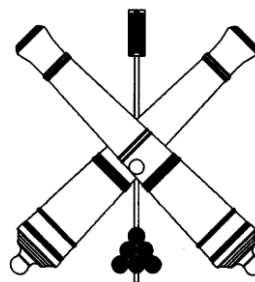


# THE CANNON ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## THE LAST NEWSLETTER ( From me )

June 2012

A service to the muzzle loading cannon enthusiast

### CAOSA AGM 2012

Weeks before the recent AGM I had indicated that I wished to resign my portfolio as Secretary of CAOSA in order to allow a more efficient and capable secretary to be appointed. The outcome was that I was omitted from the Committee entirely. I am now at peace with this development as I regard CAOSA as a father would regard his son leaving home fully grown and forging ahead in the world. A mixture of pride mixed with some "empty nest" syndrome and, hopefully outdated, concerns for its future.

### CAOSA ORIGINAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

When a small band of us formed CAOSA on 20 January 2007 we had a set of lofty goals, some of which were fairly ethereal, to stop the loss of cannon through the scrap metal trade by promoting cannon as items of value to the community and to encourage an attitude of custodianship as opposed to ownership of these heritage items. I do believe that we have succeeded in achieving these goals to a significant degree. We have made a difference !

### THE CAOSA NEWSLETTER

After 44 issues of the newsletter spanning eleven years, beginning in January 2001, six years before CAOSA was formed, the new Committee has seen fit to appoint others to write the newsletter without any consultation or discussion with me. That is why this letter is headed "The Last Newsletter" from me. You will receive future newsletters in an updated format.

### CANNON RELATED ENQUIRIES

Over the past four or five years I have received between 3 and 12 enquiries a month regarding cannon identification, model building and a plethora of other cannon related questions from readers worldwide. I have answered them as best I could or advised them on where the answers may be found. In this manner I have built up a host of e-mail colleagues with whom I will maintain contact. The CAOSA postal address as per the letterhead above will change, but my personal address remains the same.

## THE DURR RECORD OF CANNON IN SA

The Durr Record is the only national list of muzzle loading cannon in the world, I began in May 1996 and have formally recorded 963 cannon in SA and the record is constantly being updated and extended. In a moment of generosity induced by my enthusiasm for CAOSA I offered to donate the entire record to the association, but could find nobody who would accept the responsibility for keeping the only record of the cannon in SA up to date. This task will now keep me occupied well into the future, but I still need readers to assist in this regard.

## THE FUTURE OF CAOSA

The new Committee must be given the chance to demonstrate what they can do and what impetus they can give to old ideas that have stagnated, this is the only way that we can stop banging our heads against the same wall all the time. My personal concern is that cannon firings will eclipse the more respectable aspects such as research, recording, preservation and historical re-enactment . I am also concerned that the Committee will not realise that ALL members of CAOSA are not as enthusiastic about the same aspects as they are.

## MY FUTURE WITH CAOSA

I will steadfastly remain an active member and make any contribution of which I am capable. I remain the gunner for the Castle of Good Hope where I work from Monday to Friday and then fire their ½ pounder gun five times on Saturdays. This will continue until the reasonable availability of gunpowder dries up.

The Wright brothers were told that their 'plane would never fly and the builders of the TITANIC said that it could never sink.

The new CAOSA Committee says . . . . .

## UBIQUE

Gerry de Vries