

Die Erasmuskasteel van Pretoria - Opsomming

Gedurende die afgelope jare het daar gereeld oppervlakkige artikels oor die Erasmuskasteel verskyn, veral om Pretoria te bemark. Die hoofdoel van hierdie studie is om die gapings, mites en wanindrukke in die bestaande inligting oor dié misterieuse landmerk van Pretoria, te identifiseer. Die geskiedenis van die Erasmuskasteelterrein is nooit behoorlik gedokumenteer nie. 'n Deeglike ondersoek het aangedui dat die gepubliseerde bronne wat oor die huis bestaan, baie min is. Die meeste artikels skets bloot net die breë historiese agtergrond van die plaas, Garstfontein, en sy geboue.

Die herhalende wanopvattinge van die pers bevestig die leemte en noodsaaklikheid vir 'n meer omvattende en akkurate geskiedenis van die Erasmuskasteel en omliggende terrein.

Uitgebreide inligting oor die veranderende voorkoms van die huis en omliggende tuine is deur dr. E. Labuschagne (kultuurhistorikus), H. Meiring (argitek) en A. Jansen (restourateur en bouer) gedoen in voorbereiding vir die restourasie van die Erasmuskasteel wat gedurende 1987 tot 1989 aangepak is. Die resultate van hierdie navorsing is ook in die verhandeling vervat. Dit was 'n uitdaging vir die restourateurs om die huis om te skakel na 'n funksionele kantoor vir Krygkor se Korporatiewe Kommunikasie Personeel. Die restourateurs het daarin geslaag om die historiese sjarme van die huis te behou.

Die restourasieproses was ook belangrik in dié sin dat dit die navorser na primêre bronne gelei het, wat help om die Kultuurgeskiedenis van die lewe in en rondom die Erasmuskasteelterrein te rekonstrueer.

Die navorser het gebruik gemaak van NASA (Nasionale Argief van Suid-Afrika) en het verskeie belangegroepe genader vir mondelinge mededelings

asook mondelinge oorlewerings. Sodoende kon die navorser 'n beter geheel vorm van die geskiedenis van een van Pretoria se opvallendste landmerke.

Die resultate van dié studie vul 'n belangrike gaping in die geskiedenis van Pretoria. Dit het waarde vir toekomstige toeriste en akademici. Die Erasmuskasteel is deur die Tshwane Geboue-Erfenisvereniging historiese monument verklaar (dit is verkieslik dat dit deur die SAEHA gedoen word). Dis 'n besondere voorbeeld van Victoriaanse argitektuur. Die omvattende dokumentasie van die geskiedenis van die Erasmuskasteelterrein is van uiterse belang vir die nageslag.

The Erasmus Castle of Pretoria - Summary

Over the past few years, images of and superficial articles on the Erasmus Castle frequently appeared in a wide range of publications concerned with the marketing of Pretoria. The main aim of this study is to identify the gaps in the existing representations and to identify fictitious notions and misconceptions that have been made with regard to this charming and mysterious landmark of Pretoria. The history of the Erasmus Castle site has never been formally documented. A thorough search has revealed that published literature on the house and the site is fairly limited. The repetitive citing of the same uncorroborated information confirms a lack of and a desperate need for a more comprehensive and a more accountable history of the Erasmus Castle and the site it is built on. The existing articles merely sketch the broad historical background of the farm and its buildings, thereby confirming the need for a well documented and detailed, scientific study of the history of this site. The researcher's aim is to provide in this need.

Extensive research on the changing appearance of the house and the gardens was done by Dr. E. Labuschagne (cultural historian), H. Meiring (architect), A. Jansen (restorer and builder) when the house was restored during 1987 -1989. The results of this research are incorporated in the dissertation. The way the restorers approached the challenge of converting the restored interior into a functional office environment (for Armscor's Corporate Communications Division), is also analysed.

The restoration process is also significant in the sense that it directed the current researcher to collections of primary sources that were indispensable in the reconstruction of the cultural history of life in the house and on the surrounding farmland.

The researcher also made use of NASA (National Archives of South Africa). Oral evidence was gathered and the researcher could fill in omissions in the history of one of Pretoria's most famous landmarks.

The findings are important for future tourists and academics alike. The Erasmus castle was declared a Historical Monument by the Tshwane Buildings- and Heritage Society (preferably done by SAHRA). The Erasmus Castle is an interesting example of Victorian architecture thus making the need for a well documented history of the Erasmus Castle terrain of the utmost importance for future generations.

Sleutelterme

1890-huis
Art Nouveau
Bella Vista
Dassiegrot
Erasmus
Erasmuskasteel
In situ
Pioniershuis
Pretoria
Spookhuis
Victoriaans
Wolwespruit