

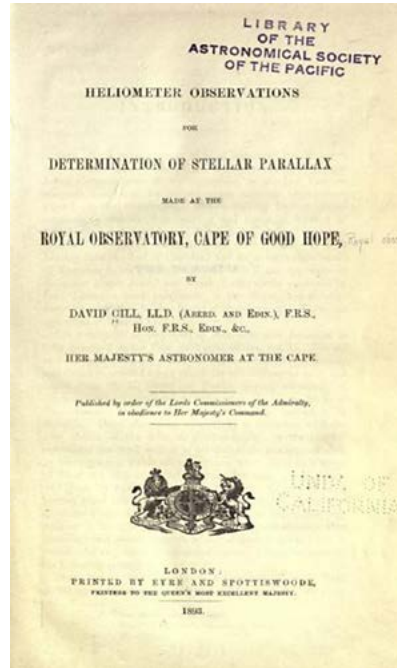
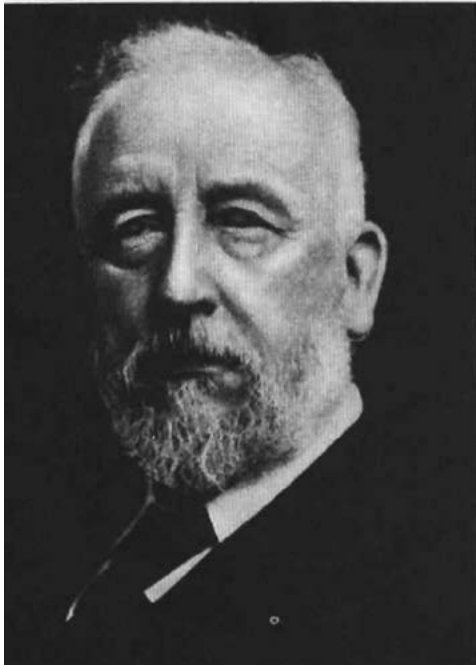
Chapter 10

Famous early members

The founding members of the CTPS were almost a *Who's Who* of Cape Town in the 1890's



Standing left is first vice-president TW Cairncross and second from right is fellow founding member and first honorary secretary and treasurer BA Lewis. Seated is comet-photographer Edgar Hallis Allis.



Above: The historical photo of the 'Great Comet' of 1882, taken by two CTPS founder members.

Far left: Dr. (later Sir) David Gill during his time in Cape Town.

Left: A copy of the Southern Sky catalogue Sir David Gill compiled as astronomer in Cape Town, now in the Library of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

Presidents and committee members 1890-1919

1890 - 1892: President: David Gill, **Vice-president:** T.W. Cairncross, **Treasurer and Secretary:** B.A. Lewis, **Other members:** W. Pocock, C. Ray Woods, E.H. Allis, F. Ayres (of Starke Ayres), D.C. Andrew, C. Hayne, R.T. Petit.

1893 - 1902: President: David Gill, **Treasurer and Secretary:** Andrew Fuller.

1903-1904: President: David Gill, **Vice-presidents:** J.D. Cartwright, W. Forbes, W.S. Logeman, **Treasurer and Secretary:** Andrew Fuller, **Lanternist:** G. Ainslie, **Custodian of albums:** H. W. Schonegevel, **Other members:** T.W. Cairncross, G. Campbell Dickson, Geo P. Kipps, F.M.H. Matson, E.H. Oakley, E.J. Steer, J.A. Yallop.

1905 - 1906: President: David Gill,

Treasurer and Secretary: Andrew Fuller.

1907 - 1908: President: JD Cartwright, **Treasurer and Secretary:** Andrew Fuller.

1909: President: Sir Frederick Smith (Cape Town mayor), **Treasurer:** Andrew Fuller, **Secretary:** Mudie Thomson (died) Andrew Fuller again took the position.

1910: President: Sir Frederick Smith, **Vice-president:** Andrew Fuller, **Treasurer:** JP Edwards, **Secretary:** HS Jager.

1911: President: Rev William Forbes, **Secretary:** HW Schonegevel.

1912: President: JD Cartwright, **Secretary:** HW Schonegevel.

1913 -1919: President: Dr J Luckhoff, **Secretary:** EJ Steer.

Milestones

During the first decades the name was changed from *Club* to *Society*, members kept abreast of the latest developments in photography, CTPS nearly went bankrupt after hosting an ambitious international exhibition and CTPS withstood the disruptions caused by the Anglo Boer War and WW I.

In 1904 CTPS had 140 ordinary members, 9 life members and 9 country members. The Syllabus of that year records that: *The Council fear that beginners in the Art of Photography are often deterred from joining the Society, from a notion that is found to be prevalent, that the Society is only established for the benefit of experts.* Membership was, however, not granted automatically on application: it had to be approved by members voting at a general meeting.

From the earliest days the growth and success of the Cape Town Photographic Club (later Society) depended on the enthusiasm and skills of the council members volunteering for the different tasks.

Among them were also photographers who had made their mark elsewhere, like C. Ray Woods, who was the first South African photographer to join the Royal Photographic Society in 1882.

The first committee members were a veritable *Who's Who* of 19th century Cape Town society. **JOY WELLBELOVED** introduces some of them:

Gill: our stargazing president

For Dr. David Gill, starting organisations seemed to be a thing that he just did —

Cape Town Photographic Society over 125 years

time and again. Cape Town Photographic Club was just one of the organisations that he got off the ground. He was elected honorary president at the first meeting on October 30, 1890, and remained president until he returned to the UK in 1906.

When the Cape Town Photographic Club was founded he had been the Astronomer Royal in charge of the Royal Observatory at the Cape of Good Hope for 11 years, a position that he would keep for the next 16 years.

When he arrived in Cape Town in May 1879 the Royal Observatory at the Cape of Good Hope was in a bad state with antiquated, poorly maintained equipment, dating back to 1820. When he resigned in 1906, the Royal Observatory at the Cape of Good Hope was the finest observatory in the southern hemisphere, he had kick-started Astropho-

tography, he had designed a new telescope that was so good its design was still regarded as the best 100 years later, and he was now Sir David Gill, having been knighted by Queen Victoria in 1904.

Born on 12th June 1843 in Aberdeen Scotland to Margaret and David Gill, who held a Royal Warrant as Watchmaker to Queen Victoria, young David was expected to take over his father's business.

As a boarder of the Dollar Academy in Aberdeenshire, Scotland (which is currently the UK's oldest co-educational day and boarding school) he became interested in mathematics, natural philosophy and chemistry. He must have been a bright kid, as he was enrolled at Marischal College, University of Aberdeen in 1858, aged only 15. One of his tutors was the great physicist James Clerk Maxwell who produced the

Cape Town in 1891. This is a lithograph of the 1884 map of Cape Town done under supervision of City Engineer and CTPS founder TW Cairncross that was published in 1891.

Some of the interesting features are the location of the Cape Town Station next to the Parade, where the Golden Acre Shopping center is today. The separate goods station was where the station is today.

Also note the Sea Point railway and the tramway from the Amsterdam Battery to the Standard Bank in Adderley Street. The Castle is right on the shoreline.

The image is part of a selection of out-of-copyright maps from the library of the Trigonometrical Survey Office, now known as the Chief Directorate: National Geo-spatial Information.



first colour photograph in 1861 — about the time that David left school at his father's request to learn the watchmaking business.

David spent the next few years travelling around the continent, learning the art of clock making in Switzerland and acquiring a feeling for precision instruments, knowledge of business methods, and foreign languages. At the same time he kept his interest in astronomy alive by helping a professor at Kings College Aberdeen set up a telescope. After a few years he sold the watchmaking business, but the skills that he had learned working with precision instruments stayed with him.

By 1869 he was a member of the Royal Astronomical Society, and had built his own 12 inch (300mm) telescope with which he took a photograph of the moon, which was of high quality. Taking a photograph of the moon in 1869 was not as simple as it seems to us.

The Daguerreotype process was just not sensitive enough to light as it required very long exposures, even in full daylight. Wet plates could only be exposed while they were still wet, which limited exposure time, and the invention of dry plate photography was still a few years away.

When an aristocrat, Lord Lindsay of Dun Echt, saw Gill's photograph of the moon, he knew that he had found the man to build him a private observatory at his home at Dun Echt. When Lord Lindsay offered Gill the post of director, he accepted with alacrity, despite the reduced salary.

The observatory was erected under Gill's supervision and equipped on a lavish scale with instruments finer than many of those

available in Government Observatories at the time — including a 4 inch (100 mm) heliometer with which he became an expert observer. Gill remained the Director at Dun Echt until 1876.

Thus started his career which was to bring him international fame, and provide astronomers all over the world with a priceless new research tool: astrophotography.

In 1879 Lord Lindsay was obviously a man of influence, because he influenced the decision to have Gill appointed as HM Astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope — a position that he held until 1906. Before he took up his post, Gill travelled extensively all over Europe in order to meet some of the world's foremost astronomers.

In 1882, Finlay, one of his assistant astronomers at the Cape Observatory, discovered a bright comet in the southern sky, which became known as the Great Comet of 1882.

By this time the dry plate cameras were newly introduced. Gill and a local photographer, Mr EH Allis (who later became a CTPS committee member) fastened an ordinary camera with a 2.5 inch aperture, and 11 inch focal length Dallmeyer lens to the clock-driven equatorial telescope. They took several photos over a few nights with exposures of between 30 and 60 minutes. The results were astounding. The photographs showed a good image of the comet, but the background stars were also shown with absolute clarity and sharpness.

As Gill studied the photographs, he realised that the science of photography could assist making star-maps down to very faint magnitudes. The result was the famous CPD or Cape Photographic Durchmusterung, which extended a Northern Hemi-

sphere survey, the Bonn Durchmusterung, down to the South Pole of the sky. The finished catalogue gives the brightness and approximate positions of nearly half a million southern stars

In 1886 he initiated an international congress to promote the making of a photographic catalogue of the whole sky, which resulted in the *Carte du Ciel* project. The Cape Observatory was assigned the zone between declinations -40° and -52° . He initiated the idea of a geodetic survey along the 30th east meridian stretching from South Africa to Norway, resulting in the longest meridian yet measured on Earth.

Gill's expertise in instrument making was put to good use. His design for a Reversible Transit Circle telescope proved so reliable and accurate that it remained in use until 1972. For decades, accurate positions for southern stars depended mainly on this one instrument.

On 24 May 1900 Gill was knighted, and in 1906 he resigned his position in Cape Town due to failing health, and returned to London. There he continued to involve himself in matters astronomical until his death on 24 January 1914.

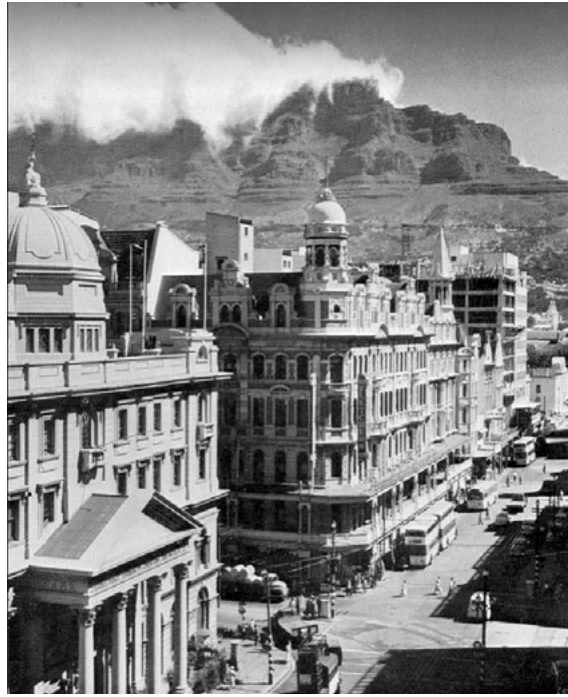
Vice-president Cairncross

Thomas William Cairncross (1845 – 1918) became City Engineer for Cape Town in 1886 and began the smelly job of designing and laying the current water-borne sewerage system in Cape Town. By 1894 the city had eight miles of sewers, seven of which had been laid during his tenure.

It was his discussion with fellow photo-enthusiast B.A. Lewis over a ticky beer in the Thatched Tavern, that resulted in the



The memorial plaque to JD Cartwright erected by the Friends of Christ Church in Kenilworth.



Left: City landmark Cartwright's Corner is one of the legacies of former CTPS president JD Cartwright.

Opposite page: Dr. Rudolf Marloth travelled across Southern Africa to photograph plants, carrying cameras that weighed up to 100lb on ox wagons. A page from his mammoth six-part publication on 'Flora of South Africa' is reproduced here.

formation of the photographic society. At the founding meeting of 30 October 1890, he was elected vice-president of the Cape Town Photographic Club.

He was also a founder member of the society for Advancement of Science.

Cairncross lived at Leeuwenhof, a popular venue for early club outings.

Founder BA Lewis

B.A. Lewis, the manager of the new Cape Town and District Gas Light and Coke Company, ensured his place in CTPS history when he was one of the two men to propose the formation of a photographic society. He was elected the first honorary sec-

retary and treasurer when the Cape Town Photographic Club was formed.

In 1890 gas streetlights were still modern technology. To be a manager of a firm supplying the latest technology shows Mr Lewis to be quite a guy. It is therefore not surprising that he was one of the three men responsible for founding the Cape Town Photographic Society.

In 1895 that electricity eventually supplanted gas lighting in Cape Town's streets — but it took a few more years before the photographers trusted this new *illuminant* enough to replace the kerosene they used for showing slides.

Secretary & treasurer Andrew Fuller

Andrew James Fuller of the Defence Department, was elected a council member at the first annual general meeting in 1891 and served as Honorary Secretary for 17 years from 1892 to 1908.

He was a very able secretary with a neat handwriting and a member who, whilst not being intolerant, nevertheless, guided the society successfully through some awkward and difficult periods.

At the second AGM in 1892 he was also elected honorary treasurer, where he did not quite achieve the same acclaim as secretary. During his tenure as treasurer the

Allis, the star photography pioneer ... or was it Gills?

EDGAR HAGGAR ALLIS was the Cape Town photographer who devised a plan to take the world's first sharp photograph of a heavenly body, namely the Great Comet of 1882. He was also a founding member of CTPS eight years later.

Up to then the use of slow emulsion and long exposure showed any stars photographed as short lines, because of the movement of the earth.

Allis had a camera with a rapid portrait lens, as well as the necessary dry plates and the means to develop these. Dr. David Gill was keen to obtain clear photographs of the comet, and therefore gave Allis permission to strap his camera to a telescope barrel at the Royal Observatory in Cape Town.

Allis attached the camera to the decli-

nation axis counterpoise of the 6" Grubb Equatorial telescope in such a way that the camera moved with the telescope. A number of photographic plates were obtained, with exposure times varying from 30 to 140 minutes.

Gill said: "I am indebted to Mr E H Allis, Photographer, Mowbray, for the loan of the camera in question, and for his assistance in the work."

Gill sent prints of the photographs to various overseas correspondents, who reacted with enthusiasm. The photos were later published in the *Annals of the Cape Observatory* (Vol. 2, Part 1). He donated Allis' negatives to the Royal Astronomical Society and they are now in the Science Museum in London.

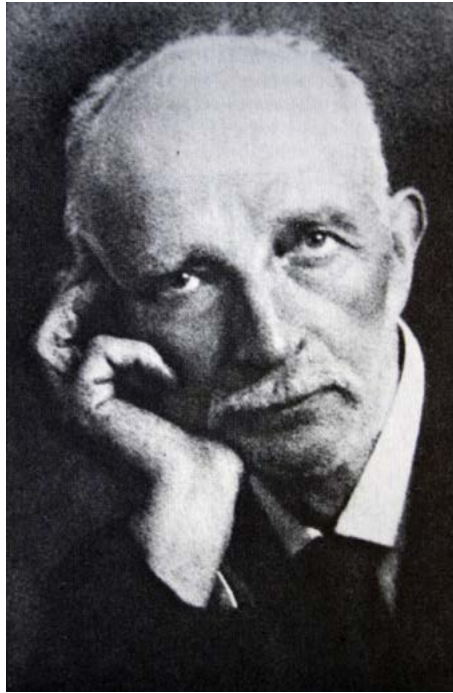
In a letter to the *Photographic Journal* in

England, Allis, however, said that the idea of mounting the camera on a telescope originated with him, and that he obtained Gill's help to carry it out.

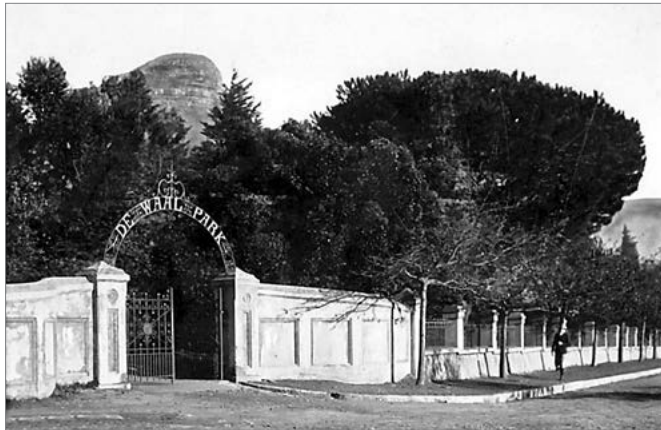
Gill responded by explaining in a letter to the secretary of the Royal Astronomical Society that he was the originator of the concept, and that Allis had merely acted as a most able assistant. Gill's version of the events was generally accepted at the time, but since then historians seem to favour Allis' version.

Either way, on 5 January, 1893 Mr E H Allis was elected an Honorary Member of the Cape Town Photographic Club — the first member to receive this honour.

A collection of photographs ascribed to Allis are in the Picture Collection of the National Library in Cape Town.



De Waal Park (right) in about 1900, five years after the Cape Town park was established as result of a campaign by CTPS council member and botanist James Luckhoff, who considered it a spiritual retreat in the city.



society nearly went bankrupt after hosting an international exhibition in 1906, but he managed to restore the societies fortunes (see chapter 5).

During the period he served on council he was awarded a Fellowship by the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain — the first *Fellow* in the society as well as the first South African to be awarded this accolade for his photographic work.

A study of the catalogue of 1902 exhibition of the Royal Photographic Society shows that Fuller had eight acceptances, and fellow CTPS member Dr. Rudolf Marloth, had six.

Second president Cartwright

John Dean Cartwright (1845 – 1930), a successful merchant and politician, was president of the Cape Town Photographic Society twice – succeeding Sir David Gill from 1907 to 1908, then again from 1911 to 1912.

Aged only 21, using an inheritance from his mother, he invested in the Cape Town household provisions company Jacob Watermeyer and Co. where he was employed, and eventually bought the company in

1873. He grew the business considerably and changed its name to JD Cartwright and Co. By 1888 he had expanded the business so much that they had to move to bigger premises in Adderley Street.

Ten years later, he erected the six-storeyed Mansion House on the corner of Adderley and Darling Streets, which became the firm's headquarters, and for generations thereafter was known as *Cartwright's Corner*.

He was very active in politics, and was twice elected to the Cape House of Assembly and after the Anglo Boer War to the Cape Parliament. He also represented Rondebosch in the Cape Provincial Council.

Cartwright was a community man: he was one of the founders of the Y.M.C.A. movement in the Cape, whose premises hosted CTPS meetings for many years and also founded the East End Public School in De Villiers Street. He served on the Cape School Board and the board of trustees of the Somerset Hospital. A keen tennis player, he was elected vice-president of the Western Province Lawn Tennis Association. The Cartwright family is today remem-

bered by brass memorial plaques in Christ Church in Kenilworth, and by Cartwright's Curry, which one of their companies made!

Mayor Frederick Smith

Sir Frederick Smith, who was mayor of Cape Town from 1908 to 1912, followed in the footsteps of JD Cartwright as president of CTPS from 1909 to 1910.

Not a lot of information is available about him, except that Rhodes Memorial was built and dedicated while he was mayor.

He called a meeting in the City Hall on 30 April 1908 at which The Society for the Protection of Child Life (SPCL, now the Cape Town Child Welfare Society) was established.

Botanist Rudolf Marloth

Botanist and lecturer Rudolf Marloth (1855 -1931) discovered many new plant species and was also instrumental in founding the Mountain Club of South Africa, which shared many outings with CTPS.

Dr Marloth arrived in Cape Town on 30 December 1883, and the story goes that within 24 hours of landing in Cape Town from Germany, Marloth was looking for specimens on top of Table Mountain.

Spending much time botanising in the mountains, he came into contact with the mountaineering fraternity, and played a role in the founding of the Mountain Club of South Africa in 1891, of which he was chairman from 1901-1906. He received their gold badge in 1906.

He formed a close link between the Mountain Club of South Africa and the Cape Town Photographic Society that lasted for many years.

He travelled widely in Southern Africa, Bechuanaland (now Botswana) and South West Africa (now Namibia), collecting, photographing and documenting the unique flora of the region. Not so easy when your photographic equipment weighed about 100 pounds, and the only transport was by ox-wagon!

He was the first man with a broad and thorough botanical training to settle in South Africa and to study and record the country's flora. His *Flora of South Africa* is a monumental work, published in 6 volumes between 1913 and 1932. The aloe *Marlothii* was named after Rudolf Marloth, and so is Marloth Park, an important nature reserve and holiday town in Mpumalanga.

He was an indefatigable walker — he often came home so late at night from his walks and left again so early the next day that his wife did not always know whether he was returning or leaving when she saw him at home at night.

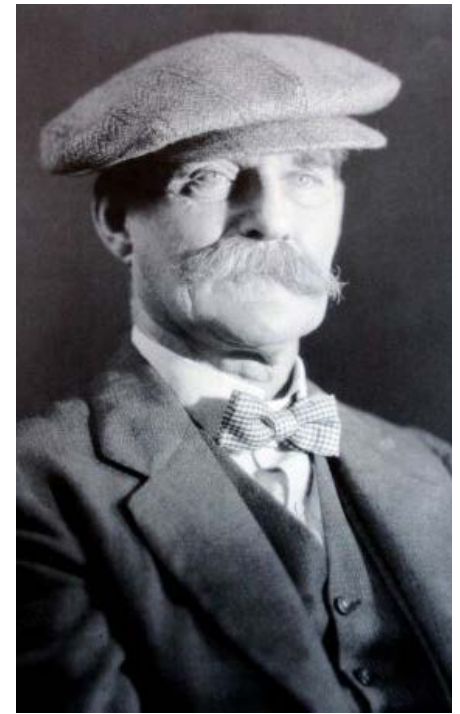
He was also an expert photographer: whatever he observed on his expeditions he photographed and used the photographs to illustrate his publications.

Naturalist James Luckhoff

Dr. James Luckhoff was president of CTPS from 1913 to 1919. Luckhoff was a lover of



One of Edward Roworth's signature paintings of Cape farms, titled *Cape Farmhouse*.



The approximately 10 000 photographs by Arthur Elliott (above) of the old Cape Town buildings is not only valued as a pictorial record, but also for their artistic value. The photo he took of the old police station (at the top) in *Wale Street* is part of the collection in the *Cape Archives*.

nature, and he campaigned successfully for the preservation of the area that was opened to the public in 1895 as De Waal Park. To him the park was not only a historical heritage, which is both beautiful and useful, but also of spiritual value.

Luckoff and his son were friends with Marloth, and accompanied him and other CTPS members on various outings to collect and photograph interesting botanical specimens.

Artist Edward Roworth

Lancashire-born painter Edward Roworth not only made a memorable impression on the South African art scene, but he was also one of the prominent early members of CTPS, which he joined after he settled in South Africa after the Anglo Boer War in 1902. He had come to South Africa with the British forces.

Apart from being a renowned portrait

and landscape painter of especially old Cape farmhouses, Roworth played a prominent role in South African art circles over many decades.

He was elected president of the South African Society of Artists in 1908 and in 1909 he was commissioned to produce a painting of the National Convention, depicting the 33 men who were architects of the Union of South Africa, which hung in the National Assembly for many years.

In the 1930's the South African Government commissioned him to paint six panels for South Africa House in London and he was awarded the King George V Silver Jubilee medal for services to art in South Africa. In the late 1930's he was also appointed director of the Michaelis Art School and chair of Fine Arts at UCT. In 1941 he became director of the SA National Gallery, a position he held until he retired in 1948.

Roworth died in 1963 in Somerset West.

'The world's greatest sea- and landscape photographer. Baron Albert

CTPS PRESIDENT from 1930-1943, Baron Albert Van Rheede Van Oudtshoorn was arguably our most celebrated member. Frank Fraprie had described him in the *American Annual of Photography* as one of the world's greatest exponents of land- and seascape photography and he was world-renowned for his bold land- and seascapes that featured in international salons on five continents during the late twenties to forties.

The Royal Photographic Society (RPS) awarded him an Honorary Fellowship, the first awarded to a South African photog-

rapher during the King's coronation in 1937 — King George VI had also accepted one of his prints. Van Rheede Van Oudtshoorn had already earned a Fellowship from the RPS in 1931 and an Associateship in 1928.

According to Dr. Kin Bensusan in his publication *Silver Image* Van Rheede Van Oudtshoorn's masterpieces included *Thundering Through, Sands and Shallows, Road to Caledon* and *The Elements*, which brought him fame in salons on five continents. He received about 300 awards in various exhibitions and competitions and had about 450

acceptances in salons.

His lineage is equally impressive: his family came to the Cape in 1745 where Pieter van Rheede van Oudtshoorn served as second in command to the Governor of the Cape. The town Oudtshoorn is named after the family — one of seventeen Dutch families allowed to hand down the title of baron to every child.

CTPS awarded Van Rheenen Van Oudtshoorn an Honorary Life Membership in 1944 before he moved to Pietermaritzburg as Assistant Registrar of Deeds for Natal .

Presidents and committee members 1920 - '39

1920 - 1923: President: H.W. Schonegevel, Secretary: EJ Steer.

1924 - 1925: President: WM Mathieson, Secretary: EJ Steer.

1925: President: Wm Mathieson, Secretary: EJ Steer.

1928: President: A.E. Kelf, Secretary: H. French.

1930: President: A.v.R van Oudtshoorn,

Secretary: R. Dekenah.

1931: President: A.v.R van Oudtshoorn, Secretary: DH Duncum.

1932 - 1933: President: A.v.R van Oudtshoorn, Secretary: R. Dekenah.

1934-1937: President: A.v.R van Oudtshoorn, Secretary: PJ Botha.

1938 - 1939: President: Fred Harris, Secretary: PJ Botha.

Honorary Life Members

1929: Hannah Watkins

1929: H.W. Schonegevel

1935: Arthur Elliott

1937: A. Blahovsky

1939: Naude

1941: W.M. Mathieson

1944: A.v.R van Oudtshoorn

1955: Herby French

1991: Fred Harris

Milestones of this period

During the period between the two world wars — 1919 to 1939 — the membership of CTPS had to be rebuilt. With so many men away fighting during the war years, meeting attendance had sometimes dwindled as low as three people. The indomitable Miss Hannah Watkins kept the society going. This was also the period when Baron Albert Van Rheede Van Oudtshoorn

made his mark.

Another landmark of the era is the introduction of Honorary Life Membership awarded to members who had made an exceptional contribution to the society.

Prior to this members could purchase life membership by paying a lump sum in lieu of an annual subscription.

The indomitable Miss Watkins

Miss Hannah Watkins, as she was always referred to, was one of the first woman to join the Society, reports **Pat Scott**.

She was instrumental in keeping the society going during the war years, even with sometimes only three members turning up for a meeting. Yet, she would faithfully transport the projector and other equipment needed to show slides to and from the meeting hall and store it again safely.

She was a grand old lady, typically Victorian, who always wore a hat to meetings.

Schonegevel, another astronomer

Another astronomer who played a major role in the early history of CTPS is Herbert William (Schonie) Schonegevel, who was honorary secretary in 1911 and 1912 and served as president from 1920-1923. He was awarded Honorary Life Membership of CTPS in 1929.

He was also a founding member of the

Cape Astronomical Association in 1912, and served on its committee as honorary secretary. He often gave lectures to the Astronomical Association members, projecting images using a lantern.

He died in 1947, aged 76.

Prolific Arthur Elliott

One of the most prominent photographers of the early 20th century was CTPS member Arthur Elliott (1870 to 1938).

His position and terms that he served on council is unfortunately not recorded, but reference is made to the important contribution he, artist Edward Roworth and botanist Rudolf Marloth made as members of the CTPS council. He became an Honorary Life Member in 1935.

Elliott's collection of 10 000 photos of Cape Dutch buildings was acquired by the Historical Monuments Commission because these artistic historical images created such an excellent pictorial record of the Cape's archi-

tectural heritage.

Elliott seems to have been determined to record as much as he was able of the old farmhouses, buildings and streets that were rapidly disappearing with the ever-growing pressure to modernise. He had an almost infallible eye for the essential elements that made up a good architectural image. He explored the south-western Cape taking photographs of old Cape Dutch homesteads.

Elliott's photographs have proved an invaluable source of information for historians and architects.

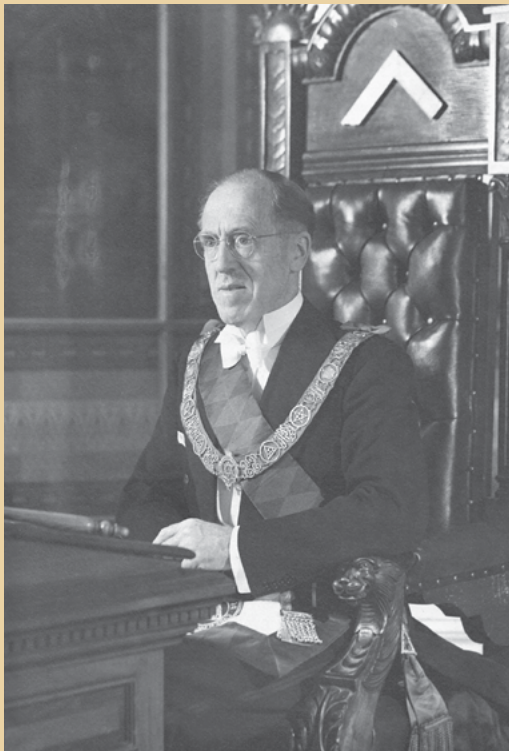
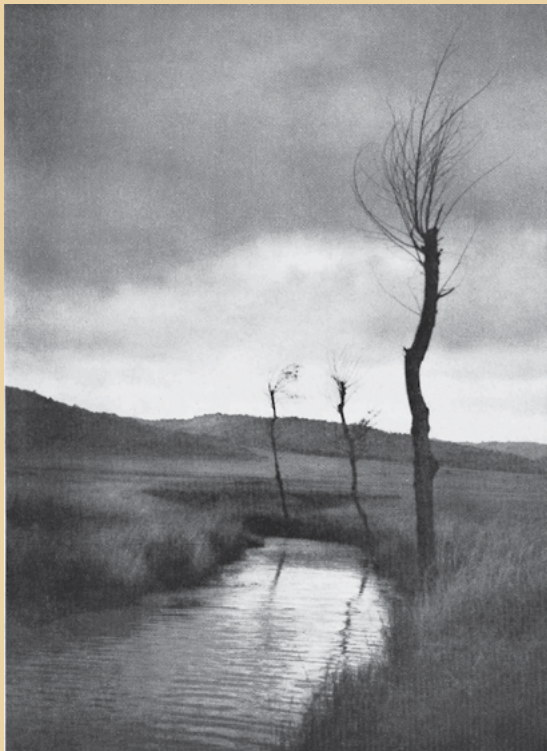
For more than thirty years he had a studio at No 134 Long Street, where you will still find a memorial tablet.

It was his greatest ambition that his collection of historical negatives should be bought by the government, and he therefore declined tempting offers to buy his negatives — such as one of R14 000 from the US — but he died without realising this

Van Rheede Van Oudtshoorn



Baron Albert Van Rheede Van Oudtshoorn not only stemmed from Netherlands aristocracy, but was also hailed as one of the best land- and seascape photographers by the photographer and editor of the American Journal of Photography, Frank Fraprie. This photo of him appeared in the PSSA publication Camera News in December 1958. Left is a reproduction of one of his famous photos: Thundering Through.



Far left: Bleak Winter, Fred Harris's favourite print.

Left: Fred Harris in the chair and collar of the Right Worshipful Master.

Below: This gavel was donated to CTPS by Fred Harris in 1948.



Fred Harris, the Royal Photographic Society man

WITH ABOUT half a century of service to photography in South Africa, UK born Fred Harris could be included in the next section as a Honorary Life member, but he also qualifies as an *early member*, because he was first elected CTPS president before WW I.

Fred came to South Africa on a contract as a quantity surveyor in the early thirties, where he joined CTPS and served as president in 1938 and 1939.

He returned to England, but came back to South Africa just before WW II to work in Johannesburg. After the war, he and his wife moved to Cape Town, where he was again elected president of CTPS for the period 1947/948.

Fred was a good photographer, who had been awarded a Fellowship by the Royal Photographic Society (RPS) for his excellent prints. He was a keen landscape

photographer, who regularly contributed a column to the PSSA publication *Camera News*, in which he shared his knowledge of photography. He was elected to the PSSA board in the 1960's, where he served as chairman of the pictorial division.

He later became the RPS representative in South Africa and was honoured with a prestigious Honorary Membership. CTPS made him an honorary life member in 1991, even though he had returned to England by then.

In Cape Town he also served as Right Worshipful Master in 1954 — the main officer— of the Scottish Masonic contitution, the oldest of the four Freemason constitutions in South Africa.

He is pictured above in the Worshipful Master chair that is still being used in the Temple De Goede Hoop in Cape Town, a building designed by Michel Thibault in

the early 1800's.

In the first issue of the PSSA publication *Camera News* in 1955 Harris was asked to write about his favourite print and his comments are as relevant today as 60 years ago.

I am very pleased that the title of this feature is my favourite print, and not my best print. The latter is a matter of opinion in which others are entitled to as much say as the author.

In any case, it is so difficult for anyone to decide which is his best work; he remembers so many extraneous things such as the picture he had hoped to make or the difficulties encountered and many other such things, that the final choice is obscured. But no one can argue with me as to which is my favourite print — except perhaps myself, for does not one's opinion change sometimes?

ambition.

A few years after his death the Commission for the Preservation of Natural and Historical Monuments bought the collection for R5 050. It is kept in the Cape Archives, Cape Town, from where the public may obtain prints of the photographs.

WM Mathieson, the rebuilder

President in 1924 and 1925, WM Mathieson is another member who made a big contribution to the society by re-organizing CTPS and regaining members after WW I. He was

rewarded with Honorary Life Membership in 1941.

Mathieson was a short, stoutish, grey haired Scot, Eric Vertue described him in his book published to celebrate the CTPS centenary. *He was very meticulous and somewhat intolerant of any views not put forward by him*, Vertue continued. He died in 1952.

Camera expert Herby French

CTPS secretary at the end of the 1920's and a hard worker throughout his membership,

Herby French was awarded honorary life membership in 1955.

He was a hard worker for the society and especially the cine section when it was formed, wrote Eric Vertue. As secretary he ironed out the early teething troubles.

There was little that Herby didn't know about photography — whether cameras, processes or repairs — as his whole career was devoted to it. He worked as manager of the photographic department at Lennon Ltd and then worked in a photographic shop.