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## Newsletter No. 1

March 1998

### Issue 12

### Editorial

It's pleasing to report that as well as a steady flow of renewals, we are getting a substantial injection of new blood into our organisation. This suggests a continuing and growing interest in our activities and augers well for the future. It also reflects on the adage that it pays to advertise, for it is obvious that our presence on the web has resulted in attracting a number of these recent recruits. Hopefully we shall see some of them offer papers at the forthcoming annual conference, whence it will also be a pleasure to meet them personally and to induct them into the bonhomie that has become the hallmark of our annual get-togethers.

### Conference Reports

#### Australian Society of the History of Medicine

Member, Professor Donald Simpson, reports that the above Society held its fifth biennial Conference in Darwin between 7-11 July, 1997. The theme at the conference was listed as *Migration to Mining*, but the papers covered a much wider variety of events in the history of medicine than the title suggests. The meeting was well attended, and as most of

the participants appeared to remain awake throughout much of the proceedings, one may conclude that the viability of this branch of historical study in Australia is not in doubt.

Of special interest to mining historians were a number of papers including one by the Society's current President, Peter Winterton (Perth) who spoke on J.H.L. Cumpston's contribution to the health of miners in WA in the years 1908-1911, with special reference to the 1910 Royal Commission on Miners' Lung Disease.

John Pearne (Brisbane) gave a paper on a medicinal spring rich in iron (chalybeate), discovered in Queensland and supposedly a curative for many diseases, including anaemia. This reminded those present of the close relationship between geology and medicine throughout history.

Donald Simpson (Adelaide) reviewed the history of helmets in the mining industry, with special reference being made to Cornish hard hats. Based on research by local historians, notably Doug White and Jim White of Moonta, and John Biele of Burra, Donald was able to present statistics on head injuries in South Australian copper mines to support his presentation.

Other papers of broad interest included studies of medical migration patterns by David Richards (Nottingham, UK), who paid particular attention to medical services in Queensland mining towns.

The Proceedings of the Conference will be published towards the end of 1998 and enquiries can be made through the AHSM Publications Committee, c/o Dr Suzanne Parry, Faculty of Education, Northern Territory University, Darwin, NT 0909 (or watch these pages for details).

## **Forthcoming Conferences**

### American Mining History Association

#### June 1998

The ninth Annual conference of the MHA will take place at Bisbee, Arizona, a location that's steeped in mining history. The event will run between 4-7 June, 1998, and followers of the Wild West will appreciate when told the start of the conference will be held in Tombstone at the historic Cochise County Court House where no less a person than Wyatt Earp jangled his spurs in the late 19th century. As well as a number of local mining trips which have been arranged, visits can also be made into nearby Mexico, and of special interest will be the Sonora gold and copper mine, the largest producer of these metals in that country.

For registration and further details, contact:

Dr Robert Trennert, Program Chair, Department of History, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona 85281

AMHA, Sydney, 5 - 10 July 1998

Just to remind you that abstracts of papers should be sent to reach me at the address on the newsletter heading, by 30 April. Length not to exceed 300 words.

To date we have received four abstracts which leaves room for a dozen more - don't be shy in coming forward!

Registration forms for the conference are enclosed with this Newsletter but to clear up any confusion please note that there is only **one** registration to pay. The \$70/\$55 concession registration is for those who **only** intend to participate in **our sessions**. If you wish to attend for the full week which includes the AHA conference sessions then you pay the full fee - but note you **do not** then pay the mining history registration.

It has been suggested that following completion of our sessions on either the evening of 6th or 7th July, we organise a dinner for our members. This should be an informal affair and we would appeal to any of our members with knowledge of the Sydney cuisine scene to suggest venues that are not too expensive but where, of course, the food and atmosphere is of high quality? In order to know what we are in for, and in order that we can perhaps pre-book, I would ask anyone interested in such a get-together to contact me a week or two before the proposed event.

1998 Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology Conference, Sydney, 3-5 October

The above conference which should be of interest to many of our members will be hosted by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service with generous support of the Museum of Sydney.

Papers are requested on all topics relevant to the historical archaeology of Australia, New Zealand and the region. The organisers are especially interested in themes of cultural contact, archaeology of identity, public archaeology and urban archaeology.

For more information, contact:

Denis Gojak, NPWS, PO Box 1967, Hurstville, NSW 2220

e.mail: [denis.gojak@npws.nsw.gov.au](mailto:denis.gojak@npws.nsw.gov.au)

Australian & New Zealand Economic History Society/Maritime History, November 1998

The above societies will be holding a combined conference at Wellington, New Zealand, between 24-27 November, 1998. One of the organisers is AMHA member Gordon Boyce who states that he would welcome any papers on mining related topics. For further information, contact:

Dr Gordon Boyce, Economics, Victoria University of Wellington, PO Box 600, Wellington, NZ. tel. 64 4 472 1000, Ext 5131. Fax: 64 4 471 2200

e.mail: Gordon.Boyce@vuw.ac.nz

Offers of papers must be submitted by 30 June 1998.

#### IVth International Mining History Congress, 10 - 13 November 1998

Some additional information has been received regarding the Conference to be held in Guanajuato, Mexico, between 10th-13th November, 1998 (note this was earlier advertised as 9-13 November).

The topics will cover a wide field of economic and social history of mining in different countries and regions. Some of the proposed topics are:

History of mining communities

Labour and labour organisation

Mining enterprises and mining entrepreneurs

Mining and State policies

Mining and ecology

Technological change

Preservation and restoration of mining sites

Folklore and mining literature

Health, Safety and Welfare

Abstracts should be sent to the organisers by the **end of April**. No registration fee will be asked of those presenting papers and only a nominal registration fee will be paid by others attending the conference.

The Congress is supported by the Asociacion de Ingenieros de Minas, Metalurgistas y Geologos de Mexico, A.C.; by mining companies and other academic institutions interested in the history of mining.

For further information contact:

Comite Organizador del IV Congreso Internacional de Historia de la Minería,

Dirección de Estudios Históricos, INAH,

Anexo al Castillo de Chapultepec,

Apartado Postal 5-119,

México, D.F., C.P. 06500

Teléfono: 553-63-47

e.mail: [infoinah@inetcorp.net.mx](mailto:infoinah@inetcorp.net.mx)

There is also a web page and to find up-to-date information turn to:  
<http://www.inah.gob.mx>

### **New Publications**

Those with a sincere passion for following the delvings and activities of ‘the Cousin Jacks and Jennies’ will be delighted to hear that the prolific pen of Philip Payton has produced yet another book which will be of great interest to Australasian followers of mining history. Titled, *The Cornish Overseas*, the book examines the activities of Cornish migrants from Moonta to Grass Valley, from the Rand to Burra Burra and the Keweenaw. Told in 120,000 words, with 150 historic photographs, the story of the ‘Great Migration’ follows the fortunes of not only Cornish miners but also the accompanying storekeepers and artisans and the agriculturalists who pushed out the frontiers of new lands. The publication will see the light of day towards the end of 1998, but pre-publication subscribers will receive a discount, plus a free copy of Daniel Mason’s, *Cousin Jack*. All such subscriber editions will be numbered and signed.

Pre-publication orders for Philip Payton, *The Cornish Overseas*, (1998) at £42 (post free) may be obtained from Alexander Associates, 4 South Street, Fowey, Cornwall PL23 1AR, UK.

tel. +44(0)1726 832 900

Fax: +44(0)1726 833 900

e.mail: [alexander@associates.avel.co.uk](mailto:alexander@associates.avel.co.uk)

Note the price represents a great saving over the normal publication price which will be £48, plus £7.50 postage.

Sue Harlow, *Tin gods: a social history of the men and women of Maranboy 1913-1962*, the Historical Society of the Northern Territory, Darwin, 1997. ISBN: 0-9599702-8-2

David Carment has written in to say things very positive on this publication which highlights the triumphs and tribulations faced by the local population of the tin-mining community at Maranboy. The story not only tells of the history of the mine which was the principal tin producer in the Northern territory but also of the effect of isolation upon the functioning of the community. Such isolation highlighted the importance of social groups such as women and Aborigines whose presence until now has been a relatively neglected feature in the local historiography. Aboriginal labour of both men and women was essential to the continued functioning of the mine while women, in their capacity as housekeepers, nurses cum-social workers, boarding house owners and miners, not only contributed handsomely to the local economy but also to the well-being of the community. This is the story of the people behind the industry - the men and women from a diversity of cultures and backgrounds who laboured to make a living in a difficult environment: tin gods of their small worlds.

The book is available from the Historical Society of the Northern Territory, PO Box 40544, Causarina, NT 0811, at \$14.95 + 10% postage.

### **Institute of Cornish Studies**

We know that quite a few of our members use the facilities of the Institute, either through personal visits or by other

forms of contact. You might therefore like to note a change of address for the Centre which is now located at:

Hayne Corfe Centre, Sunningdale, Truro, Cornwall , UK, TR1 3ND

tel. (01872) 263457

Fax: (01872) 223449

e.mail: P.J.Payton@exeter.ac.uk

Director of the Institute is Dr Philip Payton, who incidentally, took out his doctorate at the University of Adelaide.

## **Bits and Pieces**

### GIGIACS

Any idea what a GIGIAC is? You won't find it in a dictionary and I too was clueless until member John Shields explained to me the title of an article that he has written on the subject. GIGIACS stands for Gold in Greywacke in Anticlinal Crests and basically describes how in some deposits, gold occurs in the crest of an anticline at or near "where greywacke arches over the anticline axis." GIGIACS are often associated with gold-bearing quartz veins in 'Saddle Reefs'. For further illumination on this concept which is currently helping geologists to find new gold deposits around the world, see John Shields' article, 'Gold in Greywacke in Anticlinal Crests - GIGIACS - in the Pine Creek Geosyncline', Paper presented to the AusIMM Annual Conference, Darwin, 1994, pp. 69-73.

## **Flinders Ranges**

Member Nic Klaassen wishes attention to be drawn to the web page of his Flinders Ranges Research organisation. Tap into: <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~fliranre>

and discover the history of the Flinders Ranges SA, and in particular information on it's mining history, railways, the Murray River, German settlers, etc.. The company also provides a history consultancy service and has a number of publications for sale which are itemised on the above web site.

## **Congratulations**

Those of you who attended the Newcastle Conference and who heard Rebecca Parkes' interesting and stimulating talk on 'Camels and Cameleers' which examined the archaeology of Afghan settlements in Australia, will be pleased to hear that not only has she gained a first class honours for her degree but has also been awarded a University medal for her thesis. In addition, she has won two scholarships at the ANU towards a PhD. She will be continuing her studies in relation to Islamic influences on settlement, but perhaps to our loss, she will be moving her area of research to Spain. Whether her new research will encompass mining remains to be seen. Should anyone care for further detail regarding her thesis, please contact Rebecca direct, at the Department of Archaeology & Anthropology, Australian put out by the Department of Minerals National University, Canberra, ACT, 2600.

## **AMHA Publications**

For those who have waited patiently for copies of the 1996 Conference Proceedings, our apologies. Unfortunately there have been a few hitches but I'm glad to report that they have now been resolved and you should receive your copies through the mail in the next week or so.

There has been a substantial interest in both the Proceedings and the Mining History Bibliography and orders have been coming in steadily. There are still copies available for those who would like

to order and these can be obtained by dropping me a line at the UWA address.

As a reminder, the *Proceedings* are

available at \$10 per copy, and the

*Bibliography* at \$15 . Please make out cheques to the AMHA.

You might also be interested to know that Michael Tracey, Jennifer Tracey, and Ruth Kerr have kindly agreed to edit the

1997 Proceedings. Details on the

progress of that project will be given later

in the year.

## **Memberships**

For those who have not yet renewed their memberships, I take the liberty of jogging your memory by enclosing a 1998 application form. Hope you don't mind!

## **The Goodbye Tree**

The photograph reproduced overleaf, recently appeared in *Minesafe*, a journal produced by the Department of Minerals and Energy, WA. There's no explanation and the mind boggles as to the significance of this arboreal cobblers shop. Is this where the boots of

departed miners are deposited so that their souls can fly free? Does it represent a primitive ritual whereby miners hurl their boots over their shoulders and determine which way they will next head by the direction of the toecap? Is it simply a cheap means of decorating Christmas trees in the goldfields? - a strong possibility as witnessed by the authentic Aussie Father Christmas seen standing next to the tree! Can anyone say whether this practice is common only to the Palm Springs Gold Mine and whether it is a tradition whose antecedents are lost in the mists of antiquity?

All explanations welcomed and will be published in the next newsletter.

MJD/March'98



*The Goodbye Tree - Palm Springs Gold Mine.*



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## Newsletter No. 2

### June 1998

#### **Issue 13**

#### **Editorial**

How quickly the years roll by, an observation that is marked by the fact that we are coming up to our fourth annual conference, for it seems that only yesterday we were talking about our first conference to be held at James Cook University, Townsville. Our membership numbers suggest that we are still holding the keen attention of mining history enthusiasts and also attracting new members. Looking over the past four years we have at least established contact throughout the country and overseas with many who previously thought themselves isolated from others interested in mining related pursuits, have a couple of publications to our credit and as stated above, have a number of conferences under our belt. However, the question is, "where do we go next"? Perhaps those attending the Sydney Conference might like to put on their thinking caps on that issue. David Carment suggested that perhaps we could have a brief symposium on that matter, and hopefully we will be able to set aside some time at the AGM for such a discussion. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

#### **New Book**

Those who were at the Melbourne Conference in 1996 will remember that Ralph Birrell presented a very stimulating paper on Victorian Mining Law (subsequently reprinted in the AMHA 1996 *Conference Proceedings*). It's now possible to extend your interest, for Ralph has just seen his book on the subject launched by Melbourne University Press. A review of the book will be published in the next edition of this newsletter but why not beat the critics and read for yourself?

See:

Ralph Birrell, *Staking A Claim: Gold and the Development of Victorian Mining Law* (Melbourne UP, 1998).

ISBN 0522 848036

Price \$39.95

### **Community Heritage Grants**

The National Library of Australia and the Department of Communications and the Arts would welcome applications for the 1998 Community heritage grants. There is a wide range of activities that qualify for consideration, including: preservation planning and

surveys of collections; specialised preservation training for staff; copying of material to other media (for example, to microfilm or fiche); salvage of material damaged by fire, flood or other disaster; physical treatment of documents, including boxing, binding and restoration; cataloguing of preserved documentary heritage to improve access by researchers; environmental control and storage. For formal application instructions, write to:

National Initiatives and Collaboration (NIAC), National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT 2600.

tel. 02-62621137. fax 02-62734535; e.mail: niac@nla.gov.au

or download from website at: <http://www.nla.gov.au/niac/chg/>

### **Book Catalogue**

Hesperian Press, the Western Australian publisher and stockist of mining books and documents has recently released its 1998 catalogue. For a copy contact Peter Bridge, PO Box 317, Victoria Park, WA 6979.

tel. 08-93625955. fax: 08-93612333

## **South Australian News**

Birnie O'Neill reports that on 27 June, Prof. Donald Simpson will give a talk to the History of Science, Ideas & Technology Group (SA), on 'Head protection by helmets in industry' - as mentioned previously in these pages, Donald's special interest is linked to hats and helmets worn in underground mining. The talk will be presented at the Royal Society Rooms, Plane Street Court (behind the State Library), Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.

After many years of campaigning, a State Records Council of nine members has been appointed in SA. The duties of the council will include the approval of the retention and disposal of State Government records through the State Records Office. Members of the Council will include a historian nominated by the Minister administering the State Records Act, a professional archivist, a records management representative and a 'public user' of records.

## **1997 Conference Proceedings**

We have received a number of very positive comments regarding the quality of the 1996 Proceedings and are pleased to report that Michael Tracey, Jennifer Tracey and Ruth Kerr have again volunteered their good services to publish the proceedings of the 1997, Newcastle Conference.

While a number of papers have been received by the editors, there are still a few contributors who need to forward their material. If one of the few, please submit directly to Michael Tracey, 14 Blueberry Street, Kingston, ACT 2604.

e.mail: [mmtracey@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mmtracey@ozemail.com.au)

(note this is Michael's new e.mail number )

## **Guanajuato Conference Mexico**

It appears that there are about a dozen members plus partners and friends who will be attending the venue between 10- 13 November. Accommodation and excursion details are now available from the organisers, though if anyone I haven't already contacted wants more information, please contact me at the address on the newsletter heading.

## **Conference Reminders**

Just a couple of reminders with reference to forthcoming conferences as mentioned in the last newsletter:

*1998 Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology Conference, Sydney, 3-5 October*

For more information, contact:

Denis Gojak, NPWS, PO Box 1967, Hurtsville, NSW 2220

e.mail: denis.gojak@npws.nsw.gov.au

*Australian & New Zealand Economic History Society/Maritime History, November 1998*

Mining related papers welcome.

Contact: Dr Gordon Boyce, Economics, Victoria University of Wellington, PO Box 600, Wellington, NZ. tel. 64 4 472 1000, Ext. 5131. Fax: 64 4 471 2200

e.mail: Gordon.Boyce@vuw.ac.nz

### **Conference Tour**

Repeating his kind actions of last year, John Shoebridge has again offered to conduct a mining tour of the Newcastle area to coincide with our Sydney Conference. As well as looking at the many sites and mining artifacts in the area, John will visit the Mines Rescue Station. The Station has an operational history dating back to 1926 and as those who visited last year will tell you, this is a unique and fascinating institution and well worth the visit.

The tour takes place on **Sunday 5th July**. and those wishing to participate should take the 10.17 am train from Sydney Central Station. This will reach Newcastle by 12.57 where they will be met by John outside the Customs House (opposite the Railway Station).

The tour will take approximately four hours and the return can be made via Fassifern Railway Station at either 4.00 pm or 8.09 pm. The train journey takes about 4 hrs 10 mins.

As it will be necessary for John to arrange appropriate transport, the closing date for bookings will be **Friday 28th June**. Please **inform me** by that date if you wish to attend.

### **Mining History Dinner**

All members are invited to attend an informal dinner in Sydney on the evening of **Tuesday 7th July**. The venue will be decided after consultation with 'locals' and arrangements will be made known at the Annual General Meeting.

This will give everyone a chance to get together in a convivial manner and for those of likemind, to discuss matters mining!

### **Annual General Meeting**

Our AGM will be held between 11.00 am and 1.00 pm, Tuesday 7th July at the University of Sydney. Any substantive general motions or motions to alter the

constitution should be sent to reach me by **17th June**. Please note that the attached Agenda will become the official agenda if no motions are received by that date.

Anyone wishing to nominate for a

position on the committee or wishing to re-nominate might also like to contact me by that date.

## **AMHA Conference,**

**University of Sydney, 6 - 7 July**

### **Programme Timetable**

As you will be aware, the AMHA has a programme within the wider Australian Historical Association's conference. Details of the AHA programme will be circulated to those registered by the History Association organisers to all those registered.

#### **Monday 6th July**

9.00 - 11.30 - Opening & Plenary Session

11.30 - 1.00, Chair - TBA

a. Ralph Birrell-*Thoughts on the Psychology of Mine development on the Bendigo Goldfield in the Nineteenth Century.*

b. Barry McGowan-*A measure of production: a suggested method of assessing gold production on historic mining sites.*

2.00 - 3.30, Chair - TBA

a. David Carment - *The Cultural Heritage of Mining at Tennant Creek.*

b. Mel Davies - *Ballast or cargo? Copper shipments in the days of sail.*

c. Patrick Bertola - *Racially Restrictive provisions in WA mining legislation.*

4.00 - 5.30, Chair - TBA

a. David Cameron - *With 'grit and perseverance': The rise and decline of the Queensland mining industry, 1900-1930.*

b. Michael Pearson - *The early copper mining industry in Central Queensland - history and place.*

5.30 - 6.00 - Dance Performance

## **Tuesday 7th July**

9.00 - 10.30, Chair - TBA

- a. Peter Bell - *The Wallaroo and Moonta Miners' Strike of 1864*.
- b. Philip Hart - *Jam tarts, mud pies, and the Kelly Gang*.

11.00 - 1.00

### **AMHA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

2.00 - 3.30 , Chair - TBA

- a. Gordon Boyce - *Hammersley Iron: Inter-related contracting processes for a joint venture project*.
- b. Lyndon Megarrity - *Sir Robert Philp and the Queensland Mining Industry*.

4.00 - 6.00, Chair - TBA

- a. Bobbie Oliver - *The 'Riot' at Fimiston, 1919*.
- b. Diane Menghetti - *Moral Economy and the Mining Crowd*.

### **6.00 Public Lecture - Theodore Zeldin**

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### **CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS**

#### **Peter Bell - *The Wallaroo and Moonta Miners' Strike of 1864***

For ten weeks in March to June 1864, Australia's largest copper mines at Wallaroo and Moonta in South Australia were closed by a strike. It was not the first major strike in the South Australian copper mining industry; sixteen years earlier in 1848, the miners at Burra had closed the mine for three months in a dispute over the fairness of the company's assay procedures. In both strikes, a union was formed to achieve specific objectives, and dissolved when the campaign was over. There was no continuing industrial organisation, and the ideological component of the disputes was very small.

The 1864 strike was remarkable for several things: the focus of the industrial action on incompetent management which threatened the miners' livelihood, not on the companies or on capitalist ideology; the strength of community support, which emphasized ethnic Cornish solidarity; the pragmatic response of the company directors, who realised half-way through the strike that they were on the wrong side; and the completeness of the miners' victory, for they won every one of their initial demands.

One outcome of the 1864 strike was the appointment of Henry Richard Hancock as Chief Captain and Superintendent of Moonta Mines in August 1864 (and the amalgamated

mines after 1889), ushering in a period of competent management for the remainder of the century.

**Patrick Bertola** - *'Racially restrictive provisions in WA mining legislation'*.

This paper outlines the evolution of provisions within legislation that sought to exclude certain 'non-Britishers' from working in or around mining leases in Western Australia up to the early 1970s. In so doing, it surveys the rationale for the legislation and the circumstances surrounding its application in a number of instances in this century. The paper then discusses the eventual modification of legislation in the early 1960s when the WA government faced the dilemma of challenges to the validity of iron ore leases on the basis that Japanese technical staff (that is, in legislative terms, "Asiatic aliens") were working on those leases. Finally, it also examines the repeal of the racially exclusive provisions in the early 1970s. While the main focus of the paper is the question of race, the paper also examines the presence of Southern Europeans in the mining industry and the attempts that were made to limit their presence, particularly in the gold mining industry, in the period before World War II.

**Ralph Birrell** - *Thoughts on the Psychology of Mine Development on the Bendigo Goldfield in the Nineteenth Century.*

Bendigo Mining N.L. has recently announced that research by its staff indicates that there are an estimated ten

million ounces of gold under the old workings of the central Bendigo goldfield. The company has raised capital of thirty-five million dollars, in a difficult market, to fund the development of this orebody. This announcement raises the question "Why did not the miners, early this century, also make this deduction as most of the evidence available to Bendigo Mining was on record at the turn of the century". It also raises the question whether other Victorian goldfields have unexplored orebodies below the existing workings. The paper investigates these questions and discusses whether the decline of the Victorian goldfields after 1900 was partly a psychological problem as owners and managers were unable to see beyond the narrow mind set developed on these fields during the first fifty years of mining.

**Gordon Boyce** - *Hammersley Iron: Inter-related contracting processes for a joint venture project*

Based on company records held by the University of Melbourne, the paper examines the multi-lateral negotiations that led to the creation of Australia's largest iron ore mine. HI was a joint venture between US-based Kaiser Steel and Anglo-Australian firm CRA/RTZ. Development of the Mount Tom Price deposit in the remote north west part of Australia was dependent upon securing consents from the WA and Federal governments, winning a large, long-term sales contract with Japanese steel mills, and attracting funds from a consortia of US banks. If any one of these agreements could not be negotiated

successfully, the venture would collapse. Thus, HI officials had to juggle 5 sets of negotiations concurrently. They succeeded by reversing the tables on the parties involved, using potential affiliation as leverage. The study identifies a number of transaction cost reducing devices used by HI staff as well as accepted conventions and a universally recognised sequence of stages that propelled the negotiating process. The paper goes beyond analysis of the dynamics of bilateral contracting to expose generic tactics that can be employed in multiple player scenarios typical of large-scale development projects.

**David Cameron** - *With "grit and perseverance": The rise and decline of the Queensland mining industry, 1900-1930.*

At the time of the federation of the Australian colonies the Queensland parliament held high hopes for the development of a vibrant and enduring mining industry in Queensland. A successful mining sector promised to be a great stimulus to the economy and to the alienation of vast tracts of the state for development and closer settlement, especially in Central and North Queensland. Prior to the Great War, as the mining sector rapidly expanded, these hopes appeared to have been realised. The war itself created new opportunities for mining as existing metals markets were dislocated and metal prices rose as demand for the minerals of war increased. This was a boon for the metalliferous mines in the north of the state, and the Labor government, dominated by North Queensland parliamentarians, eagerly directed policies and investment towards the greater exploitation of the state's mineral resources in the North. However, shortly after the war, as military plants in Europe were converted back to peacetime production, there developed a serious disparity between production and consumption. A short post-war boom was followed by dramatic currency fluctuations in response to the burdens of war debts and reparations, global demand for minerals and metals declined, and prices fell. In Queensland wage inflation led to higher costs of production, outdated methods of mining and processing were maintained, and the mining industry began to spiral into decline during the 1920s. The collapse of the sector by 1930 was so complete that an official of the Queensland Mines Department described it as being 'a regular debacle'. Nevertheless, the mining sector's ultimate survival demonstrated something of the 'grit and perseverance' of an industry that was not only able to continue despite such difficult conditions, but to eventually develop into the greatest export industry of the Queensland economy by the mid 1980s.

**David Carment** - *The Cultural Heritage of Mining at Tennant Creek*

The Tennant Creek district in the Northern Territory was the site of an important Australian gold rush in the 1930s. Since then mining in the area has continued. The paper discusses and illustrates the physical evidence of mining activity. First, there are mining remains in the area surrounding the town of Tennant Creek that document technological, economic and social developments. Second, there are buildings in the town that provide insights into living conditions, the provision of services and the establishment of forms of social control.

**Mel Davies** - *Ballast or Cargo?: Copper shipments in the days of sail.*

Marketing mineral cargoes overseas involved a plethora of costs and decisions for Australian producers, such as for example, whether to ship cargoes 'direct' or to ship them via other ports or to tranship via other ports. Minerals could be shipped either as cargo or 'dead-weight' (ballast). Costs could vary according to port costs, contract arrangements with various agents, or with changes in insurance rates, which in turn could shift quite dramatically according to the type of ship utilised or because of such exigencies as war. The paper sets out to examine the shipping arrangements and problems met by South Australian copper and copper ore producers both before the ending of the Navigation Acts in 1849 and up to the end of the 1870s, with particular attention being paid to the arrangements made by the South Australian Mining Association.

**Philip Hart** - *Jam tarts, mud pies, and the Kelly Gang*

Class distinctions and conflicts were muted in the small mining townships of Te Aroha and Waiorongomai by constant social interaction, although there were attempts at exclusiveness by the 'jam tarts' of the title. Some small businessmen considered themselves to be 'gentlemen', while some middle class women bullied their servant girls to indicate their own superiority, but at the same time there was considerable social mixing in hotel bars, at church, on the sports field and race track, and at

social functions and dances.

The 1880 goldrush attracted a variety of men who were not normally miners, including the 'Kelly Gang' of younger sons, some of them remittance men, of the English upper classes, whose roistering ways were aped by some colonial lower middle class youth. These men soon left once the initial excitement was past, but Te Aroha then became unique amongst New Zealand mining towns for having a steady and increasing influx of middle and upper class visitors, some from overseas, attracted by the allegedly therapeutic properties of the thermal springs. Some of these visitors had close and friendly social relations with miners and other residents, whilst others behaved snobbishly, leading to their being mocked rather than being deferred to.

The 'socially republican' nature of social life in the townships and in the mines obscured but did not remove underlying economic and class conflicts, although only a small degree of worker militancy can be detected in the late nineteenth century.

**Lyndon Megarrity** - *Sir Robert Philp and the Queensland Mining Industry*

Sir Robert Philp was co-founder of Burns, Philp & Co. and a conservative member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly from 1886 to 1915. He was also Premier of Queensland between 1899 and 1903, and again in 1907-08. Philp's mercantile and political career

was marked by heavy involvement with the Queensland mining industry. Indeed, unsound investment in North Queensland mining companies was a key factor in causing Sir Robert's near bankruptcy during the 1890s depression. While still struggling to pay off mining debts, Philp had ironically been promoted to the position of Queensland Minister of Mines. This paper will discuss the extent to which Philp's close association with the mining industry affected his policy decisions as Minister of Mines.

**Barry McGowan** - *A measure of production: a suggested method of assessing gold production on historic mining sites*

The problem of accurately assessing gold production, particularly on alluvial fields, has bedevilled historians for some years. The problem is acute enough when measuring total production for individual colonies, but almost insurmountable when addressing production on individual fields. Endless numbers of mining wardens and registrars lamented the difficulty of assessing production, a difficulty applicable to both European and Chinese miners. This paper addresses this issue and suggests a method for achieving some approximation.

**Diane Menghetti** - *Moral Economy and the Mining Crowd*

In 1971 E.P. Thompson explored the phenomenon of the eighteenth century working class commodity riot. He concluded that these riots were not instinctive reactions to distress but deliberate, disciplined and often successful attempts to restore the 'moral' price of food. In my paper I suggest that the mining 'roll-up' might share some of the characteristics of the English commodity riots. If this be so, I suggest that there are some interesting questions to be asked about the reproduction of pre-industrial behaviours in the mid to late nineteenth century, at the opposite end of the earth.

**Bobbie Oliver** - *The 'Riot' at Fimiston, 1919*

Serious industrial unrest was triggered on the Western Australian Goldfields in November 1919, when a group of 'Nationalist' workers attempted to re-register the defunct Coolgardie Branch of the Federated Miners' Union (FMU) in the Arbitration Court. The AWU Miners held a general meeting and members voted not to work with 'non-unionists' as they regarded FMU members. At 7 am on Thursday 6 November a crowd of about 2000 AWU miners gathered at Boulder Block to hear an address by their Secretary, Thomas Bradley, who urged the men to adopt peaceful tactics, but to attempt to persuade the FMU members to join the AWU. 'We can win this fight, not by violence

but by logic', he told the crowd. Although the violent incidents were remarkably few, police waited until the demonstration was over and then arrested sixteen miners in their homes in the middle of the night, and charged them with incitement to riot. The miners were eventually acquitted in the Supreme Court in Perth the following year.

Using a variety of documentary sources ranging from contemporary media reports to ALP Minutes, Premier's and Police Department files and Supreme Court records, this paper examines the various roles played in the so-called riot by the miners, the local RSL, the police and other members of the community. It also discusses the existing tensions which divided families as well as classes within the community, and the agenda of the powerful players, in particular the Chamber of Mines and the Mitchell National Party government. Finally, the paper draws some conclusions about the ramifications of the Fimiston riot for the Labor movement and the RSL.

**Michael Pearson** - *The early copper mining industry in Central Queensland—history and place*

Copper was the first metal commercially mined in Australia, commencing in

South Australia in 1844. The Peak Downs Copper Mine, commencing operations in 1862 at Clermont in Central Queensland, was the first successful copper mine outside South Australia, and the first rich mine in tropical Australia. The company developing the mine, headed by Thomas Mort, a prominent Sydney entrepreneur, brought miners and smelters from Burra in South Australia to operate the mine, and in 1872 imported 200 Cornish miners and their families. The mine closed in 1877 due to the inability of the owners to make such an isolated operation profitable. The mining and smelting expertise gathered at Peak Downs was then available to other small copper mining ventures around the state. Mount Perry Mine, managed by ASR Osborne (who went on to have a chequered career in Queensland mining), was opened in 1871. Miners and smelters were employed from Peak Downs and South Australia. The mine had fluctuating fortunes, changing hands a number of times and for a time in the 1890s becoming a French-directed company.

A series of small copper mines and smelters were established during the 1870s, years of high international copper prices. Flanagan's, Mount Clara and Mt Coora, Teebar, Great Blackall, Adolphus William and Mount Orange Copper Mines, all in Central Queensland, were operating in this period, but most were closed down in the same decade.

In the 1880s copper mines were established at Cloncurry and in the Chillagoe area in the 1890s.

The paper traces the history of the copper industry in Queensland in the 19th century, and looks at the sometimes surprisingly well-preserved physical evidence of it.

MJD/June'98

**AUSTRALIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION INC.**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**To be held at the University of Sydney**

**Tuesday 7th July, 1998**

**at 11.00 am**

**AGENDA**

**1. Minutes of AGM 29 September, 1997.**

**2. Matters Arising from Minutes**

**3 (a) Treasurer's Report/Auditor's report 1997 Income & Expenditure**

**(b) Accounts 1 January - 1 July 1998**

**4. Correspondence**

**5. Election of Officers**

a) President

b) Secretary

c) Treasurer

d) Not less than seven additional members #

**5. Changes to Constitution**

**6. Setting of Fees for 1998**

**7. General Business**

a) Venue and date for next Conference

# Current Executive Committee members are :

*President:* Dr. Patrick Bertola

*Secretary/Treasurer:* Mr. Mel Davies

Dr. Charles Fox

Current Committee members :

Dr. Peter Bell (SA) Mr. Barry McGowan (ACT)

Prof. David Carment (NT) Mr. Ross Mainwaring, (NSW)

Mr Chris Carter (ACT) Dr. Graydon Henning, (NSW)

Ms. Wendy Carter, (WA) Dr. Charles Fox (WA)

Mr. Greg Dickens (TAS) Mr. Ray Supple (Vic)

Dr. Ruth Kerr (Qld) Dr. Jan Wegner (Qld)

Dr. Diane Menghetti (Qld)



All correspondence to: Mel Davies

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## Newsletter No. 3

### September 1998

**Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, OA**

### **Issue 14**

#### **Editorial**

It's a pleasure to once again report that the 1998 conference, held at Sydney University, was a great success. We had a total of 14 papers on a diverse range of mining related topics, all of which were well presented and received by those present. With about 25 members and a few outsiders from the wider AHA conference in attendance, the sessions were well patronised and every paper saw informed contributions and feedback from the floor. Not only were the various presentations interesting but what was of note was the good humour that permeated the proceedings. As Betty Cosgrove who travelled from Emu Park, Queensland, just to attend the conference remarked, what I enjoy about our sessions is that they make you feel so at ease and comfortable. This is, I believe, what we should aim for in all our proceedings. It is all too easy through use of convoluted jargon and presentation to alienate many people in a mixed audience [and as an economic historian I can tell you that over the years I have witnessed a sad process of alienation at work in many conferences I've attended] but thankfully not once over the last four years has anyone directed

their pitch in such a narrow and jargonised fashion as to leave most people in the audience stunned and clueless. Long may our proceedings continue in this manner.

In the accompanying Annual General Meeting a number of decisions were made, one of which was to publish a journal. This will be split into two divisions, one for papers that are refereed (so as to satisfy the academics who these days live in a harsh world of publish or perish) and another for lighter notes and contributions. We hope to publish the first edition before the next conference but in the meantime will continue with our Conference Proceedings.

Dependant on developments will be the question of whether such Proceedings should in the future be incorporated into the journal. From little acorns mighty oak trees grow, and hopefully that will be the case with the journal which in years to come will perhaps gain a reputation as a work of interest and quality. So quietly we again move forward a step to project our discipline to the wider community.

### **Patron**

We are delighted to report that Professor Geoffrey Blainey has agreed to become Patron of the organisation. Geoffrey is held in very high esteem in mining circles and his works on mining, including *Mines in the Spinifex*, *The Peaks of Lyell*, and *The Rush That Never Ended*, are texts that everyone with an interest in mining, whether in Australia or abroad, will be familiar. Hopefully we will be able to welcome him to some of our future functions, including conferences at Hobart in 1999 and Kalgoorlie in 2001. The latter conference, incidentally, has now gained the support of the Australian Historical Association, and at the time of writing, some members of the Australian and New Zealand Economic History Society have also expressed an interest in joining the proceedings.

### **Annual General Meeting**

Glad to say, the audited treasurer's statement of income and expenditure for 1997 and the statement to July 1998 had a rosy hue, with little in the way of expenditure and therefore a very healthy balance (anyone wishing for a copy of the statements please contact me). As such, it was agreed that the fees for 1999 should remain at \$5 unwaged, \$20 waged, and \$50 for institutions.

The following officers and committee members were elected for 1998-99:

President: Dr. Patrick Bertola, School of Social Sciences, Curtin University, GPO Box U 1987, Perth, WA 6001.

tel. 08 9266-7236

e.mail: bertolap@SPECTRUM.curtin.edu.au

Secretary/Treasurer: Mr. Mel Davies, Economics Dept., Univ. of WA, Nedlands 6009, WA. tel. (08) 9380-2939

e.mail: mdavies@ecel.uwa.edu.au

## Committee

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Dr. Philip Hart, History Department, University of Waikato, Hamilton, NZ

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## **Conference Proceedings**

At the AGM, members expressed great satisfaction with the published 1996 Proceedings, and congratulated the editors for a fine job done. Glad to say, the old editorial members, Michael Tracey, Jennifer Tracey and Ruth Kerr are currently working on the 1997 Proceedings which should be available for purchase before too long, as will the publication of the 1998 papers.

## **1999 AMHA Conference**

It gives pleasure to announce that the next conference and AGM will be held in Hobart, Tasmania, between 29 September and 1st October, 1999. Once more it has been decided to piggy-back on the Australian Historical Association's conference, a format that has proved extremely successful in the past. Committee member Greg Dickens has already lined up a dozen or so contributors (though don't let that stop you from also contributing a paper) while Tony Webster has offered to organise a day trip to the Saltwater River Convict mines on the Tasman Peninsula. Other offerings are also being considered. This will be our first conference away from the mainland and we hope that you'll heartily support the event with your presence.

## **Australian Mining History Bibliography**

Please keep on sending me details of any new publications that you come across, including dissertations and theses.

At the AGM it was requested that we extend the publication to include New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, and I hope to include these countries in the next edition. So any lists or individual items that you could pass on to me on these areas would be *more than welcome*.

## **Mining History Journal**

As noted above, we are embarking upon the production of a Journal. Our good President, Patrick Bertola, would like to establish a panel of referees who would be prepared to vet contributions to the pages. He would be delighted to receive a notification from you to the effect that you would be happy to serve on the panel or that you would like to nominate someone to serve. Please don't be shy to volunteer, and drop me or Patrick a

line offering your services. To outline the duties: a referee should be able to assess the written text as a piece of mining history; to comment on both the historical understanding that are manifest in the text and the disciplinary rigour of the historical work on which the article is based; and to be prepared to recommend or suggest changes to the work submitted.

Patrick has already taken steps to form an editorial Board, and Peter Bell, Diane Menghetti and David Carment have generously agreed to provide their services.

The subject of a Journal also brings up another question - what are we going to call it? We leave that up to the membership and call for an appropriate title. Perhaps we should announce this as a competition - first prize, the publication of your name in banner form in the pages of this newsletter! What more could you ask?

## **COMPETITION**

Give a Name to the new AMHA Journal

?

**Suggest a title**

## **Information Wanted**

Member John Mackensie who is a descendant of William Ford of Coolgardie fame, is seeking information on the said gentleman for some research that he is undertaking. He says:

*I am seeking further information about the lives of William Ford and Arthur Bayley who discovered Coolgardie in 1892. Both were Victorians who first met in the 1880s on the North Queensland goldfields at Croydon. Ford was then aged in his thirties, and had a mine called the Golden Queen. Bayley was a teenager - tall, athletic and fast - and often won money from footracing or boxing. He won the Normanton Gift (probably a sprint footrace) twice in the 1880s. Ford first saw Bayley engaged in a bare-knuckled boxing match where Bayley was challenging the champion of the Croydon goldfields. This at first appeared to be a mismatch between the brawny, heavyweight champion and the young, slim teenager. But Bayley was fast, and after 1 1/2 hours he eventually prevailed as winner. Ford was greatly impressed and decided to cotton onto Bayley at once.*

In addition to welcoming information on the Golden Queen mine, Croydon, and on the Normanton Gift, John would be grateful for any other information or sources that members might have chanced upon in relation to Ford and Bayley during their researches.

If you can help, please contact Dr. John Mackensie, 59 Mather Road, Mount Eliza, Victoria 3930. tel. 03-97752041.

On a second matter, South Australian researcher has contacted the Association seeking information about the little-known Australian Refining and Smelting Company which commenced operating at Dry Creek, north of Adelaide in the late 1880s. It apparently ceased operations by 1893 due to the effects of the 1890s depression. It had been smelting ore from Broken Hill, which presumably had been railed to Dry Creek after being transhipped at the break-of-gauge railway station at Terowie in mid-northern South Australia. If you can help, please contact: Ralph Grandison, on 08-82635031

## **Message Board**

Member John Berry has kindly established a Mining History message board, so if you have any messages or answers, or if you wish to seek information on mining matters, log on to the following net site:

[www.InsideTheWeb.com/messageboard.mbs.cqi/mbmc00753](http://www.InsideTheWeb.com/messageboard.mbs.cqi/mbmc00753)

Another website to bring to your attention is the Shoalhaven Mining page. This contains lots of information on gold panning and on prospecting equipment, lists of bookshops, etc. Find it on:

<http://members.wbs.net/homepages/j/o/h/johnhearmeroar/JOHNHOME.htm>

## **Local News**

### *New South Wales*

It's noted from the web pages <http://www.discontents.com.au/primary/news/n010798a.htm>

that The University of Wollangong Archives have recently acquired an important collection of primary material which relates to the Bellambi Coal Company and associated enterprises such as the Federal Coke Company. The records (catalogue No. D185) date from the 1860s and are the only substantial collection of Illawara coal company records at present housed in a public collection. The collection includes correspondence, minute books, wage and production sheets, personnel records, maps, mining leases, publications, and reports dating from the 1860s, though the most substantial period covered is for the period of the 1890s to the 1940s. There is also an illustrated publication, 'The Mines of the Bellambi Coal Co. Ltd. Southern Coal District, New South Wales', produced in 1901, which presents a pictorial outline of the company's operations.

Members might be interested to note that some material from this archive, along with other items relating to the coal mining heritage of northern Illawara, are at present on

display at the Black Diamond District Heritage Centre, Bulli Railway Station, on Sundays from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

### *Victoria*

During the 1996 Melbourne conference, a number of us spent an enjoyable heritage tour of the Victorian goldfields in company of David Bannear. *Ray Supple* has informed that David has now succeeded in obtaining State Government grants of almost \$1 million to further develop this 'Diggings' project. The focus of the developments will be to establish an interpretation and visitor information centre at the former Castlemaine Market building which will be the starting and focal point for four drive/walking trails around the goldfields.

In addition to this project, the information gathered during the recent Historic Mining Sites Assessment Project will be used over the next 12 months to develop a showcase for Victoria's mining heritage. This, it is hoped, will lead to a network of state-wide trails being established in time for the 150th Anniversary of the discovery of gold in Victoria. Man behind this particular project is Warwick Frost who through the Australian Centre for Tourism and Hospitality is developing the programme, having been inspired by the celebrations currently taking place in California (remember the '49'ers!).

*Birnie O'Neil* reports: The University of Melbourne Archives has recently released an A4-size pamphlet entitled 'Introduction to mining and mining-related records' which are housed in that archive. The Uni Archives has a very good collection of company and individuals' records.

Contact details are:

University of Melbourne Archives,

119 Barry St, Carlton Vic. 3053

Ph.: 03 9344 6848. fax.: 03 9347 8627

e-mail: [archives@archives.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:archives@archives.unimelb.edu.au)

Or visit its WWW sites at:

<http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/archives/archgen.html> (Home page)

<http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/archives/locguide.html> (for list of general holdings)

<http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/archives/lists/bsnssind.htm> (Descriptive list of business holdings)

### *Queensland*

*Ruth Kerr* has forwarded the following

information which might be of interest to some of our members:

Cairns Historical Society member, Lindsay Stewart of Kalunga near Herberton, and the Cairns and Mount Molloy 'Friends of the Palmer Goldfield' are taking an interest in the history of the Palmer region and have noted the significance of the condition of the graves in the Maytown cemetery and the steam engines at various mines such as the Comet and the Alexandra (from Cairns Historical Society, *Newsletter*, June 1998, p.2).

Eacham Historical Society member, Duncan Ray, has donated a set of two feet gauge railway wheels to the Loudon House Museum at Irvinbank. The wheels were recovered in the mid-1970s by Mr Ray when alluvial tin mining in the Eureka Creek area threatened their location (*Tablelander*, 5 May 1998).

Watsonville Windmill, 9 km west of Herberton, is to be restored and will become a memorial to the pioneer women of the Far North. The Mareeba Shire Council combined with the Eacham Historical Society and a group of Watsonville residents plan to repair the mill. New parts will have to be manufactured as the mill is not a Southern Cross one. The mill was preserved in the middle of the main road through this old tin mining town about 15 years ago when the road was upgraded (*Cairns Post*, 24 June 1998, p.76).

Mount Perry Historical Society and Museum is further expanding its efforts with plans for a walking track from the museum along the creek to the smelter site. The Historical Society and Museum have leased 2.5 hectares from the Council across the creek at the back of the museum and plan to erect mining machinery there along with a slab hut. The Harpers Creek five head stamp battery is already mounted at the museum. They have also leased the area of the extensive slag dump behind the town via the Council, from the owner of the Mining Freehold. The Mount Perry Shire Council has fenced the slag dump and erected a picnic table and shelter shed in the centre.

### *South Australia*

*Birnie O'Neil* informs that:

Last October South Australia's Department of Mines and Energy Resources was merged with the Department of Primary Industries and some other organisations to form the Department of Primary Industries and Resources (PIRSA). The former department has now completed its move to new premises at 101 Grenfell St, Adelaide. Historical material relating to mining and geology in South Australia and the Northern Territory which users formerly accessed at the Mines and Energy building on Greenhill Rd, Parkside, can now be accessed through the Library (publications), the Customer Services Section (historical records, newspaper cuttings, mine summaries etc., etc.) and the Publications and Displays Section (maps and photographs). Depending on its date and provenance, correspondence and other documentation of the former Department can be obtained from State Records, the Customer Services Section or the Petroleum and Minerals Groups.

The contact details are:

PIRSA, GPO Box 1671, Adelaide SA 5001

General telephone 08 8226 0222

General facsimile 08 8226 0476

PIRSA's head office is at 25 Grenfell St, Adelaide. But the Customer Services section is located on the ground floor at 101 Grenfell St, Adelaide, and the library, Publications and Displays section and the Petroleum and Minerals Groups are also in that building .

### *Western Australia*

*Wendy Carter* has been in touch to report that the Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame project is on target and that the Commonwealth recently allocated \$5 million from the Federal Centenary of Federation Heritage funds. In addition, the WA government has allocated \$2.5 million. Wendy also reported that she'd just been to a supper where they served crocodile and mango soup but we won't talk about that!

### **Secretary's Absence**

Please note that while you are relaxing at home, I'll be hard pressed in my attempts to push out the frontiers of knowledge while on an overseas trip from 4 October to 27th November. Continue to send in any correspondence but if you have anything urgent then please contact our President, Patrick Bertola who will be happy to help. His address: School of Social Sciences, Curtin University, GPO Box U 1987, Perth, WA 6001. tel. 08-9266-7236.

e.mail:bertolap@spectrum.curtin.edu.au

### **Conferences**

#### *Mexico*

It appears that at least six members, including yours truly, will be travelling to Guanajuato, Mexico, for the Fourth International Mining History Conference. Hopefully we'll be able to keep off the tequila long enough to compile a record. If so, see the next newsletter for a report.

#### *Wales*

A few of our more intrepid heritage & archaeology colleagues, including Chris Carter, attended the British Australian Studies Association conference at the University of Wales, Lampeter between 3-6 September. Hopefully, they too remained sober enough to report back through these pages, for the 'cwrw bach' can be as deadly as tequila, especially when taken in quantity.

#### *New Zealand*

Another reminder that there will be a mining history section at the Australian and New Zealand Economic History & Maritime History conference at Wellington, in November. Again, yours truly is hoping to attend on the way back from Mexico and will therefore be able to present a report. For conference details contact:

Dr. Gordon Boyce, Economics, Victoria University of Wellington, PO Box 600, Wellington, NZ. tel. 64 4 472 1000, Ext. 5131. Fax: 64 4 471 2200

e.mail: Gordon.Boyce@vuw.ac.nz

*Society for Historical Archaeology Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology*

The organisation will hold its conference 5 - 10 January 1999, in the Hilton Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah. The theme is 'crossroads of the west: 19th century Transportation, Mining and Commercial development in the Intermountain West'.

Contact: Don Southworth, program

Co-ordinator, Sagebush Consultants, L.L.C., 3670 Quincey Avenue,

Suite 203, Ogden, Utah, 84403 USA.

tel. 801-394-0013

fax: 801-394-0032

e.mail: SAGEB@AOL.COM

**Australian Forest History Society**

Mining historians with an interest in Forest history might care to note details of the above mentioned Society.

Membership subscription (\$15, and \$A20 overseas) which includes cost of the Society's Newsletter should be sent to John Dargavel, 'Australian Forest History Society', 20 Laidley Place, Flory, ACT 2615.

tel/fax: 02-62589102

e.mail: John, Durgavel@anu.edu.au

**Heritage Issues**

John Kerr reports that:

Under the Protection of Cultural Heritage Act the Commonwealth Government seeks to ensure the preservation of cultural significant objects within Australia and to prohibit their export from Australia. There is an international convention under which signatory countries have agreed to; achieve this - the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. The Answer to Question on Notice No. 2718 by Mr Latham (ALP) in House of Representatives to; the Minister representing the Minister for Communications,

the Information Economy and The Arts, on 5 March 1998, lists the objects which had been granted export permits under the Protection of Cultural Heritage Act and includes Pelton Water Wheel (13 October 1997), Stone Pug Mill & Cast Iron Pug Mill (22 January 1998), two north east Queensland rainforest shields (16 February 1998), and 36 Walsh River ammonites (3 March 1998) See, Hansard, House of Representatives, 4 June 1998, pp. 4977-4981).

### **Holidaying in Europe?**

Anyone going to the Dolomites (South Tyrol mountains) in north-eastern Italy/Austria may wish to visit the several underground mining museums and sites that are located in the vicinity. Take for example, Prettau/Predoi in the Ahrntal/Valle Aurina which has a guided tour that goes a considerable distance through tunnels some hundreds of metres below the peak of a mountain. Check for details with the local tourist offices if you cannot get information before arriving in the Dolomites. By the way, the recently discovered 'Ice Man' is on display at Bolzano/Bozen.

### **Publications**

Anne and Robin Bailey who presented a paper based on their research, at the 1997 Melbourne conference have now presented their work in book form under the title, *A Windy Morn of Matlock. The History and Archaeological Rediscovery of an 1860's Victorian Alpine Gold Mining Town*. As you will note from the **enclosed flyer**, the book is available from Mountain Home Press, 2 Baroona Court, Brighton, Vic. 3186, or direct from the authors on 03-95964292; e.mail: robanbai@teksupport.net.au

Cost, including postage is \$30, or \$25 without postage.

A review of the book will hopefully appear in the next newsletter.

Another recent publication brought to our attention is by John Rowe, *From Miners and Blacksmiths We Come*. The book contains the results of 30 years research by the author and others, into the history of many of the descendants of Sampson Rowe and Susannah Trownson who were married at St. Enoder, Cornwall, in 1681. The author follows the fortunes of thirteen generations of the 'Rowe' family, through their activities in Cornwall, to the 'Great Migration' in the 19th century, and beyond to the activities and fortunes of those who settled in America, Australia, and New Zealand.

Cost, including postage is \$30. Obtainable from, Richard Rowe, 14 Mawarra Court, Highton, Vic. 3216. tel. 03-52443531.

*David Carment* informs that a new book that will be of interest to mining historians is Paul Kauffman, *Wik, Mining and Aborigines* (Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1998), ISBN 1-86448-850-6, Price is \$24.95.

It shows, using various case studies, that commercial mining need not be hostile to Aboriginal land rights or native title and that native title holders are not anti-development.

### **Book Review**

Ralph Birrell, *Staking a Claim: Gold and the Development of Victorian Mining Law* (Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 1998)

Arguably there are few aspects of the tasks relating to the search for, mining, processing, or disposing of minerals like gold which are not touched by some legislative matter or other. Yet, despite the all pervasive nature of the law, there has been limited study of it as a subject of mining history in its own right. For this reason alone, Ralph Birrell's book is an important addition to Australian mining historiography. However, it is much more than that, for it also provides a comprehensive description of the development of mining law in Victoria. In so doing, Birrell looks briefly at the antecedents of colonial law and highlights the transition from what appears as inexperienced disorganisation to a more coherent and comprehensive set of mining laws and system of administration. Further, he points out the ways in which laws and administration continued to be refined while remaining open to the possibility of accounting for regional conditions. Finally, Birrell has provided very useful appendices that comprehensively list Victorian mining legislation up to that enacted in 1993, and which detail the 1853 Gold Regulations. While the historical discussion tends to be somewhat linear and functionalist in approach, a reader would, I think, still come away from the reading with a sense that the production of mining law is a complex process located in society where there is some contestation based on social, political, and economic interests. Indeed, besides the specific discussion of company law development, someone reading with a background in mining history would discern a basis for a theoretical connection between the development of the mining law and changes in the structure of the industry. In short, that the evolution of law mirrored the shift from a base of individualist, prospector or small collective mining to larger scale, capital intensive company mining. In terms of some theory of social or political economy, the changes, especially the requirements of this larger scale form of capitalist production, were powerful forces for the changes that emerged in the legislation.

However, the elaboration of those processes is limited; for example, in illustrating how the forces were mediated by or expressed through the state (including legislation) as the political manifestation of social and economic relations. To a large degree, this appears to be so because of the limited reference to historical theory on the business of making law that is available in published history. There is much historical literature which is more specialised and contemporary that could be added to the bibliography of *Staking a Claim*. To incorporate understandings from such material would allow for a richer account of the historical developments as well as for the production of a narrative with a greater sense of the problematic of historical interpretation.

I believe that the discussion of questions of race and law is an example of these matters. For instance, the relations between miners and 'Asiatics' in California and Australia to which Birrell refers on p.76. Such relations were the subject of extensive study by Andrew Markus. Together with research that Markus concluded with Ann Curthoys, with the subsequent debate and with more recent historical work, it is part of a *corpus* of theory that is relevant to the historical interpretation of the intersections of mining law and race. Referring to such theory becomes more critical where, as the author implicitly

does, an argument seeks to establish causal relations in the process of historical development; that is, where the historical account goes beyond description alone. Again, where Birrell refers to problems associated with water use, pp. 81-82, it might also have been useful to note that this complaint of fouling water was so often voiced on mineral fields in respect of "Asiatics/foreigners" as to have become unquestioned popular wisdom and fact regardless of its veracity. As other historians have noted, such 'truths' form part of the complex of racism that developed in colonial society and found expression in all sorts of legislative

constraints. On the matter of the dictation test, p.89, by referring to broader historical understandings and to the evolution of law, it is possible to argue that it was not simply a matter of being fluent in a European language, for the test was a much more capricious experience for the intending immigrant. Section 3(a) required a person to write out in the presence of an officer a passage of not less than 50 words in any prescribed language chosen and dictated by the officer. As Justice Watt noted in the Kisch case and as historical scholarship suggests, it was the case that 'no doubt, by selection of one language as against others, an immigration official might be enabled to cause the immigrant to fail the test.' In effect, the law was firmly located within the racial ideology that Markus and others have identified and theorised.

Finally, a broader reference to the theoretical terrain of mining history would have enabled a more comprehensive discussion of matters like the origins of Chartism (pp. 7-8) which was ascribed a singular, causal origin in the Poor Law of 1834; of the Masters and Servants Acts, and arbitration and conciliation legislation which were an integral element in relations between labour and capital in the mining industry and which are little discussed in the text; and of the question of tributing.

These are matters of possibility, however, and ought not detract from the recognition that I noted above: Ralph Birrell's *Staking a Claim* represents a significant addition to Australian mining historiography. It clearly is the result of extensive research and insight. Moreover, it indicates important possibilities for similar work on the mining legislation of other Colonies/States and Territories, and for research to flesh out the links between the Victorian legislation and that of other parts of Australia.

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# Newsletter No. 4

## December 1998

**Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, OA**

### **Issue 15**

#### **Editorial**

1998 has been a good year for the Association and it's pleasing to note that our membership continues to grow as word of our activities gets around. In 1998 we held a very successful conference in Sydney and our presence was also highly conspicuous at the recent International Mining History Congress held in Mexico (see report).

The new year promises to carry on with the success that we have now come to expect in terms of our conferences and it's heartening to know that Greg Dickson and his Tasmanian colleagues have already managed to attract a number of contributions for the September conference of the AMHA. Hopefully 1999 will also mark another milestone when our first Journal appears.

Our contacts with the international sphere also continue to grow and this is appearing not only in the form of memberships, but also in terms of frequent correspondence and e.mail from abroad. There was much interest expressed in Mexico as to the functioning of our organisation and for that the membership deserves a guernsey for acting as good ambassadors. Keep up the good work!

## **Journal Title**

There was a fair response to our 'Name the Journal' competition and we received all kinds - some tongue-in-cheek but all worthy of consideration. However, perhaps you might like to throw some further suggestions into the hat before the committee gives it's final verdict?

## **Around the States**

### *South Australia*

Bernie O'Neil reports that, on 10 October, a commemorative plaque was unveiled by Pearce Bowman (General Manager, WMC Resources Ltd.), at the site of the former Bremer Smelting Works. This was the 150th anniversary of the first smelting from the Kanmantoo Mine and the plaque was attached to a 3 metre high chimney at the site of the original smelter located at the intersection of the Bremer River and Princess Highway, southeast of Adelaide. The smelter proved to be the first commercially successful copper smelter in South Australia. The furnace

was built by Mauris and John Thomas, two Cornish smeltermen experienced in the Cornish, Welsh and Chilean smelting industry. The Welsh-style furnace commenced smelting low-grade ore (12% copper) from the nearby Kanmantoo Mine using local timber as fuel. This reduced the ore to regulus (50% copper) in a single firing. Three further firings produced up to 95% copper. Contracted by the South Australian Company who ran the Kanmantoo Mine, they continued with their activities until 1852 when the smelter closed down because of labour shortages caused by the exodus to the Victorian goldfields. This was an era when smelting was a craft rather than a science and when trial and error and experience was what counted in spelling success. Mauris's sons, Charles and Mauris, followed in their father's footsteps learning their smelting skills in South Australia and in 1859 built and operated a smelter for the nearby Bremer Mine. In later years the brothers pioneered the smelting industry at Newcastle (NSW), and Mauris alone at Peak Downs (Qld) and Cobar (NSW). Descendant and AMHA member Fred Thomas (Carey Bay, NSW) was present at the unveiling, as was his cousin Fred Ellis (Adelaide). As reported in an earlier newsletter, the two Freds have over the last few years, done a tremendous amount of work on their ancestors which has been documented and can be viewed at the Cobar Regional Museum and at the Mt. Barker libraries.

### *Northern territory/ Western Australian border*

Jill Kerr who has been scouring for pieces of information, reveals that where Highway 1 crosses the border can be found several lengths of post in the form of railway line which originated on the Darwin to Birdum Railway. The steel manufactured by Krupp of Germany bears dates 1885 and 1886. The inscription for 1885 reads:

KRUPP 1885 P & PC Ry STEEL

The first P stands for Palmerston, the original name of Darwin. The PC stands for Pine Creek, the gold mining town established in 1873 which was the first destination of the railway from Darwin.

### *Queensland*

Some time ago we carried a feature on the Tyrconnel Gold Mine. Adrienne Hicks has sent in an update on restoration work and a glowing report by John Flynn which appeared in the *Cairns Post* on 13 December, 1998. Flynn states that "It's a place with tremendous potential that's slowly being transformed to its former glory ... The end result is an attraction which rates as a must see." Among other attractions of the site which is located about 150 km from Cairns, is a demonstration of the mine's old stamp battery. Accommodation is also available as well as meals for visitors, though it's recommended that advance bookings should be made for the special delicacies on offer. Contact on site, Andrew Bell & Cate Harley 07-4093-5177, or phone or fax Adrienne Hicks, 07-4031-5497.

Our regular contributor, Ruth Kerr, reports on a Ruston and Hornsby diesel engine which is being restored at the Gympie Historical Society and Museum which might be of interest to the technically minded.

"Gympie Historical Society member, Len Baldry, is restoring a 44 HP Ruston and Hornsby single-cylinder horizontal internal diesel engine that was originally installed at the Rose's Pride gold mine at Cracow in 1935 for the Runge family. They moved it to Cinnabar east of Kilkivan during World War II where it worked until 1945 because mercury being mined there was an essential industry. The mercury was used in detonators. The installation at Cinnabar was done by Len Baldry and his son, Alf, Len Junior's father. After the war it was removed by the Runge family to their lime works at Tamaree where it operated until electricity was installed in the early 1960s. The Runge family, who are longstanding members of the Gympie Historic Society and Museum, donated the engine to the museum. The engine built in Lincoln, England, has only two parts missing - the water pump and the exhaust pot muffler. The engine has a flywheel 6 feet 8 inches (2.03 metres) in diameter, nine feet (2.74 metres) crank shaft which is six inches (15 cms) in diameter. The engine ran at 300 revolutions per minute. It has a 10

inch (25 cms) cylinder bore. The crankshaft and flywheel weigh about two tons, as does the engine block (still out at Tamaree and to be brought in) and the piston." (*Gympie Times*, 28 July 1998, p.4, including photo).

### *Tasmania*

Ruth Kerr again reports that Chinese tin miners began to arrive in the forests of north-eastern Tasmania in the 1870s and the numbers peaked at around 1,500 in the 1880s. It is of interest, therefore to note that remnants of five wooden temples and seven pig ovens have been located by archaeologists. The contents of one temple are in Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston. (Report from *Gympie Times*, 9 July 1998, p.6.)

### *Western Australia*

Just a tit-bit but when our Patron visited Kalgoorlie recently where he was guest speaker at the annual dinner of the Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame, he was given a menu of 'things to do' by Wendy Carter during the afternoon preceding the event. Rather than mine visits, sessions at local drinking establishments, or Two-Up schools, Geoffrey chose to accompany Wendy in exercising dog 'Scruffy' on a walk in the Bush. However, knowing Wendy, I'm sure that the discussion didn't veer far from things 'mining'.

### Mining Heritage WA

The Heritage Council of Western Australia has undertaken a project to raise awareness of places associated with the history of mining in the State.

The project has four objectives:

- \* establishing criteria for assessing the heritage values of mining industry sites;
- \* developing a code of practice for industry in dealing with the historic values of places, complementing existing measures for the conservation of natural attributes;
- \* developing policies for the guidance of government agencies in dealing with the development and rehabilitation of historic mining areas;
  
- \* identifying sites of particular significance to the State's mining history, and providing for their detailed documentation and, where practicable, conservation.

A report published by the Heritage Council earlier this year, *A Policy and*

*Strategy for the Conservation of Mining Heritage in Western Australia,*

covers the background to the project and includes drafts of policies, criteria and the industry code of practice.

The Heritage Council is very much aware that the project will succeed only with the co-operation of government and industry, and is keen to exchange views with practitioners on mining heritage issues. Anyone wishing to comment on draft papers can obtain copies from the Council (details below).

The Heritage Council would also like to know of any sites that retain physical evidence of former mining activity. This could range from foundations of mining and processing plant to head frames and items of equipment, but could also include remnants of associated townsites. The draft policy states that:

*Modern mining operations represent a legitimate continuation of the historic function of a place, but it may be necessary in some instances to reach agreement on conditions to minimise their impacts on places of demonstrated heritage value.*

Any information provided to the Heritage Council will be considered in

that context.

To provide information or obtain copies of draft papers contact Gerry MacGill at the Heritage Council of Western Australia, 108 Adelaide Terrace, East Perth 6004.

tel. 9220 4148, fax 9221 4151,

e.mail: gmacgill@hc.wa.gov.au

It should be noted that our President, Patrick Bertola is a member of this important committee.

## **Conference Reports**

### Guanajuato

This proved an idyllic spot for the 4th International Mining History Congress. Not only is Guanajuato renowned for its prodigious silver output, much of

which helped to swell the coffers of the Spanish Kings, but the steep slopes where the lodes were found became home to mine workers and magnates all of whom contributed in their own way to the amazing display of colour and fascinating architecture, as well as subterranean roads, that has made the town, set at the 'Geographical Centre' of Mexico, into a UNESCO heritage town.

With reminders of the town's foundation scattered around the Plazas and main streets in the form of flower filled miner's trams, the Australian delegation felt immediately at home to enjoy not only the excellent presentations but also the cultural and social offerings provided by the Mexican organisers, led by Rina Ortiz and her small band of hard working colleagues. The opening ceremony was held inside the imposing walls of the 'Alhodiga de Granaditas', famed for its part in resistance to the Spanish in the war of independence in the early 19th century, while the closing dinner dance was held in the sumptuously appointed Hotel Guanajuato set on the heights overlooking the town. Among the more memorable of the 'cultural events' was the 'Callejoneada', whereby conference delegates and partners were invited to promenade the town's streets, alleys and squares with wine flasks in hand while being led by a colourful troupe of exquisitely costumed troubadours who played, sang and got the partly inebriated delegates to join in. Certain members of the Oz delegation were in the forefront of the exhibitions of street dancing and singing where they joined the exuberant Spanish speakers on equal terms.

Our party consisted of Diane Menghetti, Helen Lucas, Barry McGowan, Wendy Carter, Greg Drew and wife Linda, plus their Adelaide friends John & Helen Burgess, yours truly and good wife Sharon who acted

as interpreter when things got sticky. Papers were presented by Diane, Barry, Wendy, Greg and myself and the verdict was that the Aussies had lived up to their usual contribution in terms of excellence of presentation.

There were only a few hiccups as far as our delegates were concerned. Barry McGowan was without baggage for five of the six days in Guanajuato which accounted for the immaculate T Shirt that he sported on all occasions. Diane went down for a couple of days with the Guanajuato two-step but fortunately recovered in time for her presentation, while Greg Drew and party were fortunate that they had travelled by train along the famed Copper Canyon just two or three days before that train was held up by bandits. On that occasion a Swiss tourist rather foolishly proceeded to take a movie of events and was shot in the head for his troubles while a few other's received some nasty treatment.

Just one observation must be made against yours truly, so as to pre-empt a written attack from Wendy Carter, and that involved my propensity to seek receipts for all purchases which, as an academic, could be claimed from the dreaded taxman. Being approached by a poor bent old lady for a handout, wife Sharon handed her a couple of pesos (about 6 pesos to the Australian dollar) at which I suggested that she should be approached for the necessary. At that juncture, Barry McGowan almost died laughing by being choked to death on the chicken bone that he was gnawing. Thereafter I became known as Mr. Receipt!

No conference is complete without it's attendant sightseeing tour, and in this case the organisers took us by road, replete with police escorts, to see some of the mine sites in the hills around the town. Included was the great La Valenciana Mine where silver was first located in 1558 and which led to the settlement of the township in 1559. For the mining enthusiasts, the tour proved a revelation, for what looked like medieval fortresses with walls yards thick, forty or more feet high and festooned with arched buttresses, turned out to be mine sites. Whether such grandiose building was for protection, to prevent theft, or merely for ostentation was never really determined, but whatever the reason, the sites were awe inspiring in their magnitude (see photographs p.8).

All in all, the affair was one that will long be remembered by our contingent not only for the enjoyment of the occasion but also through the host of new contacts made with mining historians from all over the world (there were about 200 to 300 delegates).

#### Australian & New Zealand Economic History /Maritime History Conference, Wellington

This turned out to be a 'boutique' affair with just 25 delegates. The beauty of that small number was that it guaranteed a full audience at each session which led to some excellent discussion to augment the first class presentations. Again, the AMHA was well represented in this small group by Philip Hart, Ken Jackson and yours truly who all presented mining related papers.

One development coming out of that meeting was a strong hint that the Economic History group will set up their own conference and join us at Kalgoorlie when the AMHA hosts the 2001 AMHA/AHA conference.

The real highlight of the New Zealand visit, at least as far as Ken Jackson and self were concerned, occurred when we were led on the last day by a student of Ken's to a 'Welsh Restaurant'. Now this must be the only Welsh Restaurant in the world, and indeed I entered the portals with a feeling of trepidation for the Welsh are not exactly renowned for their culinary prowess, and my reputation was at stake. However, after a few words in Cymraeg which led I must say to some very generous helpings from the Welsh-born hosts, we were faced with a menu that contained good miners' fare - 'Cawl' (broth) and 'Faggots and Peas'. Now this would not suggest anything in the vogue of *Cordon Bleu* and indeed would sound rather mundane and pedestrian but the presentation of both was excellent, and the taste divine. What 'Mike and Jo' did with the herbs was to result in a culinary delight that titillated the taste buds and brought smiles of ecstasy on the faces of the three of us who enjoyed the repast. My only regret, and one that shall live with me for many a day to come, was that we had to flee to catch the plane to Auckland before the desert of bread-and-butter pudding was served. Long will we ponder over what we missed! For those visiting Wellington - and this is a free piece of advertising - look for 'Scorpios Welsh Restaurant' at Island Bay (Scorpio after the Zodiac). You'll be delighted I'm sure.

## **Forthcoming Conferences**

### 5th International Mining History Congress

The news coming out of the Guanajuato conference was that the 5th International Mining History Congress will be held in September 2000, on the Greek Island of **Milos**. This beautiful island surrounded by silver sands, and the blue waters of the Aegean (and as the brochure shows, conspicuously decorated with nubile and young blonde females) is of course the place where the famed Venus de Milo was discovered. The congress will be sponsored by Silver & Baryte Ores Mining Company, and Royal Gold Inc., whose Chairman, Stanley Dempsey, is an ex President of the American Mining History Association. The Conference also has the support of the Greek government and Greek tertiary institutions such as the School of Mines at the National Technology University of Athens. The international programmes committee will be chaired by Dr James Fell.

One other facet of organisation is that at the end of the Guanajuato conference it was decided to place the international organisation on a more formal basis, with the result that Bob Spude (USA), Roger Burt (Exeter) and myself were appointed as a co-ordinating committee for the Greek Conference. Our role will be to disseminate information, to liaise with the organisers, and to make any decisions to enhance the proceedings.

September 2000 is of course less than two years away, so those intending to sample the culture of the Greek islands should start thinking soon about papers that can be presented. More information soon on the event.

AMHA Conference, Hobart, 29 September - 1 October, 1999

Greg Dickens and the Tasmanian sub-committee are doing a sterling job in rallying local support for the next AMHA conference. Already 16 papers have been submitted, and this before we've actually called for same in these pages. They are also attempting to obtain sponsorship and have been actively planning mining tours which will appeal to all mining history visitors.

So as to open up the proceedings to all members, we would like to **now call for letters of interest. Abstracts should reach me by 30 May at the latest**, and I can already envisage that with 16 papers already offered, that there will be no extensions on that deadline. So please get your thinking caps on in the new year to avoid disappointment.

### **Conference Proceedings**

We are sorry to report that Michael Tracey is still not fully recovered from his recent serious illness but despite that he is proceeding, along with wife Jennifer, and Jill Kerr, to get the 1997 Proceedings out as soon as possible.

Arising from the problems and the absence overseas of Chris Carter who was dealing with posting, a few members who have paid for the 1996 Proceedings might not have received their copies. If you are in this category **would you please contact me and I will arrange for despatch of same.**

Also because of the problems, it has been decided that with the permission of the contributors to the 1998 conference in Sydney, that we will either publish the proceedings from Perth, or/and incorporate papers into the new Journal when it appears. I will be writing to those people to confer on the matter.

### **Information Wanted**

Shirley Landis of Honeybrook, PA, USA, who is writing a family history, wishes to know if anyone has any information on her Aunt, Doris Booth, or can provide some direction as to secondary sources. Doris was involved in the Morobe District of Papua New Guinea in the 1920s. She received the OBE for her actions during the 'great dysentery outbreak' and was a Mining Commissioner for some time. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated Shirley Landis can be contacted on the e.mail at: [Fotroof@aol.com](mailto:Fotroof@aol.com)

or write to me and I'll forward any information.

### **Publications Catalogue**

Now available from the Ballarat Heritage Services, the December 1998 publications catalogue and order form.

Contact PO Box 2209, Ballarat Mail Centre 3354, Victoria.

tel. 03-53317006, or fax. 03-53316150

e.mail: dotw@netconnect.com.au

The Heritage Service has also a special Christmas offer on their forthcoming *Eureka Research Directory* due to be released in March 1999. This will sell for \$20 plus postage but early birds may obtain same for \$15 plus \$5 post.

### **Mining History Bibliography**

I'm currently busy adding to and extending the bibliography and would appreciate any information on recent or past books, journal articles or theses for inclusion in the new version. The extension will include sections on New Zealand and on Papua New Guinea. Thanks to Bill McGee, Philip Hart, Ken Jackson for their contributions in anticipating this request.

### **Mining History Journal**

Patrick Bertola wishes to say that

planning for the journal is moving forward and it is appropriate that we consider putting together a list of names of people who can be called upon to referee submissions for publication. He will be pleased to approach those people suggested to ensure that they are willing to be on the refereeing panel. When suggesting names you might bear in mind the sorts of qualities needed to be a referee for a journal such as we propose. Clearly the person would be expected to have some scholarly interest in mining (scholarly need not equate with academy of course) and most likely will have some publications of standing.

These things imply an extensive knowledge of mining history. She or he would be expected to be able critically to comment on content and presentation and to make constructive comments for revision where appropriate. Referees remain anonymous.

On the matter of the name for the journal, we have received a number of fine suggestions and a decision will be made in the new year but it's not too late to get a suggestion to us. Either contact the Secretary, or,

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### **Subscriptions**

The Festive Season, so they say is all about giving, which makes it appropriate to remind everyone that the annual subs will be due on the 1st January. Please see the enclosed membership form. You might also consider duplicating same so as to introduce a new member or two to our ranks!

### **Christmas Bonus**

Thanks to the bountiful generosity of Greg Drew and Primary Industries and Resources, South Australia, we are able to send you a glossy stocking filler exhibiting the delights of the best of South Australia's mining heritage. A very nicely produced brochure, as I'm sure you'll all agree and useful if you'd like to plan a tour of the trails.

With that lead-in, let me on behalf of the committee of the AMHA wish you all the Compliments of the Season, and may we have the pleasure of meeting with many of you in 1999.

### **Christmas Greetings**

From the officers and committee, here's wishing you

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