



---

## NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPE TOWN BRANCH OF THE SIMON VAN DER STEL FOUNDATION NO 2 2013

---

### NUWE LEDE/NEW MEMBERS

Ons wil graag die volgende nuwe lede hartlik verwelkom by die Stigting Simon van der Stel:  
We wish to welcome the following new members to the Simon van der Stel Foundation:

Mrs Ramsay, Mrs P Burns, Mrs M Fenn, Ms E Neethling, Mr C Murphy.

### DONASIES/DONATIONS:

Ons bedank graag die volgende lede vir donasies gemaak:  
We are extremely grateful for the donations received from our members:

Mr M Ravenscroft, Mrs D Swart, Mrs B Workman.

### OBITUARY: PHILLIDA BROOKE SIMONS

The heritage community in the Cape recently lost one of its most productive members: Phillida Brooke Simons. Over a period of almost thirty years she has enriched the literature on Cape history with a never-ending series of well-researched books. Several of these were illustrated by the photographer Alain Proust. Her favourite subject was (probably!) Cape Dutch architecture, on which she wrote **Cape Dutch houses and other favourites** in 2001 and **Cape Dutch houses - a concise guide** as early as 1987. But she also wrote about individual farms: **Groote Schuur - from Great Granary to Stately Home** in 1997, **Meerlust: 300 years of hospitality**, and **Nederburg, the first 200 years** in 1993. But Phillida also wrote about individual figures: **The life and work of Charles Bell** (together with another stalwart author, the late Frank Bradlow). In 1995 she wrote the corporate history of the **Old Mutual 1845-1995**. She apparently also wrote children's stories.

Phillida Brooke Simons had been unwell for quite a while. We salute her and thank her for all her contributions.

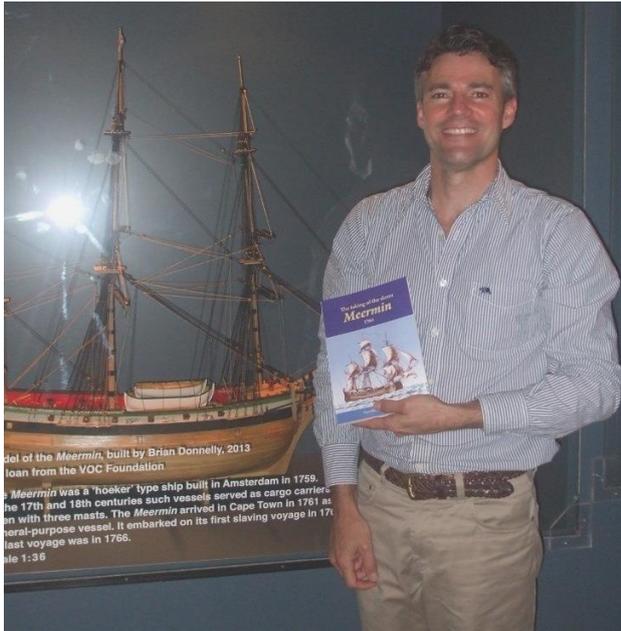
Hans Fransen

### MIDDLE NORTH BATTERY SIMON'S TOWN

Our members were privileged to have a guided tour of the Middle North Battery above Simon's Town before witnessing the firing of the newly restored 7.5ins cannon in Remembrance of those who fell in the two World Wars and subsequent battles. David Erikson gave us a very informative talk about the history of the battery and the cannons that have stood there. Warrant Officer Harry Croombe then explained how they had restored the cannon and took us through the procedures of priming and firing the cannon, which resulted in a very satisfactory explosion of noise! For those who have developed a taste for such things we have organised a guided tour of both the East and West Forts in Hout Bay where the cannons have been restored culminating in a firing of the East Fort cannon by the SA Cannon Society.



## DIE SLAWESKIP MEERMIN 1766



Die Stigting VOC het op Donderdag, 7 November 'n skaalmodel van die VOC se slaweskip *Meermin* in bruikleen aan Iziko Museums van Suid-Afrika vir opvoedkundige doeleindes oorhandig. Die bou van die skaalmodel was een van die Stigting VOC se grootste en duurste opvoedkundige projekte. Dit is 'n besonder mooi model en die enigste van 'n driemas-hoeker – alles is op skaal (1:36), selfs die kanonnetjies is met die VOC se logo gegraveer.

Die oorhandiging van die model het in die Slawelosiemuseum plaasgevind wat 'n uiters gepaste ruimte vir die *Meermin* bied. Die Stigting Simon van der Stel het 'n baie belangrike bydrae gelewer deur die koste te dra van die groot uitstalkas waarin die

model van die *Meermin* te siene is. Ons voorsitter, Ian Pretorius het namens die Stigting Simon van der Stel, 'n eksemplaar van die boek [Die Aanslag op die Slaweskip Meermin 1766](#) ontvang as erkenning vir ons bydrae.

Die outeurs is Dan Sleigh en Piet Westra wat albei aan die gehoor iets meer omtrent die noodlottige reis van die skip vertel het. Volgens dr Sleigh is die ware held in hierdie verhaal, die *Meermin* self. Mnr Westra het genoem dat die slaaf Massavana, wat die leier van die opstandeling was, as ons eerste vryheidsvegter beskou en as sodanig vereer behoort te word.

Lede kan gerus 'n besoek aan die Slawelosiemuseum bring om hierdie pronkstuk te besigtig.

Bovermelde boek is ook nou in Engels asook Nederlands beskikbaar by **Africana Uitgewers, 5G Indian Road, Kenilworth 7708, RSA**. Tel. 021 761-8030; 083 415 7678. [africanapublishers@mwebbiz.co.za](mailto:africanapublishers@mwebbiz.co.za). **Anlen Boshoff**

## TALL SHIPS



Still on the subject of ships, many of you will recall the visit of the three Dutch 'Tall Ships' (Europa, Oostergeld and Tecla) that called in at Cape Town earlier this year on their way to recreate the trade route from Zeeland to New Zealand. After leaving South African waters the three ships set sail for Reunion and Mauritius where the tourist authority put together a whole 'Dutch in Mauritius' week to celebrate their first settlers. A generous invitation was

sent to the chairman of the Simon van der Foundation to give a talk on Simon as his is the first recorded birth on the island of Mauritius. Unfortunately our chairman, Ian Pretorius, was in Europe for that week, so I was lucky enough to take up the offer and stand in for him. Air Mauritius flew me over and I was luxuriously accommodated at the Le Meridien, Ile Maurice. The ships arrived in Port Louis on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June and a week of events were staged including fashion shows featuring Dutch designers, museum exhibits and an informal talk at the Caudon Waterfront about Simon van der Stel, the links between South Africa and Mauritius and the legacy of the VOC and it's Indian Ocean Trade Routes.



A great deal of interest was generated and the public were allowed to tour two of the ships as they lay at anchor in the Waterfront. Finally the ships set sail for Vieux Grand Port in the South East of the island to rendezvous off Fort Frederik Hendrik, which is where the Dutch had made their settlement, and a symbolic firing of a giant cracker stood in for a cannon salute as they sailed off on their way to take part in the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Australian Navy in Sydney and then onwards to New Zealand in a Tall Ships race.

Whilst I was in Mauritius I was given the services of a car and driver and so able to get around the island looking at the heritage buildings from the Dutch, French and British Periods. Some beautifully restored in and around Port Louis and some still acting as gracious homes in the sugar cane estates.

In all it was a marvellous experience and I give great thanks to Marcel Lindsey Noe who put the whole programme together and arranged the trip.



However I also discovered that our own Mostert's Mill is no longer the only working windmill in the Southern Hemisphere. The Netherlands have also beautifully restored the windmill in Port Louis across from the Caudon Waterfront.

## RESTAURANTS WITH HISTORY

In the next programme you will see that we are having guided tours of two wine estates, Morgenhof and Muratie. Both now have restaurants and we will having lunch and a wine tasting at Morgenhof followed by a port and chocolate tasting at Muratie.

### MORGENHOF

Morgenhof was first granted in 1692 to Hans Henske but the current homestead (which is now used as a guesthouse) was probably built around 1818. Morgenhof has had many owners in its time but none quite as dynamic as the current owner Anne Cointreau. The Cointreaus are steeped in Cognac and liqueurs, definitely not through consumption but certainly through history. Anne can trace her family tree back to 1210 when the family was already in the business. Anne Cointreau brought with her tremendous knowledge and expertise flowing from her family involvement in the great Cognacs and liqueurs.

The restaurant is now open Tuesdays to Sundays and Summer Lunches are served from 12h00 - 15h00

Tel: +27.218895510 Fax: +27.218895266 Email: [info@morgenhof.com](mailto:info@morgenhof.com)

### MURATIE

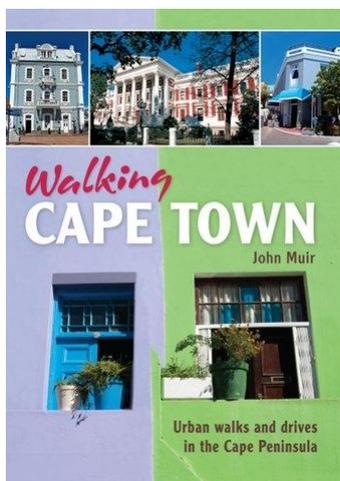
Muratie was first granted to Lourens Campher and his wife, the freed slave Anselva van de Caab, in 1699. He named the farm 'Die Driesprong' – the meeting place of three roads – and built the first house which is still standing but no longer used as a residence. After various owners the estate came into the ownership of the Melk family for the first time in 1763 and remained in the family till 1897. There were several more owners until the farm was bought by Georg Paul Canitz in 1925. Canitz was a larger than life character, artist and bon vivant and has left a legacy of his paintings and drawings that are displayed around the wine tasting area. After the death of his daughter, Annemie, in 1959 the farm passed back into the Melk family when, current owner, Rijk Melk's father, Ronnie, purchased it.

Rijk and his wife, have now moved into the manor house, Rijk runs the estate and Kim runs the Farm Kitchen which is now open for breakfast from Wednesday to Sunday and lunch everyday. Guests can sit outside under the trees with views of Table Mountain or inside the old cement fermentation tanks which have now been opened up to use for wine tasting or eating. Light lunches are served and there is always a special dish which varies with the season.

Contact the estate at [info@muratie.co.za](mailto:info@muratie.co.za) or +27 21 865 2330

## BOOKSHELF

### WALKING CAPE TOWN



Our very own ex chairman and current committee member, John Muir, has produced his latest book on interesting facts, easy walks, scenic drives and little known corners of Cape Town. Beautifully illustrated with a plethora of photographs by his wife, Linda, the book makes a welcome addition to anyone's collection of books on the Cape and is an excellent gift. With 32 easy to follow, illustrated route maps, detailed route descriptions, absorbing fact panels, information on walking or driving distances, opening times and contact details and a selection of worthwhile coffee shops and restaurants to be found en route, the book really is a gem.

Published by Struik  
978-1-92057-294-5

Available at all good bookshops.