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## AANTEKENINGE EN NUUS

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PARAVICINI'S WATER-COLOURS OF THE CAPE LION  
PREPARED ABOUT 1803

BY

L. C. ROOKMAAKER

In my recent contribution to the *Zoological Exploration of Southern Africa* until 1790 (Rookmaaker 1989), I noted the absence of drawings or plates of the now extinct Cape lion. This was remarkable, because the lion, together with the elephant, was the only large mammal which was not illustrated in the various collections of drawings assembled in the second half of the 18th century and discussed in my book. At the same time, W.J. de Kock mentioned two lion drawings which accompany a manuscript report of an expedition into the Cape interior made in 1803 by W.B.E. Paravicini di Capelli, in his annotated edition published in the works of the Van Riebeeck Society in 1965.

Willem Bartholome Eduard Paravicini di Capelli was born in Zutphen, Holland, on 22 February 1778. He had a military training. He arrived in Cape Town on 23 December 1802 as aide-de-camp to General J.W. Janssens. Between 2 April and 13 August 1803, Janssens and Paravicini made a journey from the Cape towards the east to the vicinity of George. The official journal was kept by Paravicini, beside which he also maintained a private diary relating the incidents during the journey. He joined another short expedition to St. Helena Bay in May 1804 and returned to Holland in April 1805. Later he had a distinguished military career in Holland and he died at Kralingen, near Rotterdam on 21 April 1848.

The manuscript of Paravicini's private account of the 1803 expedition is kept in the library of the Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal- Land- en Volkenkunde in Leiden, Holland (number H447). The manuscript is accom-



AFRICAN LIONESS - LEEFOW

Plate 1(a) Paravicini's first water-colour of an African lion.



AFRICAN LIONESS - LEEFOW

Plate 1(b) Paravicini's second water-colour of an African lion.



OF A

Plate 1(c) Paravicini's water-colour of a black wildebeest.

panied by thirteen water-colours. These were listed by De Kock (1965:xxvi), who suggested that they were copies from original sketches made by Paravicini. Among them, there are three depictions of animals, unpublished as far as I am aware:

- no. 9 African lion
- no. 11 Wildebeest
- no. 13 African lion.

Drawing no. 9 was inserted in the journal for 14 July, on which date Paravicini recorded how a local farmer was attacked by a lion. Drawing no. 13 belongs to 26 July, when two lions visited the camp at night and escaped after they were shot at.

The lions on the drawings should represent the extinct subspecies which lived in the vicinity of the Cape of Good Hope. In this respect, the depictions are rather disappointing, because they do not show much morphological detail. It is, of course, possible that they were prepared in Holland after sketches of other lions from different regions. However, it is more likely that they were prepared after Paravicini's sketches made at the Cape of Good Hope.

The third mammal drawing is also reproduced here (Plate 1(c)) showing the black wildebeest, *Connochaetes gnou* (Zimmermann, 1780).

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## NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

C.J. de Jong lives in Cape Town and is married to a descendant of the artist, H.T. Oberg.

Cornelius de Jong was born in Rotterdam in 1921 and was educated there. In 1965 he was appointed Senior Lecturer in economic history, including South Africa, at the University of South Africa, becoming Associate Professor in 1983. He lives in Pretoria.

Reginald Robert Langham-Carter was born in Singapore on 16 November 1903. His career has included a period with the Indian Civil Service and since 1949 he has been Deputy Archivist and now Archivist of the Church of the Province of South Africa. He also serves as Honorary Inspector of National Monuments, is Life Vice-President and past Chairman of the Antique Collectors of South Africa.

Neville Mapham, who is now resident in the U.S.A., has pursued his power-electronics career on three continents, but has never lost his interest in the Winterberg area where he was raised. He is now completing a military history of the Eighth Frontier War, 1850-53.

L.C. Rookmaaker was born in Amsterdam in 1953, studied biology at the Free University of Amsterdam and the University of Utrecht graduating (M.Sc.) in 1981. His special interest is taxonomy and the history of zoology. He has published the *Zoological Exploration of Southern Africa 1650-1790*.

The opinions expressed in this journal are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor.