

ODDS AND ENDS/ STUKKIES EN BROKKIES

THE CHRISTIE MODELS

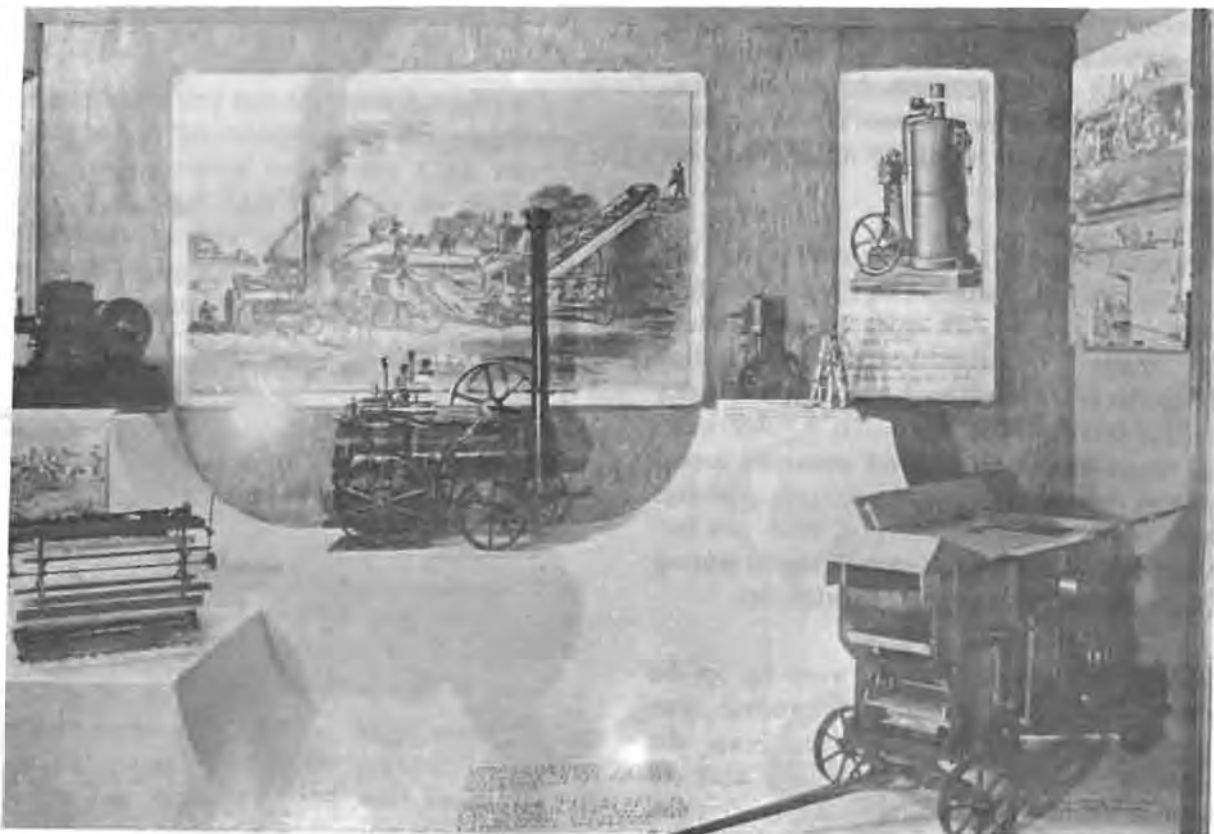
A collection of models built by Mr I.M.L. Christie of the farm Fairiedale, Wepener, has recently been redisplayed after having been in storage for a time.

Mr Christie, an emigrant to South Africa from Edinburgh, Scotland, has won several awards for his models. In 1958 the Rand Society of Model Engineers awarded him a silver medal for the model of the Garvie threshing machine and in 1960 he received a gold medal for the Partick Bell reaping machine as well as a bronze medal for the Marshall portable steam engine. The Bell's reaper also won him an award from Stewarts and Lloyds.

The model of the portable steam engine is based on an old steam engine in the Hobhouse district, and the threshing machine on a Garvie threshing machine formerly in use on his farm. The Bell's reaping machine was copied from old photographs.



Mr I.M.L. Christie was born and educated in Scotland and has been farming in the Wepener district since 1920.



The models on display in the National Museum comprise a Patrick Bell reaping machine, a Crossley stationary engine, a Marshall portable steam engine, a vertical steam engine, a Scotch crank engine and a Garvie threshing machine.

NEW PALAEOLOGY HALL

It has been a long and slow struggle to complete the new palaeontology gallery, but now that the most difficult part of the work has been done, there are only a few displays to complete and the new hall should be opened to the public within the next few months.

The new displays in the hall depict the development of animal life on earth from the time when life originated 3,2 thousand million years ago till the Pleistocene period 1 million years ago. Great effort has been put into trying to obtain good fossil material for the exhibits from overseas and other South African institutions.

One of the highlights of the exhibit is a complete fossilized skeleton of a 4¹/₂ m long marine reptile known as an *Ichthyosaurus* which lived about 150 million years ago. This skeleton was imported from Germany.



MUSEUM BEPLAN KINDERMUSEUM

Weens die feit dat die grootste persentasie besoekers aan die museum kinders is, word 'n kinder-aanraak-museum (touch museum) vir die nabye toekoms beplan.

Hier sal kinders die geleentheid kry om self opgestopte materiaal asook lewende reptiele, amfibie en insekte te hanteer. Aanvullende programme met skyfies, films en ander oudiovisuele hulpmiddels sal aangepas word vir alle ouderdomsgroepe.

Die klem val egter op selfdeelname sodat kinders op 'n hoë vlak gestimuleer kan word.

DIE GRAND-TEATER—REAKSIE VAN DIE PUBLIEK

Die artikel oor die Grand-teater in die vorige uitgawe van die Museum se nuusbrieff en die verwysing daarna in 'n rubriek in *Die Volksblad*, het welkome reaksie van lesers uitgelok.

Mnr. J.P.L. Botha van die Bloemfonteinse Onderwyserskollege het 'n foto van die D'Oyly Carte-operageselskap, wat tydens die openingsweek in die Grand-teater opgetree het, aan die Museum beskikbaar gestel om afdrukke daarvan te maak. Die foto, wat in 'n ou raam agter 'n ander foto was, is net betyds deur mnr. Botha 'gered'.

Nog 'n interessante aandenking aan die Ou Grand is 'n ronde lood- en kleurglasvenster in die besit van mnr. en mev. Lubbe van Thomas Leithstraat, Wilgehof. Die venster is tydens die sloping van die gebou in 1956 bekom.

Daar is nog heelwat Bloemfonteiners wat toneelopvoerings en rolprentvertonings in die ou Grand bygewoon het. Indien daar lesers is wat beskik oor enige interessante inligting omtrent die Grand-teater of miskien foto's besit, kan u gerus met die Museum in verbinding tree. Bestaan daar nie dalk iewers 'n foto van die foyer van die teater nie?



'n Kleurglasvenster van die Grand-teater wat behoue gebly het. Daar was een aan beide kante van die hoofingang.



Byskrif op oorspronklike:

To T.A. Conby Esq. Manager Grand Theatre.

A souvenir of the opening — Grand Theatre
Bloemfontein by the D'Oyly Carte Repertoire
Opera Co.

From H.E. Bellamy. General Manager.

Feb 19th 1906.

Fotograaf: James Watson & Coy
Adderley St

NATIONAL MUSEUM

ORANGE FREE STATE BLOEMFONTEIN SOUTH AFRICA

THEN (1933)

Visiting hours	Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Coloured persons are allowed admission on Thursdays only.
Entrance fees	Free.
Buildings and satellites	From 1877 to 1912 the collections were housed in the Old Museum building, but were transferred to their present quarters in 1912. Administered by a Board of six Trustees (Chairman: Dr. van Rhyn), four of whom were appointed by the Union Government and two by the Municipality.
Scope and collections	On the ground floor, the vestibule contains specimens of arms and armour, two galleries are devoted to Palaeontology, in the lecture room are etching and paintings and the two remaining galleries contain historical and ethnological collections. On the first floor three galleries are devoted to mammals, one to fishes and reptiles and one each to birds, osteology and geology. There are also collections of botanical specimens, stamps, coins, etc. The offices and work-rooms are housed in an annex in the Museum grounds.
Publications	"Archeologische Navorsing", two volumes; "Paleontologische Navorsing", one volume, and other publications.
Educational activities	Visited by classes of school children.
Staff	A director (Dr. Ing. E.C.N. van Hoepen), one assistant and a janitor.
Finance	By the State and Municipality. In 1930, the government grant amounted £20,000 and the municipal grant was £500. Repairs and the provision of cases were undertaken by the government (£5,000 was spent on cases in 1928.)

The above is a facsimile reproduction from the "Directory of Museums and Art galleries in British Africa", compiled and published by the Museums Association, London, in 1933. The information contained therein reflects the activities, displays, research, financial position and staff as it was 56 years after the founding of the Museum in 1877.

NOW (1983)

The National Museum is open to persons of all races every day of the year (except on Christmas day, Good Friday and the Day of the Covenant).

Adults 50 cents.
Children 20 cents.
Organized groups are allowed free entry by previous arrangement.

Since 1933 extensive additions have been made to the existing main building and office building complex. However accommodation remains acute and to alleviate this a prefabricated office block is to be erected shortly. The Museum has acquired the following satellites:

The First Raadsaal, 96 St. George Street;
The Victorian Home, 31 Kellner Street;
The Florisbad-site and Research Station.
The Old Synod Building of the Dutch Reformed Church will be acquired shortly as an art gallery.

Displays by the following departments can be seen in the museum today: Archaeology, Anthropology, History (including the street scene), Zoology (Mammalogy, Ornithology, Herpetology), Geology and Palaeontology (a new hall opens in November).

To date a total of 164 scientific papers have been published in the two series of scientific journals of the Museum, namely the *Researches* and *Memoirs of the National Museum*. Since 1970, the Museum has branched into most fields of natural and cultural history and published a total of 42 scientific papers. Most of these have been printed by the Museum's own printing department.

A fulltime officer for each of the two major population groups is employed and the total number visitors per annum is 160 000.

Staff members total 134 (see previous issue of the Newsletter).

The present contribution by the State is in excess of one million rand per annum. (Neither the Provincial Administration nor the Municipality make any financial contribution).