SA Australiana Study Group

49th Meeting, 3rd October 2019

We recommend readers to the Australiana Society website
https://www.australiana.org.au/ and encourage membership.

Attendance: 13
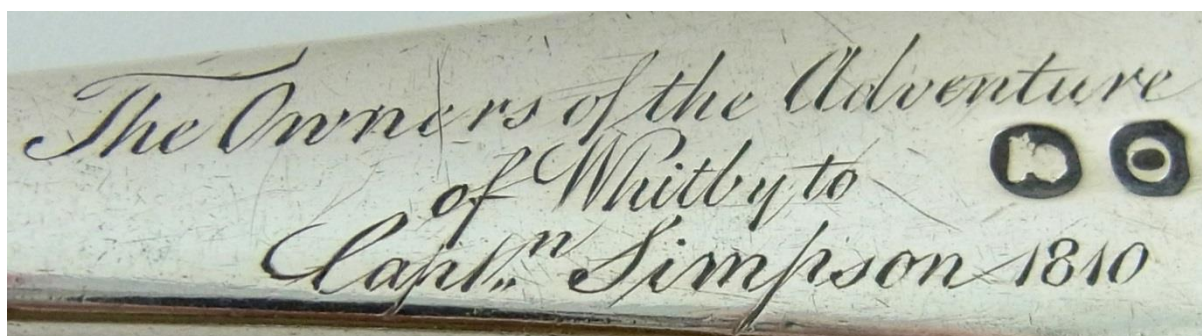
Three silver spoons, presented in 1810. Length 22.0 cm.

These were presented to Captain Simpson of the barque *Adventure* by her grateful owners at Whitby on his leaving command of the ship. Launched at Whitby in 1770 as the *Marquis of Rockingham*, along with her larger sister ship *Marquis of Granby*, they were designed as colliers for the North Sea trade. The following year both were bought by the Royal Navy to be fitted out as exploration vessels for Captain James Cook. Both were renamed by the Navy,

the *Rockingham* briefly being called the *Rayleigh*, then *HMS Adventure.* The *Granby* was also renamed, first to the *Drake,* then as *HMS Resolution.*

Under Commander Tobias Furneaux the *Adventure* left Plymouth on 13 July 1772 in company with *Resolution* on Cook's second voyage in search of *Terra Australis Incognita.* The two ships were the first to cross the Antarctic Circle, but became separated by fog on 8 February 1773. Furneaux proceeded as planned to head for a rendezvous at Queen Charlotte Sound, NZ, charting the southern and eastern coasts of Tasmania (then still thought to be part of the mainland) on the way. While doing so, he named Adventure Bay on Bruny Island after his ship.

The two ships met in NZ in May 1773 and proceeded to Tahiti where the Tahitian known as Omai was taken aboard. After missing another rendezvous with *Resolution* at Queen Charlotte Sound and following a bloody fracas with the local Maori people, the *Adventure* set out for home on 22 December 1773 via Cape Horn, reaching there the following July. In doing so, she became the first ship to circumnavigate the world from west to east. In 1775 she was converted to a store ship for service in Canada, but returned to England in December 1779, where she was paid off and refitted as a fire ship, but never used as such.

In 1783 the Navy sold *Adventure* back to her original Whitby owners, who used her in the North American trade. It is not known when Simpson took command, but he was obviously appreciated by the owners who gave him the silverware in 1810, some of which is shown here. Sadly, things did not go so well for the next commander, Captain Snowden, as on 24 May 1811 while on a voyage from Leith to Quebec the *Adventure* was wrecked in the Saint Lawrence River.

The spoons carry the London silver hallmarks for the year 1809/10, along with the stamp of the initials of the partnership of Thomas Wallis II and Jonathan Hayne. The black **S-**shaped mark is that of the (now unknown) individual silversmith within their workshop responsible for making the spoons.

We note that at our meeting number 20, of 1 June 2017, we were shown the only *Resolution and Adventure* medal to have been found in Australia. This was discovered on Bruny Island in 1914. It is recorded that on both Cook's second and third voyages such medals were left there at Adventure Bay.

Silver whist markers and their box, c1890, attrib. to H. F. Kessal of Mount Gambier.
Diam. (box) 25 mm, (counters) 23 mm.

Contained in a small cylindrical silver box, the four whist markers appear to have been made out of shilling coins, with the faces turned out on a jeweller's lathe. Each is engraved with a numeral from one to four, with the engraving filled with black enamel, while the reverse side of each bears a decorative engraved monogram of the letters *HRF*. The box carries marks attributed to the jeweller Heinrich Friedrich (Magnus) Kessal (1849-1899), who worked in Mount Gambier SA between 1878 and 1899. With no regulated system for marking silverware in Australia the maker has adopted marks similar to those of England.

Kessal was born in Holstein, Germany, in 1849, and through studies in Geneva and Hamburg received a thorough grounding in watch and chronometer-making, optics, and the making of scientific instruments. Having arriving at Adelaide aboard the ship *Papa* on 24 July 1877 aged 27 and listed as a "mechanic", by April 1878 he was in partnership at Mount Gambier in the business of Kessal & Trou, working watchmakers and jewellers, advertising *Gilding and Silvering Done. Deutsch Gesprochen.* Three months later the partnership dissolved, with Kessal carrying on the business as sole operator.

With his interest in new technologies, Kessal installed electric lighting in his shop in 1883, and had possibly the first telephone in the town when in the 1890s a private line linked his house to the shop on the main street. As treasurer and Past Master of the Mt. Gambier Lodge of Freemasons, trustee of the Institute, and speaker on subjects such as *Electric Cables and Electricity* (in 1888) and *Education* he was well entrenched. He was also a member of the Theosophical Society and president of the local German Club. His redeveloped shop in Commercial Street in 1886 was something of a local wonder, with striking artwork on the windows by a Mr. Bennett of Adelaide complementing the display of jewellery within.

Influenza caught on an interstate trip in 1899 turned into pneumonia on his return home, and within a month this *...intelligent and useful townsman...* had died. For a short time his widow carried on the business, but by early 1902 it had been taken over by Row Brothers, jewellers.

Carved Australiana panel with drawer at base c 1920-30s, maker unknown.
25x17x39 cm

Description: Back panel: Kookaburra within a map of Australia, surrounded by radiating lines, above kangaroo paws and Sturt peas, below emu and cloud [?] and kangaroo box [?], Xanthorrhoea Australis, and all within a rope boarder. Above: a separate piece of timber; a koala amongst gum leaves. The panel is flanked by a standing female and male Aboriginals. The wavy hair in the female is a typical hairstyle of the 1920-30s. The top of the box depicts an emu, kangaroo and boomerang, a kookaburra and a snake. The front; a red plastic knob, a kangaroo, male Aboriginal and swan, the left side a kangaroo paw, and right a lyre bird. The infill of the object has been stippled. Varnished, and the inside of the drawer painted with pink kalsomine. The timbers appear to be scraps of surplus or second hand wood. The back has two brass hooks so it can be hung on a wall.

This object was acquired in WA and the owner has seen a New Zealand version by the same hand offered by a Victorian dealer.

This 'white' Crows golly was purchased at the Clare Monthly market, from the maker, Marjory Edmonds.

Marjory Edmonds was born and raised at Blackwood SA and moved to Burra when she married, and has lived all her married life in her husband's parents' former home. She has been knitting for some 30 years. The doll was purchased for a very modest amount, obviously a labour of love from Mrs Edmonds. A similar Crows doll, but black, was shown at meeting number 45.

A Papua New Guinea wooden "bullroarer" modified by a painted inscription of a Biblical verse in the Jabem language, date of the original artefact believed c.1930s but date of its later inscription uncertain. 42.3 x 7.9 cm, thickness approx. 0.8 cm.

Jabem (Yabem or Iabim) was one of the native languages of the Huon Peninsula around Finschhafen and was used extensively by Australian Lutheran Missionaries there. This inscription shows that the owner or owners of the item had converted to the Christian faith. The text, "Yesu gesum/ Ulinań, Ai yangum samop wogu", translates as "Jesus says/ behold I make all things new", and is a quote from Revelations 21:5.

The bullroarer has a finely carved pattern on the reverse, suggesting that it was originally used in traditional religious ceremonies. One small hole has a groove on both sides running to the narrow end for string to be tied, allowing the bullroarer to be swung around repeatedly to create the characteristic roaring sound. The second small hole was probably made later to help affix and display the item on a wall.

A photograph of a similar board is illustrated on page 28 in the book *The Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea*, edited by Herwig Wagner and Hermann Reiner, Lutheran Publishing House, Adelaide, 1986, but the caption offers no more information than to explain the inscription on the board "Jabem: 'Behold I make all things new' (Rev. 21:5)". The style of lettering looks similar to that on our board and indicates that, although the text is not identical, the same practiced hand may have inscribed both boards. This board also has the grooves running from the one hole to the tip, indicating its original use as a ceremonial "bullroarer".

"Lavinia Mary Scammell" (1859 - 1915), photograph by John Hood, Glenelg, 1873, mounted in a swivelling brass stand. Image 10.0 x 6.6 cm.

"Elizabeth Alice Scammell, nee Gray" (1870 - 1958), photograph by Elliot & Co., Prahran Victoria, 1888 - 1890.

Lavinia was one of Luther Scammell's twelve children. She wrote a book under the pseudonym "Red-Gum Blossom" titled "A Little Bit of Laughter and Life for the Young" (illustrations by Tom Ferry). It was published in Adelaide in 1912. A copy is held by the State Library of South Australia.

Elizabeth married Luther Scammell junior in 1888 and was the mother of Alfred Franklin Scammell. Elliot & Co., photographers, were at this Chapel St. address for only two years, and this provides the date range. The rustic studio setting is similar to young Alfred's photograph of 1892.

"Alfred Franklin Scammell" (1889 - 1978), photograph by Stump & Co., Adelaide, 1892, mounted in a brass table stand. 16.5 x 10.5 cm.

Inscription verso "2 years & 2 months" and showing Alfred in unbreeched clothing within a rusticated studio setting.

"Alfred Franklin Scammell" (1889 - 1978), photograph by Hammer Art Studio, Adelaide, 1901, in a German made brass frame. 16.2 x 10.3 cm.

Head and upper body vignetted studio portrait of Alfred aged 12. A grandson of Luther Scammell, he later became a director of F. H. Faulding & Co.

Four photographs relating to the Scammell family of Adelaide.

Luther Scammell (1826 - 1910) arrived in Adelaide in 1849 and was a doctor at the Burra mine and then at Port Adelaide. In 1861 he entered into a partnership with Francis Faulding - a pharmaceutical manufacturer and wholesaler in Adelaide. With Faulding's death in 1868, Scammell became the sole owner and F.H. Faulding & Co. remained with the family until 2001. The company's major product was eucalyptus oil which formed the basis of the antiseptic "Solyptol" as used in a soap and disinfectant of the same name. Other well-known products were Milk Emulsion, junket tablets, cordials, essential oils and Epsom salts.

Dog registration disc for 1908-1909, brass, A. Simpson & Son. Diameter 3.1 cm.

Dog registration was required on a state-wide basis, with the shape of the disc changing each year for ease of identification. Each dog was registered to its own district, with the disc recording the district number and the individual number. In this case the disc was found in the Adelaide suburb of Beaumont, with district 66 being that of the city of Burnside. The two holes in the disc indicate that the dog concerned was female (a "slut" in terminology of the time). The fee varied across different council areas, between about 2/6 for a dog and 5/- for a "slut" to 5/- and 7/- respectively. The fine for having an unregistered dog was relatively high – about six pounds – a weeks pay for many workers.

Centenary of South Australia Commemorative Medal 1836-1936 issued to school children. Diameter 31 mm.

Description:
Obverse: Colonel Light pointing left, below LIGHT, around CENTENARY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1836 - 1936
Reverse: Centre the Buffalo below H.M.S. BUFFALO, around FOUNDATION OF PROVINCE 28th DECEMBER 1836
Ribbon: red, white and blue.
Designer: Lawrence Hotham Howie (1876-1963) Australia, the Principal of the School of Arts and Crafts, maker S. Schlank & Co. Adelaide (1887-1971), gilded, 31 mm. 100,000 struck.

Howie had drawn the *Buffalo* side, the other side was to have the effigy of Edward VIII, but due to rumours at the time that he may abdicate, the centenary committee decided instead have Colonel Light. As centenary day fell on the 28 December, during the summer school holidays the medal was distributed in November.

Colonel William Light (1786-1839) was a British-Malaysian naval and army officer and a painter. He was the first Surveyor-General of the Colony of South Australia and he is famous for choosing the site of the province's capital, Adelaide, and for designing the layout of its streets and parks – in the Adelaide city centre and the Adelaide Park Lands.

HMS *Buffalo* was a store ship of the Royal Navy, originally built and launched at Sulkea, opposite Calcutta, in 1813 as the merchant vessel *Hindostan*. The Admiralty purchased her that year after she arrived in Britain. She later transported convicts to Australia and in July 1836 sailed from Portsmouth arriving in South Australian waters in December, carrying 176 colonists, including Captain John Hindmarsh, the first Governor of the Province. The ship was wrecked off the coast of New Zealand in 1840.

Moulded plastic tea strainer, made by Ferolux Products, Melbourne, 1950s.
Diameter 9.3 cm, height 5.1 cm.

The first advertisements found in *Trove* for Ferolux appear in the early 1950s. One in early 1954 sought ...*girls to assemble plastics, apply at 49 Flinders Lane or cnr Freen and Thomas Sts, Windsor.*

The company was located in Melbourne, and made items from hard and soft plastic. Their range of kitchenware included canisters and lunch boxes, a *Gyro shaker*, the *Ejecta Scoop*, cook-saw, safety grater, fruit cutter, tomato knife, doughnut maker, peeler, apple corer, and even a *Handy Ferolux Sewing Kit.* Their *Gay Kitchen Idea* of 1954 was a *Ferolux Colander,* which they assured customers ...*makes it a pleasure to strain vegetables* (!). Advertisements for the tea strainer appear in newspapers around Australia in 1952. It retailed for two shillings and sixpence.

By 1957, all of the Ferolux advertisements had disappeared, and no more information on the company could be found. Perhaps it had been acquired by a company such as McPherson's, who took over other plastics manufacturers, or maybe it just went out of business.

Commemorative hand mirror (1951) celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Alexander Patent Racket Company of Launceston, Tas. Length 34.4 cm.

Founded by brothers Alfred and Douglas Alexander, who lodged their patent application for a novel design of tennis racquet in July 1921, the remarkable success of their laminated products saw them become world renowned. From the first day of production (13 March 1926) when seven racquets left the factory, by 1930, 60,000 had been produced. The workforce was trained on the job, and rose to 130, giving Launceston's economy a major boost.

Early trials using Australian timbers had been unsuccessful, so imported English ash was used. New methods of decoration were developed, and the company achieved world-wide sales. In 1933 Jack Crawford won at Wimbledon with the *Cressy Perfect* flat-top, and many other top Australian players adopted that model. This commemorative was modelled on the pattern of the *Cressy Wizard*. The American company Spalding acquired Alexanders over the period 1957-61 and integrated the machinery into their plant at Sunshine, Vic. The Alexander company went into liquidation in 1961.

The history of the firm is recorded in the book: *What A Racket* - The Illustrated Story of the Alexander Patent Racket Co Ltd 1925 – 1961 (author Christopher "Gus" Green OAM).

A giant advertising *Pancho Gonzales* tennis racquet by the Spalding company, Australia, 1950s/60s. Length 182 cm, width 63 cm.

Founded by American baseball player Albert Spalding in 1876, the Spalding company rapidly expanded into making equipment for a variety of sports. With international success and factories in the USA and UK, Canada and France, the decision in 1925 was made to manufacture in Australia, partly to overcome our high trade tariffs, and a site at Sunshine in Victoria was selected. Production of racquets and tennis and golf balls ensued, the racquets being partly imported in a rough state to be shaped and finished here, with initial production planned to be 40,000 a year.

The scale of the company and the sponsorships it offered to top world players eventually overwhelmed the local industry, as did the huge range of equipment offered. Through the 1950s and 60s and on into the 1970s the endorsement of the hugely successful American player (Ricardo) "Pancho" Gonzales was a major marketing tool for Spalding. His main Australian rivals at the time were Rod Laver, Ken Rosewall and Lew Hoad. As seen above, the Alexander company of Launceston was absorbed into Spalding over the period 1957-61, however Spalding itself was to close at Sunshine, probably in the 1990s. Their site in North Sunshine is now a Bunnings outlet.
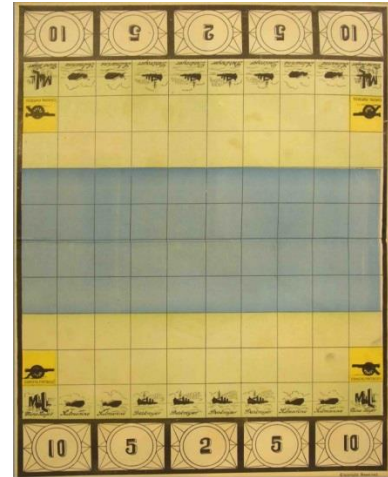
Folding board game *Running The Blockade, the new naval game invented on active service*. Dunchar & Co., Adelaide, 1918. Illustrator and printer unknown. 41.9 x 33.5 cm.

   This game, along with three others: *Strategy, Box On,* and *Seven Deadly Sins of the Army* were the inventions of two Adelaide men, Reginald Dunstone and Charles Houston. Dunstone had been born at Largs Bay, Houston at Lower Light, and both served in the 9th Light Horse during WW1, and were discharged as medically unfit in 1918. Dunstone was a teacher on enlisting, while Houston was a farmer at Lower Light. Their four board games were registered for copyright in November 1918, using a combination of their names for their business. As with the game *Strategy* which we saw at our last meeting (no. 48, September 2019), the game was for two players, using counters of some form and presumably dice.
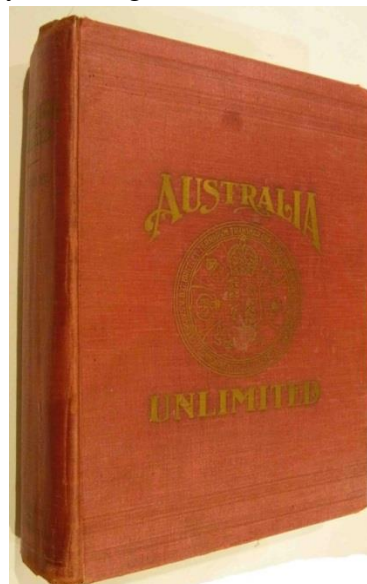
Australia Unlimited, **George Robertson and Co., Melbourne, 1918, 1,084 pp., with 55pp. addenda, numerous b/w photographic illustrations, and index. 30 x 22 cm.**

   A lavish publication for the times, and weighing in at four kilograms, the volume gives scope to all aspects of Australian life: its development and current state, its natural resources, its variety of flora and fauna, Aboriginal culture, and gives special feature to many leaders of Australia's pastoral industry.
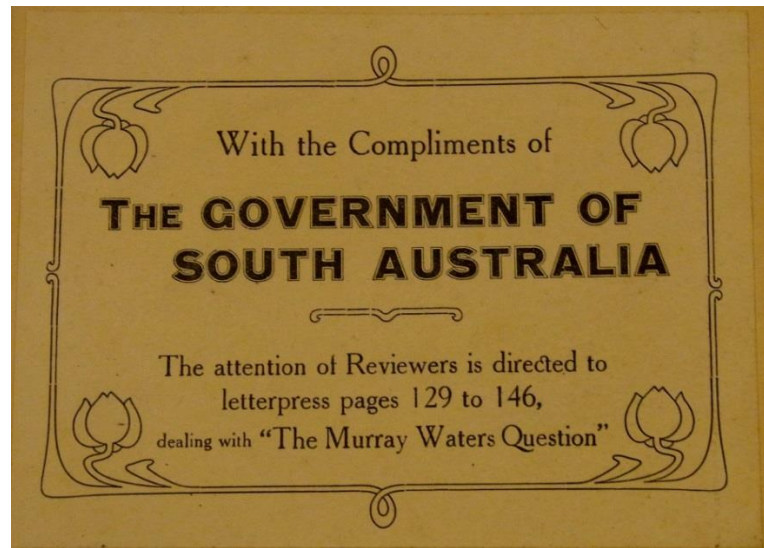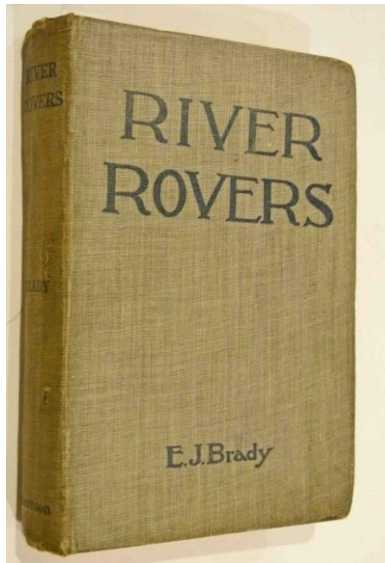
River Rovers, **George Robertson and Co., Melbourne, 1911, 85 b/w photographic illustrations, 192 pp. with addenda and fold-out map.** **18.8 x 12.25 cm.**

Being an account of an open boat journey down the Murray River from Albury in 1908. The copy carries a "Compliments of the SA Govt." plate inside the front cover, with attention being drawn to "The Murray Water Question".

Two books by Edwin James Brady:

Edwin James Brady (b.1869, Carcoar, - d. Pambula, 1952), journalist, poet, and author was of Irish parentage, and published seven books of poetry and twelve books of prose on Australian subjects between 1899 and 1944. He was Secretary of the Australian Socialist League, and edited the *Australian Workman,* Sydney's first trade union newspaper, in the early 1890s. Brady wrote features for the *Sunday Times,* the *Freeman's Journal,* the *Bird O'Freedom,* and edited the *Arrow* from 1896. He sustained friendships with many leading cultural figures of the day, including Sir Edmund Barton, Will Ogilvie, A. G. Stephens, J. F. Archibald, 'Banjo' Patterson, and Henry Lawson. In 2018 a biography of Brady, *Coast of Dreams* by Sarah Mirams, was published by Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne.
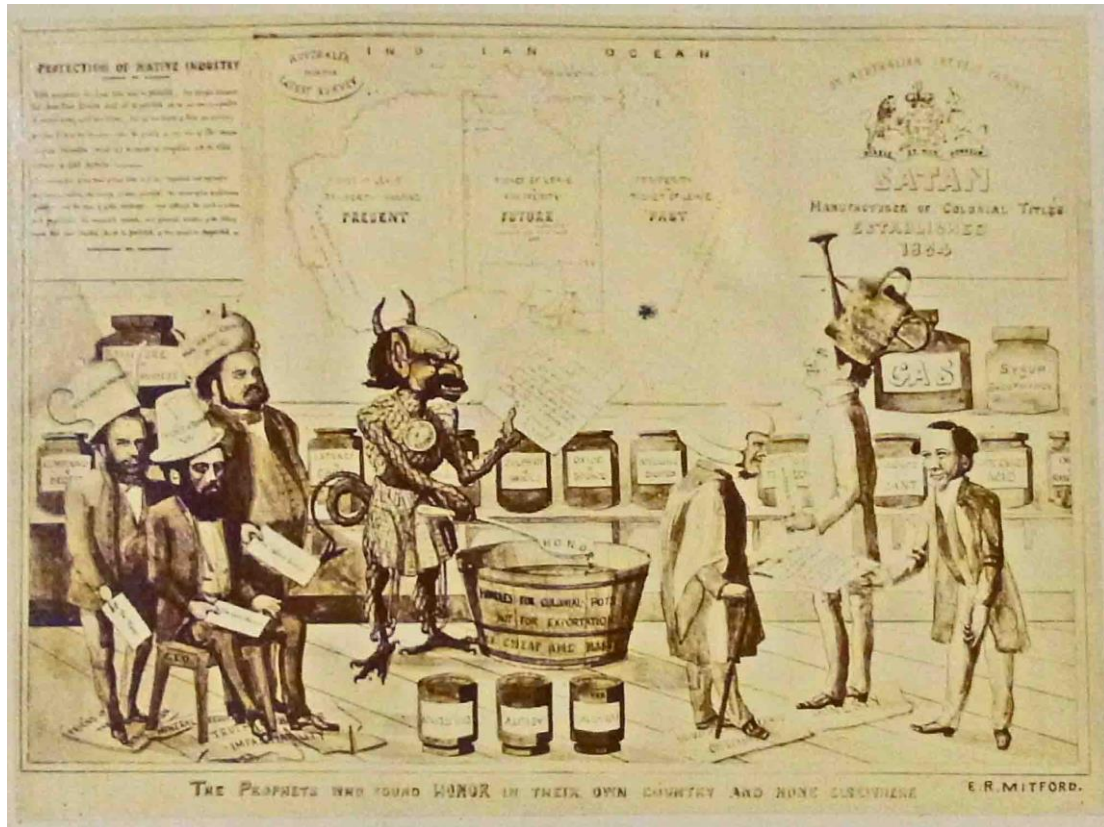
Photographs of two South Australian political cartoons - "Priests of the Temple in Legislative Assembly" c 1863, and "The Prophets who found Honor in their own Country" c 1864. Unknown photographer after Eustace Mitford (1810-1869).

Eustace Reveley Mitford was a member of an English aristocratic family (which later produced the Mitford sisters). He joined the Royal Navy at a young age and may have then held a commission in the army. In 1839 he migrated to Adelaide with his family and farmed 80 acres by Sturt Creek for "15 years of not very prosperous toil."

Mitford was a partner in a rival syndicate to the Moonta copper discovery of 1861, but despite a government Select Committee finding in their favour, neither successive state governments nor the Supreme Court, removed the mineral lease from the pastoralist William Hughes. Moonta quickly became the largest copper-mine in the British Empire and the first mine in Australia to pay a million pounds in dividends. Mitford's obituary stated "...its influence on his later life was obvious on an otherwise keen and well-balanced intellect".

From about this time he became a regular satirical writer to a local independent newspaper, railing against the politicians, senior bureaucrats and wealthy pastoralists of the day, and gaining a popular following. After the paper closed he started his own weekly (fourpence) periodical "Pasquin" (1867) that was moderately successful, until 1869, when he died unexpectedly following a cold.

"Prophets..." is a commentary on the Queen granting the title Honourable to members of the South Australian Parliament (but with the caveat that it could only be used within the colony). MP's are identifiable by both their caricatures and their headwear, eg. Thomas Reynolds, Treasurer, and member of the temperance movement, is wearing a teapot.

"Priests of the Temple..." shows four identified politicians gambling the interests of the state in favour of the pastoralists, flanked by images of the proprietors of the Register and Advertiser newspapers - both of them also politicians.

These photograph prints were perhaps an attempt to sell copies - similar to the London print rooms that sold etchings of the English satirical cartoonists. The State Library holds these examples, three other photographic prints, plus an original cartoon dated 1865.

"Coming off Night Shift", Taylors Shaft, Moonta Mine, 1894, photograph, attributed to Edwin Duryea. 14.0 x 20.2 cm.

Photograph of staff at the Moonta Mine. Miners are distinguishable by their helmets - some with clay and candles attached. The Moonta mine at this stage had amalgamated with the Wallaroo Mine and large scale production continued until 1923. The Taylor Shaft was the deepest of the approx. 36 shafts on the field, reaching almost 800 metres, and was run by a nearby steam Cornish beam engine. The mine was worked 24 hours per day by 3 shifts with the night shift finishing at 7am. The central area of the mines is now a State Heritage Area and the base of the Taylor engine house and associated buildings remain.

Edwin Duryea (1857 - 1945) son of the Adelaide photographer Townsend, took over his father's branch studio in 1883, married a Moonta girl in 1887, and remained there until moving back to Adelaide in 1914. The figure wearing a suit, in left of centre, was Captain Hayes.

Candle spider, wrought iron, Moonta, unknown date. Length 24.5 cm.

For use underground, a round candle holder with a spike at one end to be driven into a soft rock face or timber supports

Miner's helmet, Patent Pulp Manufacturing Co., England. Late nineteenth / early twentieth century. **32 x 25 cm at the brim.**

Used at the Moonta Mine. Manufactured by the Patent Pulp Manufacturing Co., (founded 1878), Norfolk, England. A water and acid proof helmet. Produced from water-soaked fibres of wood pulp and rags, the slurry was pressed into shape, dried, soaked in linseed oil then lacquered. Pulp-ware manufacture ceased in the 1950s with the introduction of plastics. The company still exists as a manufacturer of motorcycle helmets.

The house was called 'Landunna' after the birthplace in Cornwall of John Rounsevell (1836-1902) the first owner of the building. The 20 room house was designed by Rowland Rees and built by English and Brown in 1872 using materials from Glen Osmond and Mitcham quarries.

When the house was built South Australia was at the height of a social and economic boom, Adelaide had a population of 61,000 and the colony had some 213,000 people.

After several change of hands and uses it was purchased in 1957 by the current owners, the Naval, Military and Air Force Club of South Australia Inc. 'Landunna' now houses the facilities of the Club, including its remarkable collection of medals and other memorabilia and souvenirs of the armed forces, including some outstanding Australiana.

The Adelaide Society of Collectors holds its monthly meetings at 'Landunna'.