

**THE AUSTRALIANA SOCIETY**  
**NEWSLETTER**



1982 No. 3

JULY, 1982

Registered by Australia Post Publication No. NBH 2771



# THE AUSTRALIANA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

ISSN 0156.8019

Published by:  
The Australiana Society  
Box A 378  
Sydney South NSW 2000



1982, No.3  
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We gratefully record our thanks to James R Lawson Pty Ltd for their generous donation towards the cost of illustrations.

# Annual Report

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The outstanding event, complete with an official opening, during the past year from the Society's viewpoint has been the Society's Exhibition of "Sydney's Colonial Craftsmen" held at Elizabeth Bay House from March 24 to May 1982. This ambitious and highly successful event brought a great deal of pleasure and interest to members and friends while promoting the Society to the public at large. Much new and scholarly information about a selected group of Sydney's colonial craftsmen was published for the first time. A great deal of hard work was put into it by all concerned, particularly David Dolan whose remarkable talent as co-ordinator/organiser deserves special mention. As a result I am pleased to report that the Society had an influx of quite a number of new members.

The Society has during this time continued to grow at a modest pace as interest in all things relating to Australiana continues to increase, particularly as the bi-centennial approaches.

One discernible trend during the past twelve months has been the falling off in top quality items appearing at salerooms and the lower prices paid generally for pieces of Australiana. It is also a sign, I think, as a result of the dissemination of knowledge amongst members and as a result of the Society's existence that so far as members are concerned they are becoming far more discerning in their buying habits, so much so that their absence from some sales recently has been noted in the press.

This year saw us move our meeting place from Kirribilli to The Power House at Ultimo, where we have continued to maintain our high standard of lectures. I would like to thank all our lecturers, particularly Stewart Symonds and Annette Keenan, for their excellent talks which provided much interest to members and without which the continuing interest of members would be difficult to sustain.

I would also like to thank the Committee for their help during the past year, especially Andrew Simpson for his difficult job of Secretary and Treasurer. A special thanks to John Wade, editor of our *Newsletter*, for the very difficult task of keeping the standard of our *Newsletter* so high. Lastly I would like to thank everybody for their support and interest in the Society during the past year, without which there would be no Society.

Michel Reymond

President  
1981-1982

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED -

30th JUNE 1982

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Subscriptions	\$2465.00	Newsletter Production	\$2124.99
Donations	402.20	Australia Post	203.26
Auction Takings	386.20	Auction Payout	307.20
Australia Day Dinner	546.00	Australia Day Dinner Costs	491.50
Newsletter Back Copy Sales	16.00	Stationery	53.56
Bank Interest	58.15	Bank Charges	5.00
		Refreshments	35.94
		Hall Hire	45.00
		Name Tags	45.00
		Heritage Week Exhibition:	
		- Opening Costs	400.00
Sub-Total	\$3873.55	Sub-Total	\$3711.45
Bank balance as at 1.7.81	1124.82	Bank balance at 30/6/82	1286.92
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	<u>\$4998.37</u>	Total	<u>\$4998.37</u>

I certify that I have examined and fully audited the vouchers, records, and account books of the Society. They have been balanced and reconciled and constitute a true and correct statement of income and expenditure for the year ended June 30th, 1982.

Andy Simpson  
Secretary/Treasurer

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership subscriptions become due for renewal on 1st January each year. The rates for 1982 are still:

Individual Membership	\$10
Household Membership	\$15
Institutional Membership	\$20
Life Membership	\$250

Membership forms for new members are printed in each copy of the *Newsletter* and are also available from the Secretary, The Australiana Society, Box A378, Sydney South, 2000.

Members receive the *Newsletter* free four times a year, (nominally January, April, July, and October), and are invited to attend our regular bi-monthly meetings, and special functions.

# Australiana News

## TALKING RUBBISH

The second annual conference of the Australian Society for Historical Archaeology will be held in Sydney on 16-17 October, with the theme "Talking Rubbish, or how historians can use archaeology". Venue will probably be the Women's College at the University of Sydney, where accommodation and meals can be provided. A.S.H.A. has also announced a new journal, *The Australian Journal of Historical Archaeology*, which will publish in appropriate form the more important contributions to this subject. More information on the conference and the journal, and details of occasional papers being sold at reduced cost to clear stocks, will be provided by the Secretary, A.S.H.A., c/- Department of Archaeology, University of Sydney, NSW, 2006.

## ELYARD EXHIBITION

The exhibition of watercolours and photographs by Samuel Elyard, mentioned in our last issue, was opened at the S H Ervin Art Museum, Sydney, on July 1 by Professor Virginia Spate. After showing in Sydney until August 8, it will go on tour to the regional art museums of Wollongong (9 August - 6 September), Lake Macquarie (9 September - 3 October), Wagga Wagga (5 - 27 October), and Nowra (29 - 31 October). The useful illustrated catalogue is good value at four dollars.

## AUSTRALIANA JUDAICA ON SHOW

"Treasures of the Great Synagogue" is the first exhibition at the A M Rosenblum Museum in the Great Synagogue, Sydney. The Museum and the Exhibition were opened by the Premier of NSW, Neville Wran, before a distinguished gathering on 31st May.

Highlight of the collection is the superb cedar ark, recently restored, from the York Street Synagogue built in 1842-4, and like the Synagogue having Egyptian stylistic features. A smaller cedar ark - perhaps associated with earlier worship in Bridge Street - a silver mounted emu egg pen and inkstand of 1879, and illuminated addresses with Australian flora are other notable items of Australian interest.

The Museum is open Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday from noon to 4 pm and is under the direction of Mrs Sylvia Rosenblum, telephone (02) 267 2477

## ROOKWOOD CEMETERY

Rookwood Cemetery, in Sydney's Western Suburbs, is claimed to be the largest

19th century necropolis in the world, covering about 600 acres. Burials began there in 1867 and range up to the present, but while the newer sections are usually well tended, the older are falling into disrepair.

The Friends of Rookwood is a group which has recently formed to awaken interest in the preservation of Rookwood Cemetery for its historic interest and its landscape qualities. The Friends held their first working bee on 6th June and began clearing rubbish, vegetation and long grass from one of the oldest areas in the Church of England section. Tomb monuments, curving paths, drains and a summer house are beginning to re-appear from beneath the waving cover of long grass. Destructive privet, lantana and blackberries are being removed while established trees, shrubs, and flowers remaining from the 19th century formal planting are tended.

Dotted throughout the cemetery are terracotta urns from the Cumberland Pottery of F Liebentritt, founded in 1863 and known as Chullora Potteries from 1928. Sadly, many of these have been smashed by vandals. Others of the tombs have cast iron fences with motifs such as ferns, and Australian native flora makes its appearance in the carving of a few headstones. Some important figures in the development of Australian crafts, manufactures, and commerce are buried there, including Joseph Ross the glass maker, Thomas Field the potter, and David Jones the retailer

Regular working bees will be held by the Friends to maintain the area already cleared and to extend it as resources permit. Volunteers for a day's healthy outdoor work are always welcome. Ms Celia Wade is President of the Friends of Rookwood and can provide further information - please call her on (02) 660 1848, or call Miss Jenny Stackhouse on (02) 358 2344.

The State Rail Authority of NSW is finally restoring the MORTUARY STATION in Regent Street, Chippendale. For many years the old sandstone station was used as a rail siding for transporting funerals to Rookwood Cemetery. In recent times the building and platform was used as a country goods loading area for Tooth's packaged beers from the Kent Brewery across the street. The SRA has not only to restore the ravages of time, but also the damage caused by large brewery trucks scraping sandstone walls and columns.

## SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OBJECTS WANTED

Have you got an object that you think or know was exhibited in the Sydney International Exhibition, The Garden Palace, of 1879-80?

Linda Young is compiling a catalogue of relics from the Exhibition as part of her M.A. Thesis on that splendid event. The catalogue consists of a brief description of each object with details of the exhibition classification, plus an illustration.

If you have an object, Linda would be very grateful for details of it - please contact her on (02) 211 3911 (work), or (02) 560 5607 (home), or write care of Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, 659 Harris Street, Ultimo, 2007.

## ARCHIVIST WANTED

The Committee decided at its meeting on March 4 to see if any member would

like to take on the role of Archivist of the Society, keeping its records for posterity. The Society has few records at this stage, having been founded only in 1978, but now is the time to sort them into order. Anyone interested in this position should contact the secretary.

## BARK PICTURES BOOMING

A report in the newsletter of the Craft Council of NSW notes a total of 59 entrants in the bark pictures class of the Arts and Crafts Section at this year's Royal Easter Show. If you feel creative and want to win a prize, try the matchwork category, which had only one entrant.

## ABC MEMORABILIA

As we are frequently reminded on the ABC, not only is this year the 50th anniversary of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, but also the 50th anniversary of the commencement of broadcasting by the ABC.

This reminded Juliet Cook about a brass plate she has, which was found in the burnt remains in the base of an old incinerator. This plate weighs 4 ozs., even though it measures only 11 cm by 8 cm, so the brass is quite quick, and it was probably screwed to the door of a common room in some hospital. The wording on the plate is as follows:

The Wireless Equipment in this Hospital  
was provided by means of  
COMMUNITY SINGING CONCERTS  
of  
THE AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING COMMISSION  
and voluntarily installed by members  
of  
The Australian Postal Electricians Union  
Funds Controlled by  
THE HOSPITAL SATURDAY FUND OF N.S.W.  
1934

## WHICH CAME FIRST ?

Bill Chapman, indefatigable reader of old newspapers, has supplied another interesting reference to the making of an emu egg vase to the design of Sydney jeweller Thomas Rudd, published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 8 October, 1857. The earliest dated emu egg concoction that your Editor remembers is about 1860 - could this be a reference to the first use of an emu egg in Australian silver?

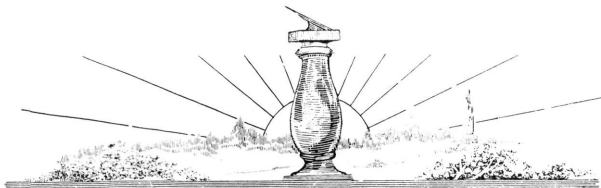
COLONIAL ART. - A very creditable specimen of the progress of colonial handcraft has just been completed at the workshop of Mr T E Rudd, jeweller, of 199 George-street. The principal object of the designer was to produce from an emu's egg an ornamental cup or vase, valuable as a gift or presentation, and in this he has undoubtedly succeeded.



The egg is supported on a silver-frosted eucalyptus stem, surrounded with wild ivy rising from amid the foliage, flowers, and shrubs that are worked in frosted-silver on a plate which rests on a rosewood plinth. Upon this plate the indigenous flowering plants and animals of the colony are represented in a very artistic manner. Amongst the former are the banana tree, the grass tree, and the waratah, and among the latter, two emus and two kangaroos in different postures. The upper portion of the egg serves as a cover to the cup; this is surmounted by an emu of frosted-silver, very naturally formed; where it joins with the other portion of the cup it is encircled with a silver wreathed band very prettily wrought. On one side there is a highly polished silver shield, intended for an inscription. A great deal of labour has been expended on the work, there being no fewer than 800 pieces of silver, separate in themselves, used in constructing the whole. These different pieces consist of shrubs, flowers, and animals, and they are each bound by a silver nut of most minute size. The whole is most creditable to the designer, Mr Rudd, and to his workman, Mr L Harvey.

Another riot of Australian motifs is reported the next year in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 21 September, 1858:

AN AUSTRALIAN INKSTAND. - An elegant and unique inkstand has recently been designed and executed by Mr Hogarth, of the firm of Hogarth and Erichsen, in George-street, a gentleman who has already established his reputation for original genius and good taste in the production of similar works of art. The basement is of polished tulip wood, and of a somewhat triangular shape; resting, in front, upon the two forepaws of an opossum. The receptacle for the ink is wholly formed of frosted silver, and shaped like the stump of a tree, an aperture in which, at the top, is cleverly concealed by a cover, on which are the *boomerang*, and club, &c., - all highly finished, and formed of the same metal as the stump. On the lower part of the *ecritoire*, on what is supposed to be the ground, are the appropriate figures of a kangaroo and emu, of wrought silver, acting as handles for seals, which serve to fasten them into the base of the stand. In a kind of cavity, in front of the tree, sits, in his national attitude of repose, an excellent statuette of oxydised silver, the life-like dingy form of an aboriginal - "Ricketty Dick", in his younger days. It is really worth the while of any solemn misanthrope to take a peep at the dogged face of this inimitable little savage through a magnifying glass; a more irresistible and happy representation we have seldom seen



# Edward Trickett: Australian Sculler

*Annette Keenan*

Although immortalised in glass on a relief-moulded tankard<sup>1</sup>, (illustration, inside front cover), Edward Trickett does not appear in a very heroic light. The tankard commemorates his defeat on the Thames at the hands of Edward (Ned) Hanlan on 15th November, 1880. Nevertheless his claim to fame rests on firm ground - he was one of Australia's most skilled oarsmen, and the first Australian to win a world championship in any sport. With much national pride he was described as "the first man who has ever taken away the championship of the Thames and that of the world from British waters." (*ISN* 21.7.1877).

A bootmaker's son, Edward Trickett, (cover), was born on 12th September, 1851<sup>2</sup> at Greenwich on the Lane Cove River. While he took to being a quarryman and later an hotelman by trade, his sporting interests lay in rowing. His first public win came in 1868 when he secured first place, with C Bullivant, in the under 18 double skiffs in the Anniversary Regatta<sup>3</sup>. The skiff they rowed was called Barb, and their course was from Dawson's Point, around Fort Denison and the ship Vernon, and back to the flagship. They won £8/8/-. In the following year's Anniversary Regatta, he entered the under 21 light skiffs race in Tarragon. There were three entrants contesting for the prize of £8/-/-. "This was rather a tame affair. Yates gave up early in the race, and afterwards Trickett had it all his own way. Morton was allowed to keep within hailing distance but Trickett could have won the race at any moment, and eventually he won it easily." (*SMH* 27.1.1869).

During the early 1870s, Trickett appears to have rowed little, concentrating on his work as a quarryman. On the 20th January, 1874, he married Maria Frances Silva, daughter of the South Head light-house keeper<sup>4</sup>. They were to have eleven children. From then on until his retirement from rowing in 1884, Trickett's career rose to a peak and then quite suddenly slid down hill. His place as world champion was taken first by the Canadian, Ned Hanlan, and then by another remarkable Australian sculler, William Beach.

Australian town dwellers from the 1860s to the 1880s were occupied for the most part in commercial, transport, financial, and manufacturing spheres. They needed interests for their leisure time other than "drinking at the local", a favourite pastime even in those days. Quite naturally, their attention turned to sports and in this they indulged themselves to the full

The tour of an English cricket team in 1861 to play Australian teams in Melbourne, Sydney, and Hobart, created tremendous enthusiasm for the game here in the colonies. This interest was sustained until August 29, 1882, when the 'Ashes' were born and cricket became as 'native' to Australia as Australian Rules football was from the time of its creation in 1858. Racing and gambling had long been exciting distractions for the people of Melbourne and Sydney. When the Melbourne and Sydney Cups were instituted, (in 1861 and 1866 respectively), it was evident that racing was here to stay.

For most of the last century, rowing appears to have been as popular as these other sports. "Always a source of popular amusement in Port Jackson, boating has gone on increasing since the first regatta; and when Richard Green went home to try his powers with the champion of the old world, he brought the name of an Australian rower before the people of England. The formation of

two rival rowing clubs (the Mercantile Rowing Club and the Sydney Rowing Club) has added largely to the interest taken in aquatics." (*SMH* 21.1.1877).

However in the early 1870s, rowing went through a short period of unwelcome calm. "The enthusiasm manifested in the regatta was nothing to be compared to that of former years.....the public evidently seem to be losing interest in regattas." (*SMH* 27.1.1870). "What has formerly proved one of the greatest sporting meetings of the year has latterly from some cause or another, received less patronage, less support than it deserved....1873 saw a poor regatta, 1874 poorer still....this year may be fairly characterized as the period when.....the Anniversary Regatta was revived." (*SMH* 27.1.1875).

For the most part the sport drew good crowds to the river banks and many boats with sightseers to the water. Detailed reports of races were often given in the *Illustrated Sydney News*, the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Argus*. The column 'Letters to the Editor' was not an uncommon place for the public expression of fervent opinions on the victories or losses of our scullers. Today rowing has almost been totally eclipsed by football, horse racing, and cricket, and receives nowhere near the attention and publicity allotted to these sports.

1874 and 1875 saw Trickett participating in local regattas, among them the 1874 Balmain Regatta where he took the lead in the outriggers and was in the winning whaleboat crew. When he entered the skiffs race at the 1875 Anniversary Regatta, he had to do so with a handicap, as he was considered by far the best sculler in the colony. However from the commentary in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, it appears that Trickett, in the skiff Greenwich, had a stroke of luck in the race: "Trickett at the start got a commanding lead, owing to the other two being compelled to ease up for a passing steamer, and from this point he had the race in his own hands." (*SMH* 27.1.1875). The course this time was from the flagship over to Blues Point and around a boat moored inside the bay, then around Fort Denison and back to the flagship. First prize was £20/-/-.

In October 1874, Michael Rush, a storekeeper in the Grafton district and a keen rower, proposed to hold a grand regatta on the Clarence River. Rush, born in 1845, in County Tyrone, Ireland, had come to Sydney at the age of fifteen. It did not take him long to handle a pair of sculls so effectively that he was considered to have a bright future as an oarsman. He was described as 6ft tall, bearded, compact, and well proportioned in frame, had great reach and rowed about 12st 12lbs, (*SMH* 2.7.1877). Rush and a partner, Conlon, had met the Trickett brothers (Edward and George) in a private race for £50/-/- a side, over the championship course on the Parramatta. Rush and Conlon won: so it was no wonder that Trickett wanted another chance to prove himself. The 'Clarence River Champion Outrigger Race' for the championship of Australia drew oarsmen from Sydney, among them Trickett, Richard Green<sup>5</sup>, and W Hickey: the local representatives were Rush, Elias, Laycock, and Newboy. The race, over a 3½ mile course was won by Rush. Trickett was second and Laycock third.

In 1876, James Punch, Sydney hotelsman and ex 'crack oarsman' convinced Trickett he was ready to contest the position then held by Joseph H Sadler of England as the best oarsman in the world. At this stage Trickett stood "6ft 3ins in his stockinged feet" and scaled at 12st 1½lbs. His lean good looks "his wonderful physique and his coolness of nerve" gave him "an amount of address as well as grace in the management of a boat that are not often found combined with the strength and endurance that he possesses."<sup>7</sup>

No doubt his training in England by Henry Kelley<sup>8</sup> helped to form his "coolness

of nerve" and prepare him for his race away from his home ground. The experience certainly was a valuable asset in his later races back in Australia. On June 27th, 1876, for £200/- a side over the Putney to Mortlake course on the Thames, Trickett defeated Sadler with a time of 24 minutes 36 seconds. "The race, as between a British and an Australian excited great interest"<sup>9</sup> and gave Trickett the world championship title he was to hold for the next four years.

Trickett returned to Sydney on the ship *Zealandia*, arriving at Circular Quay to a huge public welcome. Preparations were to include "flags...hoisted when the mail steamer is signalled...from the Circular Quay, Trickett will be conveyed in a drag to Punch's Hotel....the public landing will take place after the Mayor of Sydney, Mr Palmer, has gone on board the *Zealandia* and welcomed him back to Sydney, in the name of the citizens....in the evening there will be a torchlight procession of the Fire Brigades", (*SMH* 8.11.1876). The steamer didn't arrive until the following evening but celebrations went on just the same. Trickett was met by a crowd of more than 25,000 people who had gathered to meet their champion.

1877 proved to be an exciting year for Trickett. At the Anniversary Regatta, he was presented with a "testimonial subscribed by the people of the Australian colonies, in recognition of the victory he gained over the famous English puller, J H Sadler, whereby he acquired the proud title of the rowing champion of the world".<sup>10</sup>

It was presented by the Hon John Robertson, Premier of NSW...."I feel as much as any man in the colony, the honour you have obtained for our colonies ...I believe something like £900/- has been subscribed....you have brought here the championship of the world....(applause)..."

After the presentation it was Trickett's turn to reply: "I feel great pleasure from the reception I met when I returned home, and ever since, which showed me that the colonies highly appreciated what I had done...(cheers)... if ever it becomes my lot to contest again for the honour of Australia, I will do, with all my heart all I am able to do! ...(cheers)... Three cheers were then given for Mr Trickett and the Regatta was begun. Trickett, in Greenwich, entered race 4 for all comers, pulling a pair of sculls in outriggers. Trickett won easily by eight or nine lengths. He also entered race 13 for all comers in light skiffs...he (G Solomon) was soon overhauled by the champion, who then kept the premier position to the close, finishing at his ease..."

Not long afterwards, Trickett became licensee of Trickett's Hotel at 294 Pitt Street; although not a large building, it did stand out in the crowd of neighbouring buildings on account of its strikingly ornate but most appropriately decorated facade. The design of aquatic emblems was well suited to Trickett's rapport with the water.

The champion's next memorable race was against Michael Rush, the Irishman he had met on the Clarence River almost two years before, but this time it was Rush contesting the title and Trickett defending it. Although Rush could boast the Championship of the Clarence as well as that of Australia, Trickett was not to be put off. Buoyed by his new all-embracing title, he met Rush on the Parramatta River.

"The great contest for the championship of the world between Edward Trickett of Sydney, and Michael Rush of the Clarence River, New South Wales, came off on Saturday 30th June, over the champion course on the Parramatta River"<sup>11</sup>, and resulted in another easy victory for Trickett, who however, had confessedly

a great advantage in being able to use the sliding seat, which Rush discarded." (*ISN* 21.7.1877, p.10)<sup>12</sup>.

It seemed that Rush's appearance, unlike Trickett's, placed him in the spot of favourite. "Rush had everything in his favour, every muscle developed, and seemingly confident of success. Trickett was also in good form but apparently less powerful and looking a trifle nervous."

However appearances can be and often are deceptive. While Rush battled on without the sliding seat, his "stroke not being clearly rode out", Trickett's stroke was "as finished and regular as a machine", and before half the 3½ mile course had been rowed, the result was clear to all spectators. Trickett rowed with ease. "As he passed One-man Wharf, he was simply paddling, and stopped to wave his hand to friends ashore. This was repeated at least twice before he reached Bedlam Point where at least 10,000 pairs of lungs gave vent to a perfect tempest of cheers as the champion rowed leisurely by...the affair was so completely one-sided for the last two miles that it could hardly be termed a race."

The victory party was held at Trickett's Hotel. Trickett himself was conveyed there by carriage. As he arrived a band began to play "See the Conquering Hero Comes!" "The giant made his way through the throng towards the counter, and, lifting his wife over it, saluted her with a kiss, a proceeding which brought down the house."

The *Illustrated Sydney News* of 21st July 1877 devoted 7½ pages to the race, 5½ of them for a series of illustrations depicting scenes of the Parramatta at key points during the race, a bird's eye view of the River and the contestants, and a cover illustration of Trickett's Hotel after the race. Included in the report was an amount of discussion as to the merits of the sliding seat<sup>13</sup> which represented the "scientific result of modern experience" as against the old style of "physical force and traditional notions." It seems that even then as now "strength waged an unequal contest with science." Since Trickett's victory brought the title of champion of Australia from the Clarence River down to Sydney. Rush was more than ever determined to regain the title. He resolved to perfect the sliding seat, and promptly ordered from England two boats fitted with the device.

It is interesting to note that "the first intimation of the result of the race that reached Sydney was brought by a pair of Antwerp carrier pigeons, belonging to Mr Thomas Musgrave of Miller's Point, and kindly lent by him to the *Sydney Morning Herald*", (*SMH* 2.7.1877). Colonial air mail perhaps?

1878 was an unlucky year for Trickett. At the Anniversary Regatta he lost to Laycock, however as a reporter later noted, "manifestly short of conditioning, this defeat carried a great surprise, notwithstanding; and may be regarded as a striking illustration of what condition and training are worth", (*SMH* 19.11.1880). Again that year Trickett suffered an unfortunate accident, caused by a rolling keg crushing his hand and as a result, he self-amputated some of the injured fingers. The balance of his rowing stroke was almost certainly affected. Nevertheless he ably defended his title in his next race with Elias Laycock. It took place on August 29th. Laycock was at the time, champion sculler of NSW and "hero of many a well-fought battle"<sup>14</sup> Despite Laycock's recent successive wins on the Thames, Trickett 'settled Laycock's pretensions' to the coveted title. He is said to have used the latest innovation in boat racing - the swivel rowlocks. As a journalist reported at the time "he seemed quite at home with them and sculled in his usual and masterly style". Yet there was someone who was an even greater master than he of the swivel rowlocks.

At the same time as he was settling Laycock's pretensions, Trickett improved "his prospects for the contemplated race with the 'demon Canadian' ... and there is but little doubt that, if he does not secure a victory on that occasion, he will prove the hardest nut the Canadian has yet cracked".

Never was a reporter so misled in his judgement as this one was. "The 'demon Canadian' was Edward (Ned) Hanlan, who arrived in England holding the honours of Champion of America in the Spring of 1879, having conquered all the best Trans-Atlantic scullers - among them ...Wallace Ross ...Elliott. Hanlan then returned to Canada and continued his career of success ...On May 18th, 1880, he beat C E Courtney, 600 dollar purse.. May 26th, 1880, he beat J H Riley, 2,000 dollar purse."

In June 1880, Trickett sailed for England in the *Orient* to defend his title once again. On this occasion, the contender, Hanlan, was a 'foreigner' and the race was to be rowed on very different grounds to the now familiar Parramatta River. The same course as in 1876 was to be used: Putney to Mortlake, a distance of about 3½ miles, but the stakes were higher. Now it was to be for £400/-/- a side and the title of championship of the world. Although the betting in London was 7 to 4 on Hanlan, tremendous confidence was placed in Trickett by thousands of followers 'back home', a confidence based squarely on a splendidly successful sculling career and the optimism of Trickett himself that, once more, he would be victorious

"The telegram received is to the effect that Trickett, who rows Hanlan today, was never in such splendid as he is now, and that he feels very sanguine that he can beat his opponent." (*Age* 15.11.80).

For the few at home who had placed their faith in Hanlan, feelings ran high and that the "science of the Canadian would turn out to be more than equal to the muscle of the Australian", (*SMH* 16.11.1880).

The event proved them right for Hanlan immediately forged ahead, and just as Trickett had played with Rush in 1877, stopping to wave to friends in the crowds on the banks of the Parramatta, so now Hanlan played with Trickett. He stopped "many times during the race, and eventually won by three lengths. Trickett struggled gamely but uselessly", (*SMH* 17.11.1880).

This defeat was met with a feeling of disappointment and betrayal by the thousands of Australians who had supported Trickett. The public was divided by those who blamed Trickett for losing Australia to Canada, (or so it seemed to them) and those who, like the *Sydney Morning Herald* reporter at the time, took the defeat in a sportsmanlike way and held that Trickett was beaten on his merits. A lot of moralising occurred: "The event will show, that good as our scullers are, there are better .... uninterrupted victories have seldom proved themselves good for any people. Our men have done wonders in the cricket field hitherto; also we have flattered ourselves that they are without a rival on the water ... but at last we are told that the estimate we have held of our heroes has been a little too high ... this is a lesson that people have to learn in other spheres, and we cannot be surprised, to find that it applies to the sphere in which Trickett has been supposed supreme." (*SMH* 16.11.1880).

In a letter to the Editor from P J Clark, those 'traitorous' members of the public were reprimanded: "...although persons may endeavour to find excuses for his defeat such as being undertrained, drugged, etc., I consider that the insinuations uttered against his character ... and made without any foundation, are most uncharitable and cowardly ... judging from Trickett's previous career,

and the high estimation in which Hanlan is held in England as a sculler of the first degree, we must assume that the latter won the race fairly on its merits", (SMH 18.11.1880).

"It was some consolation to know that Trickett had been beaten by no ordinary sculler and by someone who has been regarded as nothing short of a phenomenon." (SMH 16.11.1880).

The reasons for Trickett's loss appear to be more than the strength or 'science' of the Canadian. The *Sydney Morning Herald* put it down to a mastery of the swivel rowlock and the sliding seat<sup>15</sup> "which has not been attained in this part of the world" (16.11.1880); while John Spencer, a patron of Trickett during the height of his career, said it was the climatic conditions which many in England knew would affect the Australian. (*Referee* 16.12.1916). Spencer went on to say that after this defeat, Trickett altered the fittings of his boat to make them like Hanlan's: "He rowed with a narrow rig, and put his work straight away from him, and really made himself slower than before...Trickett did not find out the reason for this...we all wondered why Trickett, though doing more landwork than any of them, was always being beaten by them on the water...it was simply the rig of the boat." (ibid).

As though to compensate for the defeat, the public was reminded of the great and exciting technological advance made at the time of the race, an advance that was to draw us one more step away from our 'South Seas isolation' stigma. The public was asked to take into account "The all but marvellous rapidity with which the intelligence of (the race) was flashed along the wires...it will hardly seem possible that the news of the race was despatched from London to Sydney in less than two hours...(it) will be published in Sydney some ten hours and a half, before it is published in the morning papers of London..." (SMH 16.11.80).

Following the victory by Hanlan, Trickett immediately entered in the International Regatta held in London for the Hop Bitters Company's prizes. It was run over three days from the 18th to the 20th November, 1880. Trickett won his first heat, as did Laycock. However in the second heat a foul took place between Trickett and another rower, Smith, which resulted in Trickett being put out of the race. Trickett placed a protest against the decision but the appeal was dismissed on the grounds that he was to blame for the foul. Laycock then won the second heat as well as the finals and took away the prize of £500/-/-.

Trickett then went to Canada for a match race but lost. (Ottawa, 4th July, 1881). He returned to England and once more rowed Hanlan on the Thames, (1st May, 1882), but the Canadian was again victorious. Back in Australia, he rowed against William Beach, (1850-1935), in December 1883 for the James Henry Trophy of £150/-/- but lost.

"Ned at that time was keeping the hotel in Pitt and King Streets.<sup>16</sup> He came to me and I advised him not to row again. I declined to back him and said it pained me to see him defeated....said Trickett, 'I would like you to see me do a trial. I can show I am better than ever.' ....I can assure you he rowed over that course in 45 seconds less time than when he was backed to row Sadler...with the sliding seat and the old rig, he was better than ever... we asked what was the cause of the change and he replied...'I bought a boat from Finlayson, a leading amateur, it was built by Joe Donnelly, who made all of mine. He gave Finlayson a wide spread, which is the same as I require. With the narrow rig which I had been using previously, I only jammed my boat. The new one suits me.'<sup>17</sup>

It is not known whether Trickett made the above changes to his boat before or after the Anniversary Regatta of 1884. However he finished second to Beach and subsequently entered a protest against that result. The race was rowed again and this time Trickett won.

In the same year, April 12th, Beach beat Trickett for £200/-/- a side. As well as winning the championship of Australia, Beach had won the right to race against Hanlan for the title, champion of the world. He did this on August 16th, 1884, on the Parramatta River, and won. Beach thereafter defended his world title eight times and can, with assurance, be classed alongside Trickett as one of Australia's most famous scullers.

By this time Trickett had retired from competition. He moved to Rockhampton where, it is said, an admirer had given him a hotel. On 14th June, 1888, he came out of retirement to row, once more against Hanlan, on the Fitzroy River, Rockhampton, but was unsuccessful. John Spencer's comment on this last defeat was not kind to Trickett. Perhaps he should never have ventured forth for that 'one last chance' sportsmen seem to relish.: "...he went to Rockhampton and rowed Hanlan, but Trickett was very fat and the Canadian paddled in." (*Referee* 16.12.1916).

From 1893 until 1901, he was employed by the NSW Customs Department, first as a tide-waiter in Sydney, and then as a bridge watcher at Moana on the Murray River. He was transferred to the NSW branch of the Commonwealth Department of Trade and Customs, retiring from there as a customs assistant in the shipping branch on September 11th, 1916. In the same year November 28th, while visiting his son Frederick at Uralla, he was injured in a mining accident<sup>18</sup> and later died as a result of his wounds. As he was a Salvation Army envoy, he was buried in the Salvation Army section of the Uralla Cemetery. He was, reputedly, a teetotaler and a "Mason of good standing"<sup>19</sup> and was survived by his wife, six sons and two daughters. In 1918, the citizens of Uralla erected a memorial to him in the town, (inside front cover).

Edward Trickett was one of Australia's finest and most skilled oarsmen. He won races in a variety of seaworthy vessels: dinghies, light and heavy skiffs, double sculls, service whalers and cutters, and four-oared gigs. During his career, he won over 150 trophies and placed Australia on the sporting map of the world. Although he survives in a victorious light through his monument at Uralla, it is a pity that Hanlan had the edge on him in this glass tankard of 1880. Nevertheless, it is a comfort to know that had he not held the world championship title in the first place, his memory may never have been perpetuated on such a commemorative piece.

--oo00--

#### ABBREVIATIONS:

*ISN* = *Illustrated Sydney News*

*SMH* = *Sydney Morning Herald*

*ADB* = *Australian Dictionary of Biography*

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## NOTES:

1. The design of the tankard was registered in England in December 1880, and probably originated from one of the large glass-making firms in the north-east of England, such as the Wear Glass Works, Sunderland, or George Davidson & Co. of Teams Glass Works, Gateshead.
2. This birthdate comes from the *ADB 1851-1890*, p.301. However, in his obituary in the *Referee* of 6th December, 1916, it says: "The deceased was born in 1850, according to my books, on May 11th; but another source gives the month as July..."
3. The Anniversary Regatta was held annually on Australia Day, and commemorated the anniversary of the foundation of the colony. "We know well that on 26th January, 1788, Captain Phillip landed on the grassy shores of a verdant cove to which he gave the name of Sydney...he could scarcely have imagined as he stood by the tent he had caused to be erected on the bank of a limpid crystal stream flowing into Sydney Cove, that...such extensive colonies, and such a development of commerce and wealth, were to spring up in the course of eighty-nine years, from the feeble and insignificant beginning he then made...First and foremost on Anniversary Day, stands, of course, the regatta, which has become a recognised institution." (*SMH* 27.1.1887).
4. *ADB 1851-1890*, p.301.
5. Richard Green, then sculling champion of Australia, went to England to race the champion of the Thames: ".he was rowed down and passed by Chambers, then in his prime." (*SMH* 17.11.1880).
6. *Referee*, 6.12.1916.
7. *SMH*, 2.7.1877.
8. *ibid* and *SMH*, 27.1.1877.
9. *SMH*, 19.7.1886.
10. *SMH*, 27.1.1877.
11. The course began at Charity Point and went past Ryde Wharf, Bottles Point, Blaxland Point, Breakfast Point, Halfway Point, Gladesville Wharf, ending at the 'Brother's Rock' in Fig Tree Bay.
12. *ISN*, 21.7.1877. Until otherwise noted all subsequent quotations are from this source.
13. John Spencer, in his reminiscences, at the time of Trickett's death said of the device: "Renforth, I think, was responsible for the invention. At first he greased his seat, and later placed it on wheels." (*Referee*, 6.12.1916).
14. Until noted otherwise, subsequent quotations are from: R H Harrett, *Newspaper Cuttings*, pp.39-42; and E Trickett, *The Great Boat Race in Australia!*
15. This is not quite the case. Trickett brought back the idea of the sliding seat from England, after his win over Sadler, and used it to great effect in

his race with Rush in 1877. "Rush...knew nothing of the slide which Trickett used for the first time in a championship event in Australia. In the Sadler contest he had the old style, but he brought the new idea back." (*Referee*, 6.12.1916).

16. He was proprietor of the International Hotel. (*ADB 1851-1890*, p.301).

17. *Referee*, 6.12.1916 - reminiscences of John Spencer.

18. References differ slightly here: *ADB 1851-1890*, p.301. "He died...when the walls of a goldmine collapsed."

*SMH*, 29.11.1916. "He was on a visit to his son, Frederick, and for a pastime was sinking a well...when a fall of earth took place, which covered him."

*Referee*, 6.12.1916. "He was assisting, as a pastime, in the sinking of a well, and when almost at the bottom of the shaft, the sides collapsed and almost completely buried him..."

19. *SMH*, 29.11.1916.

*ADB 1851-1890*, p.301

## List of Illustrations

### FRONT COVER

Portrait of Edward Trickett, from the *Illustrated Sydney News*, 21.7.1877.

### INSIDE FRONT COVER

English press-moulded glass tankard, (or mug), inscribed "Edward Hanlan Champion of the world Nov. 15 beat Trickett of NSW." Photo by John Wade courtesy trustees, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, (A7985)

Grave monument of Edward Trickett in the cemetery at Uralla near Armidale, NSW, inscribed "In memory of Edward Trickett Champion Sculler of the World from 1876 to 1880 born Woolwich Dock NSW 1851 died at Uralla November 28th 1916".

### INSIDE BACK COVER

Buckle made by Jacob Josephson. c.1820. It is stamped "ST SILVER" and "J. JOSEPHSON". Private collection.

Wunderlich stamped metal ceiling panel with design of flannel flowers, (*Actinotis helianthi*) no.1351, dating from c.1910. The same pattern also appeared as a complete ceiling design (no.6025), or cut in half diagonally (no.1350). It was discontinued in May, 1935. Photo courtesy Trustees, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences.

### BACK COVER

Wunderlich statuette of a kangaroo, standing about 75 cm, (25 ins), high. This seems to be the original plaster or terracotta model on which the stamped metal copies were based. A 1920s photograph of Wunderlich metal products shows one labelled "Stamped Zinc Bronze Sprayed". Photo courtesy Trustees, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences.

# Wunderlich Designers & Designs

*Susan Bures & Barry Groom*

The name Wunderlich in Australia is synonymous with stamped metal ceilings. The Company produced more than that, although stamped metal and Marseilles pattern roofing tiles were its most numerous and best known products.

Ernest Wunderlich arrived in Australia in 1885 and set up as an importer of building materials. He was joined by his brother Alfred and soon they began to import stamped zinc ceilings. They took out Letters Patent on the manufacture of stamped metal ceilings, sold their rights to the Melbourne firm of W H Roche and Co., and bought them back in 1892.

The two brothers then formed the Wunderlich Patent Ceiling and Roofing Company Limited, and took over the factory established by Roche's but under Alfred's management, at Baptist Street, Redfern, an inner Sydney suburb. In 1900 the third brother Otto, arrived and joined the firm. The business grew and within twenty years there were branches in all state capitals, Launceston, and Wellington in New Zealand.

Wunderlichs entered the decorative metal trade when late Victorian art was at its height. The earliest stamped metal panel designs, all elaboration and clutter, were typical of the period. Derivative and mechanical, they frequently utilised neo-classical motifs like the acanthus leaf, eqq-and-dart pattern, and palmettes. Occasionally a lighter touch broke through, like the stylised palmettes which the Company called a fan pattern.

From the first the company employed skilled designers and sculptors to create new patterns and ranges for stamping yet with one exception, discussed below none of these designers was mentioned in the Company's publications.

Indeed they made far greater fuss of securing the services of Phil Goatcher, exhibitor with the Society of Artists in 1895 and once scene painter for the Lyceum Theatre, whom they retained to head their Decorating Department, than they did of any artist or designer. The pattern books show however that the Company's architect, Clemens Muller, was responsible for some early designs, principally neo-Gothic and other revival styles, as well as the designs used in the Redfern boardroom.

The only designer the company ever named in their publications was Samuel V Rowe, who came to them c.1904 from the South Kensington School in London. His first designs for Wunderlich appear in their catalogues the following year and he continued producing patterns for them until 1925, three years after his appointment as principal of the East Sydney Technical College.

Rowe was born in Manchester, and after studying at the South Kensington school won an art competition which took him to Pompeii. Migrating to Western Australia he soon afterward enlisted in the Boer War, returning to Perth after Demobilisation. There he married and later took his family to Sydney. Rowe's artistic background was apparently in the Arts and Crafts movement. He designed furniture and a range of fabrics for Liberty's in London, and in Sydney designed several interiors in private homes, including the furnishing and furniture, wall paper and fabrics.

It was Rowe who introduced Art Nouveau to Wunderlichs in a major way, although there had been some Art Nouveau designs produced earlier. Rowe's style had a great deal of charm yet his ripe, overblown floral designs displayed none of the attenuated elegance characteristic of definitive Art Nouveau designers like Mucha or Horta. Indeed the riotous complication of his patterns owed more than a little to the clutter of the Victorian designs they supposedly superceded. Perhaps it was this that appealed to the conservative tastes of the wealthy who could afford the expense of metal ceilings.

The Art Nouveau style, largely introduced by Rowe, meant a new series of patterns offered in the Wunderlich catalogues:

"We have pleasure in presenting Photo-engravings of our most recent Modern Art Designs of Decoration in Stamped Metal. The various ceiling Panels and Cornices, Friezes and Dados shown in the following pages form the nucleus of a scheme having for its object the entire remodelling of our Catalogue, with a view of eliminating antiquated or overdone designs, thereby bringing our range of patterns absolutely up to date....Though discarded materials and methods may have temporary revival, the best proof of the popularity of our work is the increasing demand."

(Catalogue of April 1905)

Rowe designs continued to be offered in Wunderlich catalogues up to the late thirties, co-existing in curious harmony with both the later Art Deco style and the earlier Italianate Neo-Classical. He remained the principal designer for the Company into the twenties, although others were employed whose names, and often only their surnames, are found in the Wunderlich design books: Harrison, apparently the chief draughtsman in his day; Hunter; McGowan; A E Rice; Jones; Sturter; and Steufen.

At the end of the 1920s the Company embraced another major stylistic movement - Art Deco or Jazz Style. Ernest Wunderlich had been to the Paris Exposition of 1925 and records in his autobiography, *All My Yesterdays*, being struck by the freshness and appeal of the wares displayed (except for the sculpture about which he was most scathing).

"There is nothing ugly (except every bit of "modern" sculpture) and though some of the pavilions are most brazen innovations on what we would consider artistic fitness, they are strikingly original and attractive as long as sculptural details are not too closely examined. Some of the "cubist" wall decorations - well they are the dizzy limit!"

The essence of Art Deco was especially suitable to adaptation in stamped metal, embodying as it did an idealisation of manufacture and the geometric line.

George Paterson, Wunderlich's chief designer at this time, and Ralph Ferris were responsible for Wunderlich's Art Deco range (which it called 'Contemporary' as Art Nouveau had been called 'Modern'), and for the design of the magnificent 1929 Showroom ceiling. The only recorded attempt by any of the brothers at design occurred in this period, when Dr Otto Wunderlich produced an Art Deco ceiling pattern.

Ferris and Paterson are the last designers whose names appear in the pattern books. Some as yet unknown artist was responsible for the company's final post-World War II attempt to produce stamped metal ceilings in new designs, and for the elegant metal acoustic ceilings made in the 1960s.

## AUSTRALIAN FLORA AND FAUNA IN WUNDERLICH DESIGN

Nationalistic attitudes engendered by Federation stimulated an increased use of stylised Australian flora and fauna in the decorative arts and by 1910 its application was almost universal.

Lucien Henri, who pioneered the use of Australian flora in art, was greatly admired by Ernest Wunderlich:

"I must not forget to mention my friend, the late Lucien Henri, the artist who designed the two beautiful windows in the staircase of the Town Hall - Captain Cook and Australia. Henri was the first to apply our Australian flora in schemes of decoration. A portfolio of some of his choicest designs is now a treasure of our Technological Museum, Ultimo."

R T Baker, Curator of the Technological Museum, complimented Wunderlich's on using the waratah symbol in their products in his book, *The Australian Flora in Applied Art*:

All credit must be given to the captains or leaders of Industrial arts in Sydney for the attention given to or the employment of our native flora in their various manufactures. The illustration (Figure 10) is one of several different designs from the factory of Messrs Wunderlich, Sydney and is a reproduction of a ceiling panel decorated with the Waratah. Perhaps more conventionalisation is introduced here than generally obtains when dealing with this subject.

Yet apart from one ceiling panel design of a waratah and another of *Stenocarpus* Wunderlich's early designs did not noticeably reflect Henri's Australian bias.

Rowe later used a stylised waratah on occasions and there is a small series of ceiling designs incorporating flannel flowers, one of these, no.1351, is illustrated on the inside back cover. In 1912 the Company produced a small 'Art Metal' catalogue which included a repoussé fire screen with a waratah motif, and stylised waratahs were used to decorate the cover of two promotional booklets in 1914 and 1919. They produced a cast balustrade decorated with koalas for the old Prudential building in Martin Place now demolished; an ungainly statuette of a kangaroo, probably in terracotta, (see back cover), and a metal wall calendar decorated with kookaburras, gum leaves, gum nuts, and Christmas Bells. A very fine series of wall plaques depicting 'Aboriginal Life' was modelled by Ralph T Walker, cast in bronze by Wunderlich's, and incorporated into the bronze doors of the State Library of NSW. Ernest Wunderlich had earlier commissioned Rayner Hoff, 'a *prix de Rome man*' to model an aboriginal group which he presented to the Australian Museum, Sydney.

"The aboriginal group in the museum was modelled by the sculptor, Raynor (sic) Hoff, from actual natives. I am indebted to the police for their kind assistance in bringing down three full bloods, man woman and child, and caring for them while here, and sending them back to their tribe. This is the only group of Australian aboriginals the Museum has. I thought others might have followed my example by presenting reproductions of other tribes to our institution; but no one followed my lead."

## TERRACOTTA

Wunderlich's also made a small range of objects, presumably for promotional purposes. These included tobacco jars, book ends and an elephant statuette. No-one currently employed at Wunderlich's Rosehill tileries remembers these items and no other information on the date, quantity, or purpose of their manufacture has come to light. The tobacco jar however has an Art Nouveau design with a Waratah on the lid, which probably dates it to pre 1920.

Wunderlich's own brand symbol for their terracotta roofing tiles is a Waratah, although it does not appear on all examples.

## A Neglected Silversmith

*John Houstone*

Most Australian antique collectors are aware that articles of silverware were made in the early part of the nineteenth century in Sydney. The silversmith whose name is best known is Alexander Dick who commenced business in 1825. A number of pieces bearing his mark, principally fiddle pattern flatware, have survived.

It is clear that sporadic silversmithing was carried on somewhat earlier.

One Souilly, (or Scully), a silversmith, arrived as a convict in 1790 and was advertising for work in 1806. And, as Mr John Hawkins has recorded, two Irish silversmiths, Austin and Meurant, convicted of forgery, arrived in 1800 and at least made some articles of jewellery, (see *First Fleet to Federation: Australian Antiques*, p.63f).

Samuel Clayton arrived in 1816 and in the 1820s was advertising as an engraver, jeweller, and silversmith. Evidence suggests that engraving was his true trade, and he was a retailer of silverware rather than a silversmith.

Walter Harley came as a convict in 1815 and commenced business on his own account in 1820 continuing for a short period of months.

Several teaspoons attributed to Harley have been found, and at least one article attributed to Souilly

A silversmith whose name is little known and who commenced what became a substantial business was Jacob Josephson. A silver buckle by him, stamped "St. Silver" and "J. Josephson" is illustrated on the inside back cover. In addition a tablespoon, a gilded chalice, and a long-handled ladle are known to have survived. It is to be hoped that this article may make his name a little better known and result in other pieces made by him being identified.

Jacob Josephson was born a Jew in Breslau, Prussia, in 1774. He worked as a silversmith in Hamburg, later migrating to London, where he embraced the Christian faith.

In 1807 in London there was formed a "Society for promoting Christianity among Jews". A founder was Joseph Samuel Frey, who was born a Jew and had become a Christian non-conformist clergyman. Jacob Josephson became a paid teacher of scripture to members of the Society. He was also a part-time jeweller and a salaried clerk at the Stanstead Park Parish Church.

On 13th October, 1817, after paying for hotel accommodation with a forged pound note he was tried at Oxford Quarter Sessions for having forged bank notes in his possession. He was convicted and sentenced to 14 years transportation. His wife Emma Josephson was similarly charged but acquitted.

Josephson's conviction was greeted with considerable rejoicing by his orthodox Jewish opponents. A pamphlet was published stating that Josephson was not only a dealer in forged currency but that he had also stolen the communion plate from Stanstead Park Parish Church.

He was described at the time of his conviction as being 5'4" tall and of dark complexion. His occupation was shown as "Teacher of Hebrew". This is obviously an error in recording "Teacher of the Gospel to Hebrews". There is no record of a mark as a silversmith having been recorded in Josephson's name in England.

He arrived in Sydney aboard the *Neptune* in May, 1818. He almost immediately received a ticket of leave, and on the 3rd October, 1818, advertised in the *Sydney Gazette*:

"Jacob Josephson, Jeweller and Silversmith from London most respectfully informs the public that he has opened a Jeweller's Shop at No. 3 Pitt Street, next door to Mr Samuel Terry's, where he has an assortment of the newest fashions of jewellery imported from England and France for their inspection. J. J. also makes and repairs all articles of jewellery and silver he may be favoured with orders for.."

On the 20th February, 1819 Josephson made application to the Governor for a free passage for his wife and two sons, Joshua aged 5, and Lewis aged 1. They arrived in 1820.

In January, 1821 Josephson was advertising that he "Makes up all kinds of jewellery and silversmith work at the shortest notice and in the most fashionable manner as he employs some of the best workmen from London".

Josephson's business expanded rapidly. By August, 1821 he was advertising as available "at his warehouse" such diverse articles as soaps, dyes, tooth-powder, combs, shaving brushes, and razor strops.

In 1822 and 1823 he was selling as well clothing, shoes, fowling pieces, tobacco, tea, and French chocolate. By this time he was clearly more in the category of a General Merchant than a working Jeweller. However, in July 1822 in a discussion of currency and exchange in the *Gazette*, there is reference to silver dollars and "the few dozens which are occasionally melted down by Mr Josephson to furnish our colonial fashionables with the luxury of toothpicks and tea-spoons..." This passage suggests that Josephson's silversmithing may well have been limited to small utilitarian articles.

In 1823 Jeremiah (Jeremy) Garfield, a silversmith whose mark was recorded at the Goldsmiths' Hall in London, was assigned to Josephson. It is noteworthy that he stated he was employed as a house servant rather than a tea tray maker, which was his skill, because there was no demand for tea trays, (see *Australian*

*Antiques* p.63). Probably at this time the demand for locally made larger pieces of plate was minimal.

On the 21st June, 1822, he advertised that he had "just opened the largest investment of English and India plate that ever was imported..."

One cannot help being impressed with Josephson's ability as a copywriter. Would a modern advertising agency produce better material than this example in 1821:-

"The soaps have all the detergency of the common soaps without any of their objectionable properties; is as mild as a simple compound of almonds; it makes the skin smooth soft and white; imparts in use a reviving grateful perfume and keeps the hands from chapping in the most inclement weather...Ready cash only."

During the early 1820s Josephson was listed as a subscriber in many public appeals, particularly those of a religious character. These included the Scots Church, the Benevolent Society, the Roman Catholic Chapel, the Wesleyan Missionaries and the Bible Society. He must have had liberal religious views or possibly thought it good for business to appear on the published subscription lists.

On the 30th June, 1820 he was granted a conditional pardon by Governor Macquarie. On the 1st March, 1822, he petitioned the newly arrived Governor Brisbane for an absolute pardon. His reason was that he desired to return temporarily to England because his Agents were refusing to remit to him rent collections from a house he owned. He stated that he intended to return to live in New South Wales "for the remainder of my days". He claimed that he was undergoing "great privations and uneasiness of mind at the state and management of my property and the cruel conduct of my Agents". The petition was supported by references from such pure merinos as Antill, Harris, Lowe, Moore, Bowman, and Robert Campbell. However it failed to evoke any favourable request from Governor Brisbane. It is intriguing that in a stay of less than four years after arrival as a convict, he could command such support for his petition from such powerful and exclusive colonists.

Josephson's business had expanded into the fields of discounting and money-lending in the early 1820s and he was dealing with the most forceful merchants and entrepreneurs in the Colony.

In April 1824 Josephson was prosecuted for perjury arising out of alleged false evidence given in an action for debt brought by Josephson against Francis Ewin Forbes. The *Gazette* stated that this was "the second or third time so serious a charge against Mr Josephson had occupied the attention of the bench". He was however, acquitted and announced an intention "to visit the prosecutors with retributive justice".

Josephson's name featured in various civil court actions, which perhaps one may say was no more than normal for Sydney merchants of the 1820s, who seemed to delight in litigation.

Moves were made to set up a Public Free Grammar School and meetings were held and a Board of Governors was appointed. Josephson became a Governor subscribing £50. His fellow Governors included such identities as Mr Justice Stephen, John Macarthur, John Oxley, Simeon Lord, George Allen, Gregory Blaxland, and William Lawson.



However, despite Josephson's meteoric rise in the six years since his arrival, storm clouds were looming, Hard times were coming with the Colony's first recession in the mid 1820s, and Josephson claimed to have suffered the disaster of some five burglaries in 1824 and early 1825. On the 2nd September, 1824 he advertised in the *Gazette* that "in view of the heavy loss he has sustained and the wish he entertains to meet all demands from him to the most of his power it has become necessary to call in what is due to him..." On the 22nd September, 1824 he executed a Deed conveying his property to a Trustee for the benefit of his creditors. In the same issue of the *Gazette* as this is reported, it is ironic that he advertised that "J Josephson has got the most fashionable, superb and substantial investment of jewellery and plated goods...all upon reasonable terms".

Apparently the proposed terms of the Deed of Assignment were that the creditors would receive ten shillings in the pound immediately and the balance by instalments. Josephson subsequently claimed that he made the initial payment but that many creditors refused to stand by the instalment terms in accordance with their previous agreements.

It was common talk in Sydney that the string of burglaries never in fact occurred and that they represented a device by Josephson to defraud his creditors by removing and secreting portions of his stock.

A Sheriff's sale of Josephson's stock and goods was advertised to be held on the 2nd November, 1825. In the same issue of the *Gazette* there is a record of a meeting of the Governors of the Public Free Grammar School and on this occasion Josephson's name as a Governor is tastefully omitted.

The creditors' expectations from the sale were not realised. They became aware that much of the more valuable stock had disappeared without explanation. They published a series of advertisements in the *Gazette* stating that they had found most "stock absent" and offering a tenth of the value of any goods recovered to any person giving information leading to recovery. The creditors list read like a Who's Who of Sydney commerce including Riley, Walker, Berry, Wollstonecraft, Spark, Campbell, Terry, and Levey.

Mr Andrew Nash, Publican, of Parramatta wrote to the *Gazette* stating that his wife had bought a quantity of tumblers from Mr Josephson which were packed in boxes to be sent by the Parramatta boat. With them came a large heavy trunk and a note from Josephson saying that the trunk was to be taken care of until Mrs Josephson came up. "It is evident Josephson was making a hiding place of my home" Nash wrote. Nash stated he did not want any reward for the information. The *Gazette* praised the "prompt and upright" information that led to the possession of the trunk and fulminated: "Can there be two opinions of the unparalleled conduct of Josephson against his creditors?".

On the 17th November, 1825 the *Gazette* refers archly to Mr Josephson as "The Gentleman that was pleased to challenge us in the public streets on Tuesday afternoon with taking the liberty of alluding to him from false representation..." One can see the little jeweller shaking his fist, shouting threats as he pursued editor Robert Howe up Pitt Street.

On the 21st November, 1825 a letter dated the 17th from Dr Laurence Halloran, D.D., was published stating Josephson had deposited a package with him for safe keeping which obviously also contained valuables which Josephson was attempting to keep from his creditors.

Dr Halloran had been a Navy Chaplain prior to his resigning his commission.

He had obtained his Doctorate of Divinity at King's College, Aberdeen in 1800. He had a lifelong weakness for publishing Libels, many in doggerel, which brought him into legal difficulties on a number of occasions. In 1818 he had been convicted of counterfeiting a 10 penny frank for the purpose of accrediting himself as a curate and for this he was sentenced to seven years transportation, arriving in Sydney in June 1818. He was immediately released on ticket of leave by Governor Macquarie and was befriended by Simeon Lord and John Macarthur. He was the moving party in the proposals to establish the Grammar School. Previously, in one of his litigious sallies, he had ended in jail being unable to raise bail. He was then assisted by Josephson. Josephson apparently did him other favours of a financial nature.

Josephson reacted violently to Halloran's letter. He wrote an indignant letter to the *Gazette* denouncing Halloran's "private treachery and ingratitude" annexing copies of earlier letters to him from Halloran expressing Halloran's debt of gratitude. It is interesting to note that Josephson made no attempt to deny that in fact he was using Nash and Halloran to defraud his creditors. In a later letter he justified his conduct on the ground that he wished to save some property from the Sheriff's sale to see that the creditors who stood by him were paid. It seems a little difficult to swallow.

Dr Halloran's letter evoked a savage letter to the *Gazette* signed by the pseudonym "Fidelitas", clearly written by William Charles Wentworth. This attacked Halloran's involvement with Josephson, but skilfully used the occasion to bludgeon Halloran for his role and conduct in relation to the proposed new Grammar School, of which Halloran had been elected Master, with the support of John Macarthur, "a Gentleman whom we have not heard of in any public way, since the troublesome times of 1808; and who seems to have recommenced his political career, with measures equally disinterested and patriotic as those which distinguished his conduct on the deposition of Governor Bligh and his Secretaryship, during the usurped Government!". "Fidelitas" claimed he had a better appointee for the position of Master "so hastily and irregularly" conferred upon Halloran. He said Halloran was supported by "Gentlemen of Exclusionist principles...who would not sit with their brother Emancipists at the same table with the King's Representative". Wentworth felt great animosity towards the exclusionists, having regard to the fact that his father had been tried four times for highway robbery (though acquitted) and his mother had come to Sydney as a convict. The reference to sitting down with their brother emancipists relates to the farewell dinner for the retiring Governor, Sir Thomas Brisbane, who requested that six emancipists should be present with the exclusives. This the exclusives rejected and the joint celebration was abandoned.

Wentworth also took the opportunity in his letter to skilfully imply, without actually stating, that Halloran intended to indulge in blackmail in the preparation of his proposed Colonial Biography. The letter is a brilliant piece of defamation of Halloran, overflowing with red herrings and rhetoric. In passing, Wentworth mentioned that Josephson had not been robbed more than once "except by himself" and referred to his "million of falsehoods". Strange words when one considers that Wentworth was acting as Josephson's Attorney throughout 1825 and into 1826. (See Wentworth Papers, Mitchell Library.)

Dr Halloran's reply, suitably vitriolic, was published on 1st December, 1825. He stated that Mr Josephson and "his hireling advocate" were "gentlemen of a kidney". He shrewdly struck a body blow with regard to his proposed biography when he observed that perhaps "Fidelitas' sensibility is alarmed lest the lives of some of his own ancestry, and an account of his own birth, parentage, and education should be revived in public recollection".

It is fascinating that the financial vicissitudes of a convicted German-born jeweller should become a vehicle for the display of the dissensions and bitterness between the Colony's powerful factions.

On the 4th August, 1825 Josephson had again petitioned for an absolute pardon. One feels he took this course to shore up his deteriorating position before the financial disasters became apparent. He stated in the petition:

The petitioner cannot but feel that Calumnies passed upon him by certain individuals in high situations respecting some recent losses which he had the misfortune to suffer, may have operated to his prejudice. He contends that subsequent developments have entirely refuted these Calumnies and will effectively remove the consequent unfavourable impression...."

He further stated that he could explain "every equivocal circumstance".

Once again Governor Brisbane was unmoved and the petition is briefly endorsed "Pardon cannot be prepared in consequence of misconduct".

The execution sales proceeded in dribs and drabs; no doubt as further property came to hand.

In November, 1827 Josephson was in the debtor's prison. A story was told in the *Gazette* as being "in every mouth in town". Josephson was visited in prison by the wealthy, elderly, and respected public figure and pastoralist, Mr John Thomas Campbell. Campbell had apparently just been robbed and asked Josephson what measures he had adopted when he was robbed two or three years before. Josephson asked Campbell the amount of which Campbell had been robbed. On being told, Josephson considered the matter in silence, then said "Upon my word I don't believe you have been robbed of one farthing". The *Gazette* concludes the story saying "And away old Croesus walked".

In December, 1827 it was reported that there was a rumour afloat that Josephson and his creditors had come to an arrangement and that Josephson would be liberated forthwith. The *Gazette* charitably went on: "Josephson's ability in business is well known and is now much needed; and as he has been somewhat rigidly dealt with we trust the report is not without foundation".

He was duly released but does not appear to have returned to business as a retail merchant. In the 1828 census he is simply described as a 'Householder'.

In May 1828 it was reported that: "Mr Jacob Josephson of Australian celebrity has once more burst upon the mercantile and trading world. He complains very bitterly of the conduct of his creditors and well he may if it be correct that he has had to pay 35/- in the pound. There is not a more enterprising fellow than the self same Mr J and we congratulate the advertising world that he has reappeared upon the public theatre as he was always a capital patron of the Gentlemen of the Press. It is not quite determined as yet whether Mr J will commence banking on his own account or embark upon mercantile speculations".

It seems that mercantile speculations were more his field, as over the ensuing years he is seen to be a considerable dealer in land. He obtained a number of grants in the City of Sydney and at Parramatta and Liverpool. In 1834 he was granted 2000 acres of land near Ellalong and in 1838 was advertising for lease 73 acres on the South Head Road and 5 acres at Fivedock.

In 1832 he had completed the erection of a new Inn at Emu Crossing, Penrith. This was "on a commodious and elegant scale" and had "complete accommodation for cattle and sheep" on 400 acres of land. The Inn was run by Mr Charles Wilson, Josephson's son-in-law. The *Gazette* stated "It is well known that there are few Innkeepers so well backed by wealthy relatives as Mr Wilson".

Josephson's charity appears to have continued in his later years, his name appearing on many subscription lists. In 1833 James Backhouse, the Quaker

Missionary, while traversing Australia, stayed at the Inn. In the book of his travels he stated "At Penrith a Jew professing Christianity, father-in-law of the Landlord, told us that as we had come there to preach the Gospel we should be free of all charges".

Hard times never appear to have come to Josephson again. He owned a cottage in Sydney on the corner of Elizabeth Street and King Street, and a property, Enmore, at Newtown.

In 1839 he was advertising for the services of a competent coachman.

He died on the 6th December, 1845, at the age of 71 years at his Newtown property.

In 1825 Josephson's stepdaughter, Sarah Emma Wilson, married Barnet Levy, who introduced theatre to the colony, conducting his Theatre Royal in Sydney for many years.

Josephson's son, Joshua Frey Josephson, became well known in public life in NSW. He was an accomplished musician and gave recitals while still a child. He trained in Law, became a Solicitor, and subsequently went to the Bar. He became a member of the Legislative Assembly and Solicitor General under Robertson and was Mayor of Sydney in 1848. He was a business associate as a land speculator with T S Mort and a Director of a number of companies. In 1869 he resigned his various appointments to become a District Court Judge and died in 1892 leaving an estate of £175,000/-/-. He was a collector of art and owned a number of valuable statues which he left to the NSW Art Gallery. He survived a number of scandals and attacks with the aplomb his father had exhibited forty years earlier. He is buried at Rookwood Cemetery.

Looking at Jacob Josephson's ups and downs in the colony and his ability to bounce back after adversity one must endorse the view of the *Sydney Gazette* that there was not a "more enterprising fellow".

## Our Authors

*Michel Reymond* has just been re-elected President of the Australiana Society for a second term. He is a solicitor with the prominent Sydney firm of Sly and Russell.

*Annette Keenan* is on the curatorial staff at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences in Sydney where she is responsible for the glass collection. She is a frequent contributor to the Newsletter and in May lectured to the Society on Australian Glass. At the moment she is in Greece working on an archaeological excavation.

*John Houstone* is a committee member of the Society and another Sydney solicitor, who has had a strong interest in early Australian silver for some years. He has a special interest in Sydney silversmiths before 1850, and has lectured to the Society on the subject.

*Susan Bures* and *Barry Groom* carried out an industrial archaeological survey of the Wunderlich factory in Redfern when it was demolished in 1980 to make way for a supermarket. The survey was financed by CSR Limited which now controls Wunderlich, and administered by the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences. They also collected a great quantity of archival material on the Wunderlich company. Susan is now a journalist with the *Australian Jewish Times*, and Barry is curator of the Sydney Maritime Museum.



# THE AUSTRALIANA SOCIETY

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