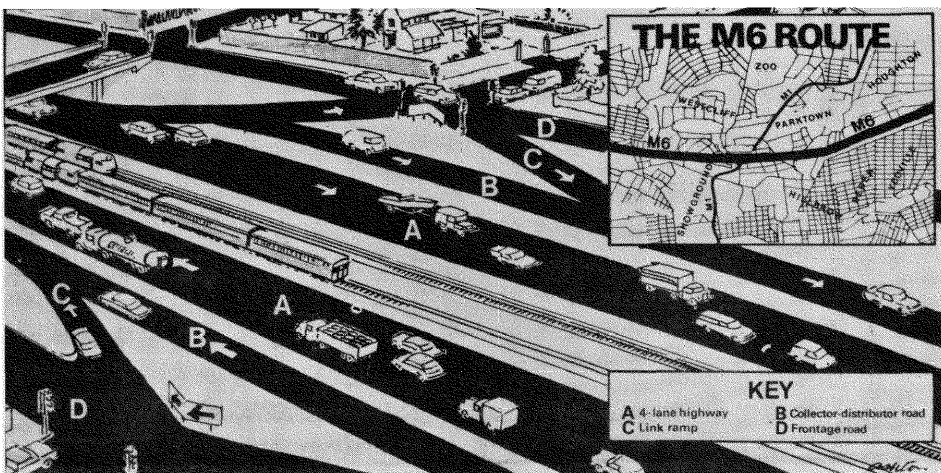
Despite all denials and motions to the contrary the Greater Johannesburg Transportation Scheme of 1970 is still the only transportation plan for the city.

The Parktown Association Newsletter
No. 11, June 1976

The G.J.T.S. is alive and well in the civic centre

Twice already the Council has handed over this "rejected" Scheme to the authorities. The public only became aware of this when the Commissions reported.

- (1) It is clear from the report of the Driessen Commission that this Scheme was submitted although it had been publicly rejected by the Management Committee.
- (2) It was again submitted to the P.W.V.



consortium and was even included in their first plan. Since then P.W.V. plans appear with the City area left blank, but the link roads remain.

Are we going to wait for this to happen a third time?

We cannot afford to be the dupes of the politicians any longer. We do not believe that a defunct scheme was handed over to the Central and Provincial authorities simply to spare the blushes of Councillors who would otherwise have had to admit that the biggest city in the country has been operating without any transportation scheme at all.

The Parktown Development Plan

This plan was accepted in principle by the City Council in November 1975 despite our Ward Councillor's plea for a re-think on the roads. The recommendation accepted by the Council was that the City Engineer be instructed to prepare an Amendment Scheme based on the development plan. This would have given us the opportunity to present our case first to the Planning Committee, and if the Council still proved obdurate, then to the Townships Board.

However, this democratic process appears to have been neatly circumvented. At the end of May we were notified of a Townships Board hearing. Till then the area had remained frozen and we assumed that this position would have been maintained until the Amendment Scheme had been finalised.

It now seems that the Council (as it is fully entitled to do) has given the Development Plan to the Director of Local Government and he is proceeding accordingly.

The Association cannot afford to wait for the Amendment Scheme. The recommendations of the Development Plan are being implemented now.

We have therefore briefed various consultants to compile comments on the major aspects of the Plan. When these reports have been completed we shall submit these to the various authorities. Expert opinion costs money, but we have no choice. We hope to have the results in time for the A.G.M. and will then give a full explanation of the results.

The Parktown Association Newsletter
No. 11, June 1976

met die ou en groot huise, strekkende vanaf die fantasie-herhuis Dollarbran tot net daar waar die snelpad 'n kurwe maak onderkant Brenthurst.

Die ontwikkelaars wil geboue van ses verdiepinge daar oprig.

Die Parktown-vereniging sê nec.

Hierdie vereniging, waarvan elke huiseienaar van Parktown outomaties lid met 'n stemreg is, is daarop ingestel dat die mens in Johannesburg, en ook die mens in Parktown, soos 'n mens moet leef.

Hulle wil die natuurlike aansien van die randjie behou, hulle wil die ruimte en tuine om die huise behou en hulle wil die huise ook behou, omdat dié die stene van ou Johannesburgse geskiedenis het. Die Stadsraad voel saam met die Parktown-vereniging. Die verwagting is dus groot dat amptelike owerheid en belastingbetalers wel hul stryd teen die dinamiet en stootskrapers van die sesverdieping-ontwikkelaars kan wen.

Maar sal hulle die verbeelding – en die geld – ook hê om Ann Sutton se briljante oplossing vir 'n asemhaalgebied in die stad aan te gryp?

Mej Sutton, getoë in die atmosfeer van Parktown en ou-Johannesburg, is 'n landskap-argitek. Haar oplossing vir die „aemhaalstrook” is bloot om vanaf die snelweg by Oxfordlaan die tuine onderkant die huise, om die randjie, onder die nuwe hospitaal verby, aan te koop, en dit aan te skakel met die „Wilds”. Dit sou die loopgebied langer maak, meer en groter vergesigte oor die stad en die uitgestrektheid tot die Magaliesberg aanbied, en ook 'n herberg bied vir die interessante plantegroei wat in hierdie gebied gevind word.

Duidelik sal die stadsraad hier moet help – met geld en nuwe gebiedsverklaring.

Maar ek sou dink min dinge sou soveel dankbaarheid van die gemeenskap ontlok as juis so 'n geleentheid waardeur die hele stad se gemeenskap kan baat vind: wandelpaaie deur een van die heel mooiste dele van die stad.

Dit gaan, soos ek sê, net 'n bietjie verbeelding kos – en die moed om aan die ontwikkelaars „nee” te sê.

Beeld,
9 Julie 1976

only the label changes. In Johannesburg you must be Prog, in Pretoria you are HNP.

The Parktown Association Newsletter
No. 12, September 1976

National monuments – action please

The RAU report on the Parktown houses listed 14 buildings to be declared national monuments. We would like to see that list expanded to include listed buildings, which could not be altered without detailed assessment by a group of architects.

The need for preserving the buildings increases every day, as many of the owners are not maintaining the houses properly. A quick survey revealed that:

- (1) “The View” – shockingly neglected by the Council. The wooden verandah is said to be unsafe. The ceiling in the kitchen is a mass of gaping boards. The hand-painted murals are being scratched, the woodwork is not oiled, stoep tiles are cracked, not repaired and some are now missing.
- (2) “Northwards” – although the College is guarding the house most carefully it is difficult to preserve it from the Public Works Department, which painted all the woodwork upstairs in PWD grey.
- (3) “Arcadia” – second home of Lionel Phillips, now the Jewish Orphanage. The owners simply do not have the funds to maintain this enormous Baker house, so the need here is for numerous minor repairs. But at some stage a misguided person decided to remove the marble from the staircase – too slippery for the children – so now it is rough concrete.

Most of the damage is the result of neglect through lack of funds or sheer ignorance. Only by having these places declared national monuments will the necessary funds be available as well as the expertise to control renovations.

We also need some control over demolitions. The materials needed for repairing these buildings should be saved from similar buildings which are demolished. As the Council controls demolitions it is in the best position to ensure that this is done.

The Parktown Association Newsletter
No. 12, September 1976

Red die Rand

MARTIE RETIEF

Die lendene word deeglik in Parktown omgord vir 'n komende stryd. Dit gaan om die behoud van Jubilee-rand. Dis daardie boomryke deel van Parktown

Conservation and politics

We were getting rather tired of being accused of making political capital out of the Parktown houses and the M6. We have learnt from the Church Square campaigners that this is customary –

Randjeslaagte se baken

Parktown het twee nasionale monumente. “Stone House” geleë in Rockridgeweg is een en die ander is die Randjeslaagte-baken, minder aansienlik maar

miskien meer histories. In 1886 het dit vir die regering van die Zuid-Afrikaanse Republiek nodig geword om die plase waarop goud gevind is n.l. Braamfontein, Langlaagte, Turffontein en Doornfontein presies te laat uitmeet. Opmetings is met 'n teodoliet gedoen. 'n Johannesburgse firma, Vicker's Instruments, het 'n voorbeeld van so 'n ou instrument wat in die Z.A.R. gebruik is. Daar is gevind dat 'n driehoekige stuk "uitval grond" van 246 hektaar geleë was tussen die plase. Dit was dus regeringsgrond en is Randjeslaagte genoem. Die stuk "nuttelose" grond is voorheen gebruik as weiding. Dit het gestrek van die baken in die huidige Boundaryweg naby Louis Bothalaan in die noorde tot by die huidige Commissionerstraat in die suide, Endstraat in die ooste en Diagonalstraat in die weste. Op 2 Augustus het die regering 'n kommissie aangestel bestaande uit Johannes Joubert, later hoof van die Departement Mynbou, om 'n geskikte plek te vind om 'n nuwe dorp op die pas ontdekte goudveld uit te lê. Hulle het besluit dat Randjeslaagte die geskikte plek vir die dorp is en die tender van landmeter Josias de Villiers is aangeneem om die erwe uit te meet. Hy het 'n totaal van 986 erwe uitgemeet en die nuwe dorp is Johannesburg genoem. 936 erwe is verkoop oor 'n periode van drie dae en pryse het gewissel tussen 25 sent en R1,240. Daar is ook voorsiening gemaak vir 'n groot Markplein. Dit is interessant dat die bestaande kampe n.l. Ferri-raskamp, Booyenskamp, Paarlkamp en Natalkamp nie by die nuwe dorp, Johannesburg, ingesluit is nie. Boundaryweg sluit by Louis Bothalaan op sy hoogste punt aan en dit is net hier naby dat die Randjeslaagte-baken geleë is. Die baken is in die vorm van 'n afgeplatte piramide en het 'n ysterpyp in die middel af. Die landmeter se apparaat is hierop geplaas. Die baken het geen nommer nie aangesien daar min sulke bakens opgerig is. In 1965 is dit tot Nasionale Monument verklaar.

Oorgeneem uit *Parktown and the Jo'burg Scene* van Die Parktown-vereniging

Parktown: home of the Hoggenheimers

The Parktown people were pioneers; elated by their success, thrilled by the challenge to their talents, arrogant, brave, Jingoistic, daring, philanthropic, tough, hardy, highly individualistic while cultivating the manners of the English aristocracy, anything and everything except dull.

"Hoggenheimer" – the cartoon image of the Randlords indicates a low regard for a group of exploiters, greedy, self-interested and for their foreign origins. On one occasion the workers did try marching against the capitalist bastion. Fortunately the police intervened, for the capitalists were no cowards and had armed themselves ready for the fight. During World War I anti-German feeling was strong and again mobs descended on Parktown, even managing to strip the home of Hans Rosendorff in Princess Place before the police regained control. Most ironical considering these arch-imperialists whose very street names reflected their sympathies.

Whatever their relations with their workers there can be no doubt about the abilities of the Randlords – Lionel Phillips who first adopted the Macarthur-Forrest cyanide process and placed his faith in deep level mining; Lippert, Albu, Oppenheimer – hardy lightweights in the financial arena.

With regard to their public-spirit it would be hard to fault them. The men of "The Corner House" – the Township Owner – were involved in pressing for Joubert Park, the old Wanderers grounds, donations to Pioneer Park and most important the gift of Hermann Eckstein Park. Sir Percy Fitzpatrick felt the latter would be enhanced by a zoo, so he donated the first animals at a cost of nearly £1000. At that stage he was living in Hohenheim, so perhaps the idea of having the familiar Lowveld sounds carried up the hillside encouraged him in the gesture!

The naming of the Dale Lace Bowling Club in Westcliff and of the Sir Lionel Phillips Park (Pirates) in Greenside indicates that the Council did appreciate the concern of these people that pleasant shady parks be available to a public who saw all too much of the dry and dreary highveld.

Not only the magnates but also the engineers proved that they were not content to stay uninvolved in their luxurious mansions. Hays Hammond, an American, was sentenced to death as a leader of the Reform Committee. Major Louis Seymour, also an American, died fighting in the Anglo-Boer War, but his colleagues donated a highly appropriate memorial of technical books to the Johannesburg Public Library, known as the Seymour Collection. The greatest of them all was Bernard Price who established research institutes for palaeontology and for geophysics at Wits, and gave his home, Savernake, as the residence of the Vice-Chancellor.

The interests of the Parktown ladies went beyond their Paris gowns, croquet parties and musicals. Their drawing-rooms were the meeting places for many relief committees; their conservatories provided the decorations for charity functions and their husband's wallets

were frequently emptied for yet another worthy cause.

Parktown also contributed the first Council surveyor – Mr C C Tompkins, father of our Mr George Tompkins, who lived at the corner of Barkly and Campbell Road. One of his early maps shows suburbs that were to disappear when deep level mining took over and made the area unsuitable for residential use – those vast portions south of City and Suburban which are now part of the mining reserve. He was also responsible for laying out Parkview and naming the roads.

The first Chairman of the Johannesburg Publicity Association was Sir Llewellyn Anderson, a keen big game hunter and a founder of Wanderers.

With little money (rating was only introduced in 1902) and no town-planning scheme the City Engineer's task was unenviable. The first Town Planning Ordinance came into operation in 1931 so those restrictive conditions of title were most important in maintaining the character of our township. One C.E. had few illusions and when the Council was approached for advice on the planning of Canberra he replied, "Send them a large scale map of Johannesburg as a horrible example of what to avoid."

Boer or Briton, Parktown had little success against the authorities. It fought the siting of The Fort, then of the Fever Hospital and gave in most reluctantly over the electric tramway. Begun in 1906 this ran to the Zoo, an outing that could be enjoyed for 3 pence 3 farthings.

Money has always been short in the City of Gold. The fire services could not get off the ground because property owners were unwilling to contribute to the costs. It took many small fires and a few big ones, with *The Star* losing £15 000 worth of equipment, before the necessary levy was accepted. Even so the fire department suffered severely whenever hard times were reached, and had to take hefty cuts in pay throughout the war.

Roads consumed most of the C.E.D.'s budget, and by 1910 motor cars were becoming quite a problem. A traffic count taken at the corner of Pritchard and Rissik Streets over 11 hours revealed 447 cars passing by!

Probably Parktown's major contribution to the City was simply that of example – in its big stands, restrictive title deeds and styles of architecture which set the pattern for the northern suburbs.

Architecture

In true Victorian style the mining magnates wanted their homes to be mansions expressing their wealth and stature. There are two distinct periods of architecture in Parktown which mirror the attitudes of their owners.

The first period is largely imitative –

experts call it 'eclecticism'. What it really amounted to was the client's desire to emulate the magnificence of previous eras. Some settled for the Colonial redbrick with decorative wooden or cast iron verandahs. The graceful Queen Anne style was also popular.

The most indomitable of them all was Lady Phillips, who had ridden out one morning and discovered the view from the Ridge. Here she built her first Parktown home – Hohenheim – now under the monster hospital. It was an enormous house with elegant touches yet capped with a corrugated iron roof. Arcadia, her second home, was more in keeping with her desire to use South African craftsmen and materials wherever possible. She was most fortunate in having Sir Herbert Baker who also wished to raise the standard of local skills. The exquisite metal work and the Van Wouw carved fanlights remain convincing testimony to what they achieved.

But Florence Phillips's greatest achievement was the Johannesburg Art Gallery. She bullied her husband, business associates, her friends and members of the Government raising capital. She used Sir High Lane in London to select the basis of the collection and was herself the most generous of donors.

The fans of "Miss Fairfax" must thank Lady Phillips for obtaining this lovely work in marble. And the best way to repay that debt would be to become a 'Friend of the Johannesburg Art Gallery'. Since our Philistine Council has cut the Gallery's grant so drastically this year we could at least show some of the original Parktown spirit by supporting it. Phone 23-9857 in the mornings.

Life at Arcadia was exciting and luxurious, but there were fearful times. Sir Lionel spent five months in goal as a leader of the Reform Committee. The death sentence, commuted to a fine of £25 000 and banishment were not pleasant memories, but the Phillips' returned after the War and again entered the political fray, working towards Union. Florrie, a staunch imperialist, found herself at odds with most of her friends who suspected her of being anti-English. She ended her days at Vergelegen, the lovely Cape Dutch homestead which she had so carefully restored.

Taken over from *Parktown and the Jo'burg Scene* of the Parktown Association

Leave planning to the planners!

A recent article in *The Star* suggested that planning be left to the professionals

and that the involvement of vested interests i.e. the property-owners could not lead to the best solution.

What the article omitted to examine was the record of involvement in planning issues of the town-planning profession. So far the attitude of town-planners has been characterised by a stony silence on any major issues. Amidst the roar of outrage from the Westdene residents at the loss of their parkland for private rugby fields there was not even a squeak of protest from the planners. They who supposedly know far better than the property-owners the need for preserving public open space in an area where the density is likely to increase. Their silence over the PWV road plans is inexcusable, and their professional interest becomes questionable when we read of the Institute of Architects having made an in-depth study of the proposals.

In Parktown planners have been most voluble when dealing with individual applications, but strangely taciturn about

the planning of the township. The Association approached the Institute of Town Planners and was advised to employ individual consultants. A vast contrast from the Institutes of Architects and Landscape Architects who have not only had the courage to give an opinion and their support, but who have on several occasions taken constructive action to develop the initial objection.

Does their silence give consent? Is it possible that their vested interests keep them silent where ours make us vocal? Why is it only the academics who comment on the Parktown bungle, increasing density, the need for an underground? Town-planning is not an exact science wherein the impartial judgment of the specialist is clearly more valuable than the preferences of the layman. But if town-planning is a profession it is singularly lacking in public concern.

The Parktown Association Newsletter
No. 12, September 1976

Kerkplein

Kerkplein: dis nou finaal

JEANNE GOOSEN

Mene Tekel. Die skrif is aan die muur. Kerkplein word gesloop. Uit en gedaan. Dis 'n besluit op die hoogste vlak.

Mnr A L Schlebush, Minister van Openbare Werke, het vanoggend in 'n persverklaring gesê dat alle geboue aan die westekant van Kerkplein gesloop sal word.

Hy sê onder meer: „Na verdere raadpleging met die Regering het ek my goedkeuring geheg aan 'n aansoek om voort te gaan met die oprigting van 'n nuwe uitvoerende poskantoor en streekhoofkantoor op die terrein begrens deur Kerkstraat aan die Suidekant, Kerkplein en Paleislaan aan die Oostekant, Vermeulenstraat aan die Noordekant en die Sentrale Goewermentsgebou aan die Westekant en die sloping van alle bestaande geboue op die terrein.

Die voorgestelde nuwe gebou sal ongeveer 27 m hoog wees en die ontwerp in soverre dit skaal, vorm en afwerking

betref, is daarop gemik om die nuwe gebou met die bestaande geboue in die omgewing te integreer. Om die visuele hoogte van die nuwe gebou te verminder en 'n verband te skep met die hoogte van die drie verdiepings van die Paleis van Justisie en die ou Raadsaal, is die vierde en vyfde verdiepings teruggeskuif van die geboufasade terwyl die sesde en sewende verdiepingvlakke aan die noordekant van die gebou geplaas word waar dit in 'n groot mate deur die Paleis van Justisie vir die menslike oog versteek sal wees.

Afstand

Van 'n afstand gesien sal die noordelike toringgedeelte 'n hoëvlakbalanspunt vir die bestaande Provinsiale gebou op die suidwestelike hoek van Kerkplein skep. Die tweede en derde verdiepingvlakke sal op dieselfde hoogte as die eerste en tweede verdiepingvlakke van die Paleis van Justisie wees.

Hoofstad,
19 Januarie 1977

Geboue sal een-een val

'n Reeks klein stofwolkies. Dit is die Wesfasade van Kerkplein se voorland. Al vyf die historiese geboue aan die westekant van die Plein gaan beslis nie gelyktydig gesloop word nie.

Tot vier jaar kan verloop vandat die eerste gebou in Mei vanjaar in die stof gaan byt totdat die laaste een sal val.

Verlede jaar in die Transvaalse Provinsiale Raad het die Administrateur, mnr Sybrand van Niekerk, gepleit vir „een groot stofwolk op Kerkplein”. Tans lyk dit nie asof dit sal gebeur nie.

Die adjunk-posmeester-generaal, mnr Francois Theron, het gister bevestig dat net die Nasionale Bankgebou aan die noordelike punt van die fasade vanjaar nog gesloop gaan word.

Die diensafdeling van die Poskantoor sal daar ingerig word. So gou as wat die gebou voltooi is, sal die werknemers vanuit die bestaande gebou daarheen verskuif word. Eers dan sal daar begin kan word met die sloping van die bestaande Poskantoor.

„Dit spreek vanself dat ons nie sommer die gebou kan afbreek sonder dat ons die diensafdeling soos brief-sortering of die telegrafiese afdeling kan huisves nie,” het mnr Theron gesê.

Hoe lank dit sal neem, is nog nie duidelik nie. *Oggendblad* het egter verneem dat dit minstens drie jaar sal wees.

Wanneer die ander historiese geboue, die Cafe Riche, Law Chambers en Nederlandsche Bankgebou in die slag gaan bly, is nie seker nie.

Die Provinsiale Administrasie moet daaroor besluit.

Sowel die Administrateur as die sekretaris van Werke, mnr P W du Plessis, was nie vir kommentaar beskikbaar nie. Vertroulik is egter verneem dat die Provinsie se „stofwolk” eers tydens die tweede sloping sal plaasvind of selfs daarna.

Tot op hede het die Provinsie nog geen planne bekend gemaak oor hoe sy gebou sal lyk nie.

Oggendblad het verneem dat daar wel voorlopige sketse bestaan, maar dat dit baie dig gehou word.

Geen planne is ook aan die Kerkplein-komitee voorgelê nie.

Die administrasie het die Komitee egter die versekering gegee dat die gebou by die res van die omgewing sal aansluit.

'n Lid van die Kerkpleinkomitee, oudregter Kowie Marais, het in 'n onderhoud gesê dat die komitee nog nooit die sloping van die Nederlandsche Bank of Nasionale Bank goedgekeur het nie.

Volgens regter Marais het die Komitee vier jaar gelede uitdruklik besluit dat dié twee geboue behoue moet bly.

Die destydse Minister van Openbare Werke, mnr A H du Plessis, het twee maande later al die lede egter telefonies gekontak oor die saak en toe aan die kabinet verslag gedoen dat die Komitee

toestem dat die geboue ook in die slag mag bly.

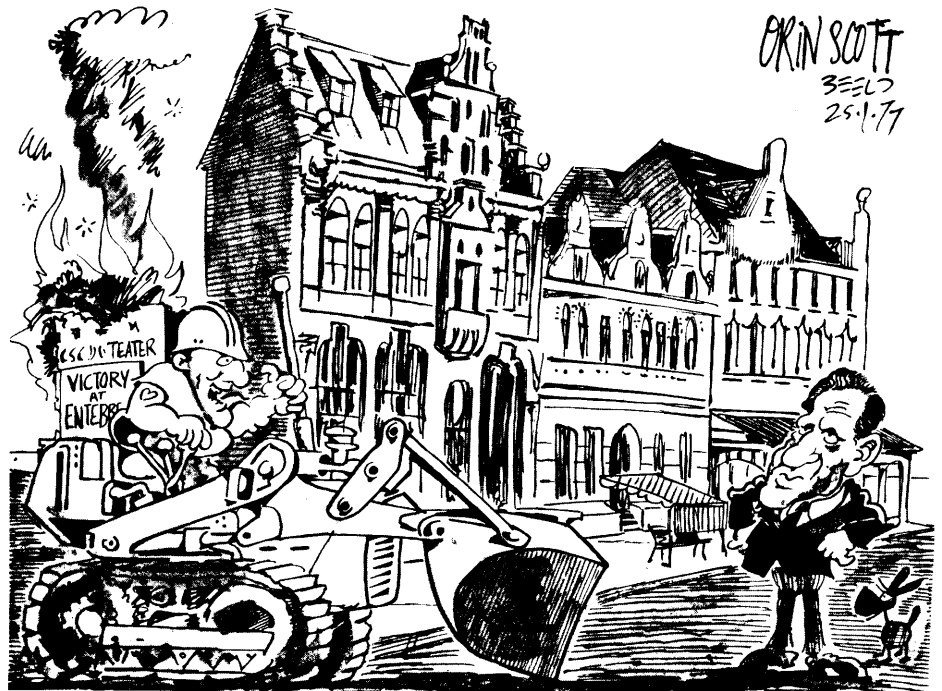
Die Komitee het die besluit egter nog nooit amptelik goedgekeur nie.

Die voorsitter van die Kerkpleinkomitee, mnr S F Marais van die Departement van Openbare Werke, wou dié bewerings nóg ontken, nóg bevestig.

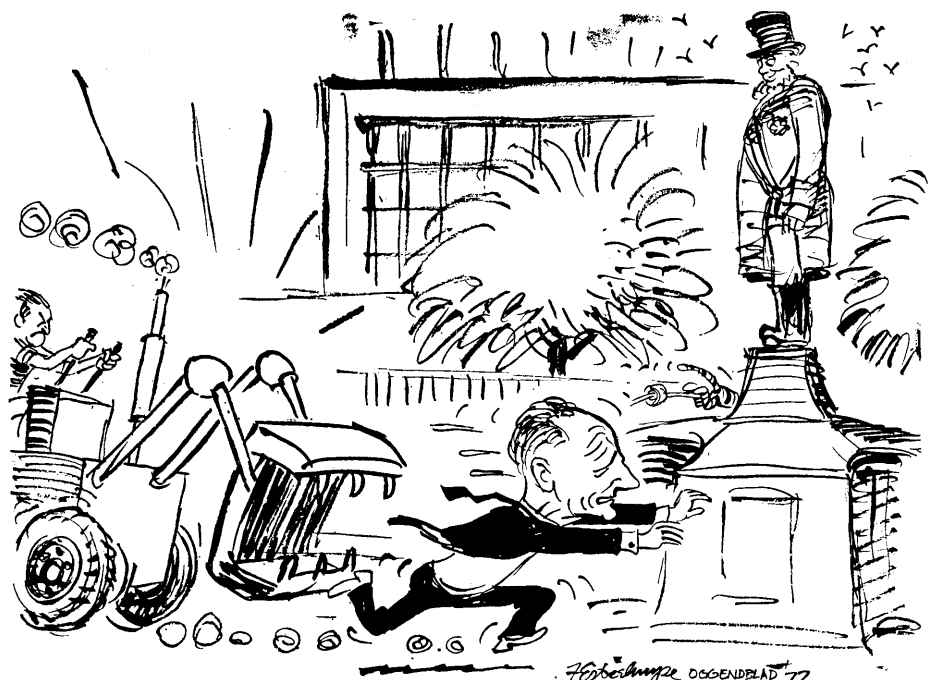
Al wat hy bereid was om te sê, was dat die Kerkpleinkomitee slegs 'n adviseerende liggaam is wat die Regering toegelig, maar dat hy nie self besluite neem nie. Benewens mnr Marais en regter Marais bestaan die Kerkpleinkomitee uit mnr W

J Parker, direkteur Argitektdienste van die Departement van Openbare Werke, mnr H L Smit, direkteur Geboue van die Poskantoor, mnr P W du Plessis, direkteur van Werke van die Provinsiale Administrasie, dr W K du Plessis, direkteur Kultuursake van die Departement van Nasionale Opvoeding, mnr W F Visagie van die Departement van Beplanning, die stadsklerk, mnr Sid Kingsley en twee argitekte, mnre L le Grange en Tobie Louw.

Oggendblad,
27 Januarie 1977



„Ek het 'n baie goedkoper manier, meneer die Administrateur . . . wys net in elkeen vir een aand Victory at Entebbel!”



Ikabod vir Kerkplein

MARTIE RETIEF

Dit is Ikabod vir die Wesfasade van Kerkplein!

Al sewe die bestaande historiese geboue aan die westekant van Kerkplein sal gesloop word en op die perseel van die bestaande poskantoor sal 'n toringgebou kom wat as streekkantoor vir die Posterye sal dien.

Geen datum vir die slooping is gegee nie. In 'n persverklaring wat onlangs uitgereik is, het die Minister van Openbare Werke, mnr A L Schlebusch, volledige inligting oor die voorkoms van die nuwe Poskantoorgebou gegee, maar geen besonderhede verstrekkend oor die ander geboue wat op die westekant opgerig sal word nie.

Die bitter stryd wat al sedert vyf jaar gelede gevoer word om die Wesfasade te red, is blykbaar nou verlore. Hoewel die Minister geen datum vir die slooping aangekondig het nie, is die verwagting allerweë dat die owerhede die stootskrapers teen die middel van vanjaar oor die sewe geboue, almal daterend uit die Zuid-Afrikaanse Republiekdae, sal stoot. In sy verklaring sê die Minister dat die nuwe gebou vir die Posterye ongeveer 27 meter hoog sal wees. Die ontwerp, in soverre dit skaal, vorm en afwerking betref, is daarop gemik om die nuwe geboue met die bestaande geboue in die omgewing te integreer.

Om die visuele hoogte van die nuwe gebou te verminder en 'n verband te skep met die hoogte van die drie verdiepings van die Paleis van Justisie en die Ou Raadsaal, is die vierde en vyfde verdiepings teruggesit van die geboufasade terwyl die sesde en sewende vlakke aan die noordekant van die gebou geplaas word waar dit in 'n groot mate deur die Paleis van Justisie versteek sal wees.

Van 'n afstand gesien sal die noordelike toringgedeelte 'n hoëvlak-balanspunt vir die bestaande Provinsiale Gebou op die suidwestelike hoek van Kerkplein skep. Die tweede en derde verdiepingsvlakke sal op dieselfde hoogte as die eerste en tweede vlakke van die Paleis van Justisie wees en wat hoogte, breedte, buiteafwerking en verhouding van elemente betref, 'n weerspieëling wees van die Paleis van Justisie.

Die Minister het ook gesê dat die Kerkpleinkomitee (die amptelike komitee deur Openbare Werke aangewys) tevrede is dat die voorgestelde gebou in soverre die argitektoniese afwerking en styl betref, met die historiese geboue op Kerkplein, naamlik die Ou Raadsaal en die Paleis van Justisie sal harmonieer. In die stryd om die behoud van die Wesfasade het Pretoria 'n burgerkomitee in die lewe geroep wat onder meer 'n massademonstrasie in Junie voorverlede jaar gehou het op Kerkplein. Altesame 10 000

naamtekeninge is gekry tot steun van die behoud van die Wesfasade.

Die Transvaalse onderwysers het hulle in groot getalle by hierdie pleidooi geskaar. Daarna het die kerkjeug, asook die studente van die Universiteit van Pretoria, hul steun aan die behoud toegesê.

Die Administrateur, mnr Sybrand van Niekerk, het egter herhaaldelik volgehou dat die besluit wat in 1974 geneem is, nie herroep sal word nie.

In September 1976 het die Kerkpleinkomitee dan ook die besluit geneem om teen Julie 1977 met die slooping van die Wesfasade te begin. Eers sou die Kirknessgebou gesloop word en dan in fases die ander ses. Die huidige poskantoor sou heel laaste gesloop word.

Op daardie vergadering is planne vir die nuwe Poskantoorgebou op die suidelike deel van die Wesfasade goedgekeur. Maar die Transvaalse Provinsiale Administrasie se voorgestelde beplanning vir die suidelike deel is afgekeur. Die TPA is toe versoek om weer 'n plan voor te lê.

Onlangs het oud-regter Kowie Marais, 'n lid van die Kerkpleinkomitee, dit so gestel: „Die Kerkplein-komitee het as sodanig nog nooit die plan om die hele Wesfasade te sloop, goedgekeur nie.” Daarby meen hy die benodigde ruimte vir die nuwe geboue vereis beslis nie die slooping van die Wesfasade nie.

'n Vlag van kritiek is opnuut ontketen nadat die Minister se verklaring bekend geword het. Die vegters vir die behoud van die Wesfasade voel sterk dat die geheelbeplanning van die Wesfasade nou nie geopenbaar is soos oorspronklik onderneem is nie en derhalwe nie aanvaarbaar nie.

Mnr Piet Muller van die Burgerkomitee sê die komitee sal vandag 'n verklaring uitreik. Hy vind dit egter vreemd dat die Minister geen datums vir die slooping genoem het nie Volgens hom lyk dit of die beplanning nou „net op een been” staan. Sal die ander oop deel aan die suidekant dan nou 'n parkeerterrein word? wil hy weet.

Dr W H J Punt, 'n oud-direkteur van die Stigting Simon van der Stel en 'n ou inwoner van Pretoria het gesê dit is 'n uiters betreurenswaardige besluit. Hy vra ook of die oop ruimtes dan net parkeerterreine sal word.

Mnr Hannes Meiring, lid van die bewaringskomitee van die Provinsiale Instituut van Argitekte, het gesê dat 'n gulde kans verlore gaan om vir die hele wêreld te toon watter hoë beskawingspeil Transvaal reeds in die vorige eeu geniet het. „Die geslagte wat kom, sal hierdie besluit nooit begryp nie en veral ook omdat dit so onnodig is,” het hy gesê.

Beeld,
20 Januarie 1977

Stootskrapers kom nog lank nie! Dis onwettig!

MARTIN WELZ

Die slooping van die historiese geboue op Pretoria se Kerkplein is geen voldonge feit nie. Vandeesweek het dit aan die lig gekom dat dit waarskynlik onwettig sal wees om twee van die sewe geboue te sloop. Terselfdertyd het die Provinsiale Administrasie bekend gemaak dat dit twee of drie jaar sal duur voordat hy sy drie geboue sloop.

Posterye se aankondiging vandeesweek dat hy nog vanjaar met die slooping van sy vier geboue sal begin, het bewaringsmense onmiddellik aan die werk gesit om 'n groot nasionale vergadering te reël waar landwyse steun vir 'n bewaringsveldtog gevra sal word.

„Die doodvonnis is oor Kerkplein uitgespreek, maar nou pleit ons om genade,” het een van die organiseerders gesê. „Ons probeer gesamentlik uiting gee aan die nuwe bewaringsgees wat oor die land trek, al is dit net om te keer dat so iets weer gebeur.”

Uit betroubare bronne in Pretoria is verneem dat die slooping van twee van die geboue van die Wesfasade, die ou Nasionale Bank en die Nederlandse Bank, onwettig sal wees aangesien die Kerkplein-komitee dit nog nooit amptelik oorweeg het nie.

Die wetgewing waarvolgens die Kerkplein-komitee in 1972 ingestel is, vereis dat die Minister van Openbare Werke eers alle voorgestelde veranderinge of planne aan die komitee moet voorlê voordat enige besluite geneem word.

Die Regering het al in 1971 op aanbeveling van 'n ander informele komitee in beginsel aanvaar dat die twee ou bankgeboue behoue sal bly. Op die laaste planne, wat in 1973 aan die Kerkpleinkomitee voorgelê is, word die bankgeboue nog behou. Dié plan is toe eenparig deur die komitee aanbeveel.

Kort hierna het ses van die nege komiteeledede van plan verander en hul steun toegesê aan die slooping van die twee geboue. Die ander drie lede het nog steeds die bewaring daarvan gesteun.

In 1974 is aangekondig dat die Regering die aanbevelings van die komitee aanvaar het en dat al die ou geboue, insluitende die banke, gesloop sal word. Nou word beweer dat die ses komiteeledede se meningsverandering nie op 'n wettige komiteevergadering uitgespreek is nie en dus onwettig was.

Mnr. Sybrand van Niekerk, Administrateur van Transvaal, het vandeesweek gesê dat die Administrasie se drie geboue nie meer in een veeg saam met al die ander – „in een stofwolk” – gesloop sal word nie. (Een van hierdie drie is die Nederlandse Bank).

„Ons het 'n geweldige tekort aan kapitaal en uitbreidings aan die Administra-

sie se geboue is nie een van ons prioriteite nie," het hy verduidelik.

Argitekthe is eers 'n maand of wat gelede aangestel om voorlopige planne vir die Administrasie op te stel en na verneem word, het die Administrasie nog nie eens sy behoeftes „klaar geformuleer" nie.

Daar is ook nog nie geld vir die sloping bewillig nie.

Ondanks die feit dat die nuwe Poskantoor-gebou teen die aanbevelings van die Driesschen-verslag indruis, meen die Poskantoor dat hy die publiek die beste kan dien deur op sy „tradisionele plek" op die plein te bly en al sy werk, insluitend die massa-sortering van pos, daar te doen.

Dit is nodig om al die ou geboue te sloop sodat die poskantoor die publiek gerieflik op grondvlak kan bedien, sê mnr. Francois Theron, adjunkposmeester-generaal.

Bewaarders meen dat die poskantoor al sy administratiewe en massa-geriewe nader aan die stasie in 'n baie goedkoper gebou kan huisves, en so ook die stad se verkeersprobleme kan verlig. Maar mnr Theron sê dié keer bou die poskantoor 'n gebou wat vir altyd sal kan staan, en wie wil nou op een plek sy briewe gaan haal, en sy pakkies by 'n ander?

Pretoria se burgemeester, mnr H P Botha, sê: „Ons is nog nooit gevra om kommentaar te lewer oor die doeltreffendheid en wenslikheid al dan nie van die voorgestelde geboue nie, daarom sal ek nie kan sê nie. Die saak is uit die publiek se hande geneem, en nou moet die Staat maar self die verantwoordelikheid daarvoor neem.

„Ek sou graag die voorste lokale van die ou geboue wou behou het en bly baie jammer oor die slopingsbesluit," het mnr Botha gesê.

Die poskantoor sal na verwagting nie voor Augustus vanjaar met sloping kan begin nie. Intussen – en dalk nog daarna – duur die bewaringstryd voort.

Rapport,
23 Januarie 1977

Burgerkomitee bly by standpunt

Die Burgerkomitee vir die Bewaring en Restourasie van Kerkplein bly by sy standpunt dat daar geen regverdiging bestaan dat die kulturele erfenis van die Suid-Afrikaanse volk soos onder andere verteenwoordig deur die Wesfasade van Kerkplein deur owerheidsbesluite vernietig hoef te word nie.

Die behoud van die Wesfasade het reeds lank 'n landwyse aangeleentheid geword waarin derduisende Suid-Afrikaners van alle bevolkingsdeelties voel dat hierdie

unieke tasbare bewys van ons land se geskiedenis bewaar behoort te word.

Wêreldbekende kenners het reeds dikwels hulle verbasing uitgespreek dat dit hoegenaamd oorweeg kan word dat so 'n unieke eenheid van geboue uit verskillende tydperk en boustyle gesloop kan word. Vandag meer as ooit tevore het die mens dwarsdeur die beskaafde wêreld 'n behoefte aan 'n identiteit waaraan hy kan vashou en wat in hierdie geval deur die sloping van die Wesfasade van Kerkplein vernietig word.

As daar met die sloping voortgegaan word, sal die toekomstige geslagte die besluit om te sloop nooit kan verstaan of verskoon nie.

Hofbevel kan fasade red

Die verkryging van 'n hofbevel vir die behoud van die Nasionale Bank en die Nederlandse Bank van die Wes-fasade van Kerkplein kan moontlik die twee historiese geboue van die stootskrapers red.

Oud-regter Kowie Marais, lid van die Kerkplein-komitee en nasionale voor-sitter van die Suid-Afrikaanse Kunstvereniging, het in Pretoria gesê enige persoon wat „belang by Kerkplein het" mag 'n hofgeding oor die sloping van die twee geboue van stapel laat loop.

Só 'n stap deur 'n belanghebbende persoon kan die sloping van die geboue of baie lank uitstel of heeltemal afstel.

Regter Marais het kommentaar gelewer op die waarskynlikheid dat dit onwettig sou wees as die twee ou banke saam met die ander geboue gesloop word.

Kerkplein-wet

Die Kerkplein-wet, waarvolgens die Kerkpleinkomitee in 1972 ingestel is, vereis dat die Minister van Openbare Werke alle voorgestelde planne en veranderings aan die komitee moet voorlê vir advies alvorens besluite geneem word. In 1971 reeds het die Regering op aanbeveling van 'n informele komitee in beginsel aanvaar dat die twee bankgeboue behoue sal bly.

Die Kerkplein-komitee het in 1973 aanbeveel dat die twee geboue wel behoue bly. Dit het egter kort daarna gebeur dat ses van die nege komiteelede besluit het dat die twee banke ook gesloop moet word.

Die ses komiteelede se meningsverandering is na bewering nooit op 'n wettige komiteevergadering uitgespreek en genotuleer nie.

In 1974 is egter aangekondig dat die Regering die aanbevelings van die komitee aanvaar het en dat al die ou geboue, insluitende die twee banke, gesloop sal word.

Dit het bekend geword dat die Provinsiale Administrasie twee na drie jaar sal neem voor hy sy drie geboue sloop, terwyl die Posterye gesê het daar word nog vanjaar in Augustus met die sloping van sy vier geboue begin.

Die finale planne vir die nuwe aansig van die Wes-fasade van Kerkplein is bekend gestel met 'n model van 'n hipermoderne poskantoorgebou van sowat R25 miljoen.

Die Burgerkomitee vir die Bewaring en die Restourasie van Kerkplein het hom toe sterk teen enige verdere vernietiging van die Fasade uitgespreek en gesê: „As daar met die sloping voortgegaan word, sal die geslagte wat kom, die besluit om te sloop nooit kan verstaan of verskoon nie."

Die behoud van die twee ou banke is nou in die weegskaal en kan moontlik deur die verkryging van 'n hofbevel gered word.

Die Beeld,
26 Januarie 1977

Square facade fighters hit a brick wall

Top-level government and council officials have refused a call by Pretoria citizens of every electoral ward in the city for a meeting on Church Square's western facade.

The Mayor, Mr Hendrik Botha, said a letter would be sent today to the Old Pretoria Society – the organisation which initiated the call – informing the society of the decision.

“The letter made it clear that in the light of the present circumstance there is no purpose in having a public meeting,” he said today.

Mr Botha said the decision had been taken after consultations with the Prime Minister, Mr Vorster.

He confirmed that he had met the Prime Minister on October 20 to discuss the call for a public meeting which was contained in a petition presented on July 28. A total of 280 people from every electoral district in Pretoria and from more than 40 suburbs signed the petition.

The Pretoria News,
November 2, 1976

Vir oulaas

Mag 'n mens vir oulaas nog iets sê oor Kerkplein? Nie meer in die hoop dat jou stuiwer in die armbeurs iets sal red nie – daarvoor is dit skynbaar nou vir goed te laat. Maar 'n mens vra jouself af, so tuss-

sen die stofwolke en gebrul van kruip-trekkers deur: hoe lyk 'n kultuurerfenis uiteindelik as hy keer op keer moet swig voor die koue rede van komitees?

Die redes hoekom sekere geboue op die Plein gesloop moet word, is gegee. Wat 'n mens bekommer is dat hierdie redes van ons bekwaamste argitekte ewe min oortuig het as vir diegene wat suiwer om sentimentele redes die geboue wou red. En daardie argitekte ken tog darem seker hulle storie.

In stede soos Parys en Londen word geboue waarvan party mure al letterlik 'n slag omgeval het, met betonpilare en bewapening regop gehou. En hierdie geboue staan op ongelooflike duur persele in die hartjie van die stad. Dit sou baie makliker en winsgewender gewees het om daardie ou geboue te sloop en in hulle plek toringblokke op te rig. Die voordele aan so 'n nuwe gebou is só voor die hand liggend en só talryk dat 'n mens nie eens die moeite wil doen om dit op te noem nie. Dit spreek eenvoudig vanself.

Maar nee, die geboue word bewaar. En hulle word bewaar ondanks die feit dat daar letterlik dosyne van hulle is.

Pretoria sit met nog net 'n handjievol historiese geboue. Maar tog word daar praktiese en ekonomiese redes gevind wat swaarder weeg as sentiment.

Goed. Wat Kerkplein betref, is die saak verlore. Maar ons wil by die beginsel uitkom wat in hierdie saak gegeld het – of toe nie gegeld het nie. Hoe magtig kan die burokraat word? Want dit moet ons weet: word sy woord die laaste woord, bly daar dikwels waardevolle dinge in die slag. Die burokrasie het nog nooit tyd of plek of pryswoord gehad vir abstrakte waardes nie.

Die slopers van Kerkplein weet dat hulle optree teen die wil en die wens van die meerderheid. En hulle gaan voort daarmee met 'n arrogansie wat Jan Alleman verstom. Die vraag is: hoe bevorderlik is dit vir 'n goeie verstandhouding tussen 'n publiek en sy administrerders? En: hoe laat in die dag is dit wanneer 'n goue erfstuk gesmelt moet word ter wille van die munt wat jy daaruit kan slaan?

Die gebrul van kruiptrekkers op Kerkplein gaan vir bitter min mense die klank hê van vooruitgang. Vir die meeste van ons gaan dit die verlies beteken van iets wat vir ons kosbaarder was as geld.

Dit sal meer wees as bloot die verlies van 'n gebou. Dit sal die verlies beteken van iets wat skaars met woorde uit te spel is.

Beeld

Opportunity lost

The announcement that all the buildings comprising the north-western facade of

Church Square are to be demolished to make way for a new post office complex sets the seal on an opportunity lost.

Pretoria has been expecting for some time that action would be taken on the Prime Minister's statement that the decision to replace the western facade had been taken at a Cabinet level and was final. That seemed to be that.

But the extent to which that decision ran counter to the wishes of Pretoria's people was shown by the vigour with which campaigns to save the western facade were pushed forward.

Until the day the bulldozers moved in the fight would go on.

But the bulldozers' engines are being warmed up at last. The good fight has been fought and lost. Which is a pity. Cultural and historical ties apart, many of the plans put forward for the future of the Square were more imaginative than the Government's. The Square, had its historic character been positively exploited, could have been a credit to the capital city and the nation.

The Pretoria News,
January 20, 1977

Square facade will crash in May

LEON MARSHALL

The programme for the demolition of the Square's historic western facade was given recently by the Minister of Public Works, Mr A L Schlebusch whose department will undertake the work for the Post Office.

In March tenders will be put out for the demolition of all the buildings north of Church Street, except the Post Office.

The tender period usually is two months, and the time given for demolition is three months.

Demolition could thus start in May and be completed by July.

Tenders for excavation of the sites of the old buildings will be put out in June. Twelve months will be allowed for this.

In May next year tenders will be put out for the start of the building project.

Only during 1979 will demolition be started on the present post office building.

Budget for the total project is R25-million, which includes demolition and construction.

Mr Schlebusch could not say whether the Government would provide any assistance to a plan to reconstruct the old buildings elsewhere.

He said this could only be considered if a request in this regard was received.

It was announced yesterday that the plans for the new post office complex on the historic Square have been approved.

The Minister said in his statement that the design of the proposed new building was aimed at integrating it with the existing nearby buildings.

To reduce the visual height of the new building and create a relation with the three floors of the Palace of Justice and the Raadsaal, the fourth and fifth floors were to be set back from the building facade while the sixth and seventh floors were provided for on the northern side, where they would to a large extent be hidden from the eye by the Palace of Justice, he said.

The Pretoria News,
January 20, 1977

Sloopkoeël is deur fasade

Die finale planne vir die nuwe aansig van die Wesfasade van Kerkplein is onlangs bekend gemaak met 'n model van 'n hipermoderne poskantoorgebou van sowat R25-miljoen.

Die reaksie teen die planne het reeds ingestroom.

Maar die koeël is deur die Wesfasade. Die stootskrapers gaan in Mei vanjaar begin sloop – jare reeds die middelpunt van bespreking tussen die stadsbeplanners en ander.

Die burgerkomitee vir die bewaring en die restourasie van Kerkplein het hom sterk teen enige verdere stap in die vernietiging van die fasade uitgespreek en gesê: „As daar met die slooping voortgegaan word, sal die geslagte wat kom die besluit om te sloop nooit kan verstaan of verskoon nie.”

Die nuwe poskantoorgebou waarvan 'n voorlopige model in die poskantoor se besit is, is 'n moderne gebou met 'n toringgedeelte wat sowat sewe verdiepings bo die plein sal uittoon. Die oos-aansig van die gebou sal van rooibaksteenpanele wees om by die kleur van die Ou Raadsaal en die Paleis van Justisie aan te pas.

Die Minister van Openbare Werke en Immigrasie, mnr A L Schlebusch, het bekend gemaak dat die oprigting van die nuwe gebou sowat R25-miljoen sal kos. Dit sal egter oor 'n lang tydperk betaal word.

Die nuwe planne het die gedagte van toringblokke van die poskantoor en die Provinsiale Administrasie die nek ingeslaan.

Besware teen die nuwe voorstelle is dat daar geen aanduiding gegee is van hoe

die res van die Wesfasade sal lyk nie. 'n Poskantoor-woordvoerder het *Beeld* egter verseker dat die ander geboue met deeglike inagneming van die geheelbeeld van die plein beplan is. Dit is nog nie bekend wanneer die hele Wesfasade se nuwe aansig bekend sal word nie.

In kultuurhistoriese kringe het die nuwe gebou groot lof ontvang. 'n Professor in die kultuurgeskiedenis by die Universiteit van Pretoria, prof F A van Jaarsveld, het die planne as „aantreklik en aanvaarbaar” beskryf.

Hy het gesê die Plein is reeds onherroeplik geskend met die oprigting van die TPA-gebou 'n paar jaar gelede. Pretoria moet egter met vooruitgang tred hou, en die nageslag sal ons dankbaar wees dat ons 'n deeltjie van vandag se kultuur ook in die Plein aangebring het.

„Wat is sewentig of selfs honderd jaar in 'n volk se geskiedenis,” het die professor gevra. „In historiese perspektief gesien is die nuwe fasade deel van die kultuur van Kerkplein.”

Beeld,
21 Januarie 1977

Die stootskrapers vs liggame

MARTIE RETIEF

SKOK, beskryf ene dit oor die telefoon, vang jou mos snaaks. Dit slaat eers op die maag, en dan trek dit kop toe. As dit erg is, skrik jy jou eers stom. Na daardie stomskok, dan kom die woorde.

En toe kóm die woorde.

„Dis tog onmoontlik,” sê Annette Schoeman, wat haarself as 'n „ou onderwyseressie op Randburg” beskryf, „dat hulle Kerkplein wil platmaak. Ek vertel my skoolkinders dan daarvan in geskiedenis.”

Die stomskok na die Kerkplein-verklaring was van korte duur. Die woorde wat so gerol het, het eienaardig genoeg, niks meer gesê oor „inflasie”, „onekonomies” of „te duur” nie. Dis baie duidelik, het Bunny Brits dit verklaar: dis nou biedem met die inteltek en al die ou goeie, oortuigende argumente wat maar net nie wil oortuig nie – dis nou die emosie wat uitgestort word.

Hyself het al tien jaar gelede, net na sy terugkeer uit München as argitek, begin pleit vir die behoud van die Wesfasade. Vir hom was dit simbool van die beskawing wat hy verteenwoordig.

„Uiteindelik is dit die hart wat saak maak. Ons sal ons wortels afsny as ons daardie Wesfasade afbreek; ons sal sommer goedsmoeds dit wat bewys wie ons is, weggooi.”

En toe vertel hy my van Athene. Hy het soheentoe gegaan om iets van antieke Athene te sien, die glorieryke Athene.

Wat hy gesien het, was 'n stad wat oënskynlik oor die laaste tien jaar gebou is. Toe is hy sommer voor sy vakansieweek om was voort.

'n Baie bitter oproep het gesê dat politiek die stryd om die Wesfasade vuil gemaak het. „Ons gee vir ons erfenis om. Ons wil ons verlede eer – en dan word ons vir HNP uitgekryt. Dis vuil spel in my taal.” Hierdie man is bekend en het al baie vir ons kulturele lewe gedoen en ek eer sy versoek om nie sy naam te noem nie.

Spokerig

Op 'n amper spokerige manier moes Roelf Botha se boeiende bewaringspraatjies net vóór die nuus gisteroggend Kerkplein insluit!

„Dit is die verhoog van die epos van ons vreugde en smart,” het hy die waarde van die plein verduidelik. Kan iemand hierdie stelling bevraagteken?

Identiteit

Opvallend ook was die aantal argumente gister oor die „identiteitskrisis”. Bessie het Junie, 1976, iets aan die bewuste van die Suid-Afrikaner gedoen. „Jy't self gesê jy kyk nou na jou land en jou goed met nuwe oë, en kan jy ontken dat jy nie groter waarde aan alles wat jy is, heg nie?” het Marius Greyvenstein (26) uit Pretoria gevra.

Hy meen hierdie gevoel is baie sterk onder die jongmense.

Maar as die emosie eers bedaar het, en 'n mens dink weer aan die praktiese implikasies van die plan om die sewe geboue (agt met die Capitol) te sloop vir ander geboue in die plek daarvan spook een vraag kliphard by my.

Is die nuwe poskantoor nodig? Is die nuwe poskantoor nie dalk 'n ingeboude wit olifant nie?

Pk. Wit Olifant

Senior amptenare van die Poswese het al dikwels daarop gewys dat die poskantoor nie op 'n goeie plek staan vir verspreidingsdoelindes nie. 'n Ligging nader aan die stasie, d.w.s. in die suidelike deel van Pretoria waar dit by die stasie is, en ook op die grootpad na Jan Smuts, sou tog beter wees.

'n Paar Volksraadslede het nou onlangs begin uitvra oor Kerkplein, want politiek of te nie, dis klaarblyklik 'n saak waaroor die gewone mens sterk gevoelens het.

En uiteindelik bly dié een vraag immers opduik: is dit alles die ontsettende koste werd? Hoe op aarde kan nou gebou word? En hoekom moet geboue noual vernietig word om eers in die onsekere toekomst te vervang te word?

Een ding weet ek wel, en as ek baie van gister se storiëtjies mag verklik: ek weet nie hoe daardie arme stootskraperdrywers gaan voel as hulle die klomp liggame plat op die grond voor die Wesfasade aanskou nie! My telling

was sewe „dead certs” en dan was ek nog nie eens by UP se dosente vir 'n telling nie.

Die Beeld,
21 Januarie 1977

Wag 'n bietjie?

RYKIE VAN REENEN

Lyk maar min hoop dat argumente, kultureel of selfs finansiële, in dié stadium veel kan doen om Kerkplein, Pretoria, van verwoesting te red. Binne die raamwerk van die huidige personeelstruktuur van die instansies gemoed met die saak (hoe vat jy my taal, broertjie, hoe vat jy my tale? soos oom Cas Greyling by heuglike geleentheid vir een van ons manne gesê het), binne daardie raamwerk, soos ek sê, verwag ek min uitkoms.

Onversetlike uitsprake is gedoen, ek neem geredelik aan in die lig van nugter oorwegings. En dit is net heel besondere mense in daardie soort posisies wat dit versoenbaar met eie eergevoel vind om te erken: Ekskuus, daar het ek fout gemaak, of: met die diepe volksgevoel oor hierdie saak het ek nie rekening gehou nie.

Dus 'n voorstel: wat van 'n moratorium van vyf jaar? Is dit glad nie moontlik nie – selfs nie as ons, wat so begaan oor die saak is, instaan vir die tussentydse instandhouding nie? Soos ek hoor, is daar in iedere geval nie nou dadelik geld eens vir sloping nie, laat staan nog massale nieu-bou.

Aangesien sloping so verwoestend finaal is, en aangesien daar ander, baie dringende sake is wat wel, en op Premiersadvies, aan ons kinders gelaat word, kan hulle nie maar hieroor ook besluit nie?

● In baie letterlike sin is dit tog hulle onvervangbare besit waarom dit hier gaan.

Rapport,
23 Januarie 1977

Hulle gaan lê, sê hulle

MARTIE RETIEF

Bedoel hulle werklik dat hulle op die grond sal gaan lê sodat die stootskrapers bo-oor hulle moet ry om by, sê, die Nederlandse Bank te kom?

Ja, hulle bedoel lê. Plat lê op die grond. En sê nou maar die ding ry bo-oor hulle? Dan ry die ding bo-oor hulle.

Maar is dit nie fanaties nie?

Is die besluit om stootskrapers te stuur, nie fanaties nie?

Dit voel vir my ek voer onderhoud met 'n Kamikaze-bataljon. Maar hulle sit

daar in hul standaard-bankklerk-hemde, dasse, die meisies in broekpakke en grimering en hulle drink staatsdienste waarvoor hulle elke maand moet betaal, so hulle dink nie dit is sedisie om oor die tee selfmoord voor die staat se stootskrapers te beplan nie.

Dink hulle dit sal help? Destyds toe die Boeddhiste van hulself vlamme offers gemaak het, lyk dit nie of dit vreeslik gehelp het nie.

Hulle is nie Boeddhiste nie, beduie dié Pretoriane, en nee, hulle weet nie of so 'n demo gaan help om die geboue te bewaar nie – maar dit sal wel bewys dat hulle omgee.

Omgee vir 'n paar ou geboutjies?

Die meisie met die rooi hare en die ketelpak het 'n reguit-kyk. „Die óú geboutjies verteenwoordig my verlede waarop ek trots is. En ons is sat van glas-paleise wat teen miljoene rande gebou gaan word en wie weet, ook net vir sewentig jaar sal bly staan.”

Die argumente wat hulle opper, is nie nuut nie, maar die hartstog lyk nuwer as byvoorbeeld laasjaar. Ek voel saam met hulle, maar, darem. Voor 'n stootskraper te gaan lê! Sulke drastiese dinge is nie juis my koppie tee nie.

„Maar dis 'n drastiese ding wat ons as volk aangedoen word,” sê die ketelpak-meisie. Toe het ek maar stilgebly oor die stootskraperdemo.

Gruis-toekoms

Omdat hulle ook slimmer is as ek, kon hulle die skaalmodel van die voorgestelde „nuwe” Kerkplein lees. Hulle wys daarop dat die kat nou deeglik uit die sak is: die nuwe Provinsiale gebou, by name, is beplan om agter die huidige geboue op die suidelike deel van die Wesfasade gebou te word.

Waar daardie drie geboue nou staan, gaan daar dus in die toekoms niks wees nie. Net gruis.

Hemel ons, wonder ek oor die aangebode koppie staatsdienste: verkoop ons wragtie ons verlede vir 'n kruiwa vol gruis?

Suutjies, of . . .

- Onder die studentenasie tel ek die waarskuwing op: die Roomse skole moet pas op – hulle sal gesloop word.

Die Beeld,
22 Januarie 1977

Besluit oor Wesfasade verregaande

Nie tevrede met spookasem, Pretoria, skryf:

Mnr Sybrand van Niekerk veralgemeen as hy sê „die mense” het nou die ver-

nietiging van die Wesfasade van Kerkplein „aanvaar”.

Die mense van wie hy praat is sekerlik die soort wat alles wat rondom hulle gebeur passief beskou en gelate aanvaar. Suid-Afrika is 'n demokratiese land en ek kan my nie 'n enkele geval herinner waar daar só sterk vanuit soveel oorde deur volwasse beskaafde mense beswaar aangeteken is nie.

Waar kom die uitvoerende staatsampnare van my vok vandaan dat hulle kan voortgaan met so 'n onbeskaafde, onsensitiewe, kortsigtige projek?

A nee a. Ons hoor dan inflasie is aan die orde van die dag . . . R25 miljoen! Hoe verregaande kan daar opgetree word? Net so ver as wat ons belastingbetalers toelaat, meen ek.

Die Beeld,
26 Januarie 1977

Kerkplein: owerheid bedreig

Uit Swellendam in die Kaap het die bewaringsdeskundige, mnr Adriaan Mocke, laat weet: „Ons gaan baie beslis nie soos 'n spul lamsakke sit en toekyk hoe die Plein in die stof byt nie. Ons beplan optrede”.

By die aksie-saamtrek wat verlede jaar op die Plein gehou is om protes teen die sloping aan te teken, het mnr Mocke onder meer bedreig dat hy voor die stootskrapers sal gaan lê om die sloping te keer.

'n Naamlose man het *Oggendblad* geskakel met die dreigement: „As die stootskrapers die dag by die Wesfasade opdaag, sal daar net soveel stootskrapers gered staan om Oorval onder te ploeg”.

Oorval is die ampswoning van die Administrateur van Transvaal, mnr Sybrand van Niekerk.

Bewaringsdeskundiges het gister gesê dat hulle ten gunste is van die hou van 'n „nasionale konvensie” van verenigings wat hulle beywer vir die bewaring van ons erfenis.

Dit sal beteken dat vooraanstaande verenigings soos die Stigting Simon van der Stel, die Krugergenootskap, die Genootskap Oud-Pretoria en die Burgerkomitee vir die Bewaring van Kerkplein met die honderde ander verenigings regdeur die land sal kan saamwerk om 'n eenvormige plan van optrede uit te werk.

Die gedagte is al kan Kerkplein nie gered word nie, sal die Konvensie in so 'n magtige druggroep kan verander dat 'n herhaling van die voorval nie sal plaasvind nie.

Oggendblad,
27 Januarie 1977

Koël deur die plein

C S, Johannesburg, skryf:

Die moontlike verdere verloop van die Kerkpleinaangeleentheid:

Een goeie wintermôre daag die stootskrapers en geesdriftige werkers met alerhande moderne apparaat op . . . (ons het mos darem al gevorder sedert 1904 toe Milner se mense met stoomrollers die ou NH of G Kerkgebou op die plein begin afbreek het om te keer dat president Kruger se begrafnisdiens daarin gehou word), die brekery is in 'n paar dae afgehandel en die puin word weggegrêp.

Bewaarders hou hul monde. Praat help nie en 'n hooggeplaaste het gesê: „Die demokratiese prosesse het hul loop geneem.”

'n Paar weke ná die sloping gaan praat 'n verslaggewer met 'n minister, administrateur of ander hoë amptenaar: „En wanneer begin die werk aan die nuwe poskantoor?”

„Binnekort, meneer, binnekort. Ons het op die oomblik nog 'n paar probleme – ons het te kampe met ekonomiese besnoeiingsmaatreëls, maar ek is in volle vertroue dat daar spoedig 'n aanvang gemaak sal word.”

Intussen word verdedigingstoerusting duurder, die olielande besluit nog twee, drie keer om die uitvoerprys te verhoog. Later die jaar word aangekondig dat die werk aan 'n aantal minder belangrike staatsprojekte voorlopig afgestel is „vanweë ekonomiese oorweginge en omdat strategiese dringender aangeleenthede voorrang moet geniet”. Op die lange baan is o.m. die „nuwe uitvoerende poskantoor en streekhoofkantoor” wat op Kerkplein sou gekom het.

Te erg is dit darem nie. Daar is nou veel meer parkeerruimte in die middestad as in die primitiewe ou dae toe daar nog 'n sigbare bewys was van die beskawingspeil wat die Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek gehad het.

Rapport,
23 Januarie 1977

Jong Tukkie takel Kerkplein

Dit kon Kerkplein ook nog gewees het: lewend, dié hartklop van sy stad soos dit hoort met sy gevonnise historiese geboue fier en funksioneel. Só 'n sieraad met plek vir almal, behalwe die Poskantoor se hoofgebou, het 'n jong Tukkie-slimkop 'n jaar lank in fyn detail uitgewerk en met grondplan en deursnitte en aansigsketse in haar skripsie vir haar finale jaar in die kursus BA (Arch.) vasgelê.

In die veelbewoë jare wat verby is, was daar al soortgelyke voorstelle deur onder

andere mnr Hannes Meiring, bekende argitek, en deur die Stigting Simon van der Stel. Miskien het die waagmoed en energie van die jeug wat vir Enla Coetzee in haar ondersoek selfs deur die stowwerige solders van die ou geboue geleidelik het, nodig geword.

Van die bestaande voorstelle en planne vir 'n mooier middestad met sy ander pleine het sy diep geskep, ook die busstasie onder Kerkplein en hierby haar eie gevoeg.

Onder meer het sy ook na die behoefte van die Provinsiale Administrasie geloer en haal twee ondersoeke na kantoorruimte in haar skripsie aan. Een is in 1973 gedoen en daarvolgens is gevind dat daar 48,3 vk. m vir elke werker in die provinsiale gebou beskikbaar was. 'n Wes-Duitse ondersoek het getoon dat die gewenste oppervlak tussen 7 en 12 vk. m per persoon is.

Met die oog op die huidige ekonomiese klimaat het sy tot die gevolgtrekking gekom dat interne herbeplanning van ruimtes behoort voorkeur bo verdere uitbreiding te geniet veral aangesien die afstand tussen die afsonderlike afdelings nie onbepaald vergroot kan word nie.

Daarby het 'n ander opname getoon dat bykans 'n derde van die vloerruimte in die provinsiale gebou nie behoorlik benut word nie. Maar, as daar dan uitgebrei moet word, het sy voorsiening gemaak vir 'n bykomende vleuel wat van die suid-blok, oor die Capitol en agter die historiese geboue verby loop tot by Kerkstraat.

Die voorgestelde vleuel kan vir bykomstige ruimte sorg wat die bestaande vloeroppervlak met byna 25 persent kan vergroot.

Volgens haar plan word die voetgangers en die voertuie op en om Kerkplein heeltemal geskei.

Kerkstraat word oos van Kerkplein tot by Strijdomplein 'n voetgangersparadys met 'n ondergrondse dienspad wat by die kelders van die verskillende geboue langs gaan tot by die busstasie onder Kerkplein en terselfdertyd eie busse uit die rigting bedien.

So word daar uit al die ander windrigtings afdrukte vir die busse voorsien en roltrappe neem die passasiers na die oppervlak. Die oppervlak van Kerkplein word deels geplavei met 'n sprekersrostrum en half amfiteater in die noord-oostelike hoek.

Die sprekersbalkonne van die Paleis van Justisie en die Ou Raadsaal kan dan ook weer tot hul reg kom en die Krugerstandbeeld bly waar hy is.

Pure poeding is haar plan met die historiese geboue. Langs die Ou Raadsaal bly Parlementstraat 'n toegangstraat na die Nederlandse Bankgebou. Sy voorsien dat die gebou 'n kunsgalery kan bly maar met fyn herbeplanning binne.

Verby die Nederlandse Bank-Gebou is die ou Law Chambers wat mej Coetzee

'n Toeriste-sentrum wil sien waar mense kom en gaan. Daar kan die Nasionale toeristeburo, die Spoorwegreisburo, die stadsraad se publiseitsafdeling, nasionale hotelbesprekingsdienste, selfs 'n kommersiële reisburo, busbesprekingsdiens, Computicket en 'n motorhuurfirma gehuisves word.

Die Cafe Richegebou kan 'n restaurant in die kelder hê, op die grondverdieping 'n snoepkroeg met kombuise en wat meer. Weerskante kan ander besighede soos die apteek, snoepery en geskenkwinkel wees.

Op die ander verdiepings is daar kantoorruimte vir ander instellings soos die Stigting Simon van der Stel.

Die hoofposkantoorgebou word 'n toeristehotel, die munt 'n eksperimentele teater, die Bank of Africa en die Kirkness-Gebou deel van 'n winkelsteeg en die National Bank Chambers 'n takbiblioteek of koffiekroeg.

Die takposkantoor om die middestad te bedien, kan noord van die bestaande poskantoorgebou kom. Oor en langs die voorgestelde poskantoor heel moontlik 'n parkeergarage met 'n ordentlike eet- en rusplek vir swartmense in dieselfde komplekse.

Sy is nog besig om kostes te laat bereken maar om die Cafe Riche en die Law Chambers te verander en te restoreer sal R220 000 kos terwyl nuwe geboue met dieselfde vloerruimte R705 000 uit die sak sal jaag.

Die voorstel dat die poskantoor se hoofgebou êrens in die omgewing van die spoorwegstasie gebou word, vind mej Coetzee heel aanneemlik en wenslik.

Rapport,
27 Februarie 1977

Pretoria busses get set to go down under

Church Square in Pretoria, for years the battleground of conservation groups against the council, may have a massive bus station soon – beneath it.

Pretoria council has already given its approval to the idea of an underground bus station there.

Now it's considering whether to create an underground city below the square between Prinsloo Street and Bosman Street.

Roads in the underground city would be reserved for buses and emergency vehicles – which would mean that much of the city centre above ground could be handed over for the exclusive – and pollution-free – use of pedestrians.

The plan would create an uninterrupted pedestrian mall between Prinsloo Street and Church Square, with links between

the Strijdom and Hendrik Verwoerd Squares.

According to city planning officials, the advantage of an underground terminus would be that buses would still end journeys in the heart of the city – but they would not clutter up Church Square the way they do now.

Church Square is also still the best place for a bus station, they say, because Church and Paul Kruger Streets are two-way roads. So buses can get in and out easily.

Businessmen hoping to cash in on captive underground customers, however, seem likely to be disappointed.

The council has backed only the idea of a bus station. Earlier suggestions about a shopping mall to go with it have been abandoned – except for a single kiosk.

The Rand Daily Mail,
December 8, 1976

Opstelwedstryd

'n Internasionale Kinderkuns-uitstalling is verlede jaar in Pretoria deur die Internasionale Kindermuseumstigting, waarvan mnr Frans Cloete die oprigter is, aangebied. 'n Eerste prys van R25 aangebied deur die Stigting Simon van der Stel is by die geleentheid aan die wenner van die opstelwedstryd, Frank Lee, oorhandig. Hy is 'n standerdagt-leerling aan die Hoërskool Villieria. Ons plaas graag die wenopstel.

Waarom die wesfasade van Kerkplein behoue moet bly

Dit kan ook nie anders nie, want die storm broei al vir maande lank. Nou is daar verontwaardiging, geskoktheid en selfs hartseer. Dagblaaie mor, terwyl geskiedkundiges, kultuurmense en kunstliefhebbers hul koppe skud. Die Wesfasade van Kerkplein moet vernietig word, omdat dit kamstig nie meer goed genoeg is nie.

Duisende mense hou glad niks van hierdie plan nie, en is gekant teen die vernietiging van die mooi ou geboue van die Wesfasade. Vir hulle is dit eerder 'n sie-raad as 'n steen des aanstoots. Baie versoekskrifte is al tot die owerhede gerig, maar hulle hou hul stokdoof daarvoor. Hulle sê buitendien dat hulle al moeg vir die geneul in hul ore is. Ek dink dat dit 'n skreiende skande is, en sê ook so, maar wie sal nou na 'n skoolseun se besware luister? Dit wil ek graag weet?

Dit slaan my dronk dat hierdie skakels met die verlede opgeoffer moet word, omdat nuwe geboue en wolkekrabbers 'n mode is. Moderne geboue sien 'n mens

buitendien oral, vanaf New York tot Tokio en Athene (en ek reken in Kal-kutta ook). Met die geboue van die Wes-fasade is dit egter nie die geval nie. Tyd en geskiedenis het 'n ereplek op Kerkplein aan hulle gegee. Nou moet dit vernietig word!

Die Afrikaanse digter het die moderne betonreuse, grys blokke van verdriet, genoem. Oral verdring die wolkekrabbers die sonlig al hoe meer, terwyl stede skemer van besoedeling word. Vir die maanreisigers was die wêreldstede 'n skokkende gesig, van daar ver uit die skoon ruimtes, waar hulle gekom en gegaan het. Vir hulle het dit na siedende moerasse, en septiese en giftige pitswere gelyk.

Dit sou beter wees om die bedrywigheide van die middestad te desentraliseer en nuwe groeipunte te soek. Hieraan dink die owerhede blykbaar nie. Dit lyk ook nie of hulle eintlik bekommer is nie, oor die groter opeenhoping van verkeer, wat hul planne te weeg sal bring nie. Dit sal 'n vermorsing van brandstof veroorsaak. Iets wat ons nie kan bekostig nie, want brandstof het al hoe skaarser en duurder geword. Alreeds het dit die Suid-Afrikaner se lewenspatroon baie verander. Dit het 'n baie beperkende invloed, en blaas gedurig die gloeiende vlam van inflasie steeds hoër. Die voor-genome betonreuse van Kerkplein sal nie net lelik en onpersoonlik wees nie, maar sal ook die toegang tot die middestad bemoeilik, en sodoende werksure vermors. Iets waaroor Jan Publiek gedurig oor die vingers geraps word.

Die sloping van die Wesfasade, en die nuwerwetse gevaartes wat opgerig gaan word, gaan letterlik miljoene rande kos. Miljoene rande (wat alle geval nie eers beskikbaar is nie) gaan nou deur die monsterplan van die owerhede ingesluk word. Waarskynlik kan selfs nie eers die leë skatkis, en die groot tekorte, die owerhede tot meer nugterheid dwing nie. Dit besef die ou klipuil van Cafe le Riche. In sy stille wysheid sit hy verlaas nog daar en peins, want sy dae is getel. Vir baie jare al deel hy die lief en die leed van die middestad, maar nou is hy nie meer goed genoeg nie. Nie goed genoeg vir sy eie mense nie. „Vernielers van stede”, roep die bakstene dit om hom uit. Langs hom het hy die groot provinsiale gebou sien groei. Dit het soos 'n kanker gegroei. Vervelig ver, en vloer na vloer, strek sy eenderse gange in die kunstmatige halflig van neonbuis. Vir hom is dit 'n eidelose en vervelige doolhof. 'n Gedrog wat geen sentimeter ruimte aan die skilderagtige geboue van die Wesfasade gun nie.

Op Kerkplein leef die skim van Kruger voort, en is die bande met die ou ZAR nog sterk. Waar lomp passasiërsbusse nou vuil oliekolle op die teer mors, het die kommando's se perde eens spore in die sand getrap. Van die vroegste dae af was Kerkplein 'n belangrike plek vir die

Suid-Afrikaner. Hier is gebid, presidente ingesweer, en strafekspedisies uitge-stuur. Hier kan die geskiedkundige en die kunstenaar nog inspirasie kom vind en die stedeling sommer net kom ont-span.

Die Wesfasade se horisontale lyne skep 'n gevoel van ruimte en rustigheid. Die rustigheid wat eie aan ons land is, en wat die digters graag besing. Die Wesfasade is soveel meer as net 'n kompleks van verwaarloosde geboue, en Kerkplein soveel meer as net 'n oop ruimte. Vir die Suid-Afrikaner is dit gewyde grond.

Bonkig en groot staan die ou president self nog hier. Dit hoort so. Nog selde kon die beeldhouer sy brons in sulke waardige vorms as die van die vier voetstukfigure giet. Al die adel en durf van die burgers van weleer besit hulle. Onafskeidbaar is ook hulle deel van die Wesfasade, wat nou so tragies voor die stootskrapers moet tuimel.

Onheilspellend kruip wolkekrabbers nader aan die ou president. Eersdaags sal ook hy, vir altyd weer balling tussen hoë betonmure wees. Is sy volk dan magteloos om Kerkplein te red? Is hul magteloos teen die rotte van vernietiging wat aan die ou historiese geboue knaag? Is hul magteloos teen die owerhede wat in hul nagwake van vernietiging droom?

Onder die sewe gedoemde geboue is die ou Nederlandse Bank, wat intussen 'n mekka vir die beeldende kunste geword het. Dit het gehelp om Pretoria in die voorpunt op hierdie gebied te plaas. Hier het jong kunstenaars 'n toonvenster vir hulle werke gevind, waar goue Krugerponde eers oor die toonbank af-getel is. Die sloping van hierdie ou prag-gebou, met sy breë kliptrappe en beson-dere traliewerk sal dus 'n gevoelige slag vir die beeldende kunste wees. Dit is juis hierin wat 'n volk se beskawingspeil gesien kan word.

Die hele Wesfasade kon eerder as 'n toeriste-aantreklikheid en 'n reuse-museumkompleks ontwikkel word. Hier kon die buitelanders dan met die Suid-Afrikaanse kultuur, kuns en volks-karakter kom kennis maak het. Eerder as om die historiese geboue te skaad, is ons hulle bewaring aan die toekoms ver-skuldig.

Ironies genoeg, as die huidige slopers reeds lank van die toneel verdwyn het, sal hul name miskien net vir hierdie enkele wandaad van hulle onthou word. Hulle sal Suid-Afrika veel armer agter-laat, met hul vernietiging van die sier-like ou geboue uit die kleurryke dae van Paul Kruger.

Dit wek somber gevoelens by my, en nostalgie wil my oorweldig. Dan hoor ek weer die digter se lied, maar dié keer vertel hy nie weer van 'n doringboom-pie nie.

„Daar het eens pragtige geboue langs Kerk-plein gestaan, maar sware stootskrapers, met sterke diesels, het gekom en gegaan . . .”

Landboumuseum naby Pretoria

Die Minister van Nasionale Opvoeding, Sy Edele dr Piet Koornhof het onlangs bekend gemaak dat die Regering toestemming aan die Nasionale Kultuur-historiese en Opelugmuseum verleen het om voort te gaan met die ontwikke-ling van 'n Landboumuseum. Die mu-seum sal op 'n deel van die plaas Kaal-fontein op die Bronkhorstspruitpad ge-leë wees. Dit is vir dié doel deur mev M E le Roux (gebore Prinsloo) aan die museum geskenk. Die landboumuseum sal onder andere ook die gerestoureerde huis van mev Le Roux se grootvader, Willem Petrus Prinsloo, insluit en sal ook as die Willem Prinsloo-landboumu-seum bekend staan.

Hierdie landboumuseum sal die besoeker die geleentheid bied om 'n volledige beeld van die boereplaas uit die vorige eeu te kry. Die oorspronklike opstal sal gerestoureer word. Daar sal ook uit-stallings wees wat die ontwikkeling van landbou-implemente en die verskillende boerdery-aktiwiteite in Suid-Afrika sal voorstel. Die museum benodig nog op die stadium enkele ou implemente en sal dit waardeer indien mense wat van die ou implemente besit met die Museum in verbinding sal tree.

Indien die werksaamhede volgens pro-gram verloop, sal die Landboumuseum volgende jaar vir die publiek oopgestel word.

Die Landboumuseum sal die tweede ope-lugmuseum wees wat die Nasionale Kul-tuurhistoriese en Opelugmuseum ont-wikkel. Die eerste was die Pioniers-ope-lugmuseum wat in Silverton, Pretoria geleë is en reeds in November 1975 vir die publiek oopgestel is. Indien die Museum se onderhandelings met die Stadsraad van Pretoria slaag, sal die Museum ook binnekort met die oprig-ting van die Nasionale Opelugmuseum begin.

Die ontwikkeling en restourasie van die Landboumuseum word moontlik gemaak deur middel van ruim skenkings van ver-skeie firmas.

People power v Escom power

In arriving at what appears to have the makings of a fair compromise in the Braamfontein Spruit pylon issue, the brake has been put on Escom's ad hoc planning, and for that many people are grateful. At the long crowded Electricity Control Board hearing which has just ended even the Department of Planning as well as the Peri-Urban Areas Board objected to the route chosen by Escom.

Escom was ordered to go back into the field and seek other alternatives during the recent fortnight adjournment. And now it has been ordered to consult with Government and regional authorities before finalising its plans.

All that can be said in Escom's favour is that the Electricity Act did not oblige it to consult with anyone. But neither did the Act expressly forbid it to.

A compromise is never a victory but Sandton's fight against having those giant towers along its river park was extremely important. It revealed an intolerable situation where engineers with narrow interests are empowered to alter radically a town's plan, sully its finest scenery and devalue its homes without so much as a by your leave. But more than anything it marked a watershed in the public's attitude to high-handed and bad planning. The people of Sandton, their Civic Foundation and their council will have done the whole nation a favour if, as a result of their battle, South Africa's planning procedures are altered.

The Star,
June 5, 1976

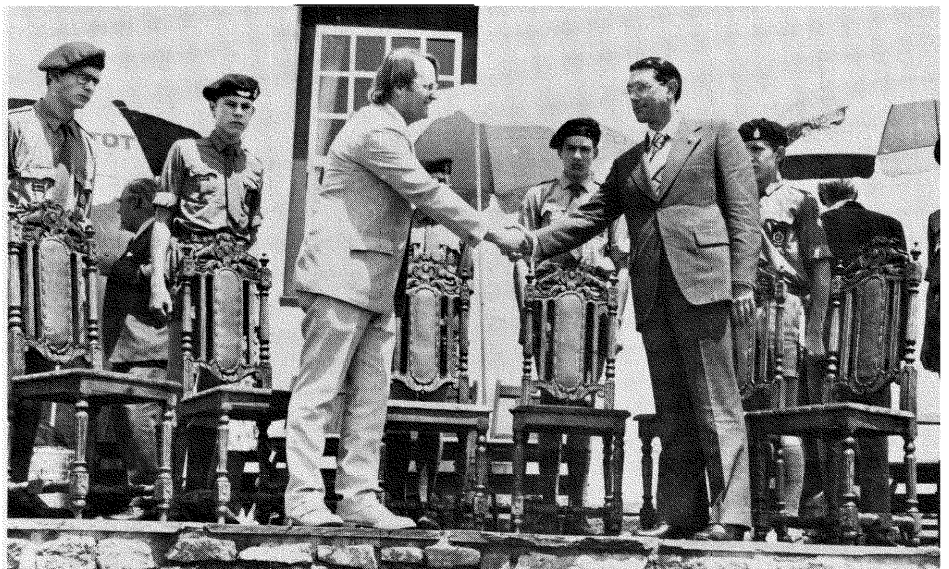
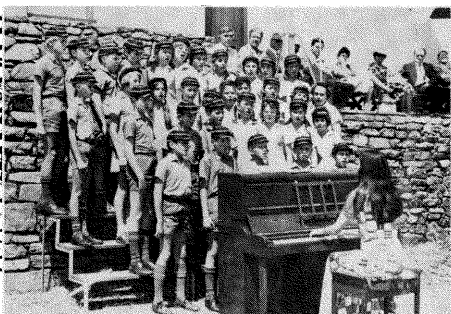
Krugerdag op Boekenhoutfontein gevier

Op 9 Oktober 1976 het ongeveer 500 Rapportryers, Voortrekkers, skoliere en ander besoekers op Boekenhoutfontein, plaas van Staatspresident SJP Kruger, byengekom.



By 'n Krugerdagviering op Boekenhoutfontein, plaas van president Paul Kruger, het mnr Willem Punt, direkteur van die Stigting Simon van der Stel, 'n stel eetkamerstoele van eikehout ontvang. Die ses stoele is 'n geskenk van die Federasie van Rapportryerskorpsse. Skoolkore het gesing en kadette van een van die Hoërskole op Rustenburg het aan 'n vlaghysingseremonie deelgeneem.

Foto's: D.G. Vrey, Rustenburg



Two Top Schemes

A Pension and Group Life Assurance Scheme

Firms, companies and associations who are Life Members of the Simon van der Stel Foundation are now privileged by being able to participate in a unique and very advantageous scheme which enables them to make available to their employees pension and group life cover benefits.

It is often the case that the smaller employer, because of the limited numbers of his employees, is not in a position to provide employment benefits which employees today consider to be normal. The Foundation realises the problem – too few employees that can qualify, therefore a too limited a risk spread, therefore premiums are too high. The Foundation has a country-wide distribution of members which includes hundreds of small companies, firms, partnerships, undertakings and associations. Through their membership of the Foundation they are part of an identifiable group, they can be considered together. This made it possible for our insurance brokers to devise an advantageous scheme which is underwritten by several large assurance companies.

This is how the scheme works: Assume you employ a messenger, a bookkeeper-clerk, a typist, a cashier, a counter assistant and a salesman. Let us assume that you make it a condition of employment that male employees under the age of 55 join the full scheme and for ladies under 50 you make the full scheme optional. Group life, however, you make obligatory for all. You decide by way of example, that cover shall be three times annual salary to the nearest R1 000. You, undertake, for example, to pay 50% of the premiums, collecting the balance from the employee by way of a salary deduction. Naturally the group life and pension premiums will vary according to age, sex, and state of health of the employee concerned. Our premiums are demonstrably of the most reasonable in the market, every premium Rand delivers the maximum in cover Rands.

For you and your employees to participate in this particularly advantageous scheme, just this!

Your company, firm, partnership or association must be a Life Member of the Foundation in one of the following classes:

- Ordinary Life Member R75–R199 once only
- Donor Member R200–R1 999 once only
- Sponsor Member R200–R1 000 per year
- Patron Member R2 000 or more

An entrance fee of only R25 to the scheme is payable on acceptance of your application. (If you are already a Life Member, then of course only the R25 applies.)

You undertake to collect the premiums monthly for payment to the Foundation's brokers.

As the employer, you can opt out of the scheme at any time. Premiums, entrance fee and membership fee are not refundable. On resigning from the scheme the employees' benefits are made paid-up for repayment on maturity according to the rules of the scheme. In other words, premiums already paid in retain their value.

So, for a small once-only contribution to the Foundation, your company becomes a member of the Foundation and of the scheme. For a monthly contribution which can be as little as the cost of the cheque or as much as 100% of the premiums, you decide, you can as responsible employer provide your personnel with a valuable benefit. They will appreciate it!

And remember, the pension contributions are tax deductible for both employer and employee.

Also, by becoming a member of the Simon van der Stel Foundation, you will be contributing to the preservation of South Africa's national cultural historical and architectural heritage. A matter of some importance to the nation.

B Personal Insurance Scheme

You and your employees can also participate in the Foundation's excellent short-term insurance scheme – cars, caravans, all risks, household effects, personal liability, personal accident – all in one policy at one very reasonable monthly premium paid by stop order. Example: R10 000 household cover, R1 000 all risks, two cars, R200 000 personal liability, R200 freezer contents, R4 000 personal accident for husband and wife – only for R18 per month. These premiums calculated for individual participants are already of the lowest available. Where employers make up groups of at least five employees, the premiums are reduced further.

In cases where employers as such are not Life Members of the Foundation, individual employees can nevertheless join the scheme by becoming individual ordinary members of the Foundation for only R7 per year per person.

This scheme offers savings and convenience in one package!

Stigting Simon van der Stel

BIBLIOTEEK

Die Stigting se Biblioteek is amptelik geregistreer en beskik reeds oor 'n verteenwoordigende versameling materiaal oor BEWARING – restourasie, argitektuur, geskiedenis en so meer – wat bestaan uit boeke, brosjures, pamflette, persknipsels, foto's, dias en films.

Maar die aanvraag na ons materiaal en die gebruik wat van die Biblioteek gemaak word, bewys dat die Biblioteek sneller uitgebrei moet word. Geldgebrek ry ons nog in die wiede.

U kan 'n bydrae maak!

- 'n Kontantskenking vir boekaankope
- 'n Boekskenking
- 'n Skenking van Africana-foto's en boeke.

By voorbaat baie dankie!

Simon van der Stel-Biblioteek

Lid van die Interbiblioteekleningskema

Simon van der Stel Foundation

LIBRARY

The Foundation's Library has been officially registered and now has a representative range of material on CONSERVATION – restoration, architecture, history, etc. – consisting of books, brochures, pamphlets, press cuttings, photographs, slides and films.

The demand for service and use being made of the Library show clearly that we must accelerate expansion of the Library. Money is, of course, the problem.

You can help!

- A cash donation for book purchases
- A donation of books
- A donation of Africana-photos and books.

Thank you!

Simon van der Stel Library

Member of the Inter Library Loan Scheme.



Bloemfontein-Streekkomitee onthaal die Nasionale Raad

Die Stigting se Nasionale Raadsvergadering vir die eerste semester 1977 het op 11 Maart te Bloemfontein plaasgevind in die Senaatsaal van UOVS. Die Stigting se Streekkomitee onder leiding van die plaaslike voorsitter, prof. Leon Roodt, het die Raadslede op 'n toer van belangrike geboue in Bloemfontein geneem en die dames van die Streekkomitee het 'n spesiale middagete vir die Nasionale Raadslede aangebied. Die dag se verrigtinge is afgesluit met 'n skemerkelkonthaal, aangebied deur die Burgemeester van Bloemfontein. Die Raadslede het ook geleentheid gehad om "Onze Rust", plaas van President M T Steyn, te besoek waar hulle ontvang is deur Regter en mev. M T Steyn. Hierdie besoek is voorafgegaan deur 'n uitstalling wat om 07h00 die oggend in die ou Mark deur prof Roodt geopen is. Raadslede was aanwesig om die finale jaar argitektuurstudente se voorstelle vir die hergebruik van die ou markgebou te inspek teer.

W J P

By die Nasionale Raadsvergadering van die Stigting Simon van der Stel, Bloemfontein V.l.n.r.: Mnr W.J. Punt, Direkteur; mnr F.D. Conradie, L.V. Nasionale ondervoorsitter; mev J.M. Raath, Nasionale raadslid; mnr A. Bezuidenhout, Streekkomitee-penningmeester; dr S. Meiring Naude, Nasionale voorsitter en mev L. de Bruin, Streekkomitee-sekretaresse.

Foto: Christos, Bloemfontein



Kroonstad bewaar twee ou geboue

Twee van die oudste geboue op Kroonstad gaan nie meer gesloop word nie. Die ou poskantoor en eerste tronk, wat albei van sandklip gebou is, gaan gerestoureer word sodat dit vir die nageslag behoue kan bly. Die twee geboue is albei opgerig voordat die dorp gestig is.

Die standplaas waarop hulle geleë is, is standplaas nommer 30 wat in 1861 reeds opgemeet is.

Volgens die akte van oordrag is die grond aan die destydse Vrystaatse regering beskikbaar gestel vir die oprigting van 'n kantoor en 'n gevangenis.

Die poskantoor is ongeveer in 1880 opgerig en die tronk minstens 20 jaar vroeër.

Toe gerugte ontstaan dat die geskiedkundige ou geboue, wat naby mekaar geleë is, dalk gesloop gaan word, het die plaaslike Vryburger-Korps dadelik begin walgooi.

Ná versoë deur die korps, die Stigting Simon van der Stel en prof J J Oberholster, van die Vrystaatse Universiteit, het minister A L Schibusch, Minister van Openbare Werke en ook LV vir die dorp, ingewillig dat die gedeeltes van die poskantoor en tronk wat voor 1880 gebou is, gerestoureer kan word.

Die Vaderland,
8 Desember 1976

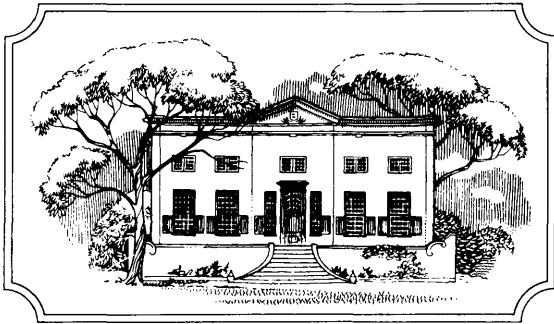
Kerk word monument

Die historiese sandsteengebou van die NG moederkerk op Senekal en die kerkplein is tot nasionale monument verklaar deur die Raad vir Historiese Gedenkwaardighede.

Die gebou is ontwerp deur die argitek J H en A L Till en in 1896 ingewy. Die plein word omring deur 'n sandsteenmuurtjie waarop versteende boomstamme lê.

Die Volksblad,
11 Desember 1976

Ons het 'n wyn gemaak - Carlonet



... en hier op die historiese Uitkyk Wynlandgoed weet ons dat Uitkyk Carlonet W.O.S. een van die edelste Kaapse rooiwye is wat nog ooit gemaak is.

Kyk deur die helder dieptes van die ryk donkerrooi na die volrype rondheid van die aristokratiese Cabernet Sauvignon-druif.

Ervaar die talmende boeket wat so kenmerkend is van hierdie skaamdraende wingerdstok.

Proe in sy robuuste volheid die vrugbare leem-rooigrond van Uitkyk en die rypheid van die droë somerson.

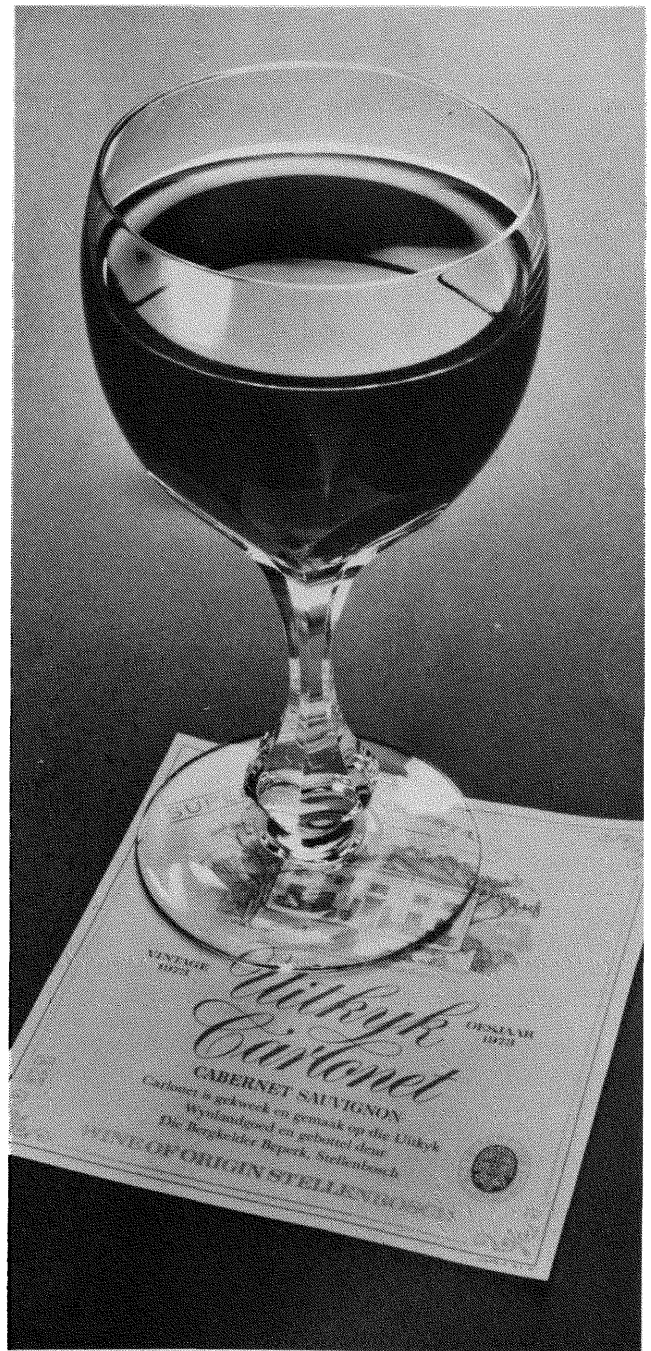
Drink dit nou met kennersgenot, of lê dit in u kelder neer in die wete dat u dit jaar na jaar met steeds groter waardering sal geniet.

*Uitkyk
Carlonet*

'n Volrondige, droë rooiwijn.

1973 Uitkyk Carlonet Cabernet Sauvignon is deur die Wyn- en Spiritusraad geklassifiseer as 'n Wyn van Oorsprong – Superieur – die hoogste moontlike klassifikasie wat slegs aan 'n wyn van uitsonderlike gehalte toegeken mag word.

Ook afkomstig van die Uitkyk Landgoed:
1973 Uitkyk Shiraz W.O.S. – Uitkyk Carlsheim –
Uitkyk Riesling – Uitkyk Late Harvest.



Gebore en getoë op die Landgoed. Gebottel en bemark deur Die Bergkelder.



BB97A



Kaap - Cape

Gewelhuis op Grootfontein nou museum

DR P W VORSTER

Ons tyd dink hoofsaaklik in terme van vooruitgang en ontwikkeling. Orals in dorpe en stede moet ou geboue, selfs dié met historiese waarde, plek maak vir moderne sakesentrums of woonstel-blokke. Bande met die verlede word maklik verbreek en die voorrang aan die materiële laat nie veel belangstelling vir die verlede en sy mense oor nie.

Die Gereformeerde Kerk Middelburg (Kaap) verkeer in die gelukkige posisie dat die woonhuis waarin sy stigting plaasgevind het, nog bestaan. Dié gebeurte het in Desember 1860 plaasgevind onder leiding van ds D Postma. Hierdie huis staan op die Grootfontein-proefplaas, net buite die dorp.

Interessante agtergrond

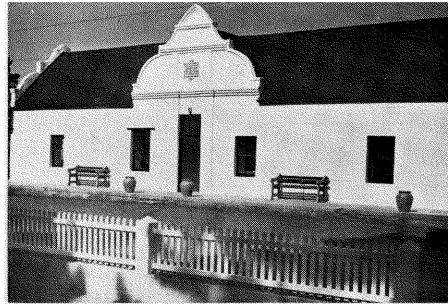
Grootfontein is een van die oudste plase in die distrik Middelburg – of die veldkornetswyk van Renosterberg soos dit aan die einde van die 18de eeu bekend was. Volgens ou rekords skyn dit of die plaas Grootfontein so vroeg as 1775 as leningplaas uitgegee is. Weens die rowerye van die Boesmans is die plase in die omgewing nooit lank bewoon nie. Die Renosterberg-wyk was destyds as Boesmanland bekend. In 1798 het iets anders gebeur:

Nicolaas van der Walt (geb 1757), jongste seun van die stamvader Geele Andriesz, het op Grootfontein gewoon. 'n Klompie veeboere het 'n paar honderd skape onder hulle medeboere gekollekteer. Hierdie skape het hulle aan sowat 118 Boesmans geskenk en daardeur is die konfliktoestand met die Boesmans beëindig.

Hierdie vredespoging, wat sekerlik van die Christelike gesindheid van die Boere getuig, het die verdere aanlê van plase tot aan die Oranjerivier binne enkele jare moontlik gemaak. Die veeboerpioniere het getoon dat die vreedsame naasbestaan met die inboorlingvolke vir hulle erns is.

Familieverwantskappe

In 1827 het Nicolaas van der Walt (1791–1843), seun van vermelde Nicolaas, die ou woonhuis op die plaas gebou. Sy vrou was Lasea Christina Lessing (1795–1878). Toe die Gereformeerde Kerk in die huis gestig is, het sy broer (Hendrik Tjaart Jacobus) in die huis gebly. In 1887 het Schalk Willem Vorster (1838–1888), wat met Nicolaas van der Walt se



Grootfonteinmuseum.

dogter getroud is, die ou huis herbou. Hy het die Kaap-Hollandse gewels daar aangebou.

Dr W Hugo, direkteur van die Karoo-streek en hoof van die Landboukollege op Grootfontein het hom besonder beywer om die ou gewelhuis as museum ingerig te kry. Die gedagte is dat die kerkraad van Middelburg later 'n gedenkplaat in die woonhuis/museum sal aanbring.

Nog iets oor die geskiedenis van die plaas. In 1836 het Sir Benjamin D'Urban 'n erfpagplaas (deel van 'n leningplaas) aan Nicolaas en Hendrik van der Walt toegeken. In 1870 het Casper Jan Hendrik Vorster (1795–1890), wat in 1846 met Nicolaas se weduwee getrou het, nog 'n deel van Grootfontein van die Kaapse regering verkry. H T J van der Walt en C J H Vorster was sedert 1849 boesemvriende en hulle twee het hulle besonder beywer vir die stigting van die Gereformeerde Kerk op Middelburg. Die lewens van die ou bewoners van Grootfontein en dié van hulle nasate is baie intiem met die Gereformeerde Kerk verweef. Ds C J H Vorster (1842–1899) is 'n kleinseun van C J H Vorster (mede-eienaar) en sy eerste vrou was 'n dogter van H T J van der Walt. Ds L P Vorster (1862–1934) is 'n seun van ds C J H Vorster en kleinseun van H T J van der Walt. Verder kan nog 'n hele aantal predikante uit dié geslagte genoem word. Baie ander nakomelinge van Grootfontein se oorspronklike bewoners het in Middelburg en elders in die amp van diaken en ouderling gedien.

Die daarstelling van die ou gewelhuis op Grootfontein as 'n museum bring die verlede tot sigbare gestalte in ons dae. Die Gereformeerde Kerk kan ook dankbaar wees daarvoor dat die staat hierdie ou

plek nie net vir die nageslagte nie maar ook vir die plaaslike kerk laat bewaar.

Die Kerkblad,
16 Julie 1975

Geboorteplek van Generaal Smuts

Die bewering dat generaal J C Smuts op Worcester gebore is, word meermale gemaak, maar mev Heloise Naudé, kura-trise van die Worcester-museum, weerlê hierdie stelling met die volgende inligting wat sy aangaande die De Vries-familie (moeder van generaal J C Smuts) verstrekk.

Boudewyn Homberg de Vries het vroeg in die 19de eeu uit Holland na die Kaap gekom. Dr Heese reken dit is tussen 1806 en 1810. Daar word soms verkeerdelik beweer dat generaal Smuts se ma afstam van die De Vriese wat al in 1730 in Suid-Afrika was. In die sterfregister word aangegee: “Boudewyn Homberg de Vries van Amsterdam. Oorlede Worcester 9.9.1841, oud 54 jaar en 10 maande. Winkelier Worcester.”

Met die stigting van Worcester in 1820 word De Vries aangestel as Bode van die Hof. Sy seun Jan Christiaan (geb. 25.7.1815, gedoop. 13.8.1815, oorlede 19.6.1879) was getroud met Maria Magdalena Philippina Niehaus van die Paarl. (Oorlede 29.9.1873).

Hul dogter Catharina Petronella Gerhardina (geb. 7.5.1848) trou op 6.3.1866 te Worcester met Jacobus Abraham Smuts en word hul tweede kind Jan Christiaan gebore op 24.5.1870 en gedoop deur Ds Boudewyn Homberg de Vries op Riebeeck-Wes op 26.6.1870. By die doopinskrywing staan geskryf „Geb. Mei 24, 1870. Riebeeck”. Waar Ds De Vries 'n broer was van Mev Catharina Smuts sou hy deeglik bewus gewees het van die geboorteplek. In die register word dikwels aangedui dat die geboorte bv. op Stellenbosch of elders plaasgevind het. Ds De Vries is in 1863 op Riebeeck-Wes bevestig en het tot sy dood in 1884 daar ge-arbei. Heelwaarskynlik het sy suster by hom kom kuier en so haar aanstaande man ontmoet. 'n Ander broer, Jan Christiaan (geb. 9.9.1841) was Hulpprediker op Sutherland 1870–1873; Du Toitspan 1873–1876 en Zeerust Herv Kerk 1876–1884.

McGregor se groot projek



Hierdie splinternuwe huise met die tradisionele gesig is die jongste poging van die munisipaliteit van McGregor om die dorp se historiese karakter te bewaar.

Foto: *Die Burger*

Die Munisipaliteit van McGregor is op die oomblik besig om, in oorleg met die Departement van Gemeenskapsbou en die Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede, 'n besondere projek te loods waarvolgens die bepalinge van die Groepsgebiede-wet nagekom én die dorp se tradisionele karakter terselfdertyd bewaar word.

Die projek behels die aanbou van 28 wooneenhede in die bruin woonbuurt. Die huise is almal toegerus met rietdakke, houtraamvensters en geweltjies, terwyl die grondplan ook verskil van die gewone huise wat deur die Departement van Gemeenskapsbou opgerig word.

Die huise word ingevolge die Groepsgebiedewet deur die Departement van Gemeenskapsbou opgerig. Alle bykomstighede en verandering op die gewone huise van die departement word deur die Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede gesubsidieer.

Só wil die raad sorg dat die dorp se tradisionele karakter vir die nageslag bewaar word. Die talle huisies met riet- of papkuildakke uit die vorige eeu is 'n kenmerk van die skilderagtige dorpie.

Die raad het by vorige geleenthede die gedagte geopper dat die hele dorp dalk nog eendag tot historiese gedenkwaardigheid verklaar kan word. Verskeie restaurasieprojekte is reeds aangepak om dié gedagte te implementeer.

Die jongste projek is die oprigting van elf sub-ekonomiese skakelhuse en ses ekonomiese huise. Laasgenoemde kan gekoop word.

Die helfte van die projek sal na verwagting einde vanjaar voltooi wees.

Van die geboue wat op die dorp tot nasionale gedenkwaardigheid verklaar is, is die NG kerkgebou en die ou woonhuis waarin die munisipale kantore is. Die bekende meul op die dorp word nou gerestoureer. Die dorp beskik nog oor van die min oorblywende huise wat

verteenwoordigend is van die heel laaste fase van die Kaap-Hollandse boustyl.

Die Burger,
9 Desember 1976

Historic societies visit oldest farms in Hottentots-Holland

Historic Somerset West joined forces recently with the Simon van der Stel Foundation to visit the two oldest farms in this area to belong to the well known Faure family, Zandvliet and Verge-noegd.

About 100 members and guests of the two societies were shown round the Zandvliet homestead by Mr and Mrs M Faure and allowed to wander freely around the farm buildings and werf.

Acquired by the Faure family in about 1900, Zandvliet lies on the edge of the Coloured township of Macassar and was expropriated by the Stellenbosch Divisional Council acting on behalf of the Department of Community Development eight years ago for the development of Macassar. The future of the house and farm buildings remains uncertain and the Faures, who have been allowed to remain on the farm since the expropriation, have no idea when they will have to leave.

A member of the society said: "In fact they are obviously sad to leave what has been for them a very happy home." Mr Stanley Osler, the chairman of Historic Somerset West, contacted the Stellenbosch Divisional Council recently and made a recommendation that the buildings be restored and not demolished. The Divisional Council intimated that they would be keen to do this and

there is a possibility that the house may eventually house a library for Macassar. The history of the farm goes back to 1699 when the land was granted to the Rev. Petrus Kalden, at that time Pastor of the Cape district. It is situated near the confluence of the Kuils and Eerste Rivers, and although the buildings are now dilapidated, the farm was obviously once very beautiful. The original house no longer exists and was situated at the bottom of the werf, and the present house was built in the early 1800's in the simple, dignified double-storeyed Georgian style introduced into the Cape by Thibault.

The most interesting feature of Zandvliet is the magnificent 250 metre long werf at the back of the house. Of the buildings surrounding the werf one is of particular charm and has been painted and sketched many times by local artists. It stands with its back to the werf and has a thatched roof with half hipped or wolf ends. The steps to the left run at right angles to the facade which is unusual and adds to the picturesque effect. The party then moved on to the tomb of Sheik Joseph which is situated on Zandvliet. Sheik Joseph was exiled to the Cape from Java in 1694 by the Dutch and it was he who introduced the Moslem faith into this country. Accompanied by a retinue of followers including his wives and children, he lived on Zandvliet until his death in 1699.

Many years later the Malay community in Cape Town bought the ground where he was buried and erected a tiny mosque as a shrine over his grave, and this has now become a place of pilgrimage. Two members of the Cape Malay community came out from Cape Town to explain the history of the tomb.

Apparently Simon van der Stel soon became aware that the Sheik was a wise and learned man and appointed him as tutor to his son Adriaan. It is interesting to note that the first Malay fishermen to settle in Mosterd's Bay (as the Strand was originally known) were probably descendants of Sheik Joseph's followers. The final stop of the day was Verge-noegd, a farm acquired by the Faure family in 1820. The farm was granted in 1696, and the fine holbol gable built in 1773, probably onto an existing house which, like Zandvliet, was originally 'H'-shaped. The werf is one of the most interesting in the Cape, and in fact consists of two developments of enclosed yards. The older one, at the back of the house, has two sides formed by one continuous thatched building.

The house and outbuildings are all well preserved and were recently rethatched, using materials growing on the farm as far as possible. To round off the day, Mr Faure invited the group to sample some of his well known wines.

The Stellenbosch District Mail,
September 17, 1976

Montagu se trots

Nog maar enkele jare gelede het die spook van straatverbreding die mense van Montagu gepla. Mense was bang om restourasiegeld te bestee aan pragtige ou boerewonings, veral aan die woelige Langstraat. Die dorp se reklamevereniging het egter nie gerus voordat die Provinsiale Administrasie die onteieningsklousule ten opsigte van daardie straat met sy rykdom van 19de-eeuse argitektuur van fraai middelgewels en eenvoudige eindgewels opgehef het nie.

Die spook is besweer. In 1974, gedurende 'n besoek van die Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede, is die eerste ou huis, Langstraat 38, tot historiese monument verklaar.

Montagu is met reg trots op sy ses verklaarde nasionale gedenkwaardighede. Vooraan is die bekende Langstraat 38, tans ekonomies verhuur sodat die koste van die restourasie mettertyd afgewerk kan word. Uiteindelik gaan dit vir die Reklamevereniging nog 'n geldelike bate word! Wie vra vandag nog of restourasie ekonomies en die moeite werd is?

Langstraat 21 is die woning van Francois Krige, bekende kunsskilder. Voordat die erf nog gebou was, het die inwoners van ons dorp 'n groot ontvangs daar gereël vir John Montagu, Koloniale Sekretaris van Kaapland van 1834. By dié geleentheid het ons dorp amptelik sy naam ontvang.

Die Montagu-Museum was vroeër die Sendingkerk en is in 1917 gebou vir £880. Dis 'n fraaie gebou met torinkies en pilare soos wat vandag eenvoudig nooit meer gebou word nie!

Die huidige eienaar van Langstraat 24, is die bekende kunsskilder en liefhebber van ou meubels, mnr L Hosken, wat ook self die restourasie onderneem en tot ons almal se vreugde die statige ou plek gered het. Die besondere kelder wat vas teen die huis gebou is, is vandag sy ateljee.

Langstraat 13 is die eiendom van mnr Jurie Swart. Dis gebou deur 'n regstreekse afstammeling van die Hugenote. Pieter Gideon Joubert, en is een van die heel oudste en geskiedkundigste huise van die dorp. Die eerste tronkgeboutjie staan vandag nog in die agterplaas. Ook is dit natuurlik die huis waarin Pres. Kruger destyds ontvang is.

Die NG Pastorie aan Rosestraat is die trots van ons almal. Die Kerkraad besluit in 1888, ná die dood van dr Servaas Hofmeyr (wat sy eie huis bewoon het), om die eiendom aan die onderpunt van Badstraat vir 'n Pastorie aan te koop. Daar word 'n rietdakpastorie op die oostelike oewer van die Keisie gebou.

Dr D F Malan word in Montagu bevestig op Vrydag, 16 Februarie 1906. In April 1911 ontvang dr Malan 'n be-

roep uit Pretoria. Hy besluit om daarvoor te bedank. 'n Regstreekse gevolg hiervan is die bou van die groot, nuwe pastorie, soos ons dit vandag ken. Die middelgang van $3 \times 2,5$ meter, sy deurgange altesame 23 meter, sy swaar kaaithoutdeure en sy 15 buitengewoon groot vertrekke met vyf kaggels het tot stand gekom. Dis alles gebou vir £3,000. Interessant is die reusagtige plankvoorstoep, so gesellig en ruim. Mag hierdie baie besondere gebou bewaar bly.

Die Burger,
28 April 1976

Bewaringslys vir Kaap opgestel

Geboue in die Kaapse middestad wat waar behoort te word, sal binnekort deur 'n groep kenners gelys word. Die lys sal nie net historiese geboue insluit nie, maar ook geboue van besondere argitektoniese waarde, asook sekere terreine.

Die bestuurskomitee van die Kaapse stadsraad het só 'n voorstel van die Kaaplandse Instituut van Argitekte aanvaar.

Inligting op die lys, wat later in boekvorm gepubliseer sal word, sal o.m. deur studente, toeriste, stadsbeplanners en argitekte gebruik kan word.

Die voorsitter van die Instituut, mnr J Barnett, het gesê Kaapstad het as die moederstad van Suid-Afrika 'n unieke verantwoordelikheid wat die opstel van

die lys betref. Hy meen dit sal twaalf maande duur om die volledig geïllustreerde lys aan die stadsraad voor te lê. Dit sal sowat R20 000 kos, waarvan die stadsraad bereid is om R15 000 by te dra. Die Instituut van Argitekte het onderneem om o.m. die Provinsiale Administrasie te nader vir die res van die geld.

Die Burger,
24 November 1976

Mooi huis museum

Die mooi huis aan die bopunt van Waalstraat, Kaapstad, teenoor Roosstraat, wat as Maleise museum gerestoureer word, sal moontlik deur die Suid-Afrikaanse Kultuurhistoriese Museum in oorleg met die Maleise gemeenskap in stand gehou word.

Die geriewe- en gesondheidskomitee van die Kaapse stadsraad was tot nog toe aanspreeklik vir die beoogde museum. In 'n verslag van die stadsklerk, mnr H G Heugh, dui hy op die koste verbonde aan die museum.

Die komitee sal by die stadsraad aanbeveel dat die museum aan die Kultuurhistoriese Museum en die Maleise gemeenskap aangebied word.

Die restourasie van die huis, Waalstraat 71, is byna klaar en 'n tydelike opsiener sal aangestel word om na die terrein om te sien.

Die Burger,
7 Augustus 1976

Hierdie huis aan die bopunt van Waalstraat, Kaapstad, teenoor Roosstraat, wat as Maleise museum gerestoureer word, sal moontlik deur die Suid-Afrikaanse Kultuurhistoriese Museum in oorleg met die Maleise gemeenskap in stand gehou word.

Foto: *Die Burger*



Cape Town: modern planners lack strategy of old Dutch

GWEN M MILLS

Architects concerned with conservation and preservation of buildings are firmly against imitation of former styles in architecture, in any future city redevelopment. Their belief is that buildings of architectural or historic value should be preserved; and where possible in their original groups. These groups of buildings are well illustrated in the early panoramas of Cape Town and of the coastline.

During the '75 Cape Town Festival, Josephus Jones's extraordinary beautiful panorama in colour of Cape Town at the beginning of the 19th century acquired by the Rembrandt Art Foundation was on exhibition at the Association of Art's Gallery in Church Street. The panorama formed part of the Thomas Bowler exhibition.

The quality of the buildings depicted in the panorama (12 ft 6 in) prove what a comprehensive planning strategy for Cape Town had been evolved by the Dutch before 1806 when the British occupied the Cape.

Josephus Jones (1768–1811) completed his panorama in that year. The discovery of it 165 years later is of importance to the historic and architectural history of the Cape. It was made in six pieces from the roof of one of the buildings near the corner of Adderley and Strand Streets. The panorama shows the notable unity and high quality of Cape Dutch architecture of the time. How different is today's modern panorama of the same area? With no comprehensive planning strategy in the past years, and with many of the most important houses demolished, we have only pictorial Africana as seen in the Fehr collection in Rust-en-Vreugd, private collections and other galleries. We do, however, experience a nostalgic architectural assessment of Cape Town's earlier beauty, when viewing panoramas such as the Josephus Jones's masterpiece.

A verdict may be given that we have "failed either to recreate the past or to honour our own age". There is yet no accepted and approved official list of building of historic or architectural value, everyone worthy of preservation, in Cape Town. The restoration and preservation of the character of our city, when related to its buildings, is yet in the hands of too few.

Panoramas of Cape Town are important. Josephus Jones's magnificent work is given pride of place in Alfred Gordon-

Brown's book *Pictorial Africana*. In colour the panorama is also used as the dust cover. Jones's drawings were of inestimable value to Mr Gawie Fagan when the Tuynhuis in the Gardens was restored to its former, glory based on drawings dating to the Dutch East India Company times and done by Josephus Jones.

The Cape coastline too has not been neglected. Barclay's National Bank, Adderley Street, have in their possession two framed coloured lithographs joined in the centre to form one long panorama, entitled *Panorama de la Simon au Cape de Bonne-Esperance, pris du Mouillage de la Venus*.

This panorama of Simon's Bay, Cape of Good Hope was bought by the bank in London from The Parker Gallery in Albermale Street, the oldest firm of picture and print dealers in the city. The original is by Sabatier after Menard and was published circa 1830.

The Simon's Bay panorama hangs in one of the finest buildings in the city. If it is established that the building was the last erected in South Africa, to be designed by Sir Herbert Baker, Barclay's Bank building in Adderley Street will carry the blue plaque of the Simon van der Stel Foundation.

At the Michaelis Art Gallery, Greenmarket Square, during the Cape Festival another panorama was on exhibition. It consisted of seven loose sheets drawn by Lady Anne Barnard. The panorama appears in D Fairbridge's *Lady Anne Barnard at the Cape of Good Hope 1797-1802*.

The important details of this photographic exhibit of the original panorama, were compiled by Professor D Bax. The seven loose sheets comprising the panorama, showed the interesting detail of the magnificent original watercolour by Lady Anne Barnard.

In view of the historic value of the site now being excavated on the remains of a tree-lined gracht in central Cape Town – The Golden Acre, an early watercolour sketch a portion of an unfinished panorama by W J Burchell is of great interest. Reproductions of these panoramas should be placed on the walls of one of the contemplated pedestrian street malls where the closing and repaving of existing streets is under consideration by the City Council. There is so much to be said for the quality of these early buildings depicted on historic panoramas, but since lost in ambitious schemes – called comprehensive redevelopment.

Colesberg behou die oue

Colesberg is 'n ou dorp met 'n ryke verlede. In die voorposdae en nog later tydens die diamant- en goudstormlope, was dit 'n bedrywige knooppunt tussen die Noorde en die Suide. In stiller tye daarná het die dorp veel van sy kleur verloor. Baie van die ouer geboue in die kenmerkende Karoostyl ken hul plek nie meer en die karakter is groten-deels daarmee heen.

Nou, danksy 'n klein groep van ywerige bewaarders, is daar 'n beweging om tog nog te red wat daar te red is.

Die Historiese Vereniging, onder voorsitterskap van mnr Taetse Vorster kry dinge gedaan: hulle maak werk van die dorp se enigins verwaarloosde museum en skroom nie om hulp van buite in te roep wanneer hulle projekte soos onder meer die identifikasie en restourasie van outentieke straatbeelde aanpak nie.

Mnr Vorster, baas van die historiese plaas Ketelfontein wat al geslagte lank in sy familie se besit is, se geesdrif werk aansteeklik. Sy plaashuis, van binne en van buite, is 'n goeie voorbeeld van hoe die mooi, bruikbare oue funksioneel behoue kan bly.

Mnr Vorster het ons op 'n toer deur Colesberg geneem en ons oë oopgemaak vir die eenvoudige skoonheid wat daar nog is – al sy dit op plekke agter aanplakself en tekens van verwaarloosing.

Een hele blok van Bellstraat is nog uitnemend geskik vir bewaring. Dié straatjie kan met min moeite en koste geres-toureer word om te lyk soos dit in die vorige eeu daar uitgesien het. Die plan is dat eienaars wat die wil het om te restoureer, dié ou huisies met hul reguit gewels en oop klipstoepe aanskaf en die nodige doen.

In 'n systraat van die dorp is daar nog 'n goed bewaarde ou pakkamer wat aange-merk staan vir restourasie. Die dubbel-verdiepinggeboutjie was vergange 'n perdestal, kompleet met plek vir die koets. Bokant die solderdeur is nog die balk wat gebruik is om die voer en ander voorrade op te hys.

In hierdie gebou sal 'n perdemeul ge-huisves word. Die meul, nog in 'n goeie toestand, word ingebring van die plaas Sewefontein wat nie meer bewoon word nie. Dit is waarskynlik die beste voor-beeld in Colesberg se distrik van 'n plaaswoning uit die vorige eeu, 'n sier-lyke ou ommuurde gebou met strak lyne en deure en vensters suiwer in proporsie. Omheen is nog die werf met sy sipres-en olienhoutboom, buitegeboue op die plekke waar hulle moet wees en 'n groen lushof van vrugte- en populierbome onderkant die fontein. Rondom die groentetuin staan die klipmuur nog. Bewaring van die geheel, miskien om as gastehuis vir toeriste te dien, sou oor en oor die moeite werd wees, meen mnr Vorster.

Op Colesberg bestaan daar al 'n mooi versameling van gebruiksvorwerpe en implemente uit die voortyd. Dit word op die oomblik gehuisves in die ou NG Sendingkerk en sal binnekort verskuif word na 'n waardige tuiste: die dorp se eertydse Distriksbankgebou.

Die Burger,
17 November 1976

Hoop op Constantia

Hoop op Constantia, 'n geskiedkundige plaaswoning wat eens op 'n tyd aan die Colyn-familie behoort het en wat tans deel vorm van Groot Constantia, is in 1969 aan die SA Kultuurhistoriese Museum oorgedra en word as museum ingerig.

Vanweë 'n geldtekort is daar nog nie 'n begin gemaak met die werk aan Hoop nie. Baie herstelwerk en restaurasie moet nog aan die gebou gedoen word. Hierdie werk word deur die Departement van Openbare Werke onderneem. Die behoorlike meubilering van die huis lewer ook moeilikhede op, aangesien voorwerpe aangekoop moet word uit die Museum se ontoereikende Aankopefonds. Tot tyd en wyl Hoop gereed is vir besigtiging deur die publiek, word dit as pakhuis gebruik.

Die Museum het onlangs toestemming verleen aan Musiqua Antiqua, 'n groep musici sonder winsoogmerk wat spesialiseer in musiek uit vroeëre jare, om hul waardevolle versameling instrumente by Hoop op te berg en daar repetisies te hou.

Hoop het uitmuntende akoestiek, wat by uitstek geskik is vir die musiek wat deur hierdie groep gespeel word, en gedurende 1975 is etlike geslaagde konserte daar gehou. Die groep het reeds plaatopnames laat maak van musiek uit die tyd van Van Riebeeck en Van der Stel, en hulle sal na verwagting in 1976-77 beskikbaar wees. Die opnames sal by Groot Constantia verkoop word.

Die Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede het die Museum meegedeel dat beoog word om Hoop op Constantia tot Historiese Monument te laat verklaar.

Verslag van SA Kultuurhistoriese Museum, Kaapstad, Maart 1976

Society's visit to Paarl

One May day in 1976, 44 members of the Simon's Town Historical Society, armed with picnic baskets, umbrellas and macs, set off in a touring bus to Paarl. We

were to be the guests of the Simon van der Stel Foundation (Upper Berg Regional Area). The heavy grey clouds seemed to get more threatening with each passing kilometre and as we approached our destination the heavens opened and it poured with rain.

Our spirits rose, however, when we were welcomed by a cheerful Mr David Jordaan at the entrance to Paarl. After supplying us with refreshments and giving us a potted history of the picturesque valley, which was settled by Dutch colonists in 1687 and by the Huguenots a year later, we continued down the main street to the Old Parsonage Museum. It is situated next to the Toringkerk and was built in 1787. Mrs Wells, the resident guide and curatrix, showed us a priceless collection of old Dutch silver, exquisite needlework, samples of 18th century dresses, also furniture and kitchen utensils, including a rolling pin made of stinkwood and an iron griddle that had the recipes cast in the lid.

Passing the Gideon Malherbe House, where the first Afrikaans newspaper "Di Patriot" was printed, we arrived at the DR "Strooidak" Church. Incidentally it was in the Paarl valley that the Afrikaans language was born, with the inauguration in 1875 of the Genootskap van Regte Afrikaners; we saw the graves of some of the original members later in the day at Daljosafat.

We spent quite a long time in the DR Strooidak Church; it was inaugurated in 1805 and is the oldest church building still in use in the country. Piet Retief, one of the Great Trek leaders, and his family used to worship here and his sister is buried in the adjoining graveyard.

The rain by this time had stopped and we were able to look up from the town and see the huge granite rock on the mountainside; the Pearl after which the town is named. We continued through restful streets lined with stately oaks and flanked by well kept vineyard, past the KWV centre "La Concordia" and on to Nederburg Estate.

(As a slight digression, the writer's grandfather, Mr B Bishop, emigrated from Cornwall and started a granite quarry in Paarl which he also called "La Concordia". The bus was kindly diverted to pass by my granpa's old home which, quite naturally, was built of granite.)

The Nederburg Estate lies in the Daljosafat Valley and was built in 1800. In 1937 a German named George Graue bought the old farmstead and renovated it; he also established a world-wide reputation for the wines produced on the estate. After sampling some of the "bottled sunshine" we retired to one of the fragrant cellars to eat our picnic lunch, with beautifully carved vats standing as silent sentinels.

Suitably fortified, we continued our journey through the Daljosafat Valley with its old homesteads, some in good

order but some sadly in need of care and attention. Here we came to a little old schoolhouse where pupils were taught in Afrikaans for the very first time. After visiting the small graveyard nearby we motored on to "Schoongezicht", the home of Mr and Mrs Louw. The house was built in 1694 by Abraham Viviers and still has its original yellowwood and stinkwood doors, yellowwood ceilings and beams. It was the birthplace of Sarel Celliers, a famous Voortrekker leader.

One often hears about the farmers' hospitality; well here we surely enjoyed it! Mrs Magriet Louw supplied us with an afternoon tea second to none. The table groaned under a load of Afrikaner home cooking that stopped the Society members chattering for quite some time. And that real farm cream . . .

Although the afternoon was passing all too rapidly we could not leave Paarl without a visit to the Afrikaans Language Monument, erected on the southern end of the Paarl Mountain. Constructed of granite taken from its surroundings and bound with concrete, it features a rising wall which gradually merges into a covered corridor and eventually into the tall hollow pillar that can be seen so clearly from kilometres around.

With our minds full of capacity with this country's early history and greatly impressed with the cleanliness and tidiness of this beautiful town, we embussed, weary but happy, for the return trip to Simon's Town.

G H
Simon's Town Chronicle,
October, 1976

Langstraat behou sy siel

Die Sendinggestig in Langstraat, Kaapstad, wat nou al meer as 'n halfeeu bedreig word, is vir die nageslag gered.

Die Kaapse Provinsiale Administrasie het tussenbeide getree en verseker dat hierdie gebou nie gesloop sal word nie, maar sal bly voortbestaan as 'n museum. Die lof vir hierdie prestasie kom 'n aantal persone toe wat in die raad van trustees dien en alles in die stryd gewerp het om die slooping te verhinder. Hulle, saam met die Uitvoerende Komitee van die Provinsiale Administrasie, en mnr H M Bowman, eienaar van die hotel Metropole en van die Sendinggestig, wat 'n veel laer prys aanvaar het as die aanvanklike, is die mense wat daarvoor verantwoordelik is dat die gebou behoue bly. Mnr Bowman het die Sendinggestig oorspronklik gekoop om sy hotel te vergroot.

Die knoop is egter nog nie finaal deurgehaak nie. Van die huidige koopprys, R310 000, is die Provinsiale Administra-

sie bereid om R250 000 oor 'n tydperk van 25 jaar af te betaal, mits die trustees hierdie geld êrens kan leen. Hoewel die lening nog nie finaal aangegaan is nie, is dit seker dat die geld wel beskikbaar sal wees.

Die orige R60 000 sal deur die fondsin-samelingskomitee gekry moet word. Hoewel dit in die eerste oogopslag nie te moeilik lyk nie, is daar egter ook probleme: daar is reeds R40 000 in die fonds, sodat daar nog R20 000 ingesamel moet word.

Maar om die museumkomitee, wat nog saamgestel moet word, te vrywaar van toekomstige verpligtinge en uitgawes, is besluit om 'n bykomende R60 000 in te samel. Die totale tekort beloop dus R60 000.

Een van die maniere waarop die trustees onmiddellik geld wil insamel, is met die verkoop van die met die hand gekleurde afdrukke van die Sendinggestig deur John Hall.

Vyfhonderd van hierdie afdrukke, genomer en geteken, is teen R10 en 50c se posgeld per stuk te koop. Elkeen wat een koop, sal nie net die plesier kan hê van die druk nie, maar kan dit beskou as 'n klein kwitansie vir die bydrae tot die behoud van 'n stuk van ou Kaapstad.

Die afdrukke kan bestel word by: Die Sendinggestig-Trustfonds, Sanlambank Bpk., Posbus 653, Kaapstad, 8000.

Die Beeld,
18 November 1976

Ravenswood gered

Ravenswood, die enigste bekende voorbeeld van die laat-klassieke Georgiïaanse boustyl aan die begin van die negentiende eeu in Kaapstad, gaan beslis gerestoureer en in die toekoms nuttig gebruik word as deel van die Kaapstadse Hoërskool.

Menige bewaringsbewuste verbyganger in Hatfieldstraat het seker al gewonder hoe dit moontlik is dat 'n gebou met die wapen van die Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede daarop in so 'n verwaarloosde toestand kan wees.

Nader ondersoek het getoon dat heelwat werk sreeds gedoen is om die gebou van verdere verval te red en teen die wind en weer te beskerm.

Die Provinsiale Administrasie se Direkteur van Werke, mnr. R A Cunninghame, het gesê die mure en dak van die gebou is sowat drie jaar gelede versterk. As dit nie gedoen is nie, sou dit nou reeds inmekaar geval het. Die restourasiewerk maak deel uit van die derde fase van verbetering aan die Kaapstadse Hoërskool en sal ná volledige restourasie vir musiekonderrig gebruik word.

Mnr John Boyd, die argitek van die hele projek, het gesê Ravenswood is ná die groot aardbewing van 1809-1810 gebou. Dié aardbewing het die gewels van die huise in die gebied laat omval en M A de Kock het toe 'n plan van die Georgiïaanse boustyl uit Engeland ingevoer, dit aan-

gepas en agt tot tien huurhuise in dié styl in Hatfieldstraat gebou. Ravenswood is die enigste wat bly staan het.

Die gebou is toegelaat om ses jaar lank ongehinderd deur die reën en wind verweer te word sodat baie skade aan die mure en houtwerk aangerig is. Versterkings aan die mure en dak ten bedrae van R40 000 word nou uitgevoer en sal hopenlik in September voltooi wees.

Mnr Boyd het gesê die volledige restourasie sal na raming nog R40 000 kos. Wanneer dit gedoen word, sal van die beskikbaarheid van die nodige geld afhang.

Die reën het reeds baie skade aangerig deurdat die Baltiese dennehout-vloere en geelhoutbalke van die dak verrot het. Die plafon van die grondverdieping het taamlik goed behoue gebly en sal gerestoureer kan word. Die balke en vloere moet egter vervang word.

Van die trap wat uit kaaat- en eikehout gemaak is, het min oorgebly nadat vandale en bergies dit gesteel het. Dele daarvan is gelukkig teruggevind sodat genoeg besonderhede beskikbaar is om die oorspronklike trap getrou na te maak.

Ná voltooiing sal Ravenswood een van die mooiste gerestoureerde geboue in Kaapstad wees, te meer omdat daar betreuenswaardig min uit dié tydperk oorgebly het, het mnr Boyd gesê.

Die Burger,
22 Junie 1976

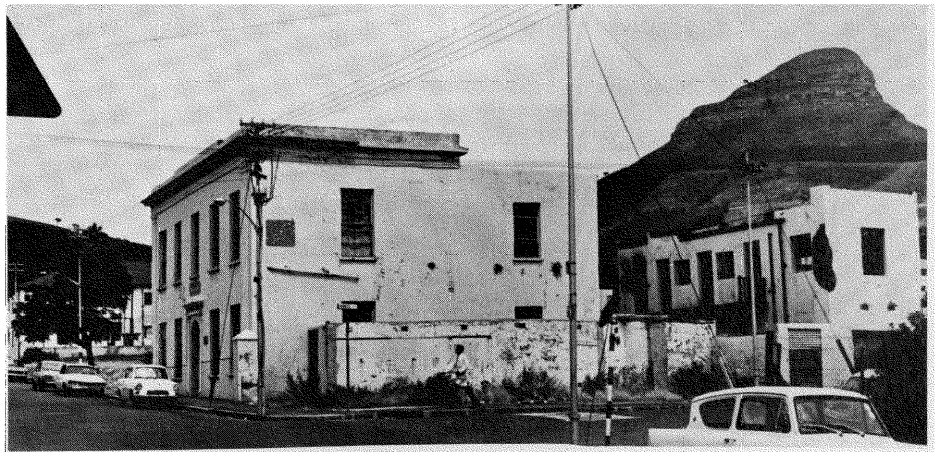
Sendinggestig, Kaapstad.

Foto: *M.W. Marsh*



Ravenswood in Hatfieldstraat, Kaapstad wat jare lank aan die wind en weer oorgelaat is en erg verweer het, gaan nou van verdere agteruitgang gered word. Die Provinsiale Administrasie gaan dit volledig tot sy vorige skoonheid restoureer. Ravenswood wat aan die begin van die negentiende eeu opgerig is, is in Mei 1971 as nasionale gedenkwaardigheid geproklameer.

Foto: *Die Burger*



Gwen Mills talks to Jonathan Wood

Mr Jonathan Wood, a member of the Cape Town Regional Committee, of the Simon van der Stel Foundation, considers that restoration should not be undertaken if it is to be based on guess work or sentimentality. He was fastidious and critical in his research prior to the restoration of his historic home, Westoe, at Mowbray. He has travelled widely and feels that the charm of the traditional Cape homestead has few equals anywhere.

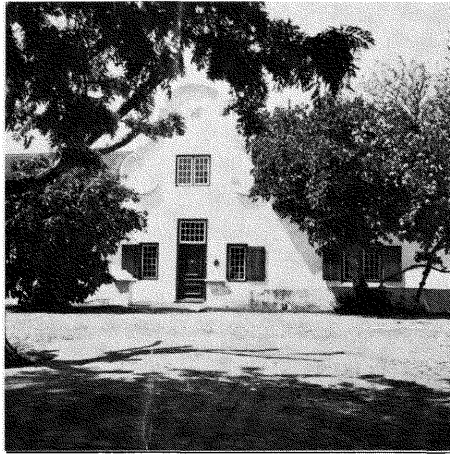
In thinking of Westoe and the adjacent farms in terms of history, one's mind goes back to the first lands granted by Van Riebeeck along the Liesbeeck (then the Amstel) river, which itself formed a natural boundary between the Dutch East India Company's settlement and the Cape flats.

In 1661 the farm Coornhoop (Hope of Corn) was granted to Thielman Hendricks. In 1741 the farm was enlarged by an addition to the north, and finally, in 1785 it was divided into three portions. The centre portion (which was the northern section before the 1741 addition) became the property of Francois Pieter de Necker, and it was he who built the house we now know as Westoe. De Necker first built his house on the T-plan. Very soon, however, he added a room to the southern side of the tail of the T. Apparently still unsatisfied, he added, a few years later (about 1800), a room to the north side of the tail of the T, thus making the house into an H-shape.

Mr Wood explained that there are two rooms on the front portion of the house which are built purely of ant-heap cut into square blocks. These may be considerably earlier than 1785 and could possibly have been outbuildings on the Coornhoop farm. If this is so, De Necker simply incorporated them into his new house.

During, probably, the third quarter of the 19th century the two north wings of the H-plan were lengthened quite considerably. Many of the casement windows were replaced by sash windows of the period, and additional sash windows installed.

In 1892 the property was bought by H W Struben who then "modernised" the house even further. Now it was the turn of the sash windows to be replaced by French doors! New interior walls divided the old rooms and formed passages where none had existed (The City Council contract for the installation of electrical wiring in the house dated 21 July, 1926, states that there were fifteen bedrooms!) Prior to these inno-



Restored historic home, Westoe, Mowbray, Cape Town

ventions, the high pitched thatch roof had been replaced by corrugated iron on roof timbers of a much lower pitch, and, as so often happened during this operation, the gables were "clipped".

Restoration

In describing the procedure adopted when first tackling the house, Mr Wood emphasised the importance of removing much of the plaster from the walls. This revealed a fairly full structural history of the house and the vicissitudes which it had suffered in its long life.

Brickwork of different periods, recognisable by size, type, and consistency, told the interesting story of the additions previously mentioned. Lintels beneath which windows had once been, were found still embedded in the walls, the window "reveals" still intact, but the openings blocked up with later brickwork. Fortunately both the sash windows, and the Victorian French doors which replaced them, were not as wide as the original double casement windows.

When copies of the existing casements were made it was necessary only to remove the more recent side in-filling in order to fit the new casements snugly into the original openings – bricking up, naturally, the central section under the new sills. Happily almost all the yellowwood ceilings remained in the old H-portion of the house – albeit heavily painted or varnished over the years, and requiring weeks of scraping and cleaning – as did all the single panel yellowwood and teak doors.

A comparatively modern bathroom which had been built on the front stoep was, of course, demolished, and late 19th century interior walls were pulled down, re-establishing the high, spacious rooms of the 18th century. Modern plumbing and electricity was discreetly installed.

The later 19th century elongations to the two north wings were, in the main, left in their original form. They were, after

all, practical and useful rooms, and were part of the "story" of a living and growing house. Added, as they fortunately were, within the scale of the older part of the house, they neither confuse, nor detract from, the original plan.

While the building itself has been restored, Mr Wood's greatest sadness is that the high cost of restoring the roof to its original pitch and rebuilding the side gables, has prevented this being achieved. Nevertheless, the original charm of Westoe has returned and, in its re-birth as a living but historic home, it has risen, like the Phoenix, from the ashes.

Historiese plaashuis tot Nasionale monument verklaar

Bo-Radyn se historiese Kaaps-Hollandse plaashuis is die afgelope week tot nasionale gedenkwaardigheid verklaar. Met die huis se waardige geskiedenis verdien dit beslis hierdie toekenning.

Ongeveer 1720 het 'n sekere Jan Jurgens Radyn, weiregte vir die gebied tussen Rooihoogte en Breërivier gekry. Hoewel daar nie bewys kan word wie presies in die huis op Radyn gewoon het nie, dra die gewels van die huis die jaartal 1777.

Dit is egter baie waarskynlik dat daar vroeër 'n woonplek was. Daar bestaan bewyse dat 'n sekere mnr Daniël du Toit die huis in 1819 bewoon het.

In 1820 het William Burchell en George Thompson kort na mekaar besoek op die plaas afgelê. William Burchell het die huis toe beskryf as 'n vyfkamer-woning wat in 'n swak toestand verkeer het.

Op 20 Mei 1836 koop die latere stigter van Villiersdorp, Pieter Hendrik de Villiers, die plaas. In dieselfde jaar het hy die plaashuis van vier sterk gewels voorsien. Daarna het Radyn vinnig van eienaars verander. Omdat die plaas in 150 jaar 12 eienaars gehad het, het elkeen na willekeur veranderinge aan die huis aangebring.

In 1934 het die huidige eenaar se vader die plaas gekoop. Slegs die uitbreek van die Tweede Wêreldoorlog, gepaardgaande met die onsekere ekonomiese toestand, het verhoed dat die ou opstal deur 'n moderne woning vervang is. Weer eens is veranderinge aangebring om aan die inwoners se vereistes te kon voldoen.

Toe, in 1972, is die finale besluit deur mnr en mev Kobus le Roux geneem om die huis te restoreer. 'n Argitek, mnr Gawie Fagan, se hulp is ingeroep.

'n Foto wat gedurende 1876 geneem is, het as leidraad gedien om die oorspronklike vorm van die huis vas te stel. Met die verwydering van ou pleister is vorige venster- en deuropeninge ontdek. Ook

'n nissie in die voorhuis. Dit was waarskynlik vir 'n kers gebruik. Verskeie vensters, lateie, vensterbanke en skarniere moes spesiaal vervaardig word om aan die restourasie-vereistes te kon voldoen. Twee lae ou verf en vernis moes van die plafonne verwyder word. Sewe lae plakpapier is in sommige ver-trekke onder pleister gevind. Die pragtige geelhoutvloere wat vandag so mooi glinster, moes almal vervang word. Deur van die plaaswerkers ge-

bruik te maak en Braam le Roux wat eiehandig die dak vervang het, is daar tot 50 persent van die normale restourasiekoste bespaar.

Mnr Le Roux en sy gesin beskou dit as 'n groot voorreg om so 'n mooi ou huis te kon restoureer – veral met die oog op die geskiedkundige verbintenis wat die opstal met Villiersdorp se gemeenskap het.

Overberg,
10 September 1976

Historic graves at Plettenberg Bay restored

PATRICIA STORRAR

In the second issue of *Restorica* an appeal was made for assistance in the task of restoring the oldest graves at Plettenberg Bay, those of six members of the Harker family which lie a few metres to the east of Beacon Way, the main road running out of the town towards Port Elizabeth. The effort to restore these graves to some semblance of order and dignity after more than a century of neglect was made by a small committee of four residents of the Bay and the cost was met by private subscription. A low stone wall now encloses the area, the gravestones (all of slate) now rest securely on concrete slabs and the paths between the stones are neatly covered with stone chips to discourage further encroachment of the bush, grass and creepers which previously obscured the site. The six members of the Harker family buried here all lived in the first half of the last century and all of them died long before St. Peter's Church (Anglican) was built in 1879-80 in the Village of

Formosa. All but two in fact, died before the little yellowwood Church of St. Andrew, Redbourn (declared an Historic Monument in 1963) was built in 1850. It was natural, therefore, that Captain Robert Charles Harker, for twenty-one years Government Resident of Plettenberg Bay, should bury those of his family who predeceased him in the ground of the Residency. It is now Town Council land.

The following is a copy of the explanatory text which, mounted on a notice board, gives in brief the story of those buried here:-

"Captain Robert Charles Harker, son of General and Mrs Francis Harker of Swinford, Ireland, was Government Resident of Plettenberg Bay from November 1826 to December 1847, when this post was abolished. He was granted a pension and the use of the residency for his lifetime.

Prior to his arrival in South Africa Robert Harker served for a total of 20 years in the 96th Regiment and the 15th Regiment (later the East York-

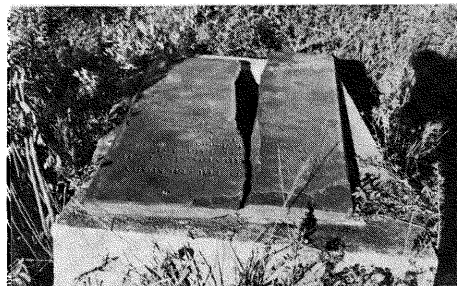
shire) in England, Jersey, Guernsey, Nova Scotia and Bermuda.

In February 1809 he married Maria Herrick of the City of Cork, Ireland. They had four daughters and three sons when they arrived in Cape Town in December 1823 and two years later a fourth son, John, was born at Woodville, Harker's beautiful farm east of George. A natural son, Henry Adolphus, also given the surname Harker, was born in this same year. Robert soon gave up farming and became a government official at Plettenberg Bay. In addition to being Government Resident, he was also Postmaster and Justice of the Peace.

At various times he owned land in and around the Bay, including – in partnership with a son-in-law – *Doukamma*, lying north of Wittedrift. Part of this he re-named *Uplands*.

Captain Harker's beloved wife, Maria, died on 18 December 1834 and he buried her in this sequestered corner of the Residency grounds. Over the next quarter of a century he also buried four other members of his family here: his eldest son, Edward Herrick Harker; Edward's wife, Wilhemina (daughter of S H du Toit and Mrs du Toit, of Uitenhage); Maria, infant daughter of Olivia (Harker) and her husband J J Sandenbergh; and lastly his eldest daughter's husband, John Archibald Sinclair. This Scot was the manager and joint proprietor of the "whale fishery" at Plettenberg Bay from 1831 until he died on 29 January 1859.

Two months later, on 16 March, 1859,

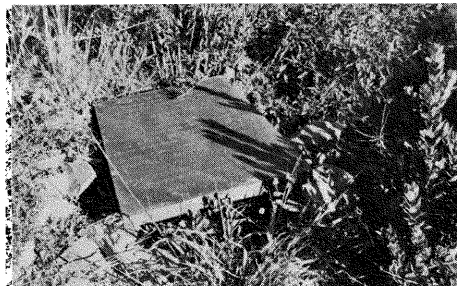


The grave of Robert Harker's son-in-law, John Archibald Sinclair, a whaler, before restoration.

The sad state of neglect into which the Harker graves at Plettenberg Bay have fallen is reflected in this photograph.



The grave of Robert Charles Harker before restoration.





Restoration completed. The little graveyard as it was when the Port Elizabeth Historical Society visited it on 24.10.1976. Dr. John Scott, chairman of the Society, is standing left, in checked shirt. Mrs. Storrar, the writer of this article and the moving spirit behind the restoration, is on the right.

Photos of Harker graves by Patricia Storrar

Robert Charles Harker died at Harker-ville, named after him, and was laid to rest here, next to his Irish-born wife.

pm every Saturday afternoon to allow the public to visit it.

The Argus,
January 14, 1977

For ship buffs

Much that was of value in old Cape Town has crumbled under the onslaught of progress and, in spite of protest, much more is inevitably still to go. Every now and then, however, an antiquity or near-antiquity is saved and the preservation-ists take heart.

Among the lesser-known pieces of treasure is the old Clock Tower which guards what was once the outer extremity of the Port of Cape Town, the 'cut' between the Alfred Basin and the Victoria Basin. It was restored by the Railways and Harbours Administration and is now in the custody of the Ship Society of South Africa.

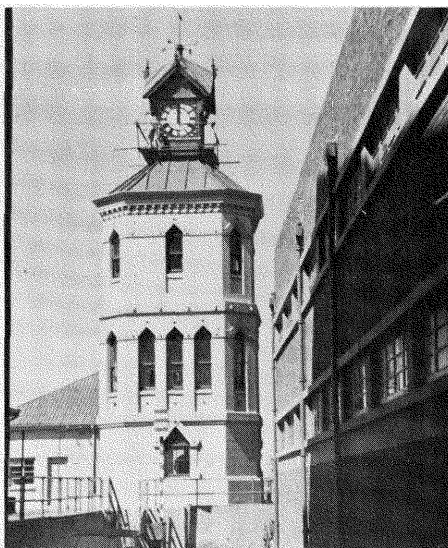
It was the original control tower of the Port Captain and the clock at the top, which the administration has also had restored, chimes the hours like a ship's bell. The clock's works, behind a glass case, can be seen by visitors to the tower. The three floors of the tower, which include a room of mirrors – the origin of which nobody seems to know – and windows, have been turned by the Ship Society into a repository for photographs of ships which have been associated with the Tavern of the Seas and for furniture and navigational equipment taken from some of these vessels.

Members of the Ship Society are on duty at the Clock Tower between 3 pm and 5



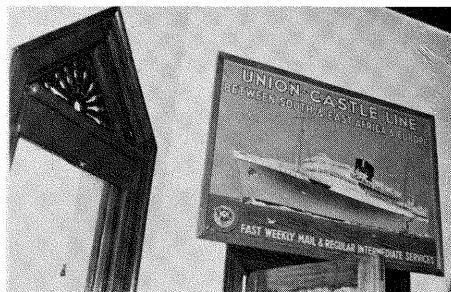
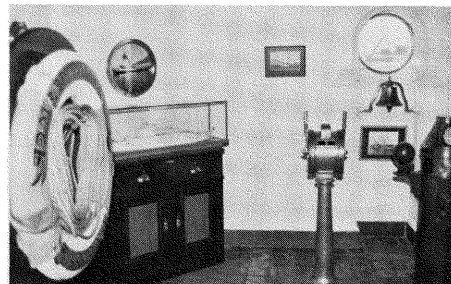
The clock's works, behind a glass case, can be seen by visitors to the tower.

The Old Clock Tower, Cape Town harbour.



The three floors of the tower have been turned by the Ships Society into a repository for photographs of ships which have been associated with the Tavern of the Seas and for furniture and navigational equipment taken from some of these vessels.

Photos of Clock Tower: *M.W. Marsh*



Help Waenhuiskrans red

Waenhuiskrans of Arniston, die skilderagtige Kaapse vissersdorp, is waarskynlik die enigste in sy soort wat in sy geheel behoue gebly het. Maar die voortbestaan van die dorpie word bedreig, ondanks lofwaardige restourasiewerk wat reeds gedoen is.

Om hierdie unieke dorpie vir die nageslag te bewaar en vir sy inwoners leefbaar te maak, is 'n komitee gevorm met mnr F D Conradie as die projek se beskermheer. Vir die komiteede is dit liefdeswerk. Dit gaan hier om 'n algehele restourasie, nie net die opknapping van geboue nie. Dit gaan om die restourasie van die lewensomstandighede van mense wat nie die kapitaal bymekaar kan bring om selfs 'n behoorlike dak oor hul koppe te kry nie, laat staan nog huise te herbou omdat hulle skilderagtig is.

In samewerking met die plaaslike afdelingsraad en staatsdepartemente het die Bewaar Waenhuiskrans-komitee ooreengekom dat die eiendom vir altyd aan die Vissersunie sal behoort. Die Vissersunie, bygestaan deur die Komitee het in samewerking met die Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede die gebied as 'n gedenkwaardigheid laat verklaar en daardeur sy toekoms beskerm.

Argitekte wat in restourasiewerk belang stel, het reeds 'n plan opgestel vir die restourasie van die bestaande tagtig huisies en, indien moontlik, die heropbou van dié wat reeds ineengestort of verdwyn het. Sewe en twintig van die huisies is reeds gerestoureer, maar nou is die geld byna uitgeput.

Daar word van plaaslike arbeid gebruik gemaak om die vissers te help om hul karige inkomste aan te vul. Die publiek word vriendelik versoek om boumateriaal te skenk of ander hulp aan die projek te verleen. Die beraamde herstelkoste van 'n huisie sal tussen R750 en R1250 beloop. Daar is ook 'n tekort aan was- en ander gemeenskapsfasiliteite. Om Kassiesbaai as 'n sieraad vir die nageslag te bewaar, word 'n minimum bedrag van R100 000 benodig.

Die welslae van hierdie projek is tot op groot hoogte op openbare steun aangewys en dit sal op prys gestel word indien u of u organisasie mildelik tot hierdie verdienstelike onderneming sal bydra. Skenkings kan gestuur word aan: Die Sekretaris, Bewaar Arniston - Preserve Arniston, p.a. BJE Bennetts, Durbanweg 36, Wynberg 7800.

Hierdie huisies op Waenhuiskrans wag nog om gerestoureer en bewoonbaar gemaak te word.

Foto: *Pretoria News*



Vissershuisies op Waenhuiskrans voor restourasie.



Gerestoureerde huisies op Waenhuiskrans.



Forest Hall

PATRICIA STORRAR

It is impossible to write the story of Forest Hall, a spacious old house standing in the heart of forested land some 23 kilometres east of Plettenberg Bay, without sketching briefly the history of the man who built it more than a century ago. Because it was the character of this man and the background from which he came which determined emphatically the size and style of the house and the setting in which it was placed.

In June 1847 young William Henry Newdigate, third son of Francis Newdigate and his wife, Lady Barbara Maria Legge, daughter of the third Earl of Dartmouth, arrived to put down his roots in the green Piesang Valley, Plettenberg Bay. A scion of one of the oldest and most distinguished families in Britain, he could trace his ancestry back on the paternal side through a long line of noble Newdigates – among whom titles abounded – to the 15th century. The Newdigate ancestral seat was – and still is today – Arbury Hall, Nuneaton, Warwickshire.¹ William and two of his brothers were born at Astley Castle, the seat of his maternal grandfather, the Earl.

William and his brother, George, had already spent ten months in South Africa, staying with the Hon. Henry Barrington on his estate, Portland, near Knysna, while looking for a farm to buy in the vicinity. They eventually purchased seven-eighths of *Roodefontein*, a farm of about 1 500 hectares in the Piesang Valley, from Hendrick Lodewyk Pio for £600.² William modified the name *Roodefontein* to Redbourn, called a second portion of the farm *Ladywood* and a third *Bucleugh*. In time he also acquired *Astley* and *Jackal's Kraal*, adjoining his original purchase. Here he farmed industriously for 16 years and became the leading figure in the small local community.

On Redbourn he built, in 1850, a little wooden church, St. Andrew's, out of yellow-wood cut on his own lands. This tiny building is the oldest church in the Diocese of George and was proclaimed an historical monument in 1963.³ From Redbourn, too, he married on 17th June 1851, Caroline, eldest daughter of Captain Thomas Henry Duthie and his wife, Caroline (born Rex) of Belvidere.⁴ In the substantial house which he built for his bride on Redbourn, the first six of his and Caroline's large family were born – three sons and three daughters – and thrived happily.

In 1862 William's father died at his handsome home, Dartmouth House, Blackheath, Kent,⁵ and it was probably as a result of the bequest which he received that William bought in the following year 1 620 well-wooded hectares at Bowers Park – now known as The Craggs. Here he built a spacious home to his own design – Forest Hall. According to a letter written by Caroline Newdigate in August 1863, mentioning that the brick-work of their new house was progressing well, they probably moved into Forest Hall before the end of 1863. Here they lived a self-contained life, modelled on that of a squire and his lady in the English countryside of the last century. They entertained Bishops and other dignitaries of the Church, important men such as Dr Guybon Atherstone and Thomas Bain (of mountain passes fame), officials of the Forestry and Roads Departments and visitors from overseas. Three of William's brothers came out to stay with them at various times – the eldest, who became Lt Colonel Francis William Newdigate of the Coldstream Guards; a younger brother who became Lt General Sir Edward Newdigate, Governor of the Bermudas after a distinguished military career, and the youngest surviving brother, Albert, a graduate of Christ Church, Oxford.⁶ The names of all these and many more are to be found in the Forest Hall visitors' book, still in use today. Bishop Robert Gray and his wife, having stayed twice with William and Caroline in their home in the Piesang Valley, were also house guests at Forest Hall.⁷ Other travellers who have left records of their pleasant visits to the spacious house are Georgina Lister⁸ (daughter of Thomas Bain), J. J. Aubertin,⁹ Stanley Leighton, an English MP¹⁰, and an unknown South African College student.¹¹ Some of them mention the beautiful silver used at table and the fine portraits of Newdigate ancestors on the walls.

Architecturally speaking, Forest Hall is not a beautiful house, but the sheer size of it is impressive and there is a certain dignity in its rather austere, uncluttered lines. In the vast entrance hall, with its seven-metre high ceiling, the eye is drawn up irresistibly to the gallery, with its stinkwood balustrade, running the length of the hall upstairs. The height of the ceilings in most of the downstairs rooms is four metres and the fireplaces are huge by modern standards. The mantels of the fireplaces are of stinkwood, as are all the downstairs doors.

The floors, of yellowwood planks more than 30 cm wide, have been beautifully cleaned and polished in recent years.

And if there seems to be a certain severity about the rooms today, one must picture them as they would have looked a century ago, filled with Victorian furniture of gleaming English mahogany, elegant bureaux, davenports, chaises longues, chests and chairs, bright chintz curtains, frilled lampshades and charming pictures thick on the walls.

A certain pattern of living was established in William Newdigate's time, farming and the cutting of timber providing a fair living for the large family (three more daughters were born at Forest Hall),¹² while shooting, boating and fishing parties, picnics, rides and musical evenings were organised for the entertainment of the many guests. As buffalo, elephant, buck and wild pig abounded in the forests surrounding the house, the shooting parties were the most popular of all forms of entertainment.

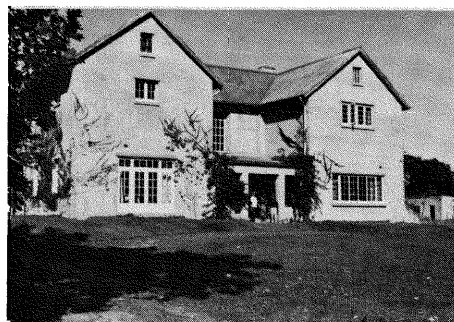
William Newdigate, founder of the South African branch of the family, died on 4 November 1884 and was buried in the grounds of his little Church of St Andrew, Redbourn.¹³ A kindly and courteous man, he was greatly mourned in the area.

It was not many years after his death that the Forest Hall estates began to run down. Francis, the eldest son, obtained a job in the Roads Department, Knysna, and then in 1890 married Katherine Caroline, daughter of the Hon Henry Barrington¹⁴, and moved to Portland, the Barrington estate. William, the second son, had already qualified as a land surveyor and had moved to Kimberley where he became, in time, Chief Surveyor to De Beers Mines. Arthur Patrick, the third and last son, was just 21 when his father died and had not the experience or, in fact, the character, to keep Forest Hall in running order as well as looking after his mother and several unmarried sisters. The women of the family were fine horsewomen, good shots and extremely capable about the house, but even they could not halt the decline in the family's fortunes.

The last decade of the 19th century and

Forest Hall, Plettenberg Bay.

Photo: Patricia Storrar



first few decades of the present century were sad ones for the old hall. Mrs Caroline Newdigate died in April 1922¹⁵ and the house was finally vacated. Arthur and the four of his sisters still unmarried, had already moved to Longridge Farm, at The Craggs, and were farming in a small way. Occasionally an inheritance would come their way from the Newdigate families in England and this would tide them over for a year or two. Forest Hall fell into a pathetic state of disrepair. In 1948 Dr and Mrs W D T Sym, who now live in Knysna, rented it on a long lease. They effected considerable repairs to the house and filled it with their valuable furniture from Scotland and their own family heirlooms. For nearly 15 years they managed to restore its rightful character and make it again a centre of gracious hospitality, but they left in 1963 and for another eight years it stood empty.¹⁶ "It was used only by hippies, cows and bats" stated the present owner, Mrs Hilary Peter, ruefully. Mrs Peter, with her only sister, inherited Forest Hall in 1952 from her father, eldest son of William Henry Newdigate's eldest son, Francis. She obtained full ownership in 1971 and immediately set about restoring it to its position as the most important home of the Newdigates in this country.

Mrs Peter, who lives at Komga, is married to a lawyer, has five children and runs a small business, has limited time to spend at Forest Hall. She has, nevertheless, embarked on an ambitious programme of cleaning, painting, re-wiring and general restoration. Everyone who is interested in the preservation and maintenance of South Africa's old homes will hope that she succeeds in her courageous undertaking.

References

The information contained in this article, unless otherwise stated, was obtained from the *Newdegate MSS* (Correspondence etc. re the Newdigate family & Plettenberg Bay, Ref: CRI36) in the Warwickshire County Record Office, England, and from William Henry Newdigate's farm journals, in the possession of Mrs K Peter, Komga, Eastern Province.

- ¹*Arbury Hall, Warwickshire* by Gordon Nares.
- ²Deed of Transfer, signed by Willem Adriaan Smuts, attorney; copy in the possession of Mrs R Thesen, Knysna.
- ³*Bishop of Cape Town's Visitation Journal* 1850 Entry Nov. 28 1850.
- ⁴Marriage Register of St George's Church, Knysna.
- ⁵Census returns for the Parish of Lewisham, Kent. Also the Will of Francis Newdigate, dated 6 July 1859.
- ⁶*Debrett's and Kelly's Handbook*.
- ⁷*Bishop of Cape Town's Visitation Journal* 1869 (Unpublished).
- ⁸*Reminiscences of Georgina Lister* (1960) p. 65.

⁹*Six Months in the Cape Colony & Natal* (1886) by J J Aubertin, pp 78-81.

¹⁰*Notes on a Visit to South Africa* by Stanley Leighton (ed A M Lewin Robinson) (1975) pp 41-46.

¹¹*Through the Tzitzikama* by a SA College Student (1883) in SA Library.

¹²*Genealogy of the Rex Family* by Arthur Rex Beddy (1971) pp 38/39.

¹³Gravestone, St Andrew's Church, Redbourn, Plett. Bay.

¹⁴Marriage notice, *George & Knysna Herald*, 12 February 1890.

¹⁵Gravestone, St Andrew's Church, Redbourn.

¹⁶Information from Mrs Peter and Dr W D T Sym.

Boschendal tot gedenkstuk verklaar

Boschendal, historiese wyn- en vrugteplaas in Groot Drakenstein, is onlangs by 'n kleurryke en feestelike geleentheid tot nasionale gedenkwaardigheid verklaar. Meer as vyfhonderd gaste het die verrigtinge bygewoon.

Die plaas, wat altesame 164 jaar die eiendom was van die familie De Villiers, is in 1896 gekoop deur Cecil John Rhodes wat dit deel gemaak het van die Rhodes Fruit Farms (RFF). Die huis is in 1812 deur Paul de Villiers klaar gebou. Die Nasionale Rhodes-Erfenistrust het in 1974 besluit dat Boschendal gerestoureer moet word. Dit is onlangs voltooi teen 'n koste van sowat R175 000.

Onder die mense wat teenwoordig was, was oud-president Jim Fouché, parlementslede, lede van die Verteenwoordigende Kleurlingraad, buitelandse diplomaat en burgemeesters van omliggende dorpe.

'n Sanggroep van Stellenbosch het opgetree en aan die einde van die verrigtinge het mev Christelle Schoeman, eggenote van mnr H Schoeman, Minister van Landbou, die gedenkplaat onthul wat die plaas tot nasionale gedenkwaardigheid verklaar.

Mnr W J Héfer, voorsitter van die RFF, wat Boschendal aan die Nasionale Rhodes-Erfenistrust oorhandig het, het gesê die restourasie van die plaas was nie alleen 'n vernuwende, maar ook 'n verryking van die Suid-Afrikaanse lewe.

„Die bewaring van kulturele erfenisse en skatte is net so belangrik as die beskerming van ons grense,” het hy bygevoeg.

Hy het Boschendal beskryf as 'n belangrike deel van die Kaaps-Hollandse argitektoniese tradisie en 'n sieraad vir die land. In sy toespraak het hy hulde gebring aan die familie De Villiers wat so baie op Boschendal tot stand gebring het. Mnr H F Oppenheimer, voorsitter van die Erfenistrust, het gesê besoekers dink slegs aan Suid-Afrika as 'n jong land. Dit is goed dat hulle sien dat hier ook 'n land is met sy eie tradisie en kultuurskatte.

Volgens mnr Oppenheimer is die outentieke restourasie van die huis 'n belangrike dokument in die geskiedenis van Suid-Afrika.

Regter M R de Kock, voorsitter van die Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede, het Boschendal amptelik tot nasionale gedenkwaardigheid verklaar.

Die Burger,
6 November 1976

Boschendal, die historiese plaashuis in Groot-Drakenstein, wat onlangs by 'n kleurryke plegtigheid tot nasionale gedenkwaardigheid verklaar is.

Foto: M.W. Marsh





USA

Revolving Fund uses Federal Preservation Dollars

JERRY L ROGERS

Preservationists have made great professional and technical progress in the past few years. By several hundred percent we have multiplied our knowledge of how to identify, record, protect and preserve historic properties. Yet we still tend to use somewhat conservative and inefficient approaches in the area of the most critical need - finance. Financial progress must equal the progress in other aspects of the work, and we are on the verge of making it do so with a device long familiar - the revolving fund.

Since the most increase in value seems to occur in dilapidated and perhaps vacant buildings that are given thorough restoration or rehabilitation, why should not the state have a revolving fund that would be matched by a federal grant for the purpose of purchasing and restoring such properties? After restoration, the properties would be sold.

The proceeds of the sale should, it is hoped, equal the amount invested in the purchase and restoration and would go into the revolving fund. After completion of such a cycle, the revolving fund would contain its original amount plus the amount of the federal grant. In other words, it would be twice as large as it had originally been. The full amount of the fund could then be used to match another federal grant.

Such a fund could grow in geometric proportions. Because it grows, rather than just revolves, it can be referred to as a capital fund. Assume that the original capital fund amounted to \$25,000 and that purchase, restoration and resale projects for the full amount of the fund could be accomplished in annual cycles. At the end of the first year the \$25,000 in non-federal matching capability would have become \$50,000. At the end of the second year it would be \$100,000, the third year \$200,000, the fourth year \$400,000. The length of the period of geometric growth would depend on the amount of money the federal

government could make available for matching.

Ultimately, the state capital fund would exceed the federal governments' matching capability, even if there were a program of \$100, \$200, \$300 or even \$400 million a year. After that point, the fund could continue to grow by the amount of federal grants channeled into it, but the rate of growth would no longer be geometric. At that time, not all of the dollars in the fund would be required for use as a match against federal grants. These "excess" dollars could be used for other purposes.

Under the approach proposed here, restored properties would return to the tax rolls, probably with a higher contribution than before. The projects conducted with a capital fund should be coordinated when possible with a state or local tax abatement program. Many significant historic buildings today stand empty and abandoned because the back taxes on the properties are greater than their current real estate values.

It is vitally important that the funds not be lodged in an agency of the state government. When a lean year comes along and the legislature is afraid to vote a new tax, the trust fund gets legislated into general revenue.

In order to prevent that from happening, the capital fund should be administered in a private nonprofit corporation or foundation under the effective professional control of the state historic preservation officer. It would be even better to have several such funds within the state. Funds of this sort would inevitably reinforce local efforts.

There are other advantages to using one or more private nonprofit entities for capital funds. Remember that while restoration may easily and effectively be accomplished within a state agency, purchase and resale cannot. Private entities may be able to handle these matters without the encumbrances that come with state laws. Furthermore, private organizations can often act more rapidly and with greater effect in emergencies than public agencies can.

To assure that the capital funds continue to function according to the professional standards set by the federal government and the state historic preservation officers, the state would be responsible for monitoring and enforcement.

No attractive scheme ever works as well

in practice as it does in theory. Yet one can lose nothing by trying. The changes in habit that might be required by implementation of the capital fund concept are necessary for the conduct of an effective contemporary program and should in any case be made. Capital funds cannot be made to work with significant effect until the federal program is funded in excess of \$150 million a year. *Jerry L Rogers is acting director of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service. This article is adapted from a paper Rogers delivered at a meeting of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.*

*Preservation News (USA),
May 1976*

FHA loans offered on historic houses

MARILYN CABLE

Owners of historic property will soon be able to apply for historic preservation loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The loans are for rehabilitation, restoration or preservation work and will be made under the FHA Title I Home Improvement Loan Program.

\$15,000 per dwelling unit will be available and the maximum term will be 15 years.

To qualify, a property must be either in the National Register of Historic Places or certified by the US Secretary of the Interior to be eligible for the National Register. In addition, the property must be used primarily as a residence after completion of the improvements.

All properties within a district in the National Register will be eligible, and it is expected that the greatest visual impact resulting from the availability of the loans will be in districts.

The historic preservation loans are an expansion of the Title I Home Improvement Loan Program under which FHA has insured loans since 1935. The existing program has stimulated a considerable amount of revitalization; 31,5 mil-

lion loans, valued at \$24.4 billion, have been made since the beginning of the program. During 1975, 257,950 loans, valued at \$805,392,985, were made.

Title I Program

Persons who need a source of preservation loans now and cannot wait until the expanded Title I program is implemented, should consider loans under the existing Title I program; an owner of a single-family residence can borrow up to \$10,000 for 12 years under the current program. Maximum loans on multifamily structures are \$5,000 per dwelling unit, not to exceed \$25,000. Properties do not have to be historic to be eligible for a Title I loan under the existing program.

FHA Insurance

FHA insurance of the financial institution often makes a loan possible. By taking part of the risk, FHA encourages private financial institutions to make loans that they might be reluctant to make otherwise. The borrower pays the market interest rate (not to exceed 12 percent) and a small charge for the insurance. In many communities, community development block grants can be used to subsidize the interest on rehabilitation loans made at market rates by private financial institutions.

Regulations to administer the new historic preservation loans are being developed now and are expected to be completed soon. For information on the status of the program, contact Harvey Weiner, director of the program at HUD, 451 7th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20410 (202) 755-5945.

Marilyn Cable is on the staff of the National Register of Historic Places.

*Preservation News (USA),
May 1976*

Problems in Preservation

PAUL J GOLDBERGER

Paul J Goldberger is architectural critic for the *New York Times*. He presented one of the summaries for the three-day conference on the economics of preservation sponsored by the National Trust in Seattle last summer. In his paper, he discussed several of the dangers preservationists face from some of their successes. The following excerpt is from the new book on the conference published by the Preservation Press, *Economic*

Benefits of Preserving Old Buildings (164 pp., illus., paper \$5.50) which is available from the National Trust Preservation Bookshop.

One (problem) that I was also glad to hear mentioned, involves elitism. I was glad that Bruce Rockwell from the Colorado National Bank came right out and said that it will not do to convert from low income housing to luxury units. This change is often seen as a sign of success, but it is not. One is tempted to say that any neighborhood should be lucky enough to be in such demand that real estate values soar, but there is another side to this process, and preservationists must deal with it more fully than they have in the past.

Class Antagonism

Bruce Chapman also acknowledged this problem when he urged that preservationists not invite class antagonism. He made a superb point that is not adequately covered here – the fact that the poor often resent rehabilitation, even when it is clearly being done for them and not to remove them. This feeling stems from the belief that old buildings are in some way less valuable than new ones and that the poor are therefore being cheated by preservation.

Harmon Goldstone, former chairman of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, once described an enormous battle with the Harlem community over a fine McKim, Mead and White library. The commission wanted to designate the library, and the city was prepared to offer funds for rehabilitation. But the Harlem community wanted to go for a new building. Residents saw a new structure as a symbol of progress, and an old building, even one so fine as the McKim library, as a symbol of being tied to the past. Eventually the community was won over, but it was difficult, and the dispute pointed up a crucial problem that preservationists have not adequately dealt with – namely, how to convince the poor that rehabilitation can indeed be in their interest.

This reluctance for preservation on the part of the poor is not all that surprising. Given how badly served they are by most of the old buildings they know, such as tenements and schools, it is logical that they should associate old structures with a holding back of progress.

Bulldozer Days Dead

Bruce Rockwell also said that “the bulldozer days are dead in Denver, but urban blight is alive and well.” It is indeed, and while preservationists and urbanologists are correct in believing that the bulldoze-and-rebuild method of urban renewal has rarely worked, they must not fall into the equally simplistic trap of

believing that the standard rehabilitation approach will by itself save our cities.

*Preservation News (USA),
May, 1976*

Ford signs four Preservation Bills

CARLETON KNIGHT, III

President Ford has signed into law four bills that will have a major effect on historic preservation in the United States. They offer a potential massive increase in federal preservation matching funds, tax incentives to assist preservation efforts, the likelihood of adaptive use and mixed use for federal buildings and controls over strip-mining in historic areas. The four new laws come on the 10th anniversary of passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and represent the most significant changes for preservation since October 1966.

The funding bill, which was signed at a ceremony in the Rose Garden of the White House before a group of 200 invited preservationists and conservationists on September 28, would establish a special historic preservation fund in the U.S. Treasury. Monies would come from the sale of off-shore mineral and oil leases.

There would be authorized for preservation matching grants from the National Park Service to the states and the National Trust greatly increased amounts (*PN*, September). In fiscal 1977, the program level is \$24.4 million; for fiscal 1978 and 1979, that figure rises to \$100 million and for 1980 and 1981, the figure is \$150 million. The bill also enlarges the membership of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and makes it an independent body.

On signing the bill, President Ford said, “As we enter our third century of independence, the American people have taken special pride in the landmarks of our past. This new fund will assure that Americans who celebrate the Tricentennial will be able to enjoy an even more complete celebration of our nation’s history.”

The Tax Reform Act was signed by the President on October 4. The changes relating to historic preservation were the result of an amendment sponsored by Sen. J Glenn Beall (R-Md.) that was approved by the Senate (*PN*, September) and later included in the conference report with the House of Representatives. Basically the amendment would change the Internal Revenue Service code to remove some of the bias against historic preservation. It would alter the rules on

depreciation and permit a fast write-off of expenses incurred in restoring commercial properties listed in the National Register.

Lawson B Knott, Jr., executive vice president of the National Trust, was quoted in the *Washington Post* as calling the tax changes "one of the most constructive steps in the history of the preservation movement - a measure that will save not only buildings, but money."

Federal Buildings

The Public Buildings Cooperative Use Act was signed on October 19 and would encourage the multiple use of federal buildings (shops and cultural activities on the first floor and offices above). It would also require the US General Services Administration to survey historic buildings in an area for possible purchase and adaptive use prior to constructing a new building.

This legislation was shepherded through the Senate by Sen. James Buckley (R/Cons:- N.Y.) last year (*PN*, December 1975). The bill was sponsored in the House by Rep. Bo Ginn (D-Ga.) and barely made it through before adjournment of this session, it passed on the next to last day.

Historic District Mining

The final piece of legislation in this group is a little-noticed provision of a strip-mining act signed by President Ford on September 28. The law (PL 94-429) would require the Secretary of the Interior to review any deleterious effects caused by strip-mining within National Historic or Natural Landmarks and authorize the Advisory Council to review the situation. The bill would also authorize a two-year study of the situation by the Advisory Council.

The only case the bill appears to be applicable to currently is the historic Green Springs area in Louisa County, Va. (*PN*, August). Rae Ely of Historic Green Springs, Inc., was elated over passage of the bill and said Rep. John F Seiberling (D-Ohio) was the one who shepherded the bill through.

Preservation News (USA),
November 1976

AIA honours recycled buildings

The American Institute of Architects presented its annual Honour Awards in Philadelphia in May. This year, for the first time, a separate jury selected projects involving "extended use," or recycled buildings, in addition to the six regular Honour Awards for new buildings chosen by another jury.

The four old projects were Old City Hall in Boston, Butler Square in Minneapolis, a carriage house in Bedford, N.Y., and Whig Hall at Princeton University in New Jersey.

The city hall in Boston was converted into offices and commercial space by architects Anderson Notter Associates, Inc. The jury commented that this was an example of how an old structure can be adapted and "can bring favorable financial results to an investor without destroying the quality of the elegant and historically important original building." Butler Square is a 500,000 square-foot warehouse immediately adjacent to downtown Minneapolis. The timber-framed brick building was changed to commercial use by Miller Hanson Westerbeck Bell Architects, Inc. A nine-story atrium was created by removing part of the wood frame. One-half of the building is shops and offices; the other half is to be a hotel.

Architect Myron Goldfinger of New York City took a 1910 carriage house in suburban Westchester County and converted it into a contemporary residence. The jury commented "this project is a good example of how to make the most of an unassumingly modest structure on an unpromising site."

Old and New

Princeton's Whig Hall is an illustration of the combination of old and new architectural elements. Except for the exterior walls, the entire building was destroyed in a fire. Gwathmey Siegel Architects of New York City inserted a "remarkably sensitive and uncompromisingly contemporary" structure within the existing walls, according to the jury. One difficulty was that the university required 10,000 square feet of space where 7,000 had been previously.

The jury, in its comments, noted the problem of new additions to old buildings as well as the degree and sensitivity of alterations to existing buildings. It reported that 58 projects were submitted for consideration. Jurors included Jean Paul Carlihan, FAIA, Boston, chairman; Giorgio Cavaglieri, FAIA, New York city; J Everette Fauber, Jr, FAIA, Lynchburg, Va; Ralph Youngren, FAIA, Chicago; and John Graves, a student from the University of California at Berkeley.

Honorary Members

Also during the annual convention in Philadelphia, 10 persons were made honorary members of the AIA. They include Gordon Gray, chairman emeritus of the National Trust, and Henry A Judd, chief historical architect of the National Park Service.

Preservation News (USA),
June, 1976

United Kingdom

Institute of Advanced Architectural studies

The conservation of historic structures and conservation in Urban Areas: 18-30 September 1977. A course sponsored jointly with the British Council for professionals from outside the United Kingdom

A two-week course concerned with the principles and methods to be applied to the evaluation and subsequent conservation of historic structures in stone and timber so that their value as factual evidence remains unimpaired. The introduction to the course will outline current legislation and financial grants applicable to historic buildings and towns in Britain; but the emphasis of the course, which is intended primarily for those professionally concerned with conservation work on buildings and monuments, will be on the treatment of structures. The course is arranged by the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies in collaboration with the British Council and the Department of the Environment. The whole period of study will be based in York, and will include lectures, discussions, visits and some free time. Participants should be prepared to give a short (20 mins) talk on conservation work in their own countries. Subjects discussed will include:

- (1) The purpose of structural conservation.
- (2) Analysis of the structure as an historic document and the significance of its component parts.
- (3) Historic methods of construction related to repair and techniques.
- (5) The cause of failure of historic structures.
- (6) Repair techniques in masonry and brick buildings:
 - (a) the stabilisation of the structure;
 - (b) the treatment of surface decay.
- (7) Repair techniques in roof structures and timber buildings.

Director of Studies

P A Faulkner, RIBA, FSA. Superintending Architect, Ancient Monuments, Department of the Environment, London. D Linstrum, Dipl.Arch, Ph.D, FSA, RIBA, Radcliffe Lecturer in Conservation Studies, Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, University of York.

Additional Lecturers invited to participate

J Ashurst, B.Sc, RIBA, Architect, Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings Division, Department of the Environment, London.

B M Feilden, OBE, FRIBA, AA Dipl, D.Univ, Feilden and Mawson, Norwich (Surveyors of the Fabric to York Minster).

R Gilyard-Beer, OBE, FSA (now retired), formerly Assistant Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Department of the Environment, London.

F F Johnson, FSA, Dip. Arch, FRIBA, Architect in Private Practice, Bridlington, N. Yorkshire.

H L Warburton, Assistant Secretary, Head of Urban Conservation & Historic Buildings Division, Department of the Environment, London.

R Wools, B.Arch, Ph.D, Dip Con. Studies (York), RIBA, Conservation Officer, North Yorkshire County Council.

H G Yexley, RIBA, Senior Architect, Department of the Environment, London.

General Information

Qualification of Members: Applicants should be professionally interested in the restoration and preservation of ancient buildings and must have a fluent knowledge of English. They should be able to follow and take part in English conversation conducted at the normal rate. This is essential if they are to derive the maximum benefit from attendance. There will be 40 members only.

Joining Instructions: These will be issued by the Institute in July–August and will give directions for reaching the course centre, including postal address and telephone number of the centre and latest time of arrival.

Duration of Course: Members will assemble at the course centre on the afternoon of 18 September and will be free to disperse on the afternoon of 30 September, unless members apply to join the preliminary two-day course on Conservation in Urban Areas.

Cancellation of Course: The Institute reserves the right to cancel any course, without notice and without indemnity, subject to the return of any registration or enrolment fee already paid.

Accommodation: Course members will be accommodated in student rooms at the University of York, and lectures will take place in the King's Manor, where facilities include a lecture room, seminar rooms, a library and reading room and, in addition, a dining room and common rooms. No accommodation is provided before or after the course.

Fee: The Course fee is £295.00. Cheques should be made payable to the University of York and sent direct to the Institute in York. The fee includes full board and all lectures and excursions, and also a reception.

Closing Date and Application: Applications must be received in York by 1 June 1977, together with the full fee. (A deposit of £50 will be retained if the application is cancelled before 1 August 1977,

thereafter the fee becomes non-returnable).

Application: Applications should be made to the Secretary, The Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies or through the British Council (whose address is given below). Applicants for the time being resident in Britain should apply to the Secretary, at the Institute, The University of York, King's Manor, York, YO1 2EP (0904 24919). There are no application forms and applicants should state age, qualifications and relevant experience as well as post currently held.

Travel to and from Britain: Members must make their own travel arrangements to and from the course centre. Return reservations should be made if possible before members leave their own country, as it may be difficult to secure them while in Britain.

DIPLOMA COURSE IN CONSERVATION STUDIES

In 1977/8 the Diploma Course will commence on Wednesday 21 September and the academic terms will be:

1977: 21 September – 16 December

1978: 13 January – 17 March

16 April – 31 July

There will in addition be study visits of one week either in Europe or the United Kingdom during the Easter vacation and of shorter periods to two or three United Kingdom urban centres.

Qualifications: All disciplines are eligible, but related work and a minimum of four years post-qualification experience is a prime requirement.

Fees: The fees in 1977/8 are likely to increase to approximately £750 for both United Kingdom and Overseas post-graduates, but this will not be confirmed until May 1977.

There may also be some moderate expenses for fieldwork and the typing and binding of dissertations.

Grants: British subjects are eligible for SSRC Studentships. The Institute receives an annual allocation of such awards (their value is dependent upon personal circumstances) in May of each year and determines their distribution amongst the candidates accepted. No action is therefore required by candidates seeking such awards.

Europeans may also apply to the Training Opportunities Scheme through their local Department of Employment Office which provides assistance for persons retraining for new employment.

Reading Lists: A course bibliography is produced and can be sent to candidates accepted for the course.

Dissertations: These form an integral part of the award for the Diploma and topics are agreed before the end of the first term. The thesis must be submitted by 31 July except in cases of illness when

candidates may seek deferment through the Board of Studies in Architecture.

Accommodation: Help can be given through the University Lodgings Officer, but applicants are responsible for finding suitable accommodation for themselves. (Full board is likely to cost a student not less than £1,500 per academic year).

Employment: Many of the students from previous years have taken employment as Conservation Officers with local authorities or other posts specialising in conservation practice or education.

DIPLOMA COURSE IN CONSERVATION STUDIES

Programme (For 1976/77. This may be modified for 1977/78).

TERM 1

- Week 1 Conservation in Urban Areas.
- 2 Conservation of Historic Structures – an international seminar on the philosophy and techniques of building conservation including site visits.
 - 3 Conservation of Historic Structures – as above.
 - 4 Individual Study.
 - 5 History of Conservation and a brief history of English Architecture.
 - 6 Stonework Seminar – maintenance, treatment, cleaning and repair.
 - 7 Timber Seminar – construction, maintenance, repair and treatment.
 - 8 Individual Study.
 - 9 Inspection Reports and Recording – existing buildings.
 - 10 Visit to East Anglia.
 - 11 International Conservation.
 - 12 Individual Study.
 - 13 Student Seminars.
 - 14 Visit to Ironbridge, Chester Shrewsbury and Nantwich.

TERM 2:

- Week 1 Conservation of Finishing Materials (Bricks, clay and plaster).
- 2 Conservation of Finishing Materials (Glass, paint and metals).
 - 3 Individual Study.
 - 4 Maintenance of Historic Buildings.
 - 5 Individual Study.
 - 6 Individual Study.
 - 7 Upgrading of Housing Seminar.
 - 8 Planning – Urban etc (Legislation, Economics, and Archaeology).
 - 9 Landscape and Rural Conservation.
 - 10 Individual Study.
 - 11 Student Seminars.
 - 12 Visit to Scotland.

VACATION:

One week's visit to (Urban centre).

TERM 3:

Personal work and tutorials relating to preparation of individual theses for submission in July.

Application: Applications should be made on appropriate forms obtainable from the Secretary, Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, King's Manor, York YO1 2EP, and returned to the Registrar, University of York, Heslington, York NOT LATER THAN 1 JULY 1977.

Britain's first heritage centres

Study centres come to town

"Town study is an obvious complement of Nature study. All children must be affected . . . by the influences of town life. The physical environment of the urban child consists not of woodland and hedgerow, of lane and open common, but of streets, houses, and public buildings. . . . To draw the child's attention to the town itself and its features is one of the best ways of bringing about interest, enlightenment, and a divine discontent which may result in a great improvement in urban life as the generations grow up. . . .

"Even in a dreary inner suburb there is much that is interesting and significant to the seeing eye. The teacher can so act as an interpreter of the obvious and commonplace that the child comes to see the romance that lies behind them. He can show how his suburb affords a thoroughfare to and from the ends of the earth. . . . But this interpretation does not consist in giving sheer information to be memorised. The vital point is that the object which is observed, and concerning which new information is supplied, shall henceforth be to the child something suffused with a glow of interest."*

United Nations report

There is nothing new in the ideas of urban studies and interpretation, for they were being advocated before most of us were born. Only recently, however, have they gained any measure of acceptance. They were given fresh impetus in 1972 when they were vigorously endorsed in the report on 'The Human Habitat' presented to the United Nations Conference on the Environment by a

working party whose Chairman was The Countess of Dartmouth. The report specifically suggested that consideration should be given to the establishment of urban centres for environmental study, along the lines already familiar in the countryside.

Two parallel developments

In Britain this suggestion led to two parallel developments. A Council for Urban Studies Centres (CUSC) was formed in March 1973 under the auspices of the Town and Country Planning Association. At about the same time the Royal Institute of British Architects (through Mr Malcolm MacEwen, a former editor of its *Journal*) promulgated the idea of 'Architectural Interpretation Centres' and sought the support of the Arts Council of Great Britain for one or two pilot schemes to be completed for European Architectural Heritage Year 1975. The term 'Heritage Centre' has since been coined to describe this facility.

The distinction between an Urban Studies Centre and a Heritage Centre is a fine one. The aim of each is to explain and illustrate the urban environment, using modern display and audio-visual techniques. Both take as their premise that no-one can plan properly for the future of an area without fully understanding its past and present. If they differ at all, it is only in emphasis: the Urban Studies Centre is designed with schoolchildren and students mainly in mind, while the Heritage Centre seeks to interest mainly adults, whether they are residents or visitors. So compatible are the two concepts that there is close co-operation between the promoters of each.

The first two Urban Studies Centres are likely to be in Stevenage New Town and West London.

The Stevenage USC is to be a joint venture between the New Town Development Corporation and the Hertfordshire County Education Committee, whose Adviser for Environmental Studies, Mr Sean Carson, is a member of CUSC. Premises are being prepared ready for opening in September and a Director has already been appointed. At Notting Hill in West London a USC is to be opened in a disused vicarage under the auspices of the Harrow Club, a youth club run jointly by the Inner London Education Authority and former pupils of Harrow School. Applications have recently been invited for the post of director.

More centres likely

Among other places where the establishment of USCs seems likely are Birmingham; Canterbury; Glasgow; Harlow New Town; Preston; Salford; and Shrewsbury (where the Civic Society has taken the initiative in putting forward proposals). Success in these and other

places will depend largely on the extent to which local education and planning authorities are willing to assist with funds. The Secretary of CUSC, Mr Anthony Fyson, of the Town and Country Planning Association, will always be pleased to talk to any local authority or group interested in taking the initiative in setting up a new USC.

The first three Heritage Centres are planned for York, Chester and Faversham. The York Centre, planned to open in July, will be housed in the disused medieval church of St Mary, Castlegate, whose spire is the tallest in the city, and which was bought by the City Council from the Redundant Churches Commission for 5p. Features of the £100,000 scheme will include a 14 ft scale model of the city (already available); models illustrating building techniques through the ages; and the provision of a small theatre for the showing of films and multiple slide sequences depicting how York has developed from a Roman *colonia* to a thriving modern city. This scheme is one of the two supported by the Arts Council of Great Britain.

Chester's Heritage Centre, due to open in June, is also to be housed in a redundant church - St Michael's Bridge Street, a medieval building much remodelled in 1849-50.

Introductory displays will illustrate how the city has developed and visitors will then make their way to an auditorium for audio-visual programmes on aspects of Chester's architectural heritage. Here, as elsewhere in the Centre, the emphasis will be on the challenges presented by practical conservation work, of which there has been a great deal in Chester. The project has been financed jointly by the DoE and the City Council, with practical assistance from the local art school and builders' federation.

The third scheme, at Faversham in Kent, will involve the restoration and conversion of a 15th-century inn purchased three years ago for £6,000 by the Faversham Society. Displays, models and slide sequences will be accommodated in rooms of domestic scale. This is the only Heritage Centre to be linked with a museum and material from the Society's rich collections will be used to give an added dimension to purpose-made exhibits. The emphasis will be on the way in which industries, past and present, have influenced the development and architecture of the town. There will be an outlier display at the Maison Dieu in Ospringe, an Ancient Monument where the Society has the use of one room at a peppercorn rent. This £40,000 scheme is also being supported by the Arts Council of Great Britain, with three-quarters of the cost being raised by the Society.

Civic Trust News,
January 1975

*M M Penstone, *Town Study*, National Society's Depository, 1910.

The Town & Country Amenities Act 1974

DoE Circular

The Act came into effect on 31 August 1974 (see September 1974 *Newsletter*). DoE Circular 147/74 describes the Act and gives further advice on related matters.

The Secretaries of State have decided not to issue a direction under the Act requiring local authorities to consider designating further conservation areas within a specified time but the Circular states: 'Authorities are asked whether within the resources they now have they can designate further conservation areas, if necessary after a brief preliminary survey'. The power of the Secretaries of State themselves to designate areas will be used 'only exceptionally, for example, where the area that needs designation is of more than local importance'.

The Circular includes a direction made under the Act to *exclude* certain descriptions of buildings from the provisions for control of the demolition of unlisted buildings in conservation areas. 12 categories are given including 'buildings not exceeding 115 cubic metres'; most gates, fences and walls; and certain buildings which could be erected as permitted development under the General Development Order (see May 1973 *Newsletter*, pages 37/9 and 37/10).

An application for consent to demolish an unlisted building in a conservation area may be made separately or as a part of an application for planning permission for the redevelopment of the site. Where redevelopment is to follow demolition 'the Secretaries of State think that, in general consent to demolish should be given only where there are acceptable and detailed plans for that redevelopment'. Referring to schemes of enhancement required by the Act, the Circular calls upon local authorities 'to seek the advice and views of local residents and amenity groups'.

Setting of a listed building

Some clarification is given to the meaning of 'the setting of a listed building' for the benefit of local authorities who now have to give publicity to applications which, in their opinion, would affect any such setting. A whole street might constitute a setting and 'a proposed high building might affect the setting of a listed building some distance away'. If there is doubt the Circular suggests that the provision should be interpreted in favour of publicity.

Applications by local authorities

The Circular outlines the welcome provisions of the Act with regard to applications by county and district councils. Firstly applications must be made direct

to the appropriate Secretary of State for consent to demolish, alter or extend a listed building in the authority's area. Secondly, local authorities seeking consent to demolish an unlisted building in a conservation area must apply direct to the Secretary of State. In both cases the requirement applies whether or not the local authority actually owns the building. The requirement would apply, for example, where an authority was applying for consent speculatively for a building not yet in its ownership.

Advisory Committees

The setting up of conservation area advisory committees was first recommended by Circular 61/68 of the former Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the latest Circular once more urges local authorities to set up such committees, indeed to report to the Secretaries of State by 1 April 1975 of the number set up, 'and if they feel unable to establish committees their reasons for not doing so'. Such committees 'are helpful to obtain local knowledge and expertise and more understanding and cooperation between authorities, amenity groups and the public'.

Notification of listing

The Circular reminds district authorities that they are required to notify the owner and occupier of a building as soon as possible after it has been included in the statutory list. 'The owners and occupiers of a building which has been listed must be made aware of the fact with as little delay as possible.'

Note for local societies

A consequence of the Town and Country Amenities Act 1974 is that a number of applications for consent to demolish unlisted buildings in conservation areas will have to be considered. The national preservation societies, the Ancient Monuments Society, the Georgian Group, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and the Victorian Society will not necessarily be consulted on these cases by local authorities. In any case, the resources of these societies are already stretched by the large number of applications for consent to demolish listed buildings. The national societies, therefore, will intervene only occasionally where an unlisted building in a conservation area is threatened. Clearly, it is all the more important that local amenity societies should take up these cases and be ready, whenever appropriate, to put the case for preservation to the local authority. In important cases local societies should alert the appropriate national bodies.

While the DoE has asked local authorities to notify local societies of proposals to demolish listed buildings no such request is being made for unlisted buildings in

conservation areas. Successive DoE Circulars, however, have called for consultation with amenity groups on conservation matters generally and the Civic Trust hopes that local authorities will inform societies of these applications. As with listed building applications, a site notice and newspaper advertisement are statutory.

The Housing Act 1974

The three major effects of this long and complicated Act are that: the voluntary housing movement is given a greater role in providing a realistic alternative to council housing or owner occupation; rehabilitation of housing is encouraged instead of demolition; and more funds are channelled to areas of housing stress.

Voluntary housing movement

The Housing Corporation is given wide responsibilities to promote and regulate housing associations and self-build societies. The amount of money it may borrow is raised to £400 million. DoE Circular 133/74 states that the Act 'provides for an entirely new system of financial support for housing association projects in furtherance of the Government's belief that these associations have an important part to play in supplementing the work of local authorities, particularly in areas of severe housing stress and in providing flexibly for special housing needs - such as accommodation for the elderly and disabled'. Housing association grants will be available only to associations registered with the Housing Corporation.

Housing action areas, general improvement areas, priority neighbourhoods

General Improvement Areas (GIAs) were provided for by the 1969 Housing Act and in such areas grants are available for improvement of surroundings as well as improvement of housing. GIAs have not proved successful in stress areas where grants are not taken up, and in other areas grants have gone to people not in need. The new Act provides for three types of areas designed to give three shades of priority for resources.

In designating Housing Action Areas consideration is to be given not only to the physical condition of the housing but also to social considerations. One of the purposes of a Housing Action Area is to 'secure the well-being of the persons for the time being residing in the area'. Priority Neighbourhoods can be declared on areas bordering a GIA or Housing Action Area in order to control conditions to prevent further deterioration.

In Housing Action Areas and Priority Neighbourhoods housing may be compulsorily purchased in order to improve the housing accommodation, and landlords must inform the local authority if

a tenant has been served with a notice to quit. Property can also be improved compulsorily.

Rehabilitation

The power to make a clearance order under Part III of the 1957 Housing Act for the demolition of any building is abolished and rehabilitation orders can be made on property previously included in a Part III compulsory purchase order. This enables local authorities to reverse previous decisions to demolish. DoE Circular 160/74 headed 'Housing Act 1974: Improvement of Old Housing' deals in detail with grants and compulsory improvement notices, and also explains that it is the Government's policy 'to transform the run-down residential areas of our towns and cities into decent civilised neighbourhoods by a careful mixture and phasing of redevelopment and rehabilitation which would result in gradual and continuous urban renewal over the years rather than massive bull-dozing and rebuilding. Disturbance and dislocation of resident communities, which both socially and economically is damaging, would thus be minimised.'

Circular 160/74 also states that it is the Secretary of State's view that it is necessary to regard rehabilitation of existing houses as an integral part of an authority's housing programme. Renewal of residential areas should be based upon a comprehensive strategy consisting of a judicious mixture of essential clearance and redevelopment by a variety of agencies; of appropriate infill schemes; of acquisition and subsequent renovation of houses by a local authority, housing association or housing co-operative society in cases where it is desirable to bring property into community ownership; of voluntary grant-aided improvements and repair; of compulsory improvements and repair in defined circumstances; and of environmental treatment.'

Highway Trees

The January 1974 Newsletter (41/3) reported DoE Circular 90/73, which gave general advice on the inspection and maintenance of way-side trees and hedges. The timing of these inspections and the detail in which they should be carried out have presented highway engineers with some problems and a further Circular has been issued to help resolve them.

'Trees growing within the highway are a most important amenity feature, but they can also present very real danger to persons using the highway' states the Circular. Trees should be examined twice a year and the Circular gives advice on things to look for including cankerous lesions, damage to or by roots and accident damage.

Civic Trust News, January 1975

Nederland Die tuin by die Jan van Riebeeckhuis Culemborg

PIET KORTUYS

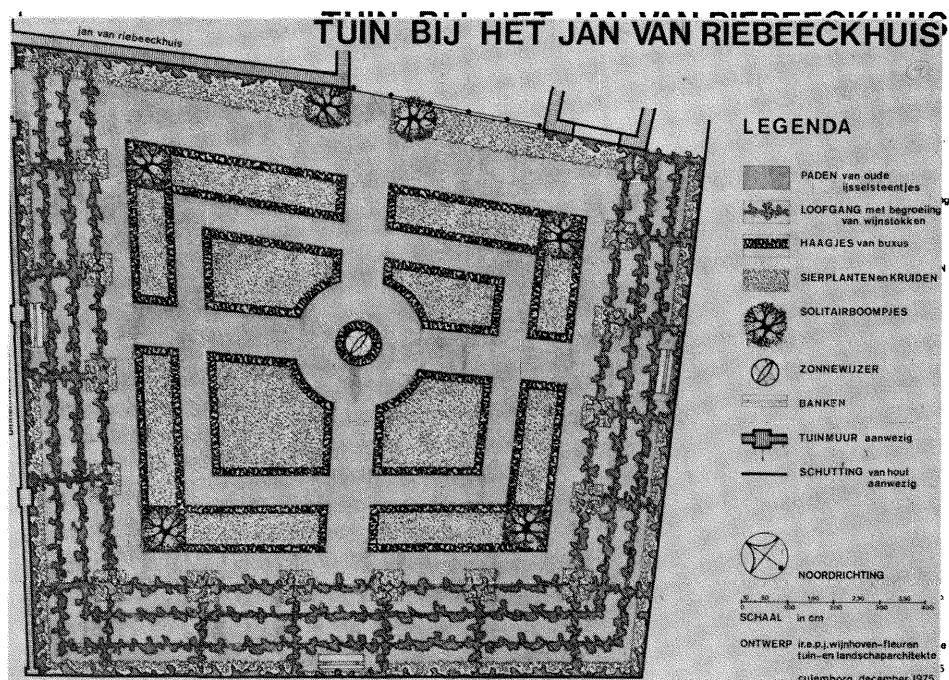
Vrydag 19 November 1976 het daar in die Culemborgse geboortehuis van Jan van Riebeeck 'n feestelike stemming geheers. 'n Geselskap van 'n sestig uitgenooide het daar saamgekom in die gelykvloerse vertrek van die museum waar die kerse van die twee mooi krone 'n antieke sfeer geskep het. Want die 'Schoutambt Culemborg' van die Nederlandse Tafelronde - lid van *The World Council of young Mens Service Clubs* - het daar die voltooido restourasie van die tuin in die sewentiende-eeuse styl aangebied. Die tuin van ongeveer 16 by 12 meter lê agter die huis en was jare lank 'n doring in die oog van die bestuur weens die ontredderende toestand daarvan met onkruid, puin en klippe. Maar na die kosbare restourasie van die huis was die geld wat nog ontvang is, o.a. uit Suid-Afrika, nodig vir inrigting en aankleding en onderhoud. Uitgawe vir die tuin kon nie gedoen word nie. Dit het daarom as 'n groot verrassing gekom toe die schoutambt Culemborg anderhalf jaar gelede die bestuur gevra het of hulle sal inwillig dat hulle die tuin adopteer. Die jongmense het met mnr Ton Koot, die tweede voorsitter, oor die vorm van die tuin in Van Riebeeck

se dae oorleg gepleeg. Mevrouw ir. E P J Wijnhoven - Fleuren, tuin- en landskapsargitek, het die plan ontwerp en die lede van die Tafelronde het aan die werk gespring. Dat dit nie maklik en eenvoudig was nie het die bestuurslede van die Tafelronde, wat die gaste toegesprek het, kon getuig. Ook die film wat hulle tydens die werkery geneem het en wat later die aand in die bosaal vertoon is, het daarvan getuig. Daar was baie geld nodig, wat o.a. deur 'n loteryingesamelis. Maar die werk self het geen uitgawes vereis nie, want die jongmense het self die grond gespit, die puin en stene verwyder, die paadjies aangelê met ou geel ysselstene en 'n loofgang gemaak waar langs wynranke sal kan groei - as die Hollandse klimaat wil saamwerk!

Maar die middag hier het hulle die werkpakke vergeet en die jongmense wat die gaste ontvang het, was feestelik gekleed. Dit word besonder waardeer dat 'n groep jongmense wat te midde van soveel ontmoedigende aktiwiteite van die jeug, hulle met so groot toewyding ingespan het vir so 'n mooi doel. Des te meer nog omdat dit gerig was om by te dra tot die vriendskap en goeie verstandhouding met die volk, waarvan die grondlegger in daardie huis gebore is en waarskynlik in die tuin gespeel het.

Ontwerptekening van tuin.

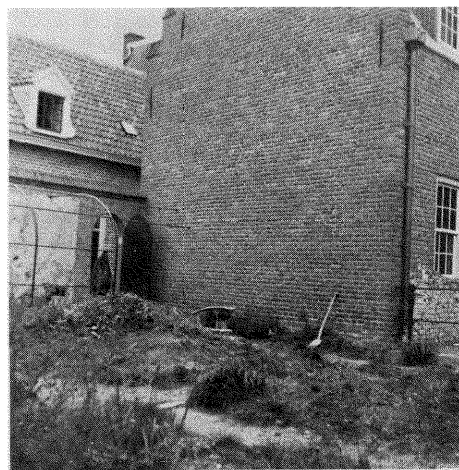
Foto's van tuin by Jan van Riebeeckhuis: Nederlandse Tafelronde, Schoutambt, Culemborg



Die voorsitter van die bestuur, drs L J Hermans, burgemeester van Culemborg, het twee kale wynstokke ontvang, waaraan tog enkele sappige druive gehang het, en nadat die besoekers die koel herfsaad trotseer het, het hy 'n wynstok in 'n beskutte hoek geplant. Die tuin was romanties verlig deur groot kerse langs die paaie.

In die middel het 'n sonnewyser in liggende posisie 'n plek gekry, soos dit in Jan van Riebeeck se dae was. Groen buxusstruie wat orals geplaas was, het die tuin in die herfsaad mooi laat vertoon. Lente en somer sal hom egter eers

in vol groei en bloei vertoon. Met die kruietuin wat aangelê sal word, die buxushagen en die sierplante sal hy dan die besoeker kan laat teruglewe in die dae van Jan van Riebeeck en die goue tyd van die Verenigde Oostindiese Compagnie, waarin die museum hom reeds ingelei het. Danksy die stimulerende energie en toewyding van veral Ton Koot en ook danksy die fondse wat Suid-Afrikaners soos dr Willem Punt, regter Victor Hiemstra en andere ingesamel het, kan die museum reeds verskeie voorwerpe soos kaste, 'n wieg, koperwerk, kaarte, afbeeldings en foto's ver-



Tuin by die Jan van Riebeeckhuis tydens die restourasiewerksaamhede, September 1976.

Ton Koot (middel), ondervoorsitter van die Stichting Jan van Riebeeckhuis in gesprek met burgemeester Hermans (middel regs), voorsitter van die Stichting Jan van Riebeeckhuis, tydens die onthaal by geleentheid van die opening van die tuin op 19 November 1976.



Tuin by die Jan van Riebeeckhuis, Culemborg, na die restourasie.



Gerestoureerde huis van Jan van Riebeeck in Culemborg, Nederland. Die Schoutambt Culemborg van die Nederlandse Tafelronde was verantwoordelik vir die restourasie van die tuin in die 17de-eeuse styl.

Lede van die Tafelronde Culemborg besig met die uitvoering van die projek.



toon. Die gerestoureerde tuin sal ook daartoe bydra dat meer persone uit Afrika en Nederland dit besoek. Om die huis en tuin te onderhou en nog artikels aan te skaf, is meer hulp en ondersteuners nodig. Moontlik kan die voorbeeld van die Tafelronde tot meer finansiële ondersteuning en geskenke in natura lei. Die penningmeester, mnr J A Clee, bestuurder van die Algemene Bank Nederland, ABN, in Culemborg sal graag skenkings ontvang.

Met groot dank het die voorsitter, burge-meester Hermans, namens die bestuur die mooi geskenk van die jong Culemborgers aanvaar. Veral die sekretaris van die Tafelronde, ir A L J Wijnhoven het hom vir hierdie werkprojek beywer. Hy het 'n jaar gelede lid van die bestuur geword, en dus die jonger element daarin versterk. Gereëlde versorging van die tuin sal ook baie werk vereis. Die hoop bestaan dat ook daarvoor vrywilligers gevind sal word. Daar kan verwag word dat die lede van die Tafelronde en hul vrouens hul ook verder met die versorging van die tuin sal besig hou. As gevolg van hulle werk het die Culemborgse gemeenskap al meer aandag vir die museum getoon. So was daar ook twee wethouers van die stad by hierdie feestelike gebeurtenis.

Die Suid-Afrikaanse ambassade was verteenwoordig deur prof dr G J Jordaan, kulturele raad, en sy gade.

Suid-Afrikaners wat Nederland besoek, sal nou seker met nog meer verlange die Jan van Riebeeckhuis wil sien.

Het Korenmetershuis

TON KOOT

Op de Nieuwezijds kolk staat nog één van onze overgebleven gildehuizen, namelijk het Korenmetershuis. Het is niet het eerste op deze plek. Het vorige, dat uit 1558 dateerde was zelfs groter en fraaier, zodanig, dat in 1577, toen Staatse troepen (dat waren de troepen van de Prins van Oranje) het toen nog Spaansgezinde Amsterdam binnenrukten, dit gildenhuis voor het stadhuis aanzagen en bezetten. Dat kwam hen duur te staan, omdat dit tijdswinst gaf aan de schutters van de Spaansgezinde regering, die de aanval deden mislukken.

Het huidige Korenmetershuis dateert van 1620 en laat aan de in steen gehakte attributen boven de deur zien, dat hier het koren gemeten werd. De steen van dit huis doet wat droog en dor aan, wat te wijten is aan een restauratie uit 1898. Overigens is het voor die tijd nog niet eens zo'n slechte restauratie, ofschoon het voor de kenner wel de kenmerken

draagt van een 19de-eeuwse restauratie en dat is niet zo goed als men in onze dagen kan restaureren. Het rechthoekige gebouwtje staat er parmantig op de kolk. Het heeft een stenen opgang, wat er iets deftigs aan geeft en om dit nog eens te beklemtonen, draagt het een stadswapen van Amsterdam in de top van de gevel. Het was dan ook een stedelijk gebouw.

Door de toegangsdeur aan de voorkant kwam men in één groot vertrek waar de arbeiders vertoefden, daarboven was de Korenmetersgildekamer.

Aan de Oostkant van het gebouw placht een pomp te staan, waar de gehele buurt gebruik van mocht maken.

Men moet de Korenmeters wel onderscheiden van de korendragers die hun eigen gilde hadden. Aanvankelijk waren zij wel tesamen in één gilde ingedeeld met de korenmeters en de korenzetters, welk gilde onder de naam van S Joostengilde een eigen altaar in de Nieuwe kerk had. In 1589 scheidde de korenmeters zich af.

De korenzetters plachten de maat recht te zetten en houden, terwijl de korenmeters het graan scheidten. Daarna werd het door de Meter afgestreeken en gemeten.

De 30 korenmeters en evenveel zettters benevens 20 noodhelpers werden door Burgemeesteren aangesteld.

In het Korenmetershuis zat ook een boekhouder of vader over de meters en zettters, die aantekening diende te houden van het graan dat uit elk schip gemeten werd en dat aan het Comptoir der Convoyen en aan het Stads Excijnhuis op te geven.

In onze tijd zetelden in het Korenmetershuis o.m. het Persmuseum, daarna de Verde Amsterdamse Haven en sinds 1968 de Bond Heemschut. Wijlen arch C W Schaling BNA voerde er intern een bescheiden restauratie uit. De grote zaal bleef echter verdeeld in tweeën en een tochtportaal.

De plek waar het Korenmetershuis staat, de Nieuwezijds kolk, was inderdaad een kolk, die in de oudste stukken ook Spoye (Spui) wordt genoemd. Tegen het einde van de 15de eeuw is de kolk gedempt. De N Z Voorburgwal was uiteraard toen nog niet gedempt, zodat op deze gedempte kolk markt kon worden gehouden, in het bijzonder van Weesperbier, waarom het hier ook wel Weesperbierkolk heette.

Alleen monument aanwijzen is geen oplossing

“De overheid is er niet met het tot monument bestemmen van bepaalde objecten. Natuurlijk is het gemakkelijk tegen een eigenaar te zeggen ‘Er mag niets mee

gebeuren, want het is een monument’. Maar als daar niet tegenover staat dat er ook geld wordt gegeven voor het behoud van dat monument, kun je moeilijk verwachten dat een eigenaar zich om dat monument bekommert. Daarom proberen ook zoveel eigenaars van monumenten hun objecten van de monumentenlijst af te krijgen. De overheid zou het monument moeten kopen of anderszins minstens moeten bijspringen in het onderhoud. Het geld ervoor schijnt er niet te zijn. Of misschien heeft men het er niet voor over. Het is politiek nu eenmaal niet zo goed verkoopbaar”.

Aan het woord mr J Dutilh, al sinds de oprichting in 1947 bestuurslid van het Historisch Genootschap “Roterodamum”. Sinds bijna twee jaar als voorzitter, daarvoor als secretaris. De heer Dutilh zit de aandacht voor en het beschermen van monumenten als het ware in het bloed. Met zichtbare trots vermeldt hij dan ook dat “Roterodamum” met zijn 3 000 leden de grootste historische vereniging is in Nederland. “Ik hoop wel dat de jongeren wat meer aandacht voor monumenten gaan krijgen. Anders lopen we het risico dat het genootschap vergrijsd. Het grootste percentage leden bestaat nu toch wel uit ouderen, die het Rotterdam van vóór het bombardement nog kennen. En toch is “Roterodamum” geen club van eerbiedwaardige Rotterdammers. Wij zien iedereen graag komen als lid”.

Al vanaf die oprichting van het genootschap heeft “Roterodamum” zich ingespannen voor het behoud van het weinige dat Rotterdam nog als monument heeft. Het eerste rapport dat aandrang op restauratie van het historische Delfshaven dateert dan ook al van 1948. ‘Nu is men met die restauratie druk bezig, maar het heeft wel twintig jaar geduurd voor men eraan begon’, zegt de heer Dutilh en hij bedoelt ongetwijfeld te zeggen “Zo weinig interesseerde men zich er vroeger voor.”

De waarde van het Monumentenjaar zit voor hem dan ook alleen in de aandacht die het monument in 1975 krijgt. “Er wordt over geschreven en de mensen gaan misschien wat bewuster kijken naar allerlei dingen. Maar zo'n jaar zou eigenlijk alleen zin hebben als CRM zei “We stellen wat miljoenen beschikbaar voor restauraties. Nu de bouw vele miljoenen heeft gekregen is toch bewezen dat er best geld is, als men het er voor over heeft. Ik begrijp trouwens niet dat van al die miljoenen niet juist voor restauratie wat apart wordt gehouden. Dat levert de bouwwereld toch ook werk op?”

Rotterdam heeft weinig monumenten. En op wát het heeft wordt maar al te dikwijls een aanslag gepleegd. Dat is niet alleen de mening van de heer Dutilh, dat is de mening van het hele genootschap “Roterodamum”. Daarom heeft een aantal leden van het genootschap, samen met enkele deskundigen, onder wie de

heer De Roy van Zuydewijn, die toen nog bouwkundig student was, in 1973 alles wat behouden zou moeten blijven, geïnventariseerd. Men is daarbij veel verder gegaan dan de rijksoverheid doet bij het vaststellen van de Monumentenlijst. Op de lijst – uitgegeven onder de titel “Architectuur van vroeger in het Rotterdam van nu” – komen ook objecten voor die de door het rijk vereiste ouderdom van 50 jaar lang niet halen. De grens die “Roterodamum” legde was 14 Mei 1940, de dag waarop Duitse bommen Rotterdams centrum verwoestten.

“Gelukkig heeft onze lijst de gemeentelijke burelen bereikt en we hebben al een paar keer gemerkt dat ernaar gekeken wordt,” vertelt de heer Dutilh. “De bedachtzaamheid wordt groter, de laatste tijd.

Desondanks blijkt er ook nu nog wel ineens iets waardevols te zijn verdwenen. We klimmen dan wel direct in de pen. Of we horen dat een sloopvergunning is aangevraagd voor panden die op de Monumentenlijst staan. Dat was het geval met panden langs de Rotte. Na een brief van ons is de toezegging gedaan dat alsnog wordt geprobeerd de panden te behouden. In het verleden hebben wij ons ook ingespannen voor het plaatsen van het poortje van het Coolsingel-ziekenhuis op het Lijnbaanplein. Dat is nu toch een leuk pleintje geworden, met die oude boom? Zo zijn er meer voorbeelden. Zovéél elementen zijn de moeite van het bewaren waard. Er is altijd wel een gelegenheid ze later weer ergens toe te passen.

Het behoud van oude elementen máákt de stad. Een goede architect moet in staat zijn het oude met het nieuwe te harmoniëren. Dat moet mogelijk zijn. Daarom is het ook zo belangrijk dat oude dingen niet gesloopt worden. Wij zijn bij “Roterodamum” nu bezig een organisatie te creëren die panden kan opkopen en ze daarna kan restaureren. Zoals bijvoorbeeld in Amsterdam ook gebeurt. Als je de zaak in eigen handen hebt kun je wat doen. Het moet wat gaan lijken op wat de gemeente doet, die ook panden aankoopt. Alleen is het uitgangspunt anders. Wij willen restaureren, de gemeente zal in bepaalde gevallen juist overgaan tot sloop, als ze de panden in handen heeft.”

“Roterodamum” heeft, hoewel het monument altijd centraal staat bij het genootschap, toch 1975 aangegrepen om nog iets “extra’s” te doen. Samen met het Bouwcentrum werd een informatie-dag gehouden over de restauratie van het Schielandshuis en de jaarlijkse excursie van het genootschap gaat dit jaar naar een pas gereedgekomen, gerestaureerd monument, het kasteel van Rhoon. Maar eigenlijk is voor “Roterodamum” elk jaar een Monumentenjaar.

Rondvraag 75/2

Diskriminerende monumentenzorg?

(I)

Den Haag – Monumentenzorg moet veel meer nadruk leggen op het behoud van bouwwerken, die van betekenis zijn voor en de belangstelling hebben van minder welgestelde groeperingen met een laag opleidingsniveau. Tot nu toe heeft het beleid van de monumentenbescherming zich veel te sterk bepaald tot het in stand houden van gebouwen die verbonden zijn met (vroegere) groeperingen, die veel macht en invloed uitoefenden en op een hoog welstandsniveau stonden.

Als bescherming van monumenten tevens beoogt een objectief beeld te geven van de historische ontwikkeling van de Nederlandse samenleving, dan zal er hoognodig een ombuiging van dat beleid moeten komen, die erop gericht is ook bouwsels te behouden die verwijzen naar onderliggende bevolkingslagen in de maatschappij. Anders pleegt monumentenzorg verraad aan de eigen beginselen. De belangstelling voor monumenten zal er naar alle waarschijnlijkheid door toenemen.

Tot deze opmerkelijke konklusie komt de Haarlemse socioloog drs Peter Brunsmann (38), die verbonden is aan de Amsterdamse dr E Boekmanstichting, een sociaal-wetenschappelijk studiecentrum voor kunst en cultuur.

Brabants Nieuwsblad,
17 April 1976

Diskriminerende monumentenzorg?

(II)

Naar het oordeel van Brunsmann zijn monumentenzorg en het plezier, dat men aan het bekijken van oude gebouwen beleeft, tot nu toe eigenlijk een privilege van welgestelde mensen met een goede schoolopleiding. De selectie van te beschermen gebouwen is te zeer een zaak van groeperingen met hoge opleidingen en van specialisten op het gebied van kunstgeschiedenis en architectuur. De geselecteerde monumenten kunnen dan ook niet anders dan een weerspiegeling zijn van de voorkeuren van deze hoger opgeleiden. Vanzelfsprekend heeft dit gevolgen voor de beleving van monumenten door diverse groepen uit de maatschappij.

Brabants Nieuwsblad,
17 April 1976

Aktiekomitee Halle tegen . . .

De aanleg en uitwerking van drie parallelle snelverkeersverbindingen Halle-Brussel in een strook van minder dan 2 000 m breed, op zuiver verkeerstechnische basis, los van elke beschouwing inzake ruimtelijke ordening en ontwikkeling, is volstrekt onverantwoord en het baart grote zorg dat dergelijke projecten door de verantwoordelijke instanties kunnen worden naar voren gebracht.

De Standaard, 18 Maart 1976.

Natuur- en Stedeschoon, Februari 1976

Bond Beter Leefmilieu, Vlaanderen

We maken geen monumenten

Voor Rotterdams stadsarchitect B V van den Bergh is er maar één ding muurvast: Er is geen generale wet voor het restaureren. In zijn werkkamer in het Oude Stadstimmerhuis naar hem luisterend blijkt dat die constatering voor hem niet betekent: alles mag. Integendeel. Hij heeft driftig gezocht naar wetmatigheden en die heeft hij ook gevonden. Hij noemt ze beginselen die hard zijn. Maar dan meer in de zin van: Ze zouden hard moeten zijn, maar er zitten toch zachte plekken in, omstandigheden die maken dat er van afgeweken mag worden. Basis van zijn filosofie is: “Ik vind een ongerestaureerd monument mooier dan een gerestaureerd. Een ongerestaureerd monument spreekt me meer aan omdat je er nog de oude timmerman en metselaar in ziet en voelt.” Met andere woorden: de restaurateur dient in zijn werk terughoudend te zijn. Hij komt eigenlijk pas in actie als de restauratie noodzakelijk is. Dat kan het geval zijn door technische redenen (het gebouw dreigt in elkaar te stuiken) or door functieveranderingen. Dat laatste komt het meest voor en het blijkt een nogal wijd begrip: Als een woonhuis van vroeger wordt aangepast aan die eisen van vandaag is er in wezen sprake van functieverandering. Vroeger was men tevreden met een pomp, een paar rookkanalen en een plee met dekseel; nu verlangt men modern comfort en daarmee verandert de functie, hoewel het in beide gevallen om wonen gaat. De heer Van den Bergh geeft een ander voorbeeld: “Je kunt een stadspoort restaureren als stadspoort maar je kunt er ook een restaurant in vestigen. Wat doe je nu? Ik kies dan voor een essentiële functieverandering omdat het veel leuker is als je in die stadspoort ook kunt eten. Maar in beide gevallen”, zegt de heer Van der Bergh, “moet je niet namaken. Namaken doe je alleen wanneer het gebouw de gegevens zelf ophikt of er duidelijke tekeningen zijn waaraan vroegere bouwfases zijn te ontlelen.”

Delfshaven blijkt een uitstekend voorbeeld te zijn om de richtlijnen op hardheid te toetsen en te ontdekken waar de zwakke plekken zitten. “Neem het oude raadhuis van Delfshaven. Een oude tekening gaf iets heel anders aan dan de toestand vóór de restauratie. Technisch was het vrijwel ondoenlijk om bij restauratie de hoge topgevels aan te brengen; zouden een grote belasting betekenen voor fundament en muren en voor het budget.

Echt doorslaggevend echter was de onnauwkeurigheid van het prentje. Het was kennelijk gemaakt door iemand die niet veel verstand had van bouwen. Dus gingen we niet terug naar de oude vorm. Dan moesten we gaan fantaseren en fantaseren moet je niet teveel doen bij restauratie. In Delfshaven restaureren we

op grond van harde feiten die in de gebouwen aanwezig zijn. We maken geen nieuw Delfshaven in oude vorm: we behouden Delfshaven maar proberen zo verantwoord mogelijk de lelijke uitwassen die in de loop van de tijd zijn ontstaan te verwijderen."

Hij zegt: "We maken geen monumenten. We behouden ze of restaureren ze." Maar de relativist Van den Bergh heeft dan toch weer een voorbeeld achter de hand om zijn eigen wetten een beetje op de tocht te zetten: "Op de tweede verdieping van het raadhuis in Delfshaven hebben we een schouw gemaakt die je reinste namaak-antiek is. Dat hebben we toen gedaan omdat we vonden dat daar geen andere schouw paste. Je had natuurlijk ook een eigentijdse vorm kunnen vinden, maar dan had je ook fout gezeten want tegenwoordig bouwen we geen schouwen meer. Maar in hetzelfde raadhuis staat een trap waarvan niemand ooit zal zeggen dat het een oude trap is. Maar nogmaals: namaken? Zo weinig mogelijk. Geeft het gebouw zelf je de gegevens niet, zoek dan aansluiting bij vormen van deze tijd.

Dat vergt heel wat meer moeite dan het overnemen van oude vormen. In het raadhuis van Delfshaven hebben we alle drie dingen gedaan: we hebben gerestaureerd naar oude vorm omdat we die vonden in het gebouw, we hebben moderne zaken ingevoegd en we hebben nagemaakt. Maar we hebben het steeds verantwoord gedaan." Waarmee we nog een 'hard' element tegen het lijf lopen: de integriteit van de architect.

Stadsargitek
B V VAN DEN BERGH
Rondvraag 75/2

Nabouwen is nog geen falsificatie

Rotterdam heeft niet zoveel echt oude zaken. We moeten heel zuinig zijn met wat we hebben. Potentieel is er een zekere concentratie in Delfshaven. Er is daar al veel gedaan. Er gaat nog meer gebeuren. Ik ben van mening dat Rotterdam er bij gebaat zou zijn als het stukje Delfshaven tussen Voor- en Achterhaven herschapen werd in een wijkje met het aanzien en de sfeer van enkele eeuwen geleden.

Dat betekent dat er waarschijnlijk nogal wat gezondigd zou moeten worden tegen lopende opvattingen over restauratie en behoud van monumenten. In een aantal gevallen zal het inderdaad niet betekenen: restauratie van monumenten (of sterk vervallen panden) maar het invoegen van elementen zoals ze vroeger misschien aanwezig kunnen zijn geweest. Dat houdt in nabouwen van huizen en

gevels die er gestaan zouden kunnen hebben. Ik ben mij ervan bewust dat ik mij daarmee opstel als schietschijf voor pijlen van gramschap en toorn van hen die de zorg voor monumenten uit een rijke schakering van optieken beschouwen. Ook als doelwit van (hoon-)gelach en geringschattend schouderophalen voor een schijnbaar pleidooi voor namaak, kitsch en nep. Maar namaak is voor mij, dat zij meteen aangetekend, niet gelijk aan fraude. Ik kan niet precies inzien wat er voor verwerpelijks schuilt in het nu nabouwen van huizen en panden, op een verantwoorde, goed-ambachtelijke manier, zoals die vroeger hebben bestaan en nog bestaan. Als dat voor een bepaald doel wenselijk is.

Ik hoor al geroep: Disneylandtoestanden? Ik ben allerminst een bewonderaar van die zoetige, papier-maché-achtige zaken die veel Walt Disneycreaties kenmerken. (In Nederland misschien een beetje te vergelijken met Anton Pieck-achtige tekeningen). Maar ik haast me te bekennen dat ik vorig jaar, in Los Angeles, een middaglang met veel genoeg in Disneyland ben geweest. En wat een zorg voor het detail, en wat een kennis van zaken heb ik er gezien in dat oude zeilschip bijvoorbeeld. Ik kende het soort schepen uit boeken en illustraties, maar nu zeilde ik er zelf mee; 'oh, en zag zo de kapiteinskamer er nu uit, en zo de verblijven van de bemanning, en ondergang je zo het bestaan benedendeks. Wat een schitterend stuk vakmanschap, Disneyland is een volksvermaak. Een kermis. Maar goed. Daarvoor pleit ik niet. Ik pleit voor Delfshaven als monument in zijn geheel. Omdat in Rotterdam Delfshaven iets heel bijzonders is. Ook omdat Delfshaven onlosmakelijk verbonden is met het verblijf en vertrek van de Pilgrim Fathers. Delfshaven was de Europese oprit van de brug naar de Nieuwe Wereld die van hieruit sterke impulsen kreeg. De Pilgrim Fathers waren niet zomaar naar Nederland gekomen. Nog minder wilden ze zomaar weer weg uit Nederland. Een van de belangrijke motieven om nog eens een nieuwe bestaan in een andere wereld te beginnen was hun zorg voor de jeugd. Zij waren uit Engeland naar Nederland gekomen om zijn verdraagzaamheid. Nu gevoelden zij de tolerantie die er in die dagen in Nederland heerste als een bedreiging voor het behoud van de waarden die hun lief waren en die ze voor het nageslacht wilden bewaren. Hoe kunnen we iets van het geestelijk klimaat van die tijd terugbrengen? Misschien door ons te verplaatsen in de uiterlijke omstandigheden van die dagen.

Een van de hulpmiddelen daartoe kan het restaureren zijn van Delfshaven. En als restauratie volgens de nu gangbare opvatting niet voldoende is, ben ik er voor om dit stadsdeel te herbouwen tot een monument van die tijd en die geestelijke instelling. Dat kan voor onszelf

zeer educatief zijn. En niet minder voor hen die na ons komen.

Ik zie hinderpalen op de weg naar zulk een realisering. Financiële bijvoorbeeld. Afweging van geestelijk goed en financiële offers zal de schaal steeds naar de eerste kant doen doorslaan. Menselijke overwegingen. Die zijn voor mij misschien nog het meest zwaarwegend. Het stukje Delfshaven moet een menselijke gemeenschap blijven. Geen openlucht-museum. Geen kermis. Maar monumentenzorg is voor mij de minste zorg. Er is niets verwerpelijks in het nu stilzetten van de klok zodat over 200 jaar gezegd kan worden: in 1975 heeft men de lelijke zaken in Delfshaven wat weggevoerd maar voor de rest liet men het zoals het toen was. Evenmin is het echter verachtelijk om de klok nu enkele eeuwen terug te draaien en de toestand van toen te reconstrueren. In Delfshaven ligt een stukje Nederlandse cultuur. Bovendien verbindt het ons met de nieuwe wereld. Ik lees er graag over. Mogen we het ook zien en – al was het maar een beetje – ondergaan?

Rondvraag 75/2

ZAIRE A wind of change . . .

Addressing the International Union for the Conservation of Nature near Kinshasa, Zaïre President Mobutu Sese Seko said a number of things which are certainly remarkable. Perhaps our leaders should put "Conservation" on the agenda for our next dialogue with him. Here is what he said:

"The Union you form is a sacred union because it has a noble mission: to protect mankind's most valuable asset – Nature. The theme you have chosen – "Conservation for Decisionmakers" – demonstrates how fully you are aware of the problem, and shows that you are trying to find positive solutions. Because indeed, conservation is above all a political matter.

It is not scientists, technicians, voluntary organizations, or individuals of goodwill alone who will solve this problem, because only political leaders have the powers to take major decisions.

It is therefore vital and urgent to pose this problem at the highest level: to the heads of states and to governments. And if ever a summit conference were justified, it is one that deals with the protection of Nature.

The problems we must solve are the most important and crucial that mankind has

ever had to face. For it is not only the welfare of mankind that is at stake, but its very survival.

Industrialized countries put the blame on those who have not yet industrialized for not controlling the growth of their populations, and they emphasize the dangers of this, especially in terms of food shortage. At the same time, however, they forget that their own populations, although representing only one third of mankind, consume 90 per cent of the planet's resources. Their planes and their cars use up twice as much oxygen as does the entire population of the world. And it is because of them that the seas today are polluted.

We who were colonized were taught that the civilization of our former masters was the best one. And unfortunately many industrializing countries still take it as a model, although in the industrialized countries man behaves not as an ally of Nature but as her opponent. Industrial man has confused development with proliferation; he has put himself in the position of conqueror and colonizer of his own land. Undoubtedly, an industrial society leads to material profits, but it also leads to the failure of mankind. For it impoverishes an irreplaceable asset: Nature.

Everywhere today you hear the word crisis: growth crisis; food crisis; energy crisis; monetary crisis; raw materials crisis; institutional crisis; and so on. But, in fact, the crisis is one of civilization.

That is why, here in Zaire, we reject borrowed ideologies, whether they be of the left or of the right. Because all are founded on sheer materialism. Instead we have chosen a philosophy of humanist action: *Authenticity*.

To be authentic is to be oneself, that is to stay natural, or better, to be close to Nature. One cannot remain oneself if one is not in contact with Nature. For us, there is no culture without Nature; and whoever denatures Nature, loses his culture.

Authenticity is the philosophy which links man to Nature, which reconciles him with his past, which makes him respect his origins.

Very soon, wealth will not be measured in a few factories pouring out black fumes, but in an unspoiled environment. Let it be clearly understood, we are not against industry, but against the process of industrialization. It is possible to set up useful, clean and cheap industries, and this is what we are doing in Zaire. In economies based on profits, it is regarded as preferable to poison a man and then build a hospital nearby to cure him; to build a polluting factory and a de-polluting one next door.

In Zaire we speak little and act much. Within ten years, we have established more national parks and nature reserves than our colonizers did in 80 years of

occupation. And our present objective is to protect 15 per cent of our national territory; this is considerable if one thinks of the size of Zaire, as it is an area greater than the two Germanies combined.

One immediate result of sound nature conservation is the promotion of tourism. Today, the inhabitants of industrialized countries come in large numbers to visit our parks, which are veritable museums of nature. In Zaire, our tourism policy is a prudent one, however; the people who have devastated their own natural environment could well do the same in our country. And the little foreign exchange which we might receive in the short term could prove very expensive in the long term. This is why the visitor to our parks has to comply with strict regulations: he must not leave the set trails and he must always be accompanied by a Zairian guide.

Within the framework of land-use planning, our objective is to create urban centres on a human scale. The emphasis will be on rural development so as to reverse the present trend: instead of having an exodus towards an urban centre, we will have it the other way round. Each time we lay out an area in concrete, we shall lay out twice that area in greenery.

People of goodwill, lovers of Nature are looking for positive results from this Assembly. If I had any advice for you, I would suggest the establishment of a *Charter for Nature* which once and for

all will shake those who do not yet understand that the more we wait, the more the solutions will be difficult, prolonged and costly.

As far as Zaire is concerned, we are ready to help you succeed in your noble mission. If we were asked to be a pilgrim for environmental protection, we would be willing to be so. In any case, you should know that you are in a country whose ambition is to maintain cleanliness, quietness and greenness.

This is why Zaire's highest priority is agriculture, not only because it enables us to feed our people, but also because agricultural resources are perpetually renewable. This is why, too, our flag is green. It reminds us that our wealth is not – as some would think – red metal, that is to say, copper, but the carpet of greenery which covers the surface of our country.

The jungle of liberal capitalism is finished. Every citizen of this world must defend his heritage, the area in which he lives, against those modern savages, the killers of Nature, who do not hesitate to slaughter her to swell their wallets.

This Earth of ours is precious because it is not infinite but limited. We must love it, cherish it, and protect it, for our own good, for the good of our children, for the good of our grandchildren."

IUCN Bulletin, November, 1975
(With acknowledgement to the News Letter (Vol 6 No 1 1976) of the Society for the Protection of the Environment.)



Boeke - Books

DIE EERSTE EUROPEANE IN DIE NASIONALE KRUGERWILDTUIN 1725. W H J Punt (red. en toeliger). Die Parkeraad in samewerking met dr W Punt, Pretoria, 1975. Pp. 101. Prys R2,50 (slapband), met outeurshandtekening. Verkrygbaar by Stigting Simon van der Stel, Postbus 1743, Pretoria, 0001.

Dit is 'n belangrike publikasie, uitgegee deur 'n befaamde historikus, 'n man wat daarvan hou om die puntjie op die i te sit. Hy het nie alleen geskryf oor historiese gebeurtenisse nie, maar dit gedoen nadat hy „veldwerk” verrig het, d.i. persoonlike ondersoek gedoen het na die juiste plek van die gebeurtenis of die objek van ondersoek self – getuie sy vroeëre belangrike publikasies o.a. oor Louis Tregardt se laaste skof na Delagoabaai, die Kaapse gewels en die Voortrekkerroetes. Daarmee het hy 'n belangrike dimensie tot die geskiedskrywing in Suid-Afrika toegevoeg, waarvoor die nageslag hom dankbaar sal wees.

Hierdie publikasie gaan om die reisjoernaal of dagregister van 'n Nederlander, Francois de Cuijper, wat van 27 Junie tot 19 Julie 1725 'n landtog vanuit Lourenco Marques – 'n Nederlandse besitting met Fort Lydzamheid as sentrum – na die binneland onderneem het. Die doel was goud, die beeerlike metaal waarna die Verenigde Oos-Indiese Kompanjie naartoe gesoek het. Dit is bekend dat goud in Suidoos-Afrika geproduseer is en via die Ooskushawens deur Portugese handelaars gekoop is. Die geloof of legende was dat dit uit die tyk van „Monomotapa” gekom het – die land waarna die Bybel verwys as „Ofir”. Hierdie geskryfverwys dokumentêr o.a. na die seepsteenvoëls van „Zimbabwe” en die belangrike ingangsteen met onverstaanbare inskripsies, wat deur 'n Transvaalse Boer verwyder is en iewers op die walle van die Limpopo gedeponeer sou gewees het (bl. 32). Die eerste dokument, „Affricaans Berigt”, van Isaak Jan Lamotius is in toto opgeneem waarop volg die „Register” van De

Cuiper, wat met 'n gevolg van 30 man met pakkeeste oor die Lebombo-berge is en so ver gevorder het as die huidige Krokodilrivier. Dr. Punt, wat die roete volgens De Cuijper se joernaal saam met lede van die Parkeraad in 1957 gevolg het, kom tot die gevolgtrekking dat De Cuijper en sy geselskap in Julie 1725 die eerste blankes was wat die huidige Krugerwildtuin, effens oos van die Krokodilrivier-ruskamp, betree het. Hulle was trouens ook die eerste blankes wat voor Tregardt die Oos-Transvaalse Laeveld binnegegaan het.

Die dagregister van De Cuijper is interessant vanweë die naamlyste van riviere, swart kapteins, topografiese en geografiese gegewens omtrent die gebied tussen Delagoabaai en die suide van die Wildtuin, die handel in goud, koper, yster en ivoor tussen die Zambezi en die Komati en taalkundige besonderhede wat daarin verstrek word.

Uit die verhaal is dit duidelik dat sommige swart stamme die blanke indringers vyandig gesind was. De Cuijper en sy gevolg was verplig om uit selfverdediging vuurwapens teen 'n aanval van 'n swart kaptein en sy mense aan te wend om 'n aantal in die stof te laat byt. Twee blankes is verwond. Dit was trouens die rede waarom die ekspedisie omgedraai en onverrigter sake na Delagoabaai teruggekeer het, waar Jan van de Capelle, die waarnemende opperhoof van die Nederlandse nedersetting in Delagoabaai (1721-1730), hom terug ontvang het.

Dr Punt het die twee tekste van toeliggende voetnote voorsien. M.i. kon hy meer daarvan gemaak het. Baie name van riviere, plekke en stamme bly onverklaar, en vraagtekens rys by baie bladsye van die teks. Die tekste is in Engels vertaal, wat op die teenblad teenoor die Nederlandse teks verskyn. Die boek word voorafgegaan deur 'n inleidende woord van prins Bernhard van die Nederlande, die president van die „Wêreld Natuur Fonds”. Ook is dit voorsien van 'n kort inleiding deur dr Punt self, wat handel oor „Monomotapa” en die soeke van die VOC na goud in Oos-Afrika, wat natuurlik nie die Portugese uitsluit nie. Ook bevat die boek 'n opsomming van De Cuijper se reisjoernaal deur dr Punt en 'n verslag van sy en die Parkeraad se ondersoek na die juiste plekke wat De Cuijper vermeld.

Dit is jammer dat dr. Punt nie ingaan op die geskiedenis van die De Cuijper-tekste nie. Hy vermeld slegs op bl. 12 dat sy aandag daarop gevestig is deur die verhandeling van prof dr C J Coetzee: *Die stryd om Delagoabaai en die Suidoos-kus 1600-1800*, wat in die Argiefjaarboek van 1948 gepubliseer is. Sy uitspraak op bl. 16 gee ook stof tot nadenke, nl. „Ons geskiedskrywing raak versteend as gevolg van 'n gebrek aan visie en nuwe feite uit die ongepubliseerde argivale gegewens, sodat dit Suid-Afrikaanse historiese publikasies in beide landstale dikwels aan diepte, besieling en gedokumenteerde gegewens ontbreek”.

Dié publikasie is bedoel om saam te val met twee belangrike datums in die geskiedenis van die Wildtuin, nl. Julie 1975, toe dit 250 jaar gelede was dat die VOC-ekspedisie van De Cuijper die Wildtuin besoek het, en 31 Mei 1976, toe die Krugerwildtuin sy vyftigste jaardag herdenk het. Die boek is te koop by Van Schaik, in die Parkeraad se parke en by die Stigting Simon van der Stel. Dit is 'n stukkie waardevolle Africana.

F A VAN JAARSVELD

CONTREE. Tydskrif vir Suid-Afrikaanse stedelike en streekgeskiedenis.

Volume 1 No 1 Januarie 1977. R1,00 per jaar. Semesterblad van die Afdeling Streekgeskiedenis van die Instituut vir Geskiedenisnavorsing van die Raad vir Geesteswetenskaplike Navorsing, Privaatsak X41, Pretoria, 0001.

Die Stigting verwelkom die verskyning van CONTREE. Ons wens graag die RGN geluk daarmee. Die doelstellinge en werk van die Afdeling Streekgeskiedenis word weerspieël in en sekerlik bevorder deur hierdie nuwe tydskrif. Gesien uit die bewaringsoogpunt is ons seker CONTREE gaan 'n belangrike bydrae lewer. Soos dr C M Bakkes, direkteur van die Instituut dit stel:

„Die verskyning van CONTREE kan beskou word as 'n belangrike ontwikkeling ten opsigte van die koördinasie en bevordering van streekhistoriese navorsing in die RSA. Dit skep 'n kanaal waardeur belanghebbendes met mekaar in gesprek kan tree, voorligting met betrekking tot die beoefening van stedelike en streekgeskiedenis beskikbaar gestel kan word, en is ook 'n medium om navorsingsresultate op te vang en te publiseer.

Die verlede as studie-objek is so ryk en omvattend dat die historiese telkens daartoe verlei word om die historiese gegewe te kompartementeer. In die praktyk gee dit daartoe aanleiding dat 'n gedifferensieerde geskiedenisbeoefening ten koste van 'n integrale gedy en dat gespesialiseerde studierigtings, soos militêre, politieke, ekonomiese, sosiale en kultuurgeskiedenis, wat hoogstens onderskeibare fasette van die geskiedenis is, in afsonderlike historiese dissiplines aftak, elk met 'n eie studieveld en metodologie.

Die beoefening van streekgeskiedenis is nie 'n voortsetting van hierdie neiging nie; in teendeel, dit erken geskiedenis as eenheid en hou daarmee rekening. Dit het wel 'n eie benadering in die sin dat dit die tradisionele historiese proses, naamlik om die verlede van 'bo' af te rekonstrueer, met die handeling van die sentrale owerheid, die staat en nasionale figure in die brandpunt, omdraai. Die streekgeskiedenis bestudeer die verlede vanuit die plaaslike hoek, is geïnteresseerd in die kleiner gemeenskap en die alledaagse mens en sy handelinge in sy eie omgewing. Die egte geskiedenis is op slot van sake die verhaal van die verandering wat plaasvind onder meer as gevolg van die wisselwerking tussen die groot bepalende gebeurtenisse en die ritme van die klein, prosaïese, ja byna onopsigtelike gang van elke dag se lewe.

Kort na die stigting van die Instituut vir Geskiedenisnavorsing (IGN) in 1969 is die behoefte aan gewestelike geskiedskrywing in Suid-Afrika geïdentifiseer. Die oprigting van die Afdeling Streekgeskiedenis op 1 April 1975 binne die IGN om aan hierdie saak aandag te gee, is voorafgegaan deur 'n ondersoek, plaaslik en oorsee, na organisatoriese en metodologiese aspekte van streekhistoriese navorsing. Uit die ondersoek het dit duidelik geword dat die versplinterde pogings deur verskeie persone en instansies om plaaslike en streekgeskiedenis te skrywe, gekoördineer moet word.”

W J P

CAPE SILVER AND SILVERSMITHS. Stephan Welz (Balkema).

It would be difficult to overvalue the con-

tribution made to the cultural history of South Africa by this expertly edited and splendidly produced book on old Cape silver and the fewer than 200 silversmiths who practised their specialized craft from the early 18th century to the end of the 19th.

Stephan Welz, the author, educated at Worcester and son of the late Jean Welz, the great South African artist, has tackled this task with tremendous industry, deep and systematic research and real devotion.

It is more than 40 years since Mollie Morrison produced the first book on the Cape silversmiths, followed some years later by David Heller's two books on the same subject, now out of print. Stephan Welz modestly says that he has attempted to encompass the whole field not covered by previous writers.

Few will contest the thoroughness with which he has done so, just as few will deny the great contribution made to his success by the publishers in presenting more than 170 excellent photographs of Cape silver, many of which have rarely been seen before. The captions give the provenance of each item, details of size of each piece of silverware, and where most of the objects illustrated are to be found.

Mr Welz has catalogued all the items under their respective headings such as alms, dishes, bells, buckles, candlesticks, casters, church plate and so on right down the alphabetical ladder to tesses, vases and wine labels (of which surprisingly enough in this wine-drinking country, very few were made locally).

Outstanding among the photographs are those of the sucriers or covered sugar bowls, of which 15 are shown, some very beautiful, the sugar baskets and casters, 14 snuff boxes, inkstands, coffee pots, beakers, escutcheon plate and christening mugs. Legible hallmarks add to the value of this well documented volume.

It is not a cheap book but it will give lasting pleasure not only to collectors but to all who appreciate what the Cape silversmiths (foreign and local-born) contributed to the treasures of a past era at the Cape.

GEORGE ASCHMAN
The Cape Times, Dec. 21, 1976

VANISHING CAPE TOWN. Tony Grogan, Artist; Brian Barrow, Text. Published by Don Nelson, Cape Town 1976.

Tony Grogan has a pleasant style to his drawings and water colours. They are bold and honest but not stark in line, pencil and brush stroke and in the use of colour.

Brian Barrow's text is informative, readable and to the point but full of atmosphere.

A very pleasant book.

W J P

THE NAMING OF JOHANNESBURG. Niel Hirschon. Nugget Press, Johannesburg, 1976. Price R7,50.

Mr Hirschon has long been interested in the origin of Johannesburg's name and went to great lengths analysing the variety of sources. He has come to the conclusion that Johannesburg was named after King Johannes VI of Portugal. We quote Mr Hirschon: Controversy has surrounded Johannesburg's

name from the very beginning when it began in 1886 to displace the original name Randjeslaagte. As late as 1975 the subject was heatedly debated in the City Council chambers in two almost hour-long sittings, one in October, the other in November.

The decision to accept the Rissik-Joubert theory as to the origin of Johannesburg's name was finally celebrated last month by the erection of busts of the two men, although leading documentary authorities on Johannesburg's history had declared as early as 1937 that neither Rissik nor Joubert could possibly have given in 1886 their names to the place. (See James & Ethel Gray's *Payable Gold* p 132).

The truth is that before the Witwatersrand goldfields were opened in 1886, President Paul Kruger visited Portugal which, like the Boer republic, was at that stage in opposition to Britain. There, in Lisbon, he arranged with the Portuguese to build the Delagoa Bay Railway which was to carry, among other things, gold to Lourenco Marques, for gold was known to exist in the Transvaal long before the discovery of the payable and spectacular Main Reef. In this way the Transvaal hoped to become independent of Britain.

With the amicable conclusion of negotiations, the Portuguese awarded President Kruger the high Order of the Immaculate Conception, a knightly decoration founded at the beginning of the 19th century by King Johannes VI whose head appeared upon the Portuguese gold coin known throughout the British Empire as the Johannes or Jo'. (It is listed in the large and authoritative Oxford English dictionary in precisely this spelling.)

So, it is hardly surprising that when, in 1886,

the Randjeslaagte area, a rich gold mining area, was opened for public digging, the name was changed to Johannesburg, in honour of Portugal. Incidentally, name changes usually reflect a new political orientation.

However, in 1890 Portugal found herself in a dangerous confrontation with Britain because of her attempts to join up Angola and Mozambique territorially and militarily. Portugal collapsed following a British ultimatum, and in 1891 the Anglo-Portuguese treaty was signed which effectively destroyed Portugal's African hopes.

At this point the Rissik-Joubert explanation was devised, and the true origin of the name suppressed. A semi-official announcement in the pro-Kruger newspaper, *The Press Weekly Edition*, declared on October 3 1891 that "... it may be news to some to learn that the present prosperous town of Johannesburg is called after ..." Christiaan Johannes Joubert and Johann Rissik.

This explanation carefully omits to tell how the name originated in 1886 though it concludes with a deceptively casual but revealing reference to Portugal.

And so the true but concealed origins of Johannesburg's name reflect not only the Boer struggles for independence but the great imperial conflicts of the time. Accordingly, it is not only of considerable interest and significance for South African history, but is a fascinating subject in its own right.

A HISTORY OF SCIENTIFIC ENDEAVOUR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Prof A C Brown - Editor.

Publisher: Royal Society of S.A., Univer-

sity of Cape Town, Rondebosch, 7700 - Cape Town, June 1977.

R12,50 Pre-publication price

R18,75 Standard price

R75,00 Special leather bound edition - 100 numbered copies.

This forthcoming book consists of a brilliant series of historical essays by some of South Africa's leading scientists. In some 500 pages it gives the highlights of the growth, the discoveries and the personalities of science in southern Africa, from the earliest times at the Cape till today. It includes about 140 illustrations, with full-page portraits of explorers and scientists who have achieved the highest distinctions. Many of these are published for the first time.

This is the first occasion that a book dealing with the history of science in South Africa has been written. It fills a major gap and will be an important reference work for many years to come. The aim has not been to achieve completeness in this vast subject but to give a readable and entertaining text that will interest scientists, historians and laymen. The result, entrusted to the editorship of Professor A C Brown, has been honoured with a Foreword from the State President of South Africa, the Honourable Dr N Diederichs.

The subject matter covers such topics as: early scientific writing, the growth of scientific institutions, geology, insects, nature conservation, anthropology, veterinary research, physics, engineering, botany, chemistry by authors such as Prof P Tobias, Dr S Meiring Naudé, Dr Douglas Hey, Prof W Schaffer, Prof B Jansen and several others of stature.

W J P



Briewe - Letters

Walvisbote

Verlede week se klein artikel in *Beeld* in sake mense wat moontlik meer lig kan werp op bogenoemde onderwerp, het my laat besluit om u die naam van my neef te gee:

Mnr W Auret
Milnerstraat 10
Strand 9140

Sy vader, mnr Abraham Auret, het hier vroeg in die eeu 'n groot walvisvangery op Muizenbergstrand gehad - waar die groot hotelle tans staan. Hy en sy seuns en bruin seemanne het nog met roeibote en harpoene walvis gevang.

Mnr Auret is self al 91, maar sy geheue is nog baie goed en hy kan baie interessant vertel. Ek twyfel of hy nog enige artikels in verband met hulle bedryf destyds sal hê, maar moontlik sal hy nog foto's hê. In ieder geval ek het gereken dit is miskien 'n kontakpunt vir u. Ek self - ook al 74 - kan nog onthou hoe hulle jaggemaak het op die walvisse.

Vir u is ek baie dankbaar dat u die bote kon aankoop vir 'n moontlike museum, en ek

wens u alle sukses en voorspoed toe in u onderneming.

Mev M J Smith
Hans Strydomlaan 130
Verwoerdburg 0140

Bradshaw Mill

Restorica 2 which you made available to me were duly distributed overseas to those who had given advice on Bradshaw's Mill Wheel project. I thought you might be interested in part of one reply from Prof John Butt of Strathclyde University, Scotland.

"I was particularly glad to have a copy of the journal (*Restorica 2*) which seems to me to be a model of its kind."

A S Basson
Chairman
Lower Albany Historical Society
Port Alfred

Heidelberg Railway Station

On pages 30-32 of your *Restorica 3* of

November, 1976, there is an article about Heidelberg.

This article is most interesting to me as we lived near Heidelberg at that period, and I clearly remember seeing the first train to Durban pass from Heidelberg en route to Durban.

We lived on Rensburg's farm called "Emmasdale" where my mother is buried. Rensburg - my uncle - was the Member of Parliament for Heidelberg, and he provided the carriage which took President Kruger into the town when he visited Heidelberg about 1897. I was about 8 years old and was asked to act as Pageboy. There is now an institution on "Emmasdale".

I am writing in the hope that you have some photos taken of President Kruger on Heidelberg station on the occasion of his visit, and if so, would it be possible to let me have prints.

P M Cruse
PO Box 116
Nelspruit 1200

Whaling Museum

First may I congratulate you most heartily on including, among all your other valuable activities, the preservation of one of the whaling catchers at Salisbury Island as a museum devoted to whaling matters. I am particularly interested in this as I am currently writing the history of Plettenberg Bay and have devoted a whole chapter to whaling activities here. Now I have heard from several sources that when the Norwegian Whaling Station on Beacon Island terminated its activities in 1917/18, the six catchers in their possession were sold to a French company and the remainder of the equipment was taken over by the Union Whaling Company, Durban. I have been unable, so far, to confirm this statement, in spite of having approached the ex-chairman of the Union Whaling Company, and would be extremely grateful if you, in the course of your enquiries, could obtain any information which would authenticate this rumour. Most of the information I have been lucky enough to acquire on the Norwegian whalers I have found in the books and correspondence files of Thesen & Company, the firm which acted as agents for the Norwegians.

I shall look forward keenly to hearing from you and will be most grateful for anything you can tell me about the connection between whaling at Plettenberg Bay and the Union Whaling Company in Durban.

Congratulations again on the fine work you are doing.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Patricia Storrar
PO Box 208
Plettenberg Bay 6600

Dear Sir,

I was delighted to read of your efforts to compile a register of historical specialists – it is long overdue and will be of very great value to all historians.

I am working towards a Master of Arts degree on the Albania settlement in Griqualand West (1867), which was founded by David Arndt in an attempt to hold back the Orange Free State advance into Griqualands. I am registered at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, and my supervisor is Prof

J R H Davenport of the History Department.
Yours sincerely,

(Mrs) June M Mather
46a Carrington Road
Kimberley 8301

Notice about my world-wide research into the emigration of people from Alsace and Lorraine since 1700

Since 1963, but especially since 1968 after my first serious discoveries, I have been conducting a world-wide research into the emigration of people from Alsace-Lorraine (Elsass-Lothringen). I have also been looking for cities, towns and villages in the world which are or were named after places and localities in Alsace and Lorraine, for example: Strasbourg/Strassburg/Strasburg/Strasbourg (I have found 39 so far), Alsace, Alsatia, Barr, Colmar/Kolmar, Hagenau/Hague, Oberliu, Seltz/Selz, Metz, Nancy, Loray, Lorraine, Moselle i.e. as well as places in their area which were settled by emigrants or their descendants.

I have located in many countries emigrants from here and the places founded by them for a Doctors degree I am doing at the "Institut des Hautes études also ciennes" of Strasbourg University (France). I will pursue my research and later publish several illustrated books on the subject, an historical-cultural contribution to the history of 26 countries in four continents. This important and vast subject has never been studied and probably never will be again. This is the reason why I often have to use unorthodox methods to accomplish it. The result: my professor has said that I have enough material to write 5 or 6 doctorates.

I have had for some years the valuable aid of Universities, Archives, Historians, Government departments and churches in many countries and, since 1971, the help of the French, West German (and Swiss) diplomatic Services as well as the co-operation of embassies in Paris and newspapers all over the world.

I have been to Algeria (twice times) and to Hungary, Yugoslavia and Rumania (three times) to search archives, inspect tombstones

(names and origin), collect photographs and, especially, to interview descendants of emigrants from Alsace and Lorraine. As a result of my travels I have made many surprising discoveries. This enables me to compare emigration from and to Russia, countries of the Danube and Algeria.

I want to write an objective thesis but I am having some difficulty in achieving this. I have received much help from most English speaking countries but the distances involved are the main handicap for me. I require documents, books (photographs), indications and all information that might possibly help me as my few contacts are not sufficient. Therefore I am sending this circular.

If you can please contact me giving details of what information you can supply (with an indication of the source) especially about the locality of or other information about people from Alsace-Lorraine. Please send your full name and address which will be published in the thesis and in the books. Any out of pocket expenses will, of course, be reimbursed.

Moselville, Lothair, Metz (disappear), *Gravelotte*, all in Transvaal? Who named these localities, why and when? Have you other information about them? I will pay expenses by check. I have contact with the Government Archives in Pretoria and with your Embassies in Paris and Bonn.

I will follow up all useful information with a personal visit to conduct further research, but, before, I must have as many details as possible, also for following internal migrations of people from here in your country and . . . to organize my travel.

I am 49 and have been newspaperman for over 20 years, working for international newspapers and organisations such as "The Associated Press". I am working as idealist for a small people who have suffered much.

Please help me in my scientific research. Please help for our and the history of your own country.

May I thank you in advance! Toutes mes sympathies!

Many thanks, sincerely yours,
N Laybourn
Journaliste
3, rue du Tribunal
67000 Strasbourg, France

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