

THE DROSTDY MUSE NEWS



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Editorial

For us at the Drostdy Museum the New Year has begun with such a rush that only now do we have the opportunity to bring you some news of what we've been up to, and stories of some of the people involved in our conservation and transformation efforts. Enjoy this issue! Thanks for all your positive e-mails. We value your feedback.

Museum Conservation - a dedicated joint effort



In these days of under-funding, understaffing and limited resources, museums have no choice other than to involve community volunteers in their conservation efforts. The Drostdy is no exception, and in most of our conservation efforts, expert volunteers provide hands-on assistance or advice.

Right now, long serving Jakobus Lombaard (remember, 25 years at the Drostdy!) is working on restoration and conservation of two precious Victorian pieces out of the

Mayville building - a mahogany dressing table, and marble washstand. It takes not only a special formula, but also plenty of elbow grease to restore the glowing patina of these lovely old items. Says Jakobus, "We clean the wood first, and then apply a special wax to bring out the beauty of the wood. We clean the marble with a special preparation."

Jakobus is assisted by Joseph Fielies, who has been with the Museum for 8 years. Both enjoy their work, regarding each piece as a special challenge. "Ons het 'n goeie verhouding met Craig Blease, ons adviseur", sê Jakobus, "en leer baie van hom."



Says Craig, expert furniture restorer and previously a conservator at the Museum: "No two pieces are the same. One has to work according to the specie of timber and the state of the artefact. This takes expert knowledge of old woods and their characteristics, and the oils and waxes that will best do the job."

Craig, who works from his delightful cottage workshop in Swellendam, aims to ensure that the special techniques he passes on to museum staff are put on record, so that conservation practices can in turn be passed on to subsequent custodians of our national treasures. It is shingly evident (in more ways than one!) that Craig has a passion for his work, and his love of the artefacts ensures that he will do his level best to restore them to their original grandeur. A look around his workshop is proof of the pudding. Currently, a pre-Victorian Italianate trinket box takes pride of place. Infinite care is taken to match up missing pieces of tortoiseshell and marble. Craig says enthusiastically: "I want the Drostdy Museum to be a place of excellence in terms of custodianship and conservation, and I am always available to give my advice or assistance."

Like Craig, during his 25 years of service, Jakobus has also generated a love of the gentle and painstaking art of restoration. And he has the Drostdy's magnificent conservation workshop in which to ply his trade. Hats off to these two craftsmen who help to keep Swellendam's treasures pristine!

Artefakte met 'n storie - Die Barry Waspop



"Oe! Sy is mooi, het 'n gelaat soos 'n waspop." Sien is glo, want 'n waspop is regtig spesiaal.

Sover terug soos die Romeinse tydperk is die waspoppe gemaak en dit was vir 'n lang tydperk nog steeds in Italië vervaardig. Die was is met hars versterk. Suiwer was is baie selde gebruik. Dit kan ek goed verstaan en ook dat die Engelse die poppies vir 'n baie lang tydperk, tot laat in die 19de, selfs 20ste, eeu gemaak het. Tipies, was die Franse poppe se kostuums baie deftig en 'n getroue weergawe van die klerestyl van dié spesifieke tydperk. Melding word gemaak dat hulle die was met gips verhard het. Die ogies was gekleurde was en sommige het glasogies gehad.

Die haartjies is in klossies in die was met tweepuntspeldjies geplant en is baie selde enkel ingeplant. Dit was blykbaar 'n groot werk. In 1860 het die Engelse begin om die wasmaskertjies met moeseliën oor te trek en toe het dit bekend gestaan as "London Rag dolls." In 1877 het die Amerikaners nog slimmer planne beraam om die was te versterk. In laat 1800 het gewildheid van die waspoppe begin afneem en so laat soos

1920 is dit nog gemaak, maar meer net as kostuumpoppe.

Nog 'n praktyk was om porselein, hout, lap, rubber, metaal, klei en papierpap met was te bedek om die voorkoms te verbeter. Somtyds is die gesiggies eers opgeverf en die was daarna oorgesit en soms is op die was self geverf. Watter metode ookal gebruik is, die was het gesmelt en dit het skrape gekry. Ek kan net dink dat kleingoed maklik aan die was sou gekou het.

Mev Joan Anderson (née Barry) het twee poppe in 1912 in Parys vir haar twee niggietjies gekoop. Dit was beslis nie die tyd toe dit vervaardig is nie, want op die lyfie is dit duidelik gemerk dat die poppie deur "Hamley's Dolls' Repair, 512 Oxford Street" herstel is. Die een het aan Cecil Petersen (née Barry) behoort en die ander een aan Violet Munnik (née Reid), maar oo wee, laasgenoemde het haar poppie in die son laat lê en dit was laaste sien van pop se kind. (Dink julle sy het pak gekry? Dit was mos nog in die mode, die pakslae, bedoel ek).

Waxie (my troetelnaampie vir haar) is 48 cm lank, glasogies, fyn blonde haartjies, was armpies en beentjies met 'n lapyfie. Sy is geklee in die fynste moeseliënrokkie met baie kant, opnaaisels en fyn appliek-motiefies. 'n Kantkappie, manteltjie, vollengte onderrokkie, vollengte geborduurde flennie onderrokkie, lang bloomer met die kruisnaat wat oop is, en gebreide kousies rond haar uitrusting af. Die kledingstukies is nie gelyktydig gemaak nie, maar ek kan nie met sekerheid sê, wat wanneer gemaak is nie. Die kleertjies is so mooi dat geen woorde reg daaraan kan laat geskied nie. Met knopies kleiner as 'n halwe sentimeter in deursnee, knoopsgaatjies en trensies wat perfek pas - kan my maar net sprakeloos laat. Dus, hoe

oud sy is en hoeveel sy werd is, weet ons nie?

Jomien.

And so says Pieter Dirk-Uys:

"Culture is the spice of taste that is sprinkled on the blandness of a community"

Ou Geld



Swellendam Mayville: 'n Fonds van welleer, verborge vir meer as 'n eeu is in die grond onder Mayville se vloerplanke gevind.

Die Drostyd Museum se onderhoudspan is al sedert verlede jaar besig met die baie versigtige proses van restorasie in Mayville, 'n 1855 Kaaps-Hollands en Viktoriaanse huis in Hermanus Steynstraat. Om onder andere meer ventilasie te bewerkstellig, moet die grond onder die vloer gesak word. Die tydwende opgrawing het vier weke gelede fondse gelewer wat die puriste gaande het. Pennies wat dateer uit 'n tyd tot so oud as 1827! Amper twee eeue oud.

Die pennies span by verre die kroon tussen ou tuinharke en stoof onderdele wat ook gevind is. By nadere ondersoek is die drie pennies gedateer 1827, 1874 en 1897. Ironies is die toestand van die pennies nie tydgebonde nie. Die oudste van die drie is in goeie munt en leesbaar. Georgius IV

DEIGRATIA is op een sy en BRITTANNIA REX ... DEF op die ander.

Die muntstuk in die beste toestand het 'n afbeelding van koningin Victoria.

Die oudste van die drie, die geskatte 1827, is in goeie munt en leesbaar. Die derde geldstuk is ietwat kleiner en baie verweer, dit dateer uit 1874 en die woorde VICTORIA DG BRIT RBG ... D, is net-net sigbaar.

Dit is ook opvallend dat die munte besonder swaar is, die rede daarvoor is dat die gebruik van ligter allooie eers in die industriële tydperk moontlik geword het.

Die munte is tans in bewaring by die Drostdy Museum. Dit is wel so dat die pennies nie Swellendam of the museum reuse lof sal besorg nie, maar dit is wel belangrik dat ons onthou, iets wat verlore was is gevind en gered en word bewaar, want dit is ons erfenis.

Farewell to long-serving board members Dr T F Weich and Mr P Meffert



At a well-attended function at the Museum on the evening of Thursday 24th February,

Friends of the Museum and staff took leave of long-serving Board Chairman, Dr T F Weich, and Mr P Meffert, who has served on the Board for many years in his capacity as Secretary for Friends of the Museum. Dr Weich had served on the Board for 22 years, always eager to see the Museum thrive. In his farewell speech Dr Weich said that it was time to hand over the reins to younger colleagues, and that he had enjoyed his period of service. Mr Adriaan Mocke of Olyfkrans College paid tribute to these two stalwarts.

Best wishes to them both in their future endeavours!

New Board of Trustees

The new Board of Trustees is already hard at work planning for the future of the Museum and in pursuit of its Mission and Values. Members are as follows:

Chairman: Adv N J Oosthuizen

(Premier's representative)

Mrs R Hodd (Premier's representative)

Ms D Mtila (Municipal representative)

Ms F L September (Premier's representative)

Mr M J Dyantyi (Premier's representative)

Mr J W Jonas (Representing Friends of the Museum)

Says Chairman Nic Oosthuizen: "I look forward to steering Museum affairs through the transformation process, so that the Drostdy becomes a museum that serves the needs of the entire community."

Ubuso Obutsha!



Ukhetho lwabantu abantsundu njengonozaku - zaku (bezokhenketho).

I-Drostdy Museum yamkela u Helena Poppy Biko kunye no-Freddie Lebaka, abathe kutsha nje bafumana izithuba zokuba ngonozakuzaku bezokhenketho. Ngokwangoku u-Helena no Freddie baseseluqeqeshweni kwaye bayaluthakazelela uqeqesho nako konke abajongene nako okukokunye okuzayo.

U-Helena ebeseqalisile ukujongana nabakhenkethi e Drostdy, yena u Freddie ube ngusaziwayo wencu-tshe kwicandelo lezixhobo zomboniso kwi-Ambagswerf.

Ulwazi lwabo lwesi Xhosa namasiko esi Xhosa lona luyakwenza utshintsho olukhulukazi kubakhenkethi abantsundu kwixesha elizayo. Sininqwenelela impumelelo nobabini kwaye siningqwenelela ulonwabo nexesha elide sikunye.

Do we have red faces?

Why? Because in the last issue a gremlin declared the birth of South Africa's democracy to have taken place in 2004, instead of 1994!

You didn't spot the mistake?

Well now, you're also human!

Look out for the next issue of the Drostdy Muse News and remember to promote and conserve South Africa's diverse heritage!

Till next time -
The Editor

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AWARD : BEST MUSEUM IN THE WESTERN CAPE 2004.