Annual Report

OF THE ASSOCIATION OLD PRETORIA

I HAVE pleasure in presenting the annual report for the year 1953.

In the course of the year the membership has increased to 110, a clear proof of the enduring and growing interest taken in the Society by the public of Pretoria. An old Pretorian whose name is on our honorary register, Mr. D. J. Sim, was lost to us through his death on the 12th July, 1953. Our sympathy goes out to his family.

The committee was composed as follows: Chairman, Dr. W. Punt; Vice-Chairman, Prof. A. N. Pelzer; Secretary, Dr. F. J. du T. Spies; Treasurer, Mr. G. Rissik; Archivest, Miss J. H. Davies; Members, Dr. V. Fitzsimons, Mrs. H. Greenlees, Mr. J. P. Jooste, Dr. T. S. van Rooyen, Mr. H. A. de Loor, Mr. R. Peacock; Representatives of the City Council: The Mayor, Councillor J. Visse, and Councillor W. J. Seymore.

During the year two of our committee members, the Chairman, Dr. Punt and Mr. Jooste, served on a committee of the City Council to eliminate duplicate street names. As a rule the older street name was retained and as far as possible, a new name was found from history for the younger street. The work has now been completed and it is a matter for gratification to us that most of the names recommended by our representatives were accepted.

In the course of the year our Society exerted itself in the matter of preserving what is in our opinion the oldest existing house in Pretoria —on the corner of Paul Kruger and Skinner Streets. As the stand is in the market, the intension is to demolish the house and, using the same materials, to re-build it elsewhere. The City Council is interested in the matter. A special general meeting of the Society was called in June to discuss it. The house as such is being given gratis by the owners, Mr. G. N. Heydenrych and his mother, to whom are due our sincere thanks and appreciation. Councillor L. Besaans has obtained the co-operation of the Master Builders' Association for the eventual removal of the house. We hope to obtain a suitable site from the City Council. The matter is now in the hands of a committee consisting of Councillor Besaans, Mr.

G. N. Heydenrych, Prof. A. L. Meiring, Mr. H. Eaton and Dr. W. Punt.

Our quarterly "Pretoriana" is steadily increasing in popularity. Thanks to the tireless activity of our editor, Dr. van Rooyen, we think that the quality of the quarterly is also steadily improving. The publication of the paper during the past year has, apart from the regular and valued contributions of the City Council, been made possible by donations from the firms John J. Kirkness Ltd., and Robert Hamilton (Pty.) Ltd. To them our sincere thanks. Especially too our thanks to Mrs. Punt for her exertions in this connection. The number of subscribers, together with the ordinary members, total some 160. We urge members to send in contributions on the past of our City.

A special word of thanks to our City Council which is always very well disposed towards us and which this year has doubled its grant to the Society. Our thanks too to Dr. FitzSimmons for the use of his office for committee meetings.

My thanks to the committee for its excellent co-operation. Our zealous chairman, Dr. Punt, is at present overseas, where we understand he is collecting valuable historical material. During his visit to Clarence he presented to the Kruger House there a photograph of the old Government Building on behalf of the Society.

A. N. PELZER,
(Vice-Chairman).

Jaarverslag

VAN DIE GENOOTSKAP OUD-PRETORIA.

MET genoeë lê ek hiermee die jaarverslag vir die jaar 1953 voor.

Die ledetal het in die loop van die jaar uitgebrei tot 110 wat 'n duidelike bewys is van die bestendige en groeiende belangstelling wat die Genootskap by die publiek van Pretoria geniet. 'n Oud-Pretoriaan, wie se naam op ons ere-register is, Mnr. D. J. Sim, het ons op 12 Julie, 1953 ontval. Ons deelname aan die familie.

Die bestuur was as volg saamgestel: Voorsitter, Dr. W. Punt; Ondervoorsitter, Prof. A.. N. Pelzer; Sekretaris, Dr. F. J. du T. Spies; Penningmeester, Mnr. G. Rissik; Argivaris, Mej. J. H. Davies; Lede, Dr. V. Fitz-

Simons, Mev. H. Greenlees, Mnr. J. P. Jooste, Dr. T. S. van Rooyen, Mnr. H. A. de Loor, Mnr. R. Peacock; Verteenwoordigers van die Stadsraad: Die Burgemeester, Raadslid J. Visse en Raadslid W. J. Seymore.

Gedurende die jaar was twee van ons bestuurslede die voorsitter, Dr. Punt en Mnr. Jooste, op 'n Komitee van die Stadsraad om duplikaatstraatname uit die weg te ruim. In die reël is die ouer straatnaam gehandhaaf en 'n nuwe naam vir die jonger straat so ver moontlik uit die geskiedenis gesoek. Die werk is nou afgehandel en dis vir ons 'n genoeë dat die meeste name wat deur ons verteenwoordigers aanbeveel is, aanvaar is.

In die loop van die jaar het ons Genootskap hom beywer vir die bewaring van wat na ons mening die oudste bestaande huis in Pretoria is—op die hoek van Paul Kruger- en Skinnerstrate. Aangesien die perseel in die mark is, is die plan om die huis te sloop en elders met dieselfde materiaal weer op te bou. Die Stadsraad is daarvoor geïnteresseer. 'n Spesiale algemene vergadering is in Junie daarvoor belê. Die huis word as sodanig gratis afgestaan deur die eienaars, Mnr. G. N. Heydenrych en sy moeder. Ons opregte dank en waardering aan hulle. Raadslid L. Besaans het die medewerking verkry van die Boumeestersvereniging vir die ewentuele verskuiwing. Ons hoop om van die Stadsraad 'n geskikte terrein te kry. Die saak berus tans in die hande van 'n komitee bestaande uit Raadslid Besaans, Mnr. G. N. Heydenrych, Prof. A. L. Meiring, Mnr. H. Eaton en Dr. W. Punt.

Ons kwartaalblad „Pretoriana" geniet steeds meer populariteit. Danksy die onvermoeide aktiwiteit van ons redakteur, Dr. van Rooyen, meen ons dat ook die gehalte daarvan steeds verbeter. Die uitgawe daarvan gedurende die afgelope jaar is, behalwe vir die gereelde en gewaardeerde bydrae van die Stadsraad, moontlik gemaak deur skenkings van die firmas John J. Kirkness Beperk, en Robert Hamilton (Edms.) Bpk. Aan hulle ons opregte dank. Veral ook ons dank aan Mev. Punt vir haar beywering in die verband. Die getal intekenare, saam met die gewone lede, tel sowat 160. Ons dring by ons lede aan om bydraes oor die verlede van ons stad.

'n Spesiale woord van dank aan ons Stadsraad wat ons steeds baie goedgesind is en vanjaar sy toelaag aan die Genootskap verdubbel het. Ons dank Dr. Fitzsimons vir die gebruik van sy kantoor vir bestuursvergaderings.

My dank aan die bestuur vir hul daadwerklike en vriendelike samewerking. Ons ywerige voorsitter, Dr. Punt, is tans oorsee waar hy, na ons verneem, waardevolle historiese materiaal insamel. Tydens sy besoek aan Clarens het hy namens die Genootskap 'n portret van die ou Goewermentsgebou aan die Kruger-sterfhuis oorhandig.

A. N. PELZER,

(Vise-Voorsitter).