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Newsletter No. 1

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Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

Issue 20

Web page: <http://www.econs.ecel.uwa.edu.au/AMHA/amhamain.htm>

Editorial

It's that time of year again when we make last calls for papers for our annual conference. This year's Adelaide congregation will be our sixth and will hopefully be met with the same enthusiastic support that has accompanied all previous conferences. On the ground we have an active local committee steered by Greg Drew, and they are currently working on plans for a two-day tour to precede the conference. Once more, we will function as a minor partner alongside the Australian Historical Society Association's National Conference. AMHA members who register for the mining section have a special rate (see enclosed registration form) but may, if they wish, attend AHA proceedings on the days specified for our proceedings. We have decided to take three days from Wednesday 5th to Friday 7 July for our business. Details with respect to the tour and the AMHA dinner will appear in the June newsletter.

Congratulations

You will no doubt have noted Australia Day media reports that recorded the new honour bestowed on our Patron, Professor Geoffrey Blainey. In the citation, there was much stress on his contribution to Australian history and particularly mining history. It is therefore with 'interested' pleasure that we extend our congratulations to Professor Blainey who was awarded the 'Order of Companion of Australia'.

PS - rather than be deluged with letters from followers of protocol, I checked out the procedure for our letter heading with the authorities, and they verified the new order (AC) should replace the former AO, rather than being an add-on!

Conferences

NAMHO International Conference, July 14th to 18th

Note that the above conference will be held at Truro, Cornwall, this coming July. Full details and booking forms are now available from, Lawrence Holmes,

Rivergarth, Malpas, Truro, Cornwall TRI ISS. Tel. 01872 278234. E.mail: NAMHO@csm.ex.ac.uk

CALL FOR PAPERS

AMHA Adelaide Conference 5-9 July

Just to remind you that Abstracts for papers to be presented to our 6th Annual Conference at Adelaide will have to reach me by **30 April**. Please restrict the abstract to between **200 - 250 words**.

Note that the web page for the larger AHA Conference in which we are participating, can be found at:

<http://arts.adelaide.edu.au/>

5th International Mining History Congress, Greece

The Milos Congress is also on the agenda this year, between 13th &- 17th September. Over fifty abstracts have already been received, with further interest in presentations being intimated by double that number. Over 200 people have to date registered their intention to attend. Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Jay Fells, reports that the site for the conference is magnificent and that the arrangements are well on target. The only problem that he sees is that the accommodation and conference venue is too near the beach for serious contemplation on issues mining!

For further details, or if you wish to register for the conference, contact: Heliotopos Professional Congress Organisers, Terpsihoris 38, 17562 Paleo Faliro, Athens, Greece. For web details, see: <http://www.heliotopos.net/conf/imch/index.htm>

Milos - Accompanying Tours

As well as their annual menu of mining tours encompassing Mexico, Cornwall, Germany, etc., Atalaya Tours will this year be organising a special tour to coincide with the Milos Congress. This will take in ancient and more modern mining sites on the island of Sifnos before moving off to examine other ancient mining and processing sites between Thorikos and Cape Sounion to the east of Athens. The tour will then proceed to Cyprus in order to examine ancient copper mining sites at Tamassos situated between the Troodos Mountains and Nicosia. Cost of the tour is £675 for the 11-day tour. Atalya Tours will also be glad to handle the Congress bookings for clients. For further details and booking forms, contact: Atalya Tours Ltd., Ceinionfa, Capel dewi, Aberystwyth, UK, SY23 3HR. tel & Fax: +44 (0) 1970 828989.

E.mail: atalyajt@aol.com

web: www.atalya.co.uk

The Congress organisers will have alternative tours on offer, and these can be viewed on the Milos web page detailed above.

New Publications

Peter J. Bridge, *The Eagle's Nest. Larkinville, the Golden Eagle and the Great Depression*, Hesperian Press, Victoria park, WA, 1999.

320 pages, 155 photos, maps, etc. H/B \$55. ISBN 085905 274 5.

Written by member Peter Bridge, the book describes Western Australia's last great traditional gold rush following the discovery of the largest gold nugget found in Australia during the *last century* [Eds. Comment - start thinking 21st century!]. It contains a systematic collection of reports of the rush, descriptions of 'Larkinville City', where the nugget was found, and the biographies of many of the prospectors. It also examines the prospecting schemes and political efforts to counteract the depression in the 1930s when the 'Golden Eagle' was discovered.

Keith Johns (SA) has drawn attention to the following publications that have recently been released and which he believes will be of interest to members.

All three volumes have been compiled by J. H. Trounson and L. J. Bullen, and are published by Tempus Publishing Ltd., The Mill, Brimscombe Port, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 2QG, UK, and are priced at £9.99 each.

Mining in Cornwall - Volume 1 - The Central Districts.

Mining in Cornwall - Volume 2 - The Country Explored.

Mining in Cornwall - Volume 3 (In Press).

Keith states that the collection of mining pictures (many published for the first time) offer a comprehensive visual tour of great Cornish copper and tin mines, miners, engine houses, buildings, and mining way of life. There is detailed and informed commentary and the authors bring the bygone heartland of mining industry to life. Volume 1 centres on the Granite hills of Caern Brae, Carn Marth and Carn Entral, and includes the great mines of Dolcoath, South Crofty, East Pool and Agar. Volume 2 covers other important mines, extending from the St Just area to Tregurtha Downs, Great Wheal Vor, Wheal Kitty, etc.

Another recent publication that might attract members is:

Donald Denoon, *Getting Under the Skin: The Bougainville Copper Agreement and the Creation of the Panguna Mine*, Melbourne U.P., 2000

ISBN 0 522 84877 X, H/B 272 pages, \$39.95

The Panguna copper mine in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, was the focus of tremendous criticism by the Australian press in 1969. When local villagers refused to sell land to the company, the government flew in riot police and expropriated the land. In a well disciplined campaign of passive resistance the Western press became alerted of the bitter conflict and involvement of the Australian authorities as administrators of the Territory. *Getting Under the Skin* is the enthralling story of the conflict between people with different values and ambitions: between those administrators who saw State viability as being linked to successful mining; Rio Tinto who were prepared to gamble with \$400 million on the project; and those local people who opposed this imposition into their way of life. The issue was a spur to a long, bitter and militant conflict and had much to do with the move for Bougainville secessionism.

Information Wanted

a) Edwards Pyrites & Ore reduction Coy. Sebastopol Vic

Graeme Cartledge, who is a honours student at the University of Ballarat would like to know whether anyone has information, or can direct him to

reference material on the Edwards Pyrites and Ore reduction Coy., Sebastopol, Victoria. He has already located patents and specifications, company registration details, assorted

biographical information on the inventor and founder of the process and the company. He further writes "I believe that this has some heritage significance due to the economic benefits of Mr Edwards' invention - an ore-roasting furnace and chlorine treatment process which very dramatically lowered the cost of the gold extraction process from low-grade ores to the tune of 100-300%. What I am attempting to do is to locate significant dates as to closure and other pertinent information such as company data in relation to gold extraction for the periods 1893-1929 and anything in addition which may be relevant."

If you have any information, please contact: Graeme Cartledge, 18 Watson Drive, Mt. Pleasant Vic. 3350

Ph. 03-53327223

e.mail: gcartled@ronscomputers.com.au

b) Lead Pigs -

Item taken from The Peak District Mines Historical Society, U.K., *Newsletter No. 93*, January 2000.

The Newsletter received a request from one of the Society's members, Dave Penney, for information on three lead pigs recovered from the *Charles Eaten* that foundered on the Great Barrier Reef in 1842. The Pigs are on view at the Ben Cropp Shipwreck Museum, Port Douglas. One is marked 'W Blackett' and the other two, 'Mt Hurst+'. Dave would appreciate any information on the origin and destination of these pigs. If you have any information on the subject and would like to help cement international relationships then please contact the enquirer at 8 High Street, New Whittington, Chesterfield, Derbys, S43 2DX.

Bits and Pieces. -

Calyx Borer

Ruth Kerr found the following in the *Gympie Times* of 13 August 1895 - the information is third-hand, as it had been taken from the *Bundaberg Star* which in turn had quoted from the *Sydney Bulletin*. Ruth thinks that someone might be interested in the biographical detail:

"Frank Harley Davis, the inventor of the Calyx Borer sold the patent rights for New South Wales and Queensland to an American in 1895 for £12000. Davis was a former resident of Bundaberg. He stood for the Queensland Parliament against Boyd D. Morehead for the seat of Balonne and was unsuccessful."

Oral History Sources

There is an extensive range of oral history sources on mining at the National Library of Australia. Their collection includes interviews with miners, mine-owners, scientists, environmentalists and indigenous landowners. The collection also includes folkloric recordings.

To access the collection, find the Library's homepage on www.nla.gov.au, select 'Catalogues' & then select the 'Oral History & Folklore option'. Choose the subject keyword search option and enter a topic, in our case 'mining'.

Recordings and transcripts of interviews are available on interlibrary loan and may also be purchased. More information about the collections and services is available at

www.nla.gov.au/oh/assistoh.html

e.mail enquiries to: oralhist@nla.gov.au

Bulletin Board

If you've had difficulty accessing John Berry's Mining History Bulletin Board, then try accessing 'Shoalhaven Mining History', or:
<http://homepages.go.com/~johnhearmeroar/JOHNHOME.htm>

I noticed a few questions on the board that were begging for answers (mainly from students wanting project information!), So, if you can help, or if you want something answered, then tune in to John's page.

Mining Pictures

If you're looking for some pictures of Australian mining and related activities, see the following web page at the National Library:

<http://libapp.slnsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/spydus/ENQ/PM/BSEARCH?SCP=&BS=gold+mining>

New Website

The official website of the State Mine Heritage Park & Railway, Lithgow, is

now active and will appeal to all railway and coal mining enthusiasts. The site is well set out and easy to navigate. Thanks for that must go to one of our members, Ray Christison and his team, who set up the page. If you have any comments you can e.mail member, Ray Christison at christsn@lisp.com.au

The web site can be found at: <http://www.railpage.org.au/statemine>

Problems with Sources

Back to the last newsletter and John Kerr's warning on the 'fiction' generated as 'fact' by the Revd C.B. Thomas. Member, Barry Sykes, comments further, that over the years the AHRS Bulletin had gained an enviable reputation for historical accuracy and integrity - until C. B. Thomas came along. As Barry understands it, Thomas really came unstuck when photographs he submitted with his articles were picked up by various people as being bogus. It turned out that he did his own photographic processing and 'cooked' the results to fit the occasion.

Barry also warns that this is also a current problem as one recent Gippsland author's work should be fronted with caution because of 'inaccuracies'. Thus, back-up verification is always important when using dubious publications as source material. The problem is of course, that once in print much fiction gains the distinction of being fact!

Gympie

The following poem, written by a Gympie miner during a 'wet week', soon after discovery and opening of the Gympie Goldfield, removes the aura of romance out of such ventures. The piece was discovered by Ruth Kerr, in the *Nashville Times* - founded 1867 (later *the Gympie Times*)

"Your narrow street and verdant mud,
I must admire young Gympie,
While eyebrow deep I wade your flood
To reach my fire-quenched humpy.
At last I find the wretched spot,
In darkness gloom and rain,
A dreary, homeless, lonely cot,
Pitched somewhere on the plain.
No hope of sleep, in dripping clothes,

I lay me down to mourn,
And think in heartfelt grief of those
Who'd welcome my return.
It is but seldom thus I think
Of my old friends at home,
But drown my sorrows in a drink,
And ever friendless roam.
My wayward fortune brought me here,
In damp and cold to suffer,
The mud and slush up to my ear,
And each hole I sink a duffer.
What wretched spot to build a town,
And then to call it Nashville
When on the flat it was laid down
Its name was plainly Slushville.
The hills around are high and dry,
The township in a gully,
That can't be seen by human eye
Till you come upon it fully.
May the Fates in mercy take me
Gympie from the mud and puff,
Or if my stars don't all foresake me,
Send, oh soon, some golden stuff.

(Nashville Times, 26 February 1868)

Mining Hall of Fame

Progress is being made on the Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame at Kalgoorlie. Construction will begin soon, probably within the next few weeks. If I remember correctly (I lost my bit of paper!), some \$12.5 million has been raised and the campaign team are still working assiduously to raise the remainder to meet the target sum of \$21 million.

The Hall of Fame will be officially opened in 2001, albeit just a little too late for our conference - though we have been assured that those members visiting Kalgoorlie at that time will be allowed a preview.

AMHA Officers and Committee

There wasn't enough space in the last newsletter, so this is a belated list of those elected to office at the 1999 Hobart Conference:

Patron, Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

President: Dr. Patrick Bertola, School of Social Sciences, Curtin University, GPO Box U 1987, Perth, WA 6001. tel. 08-9266-7395

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

Secretary/Treasurer: Mr. Mel Davies, Economics Dept., Univ. of WA, Nedlands 6907, WA. tel. 08-9380-2939

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

COMMITTEE

ACT

Mr. Chris Carter, LPO Box 89, Aust. National Univ. Canberra, ACT 2601. tel. 06-2999724. e.mail: Christopher.Carter@anu.edu.au

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Vic

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Mr. James Whitehead (Australian Institute of Mining & Metallurgy), 1/170 Finch Street, Glen Iris, Vic. 3146. tel. 03-95092729;

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New Zealand

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AMHA Journal

Patrick Bertola is plugging away at the editing of the journal. If you have an article or a paper (perhaps from our conference presentations) that you wish to include, and if you haven't heard from him over the last couple of weeks, could you please get in touch with him at as soon as possible, at:

School of Social Sciences, Curtin University, GPO Box U 1987, Perth, WA 6001.

tel. 08-9266-7395. A/H 08-9295-6537

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

Book Reviews

Raymond E. Dumett, *El Dorado in West Africa, The Gold Mining Frontier, African Labor, and Colonial Capitalism in the Gold Coast, 1875-1900* (Ohio University Press Athens and James Currey, Oxford, 1998)

The story of gold blazed a 'spectacular path' across the history of the Akan region of West Africa (today part of modern Ghana) from the late middle Ages onwards. This book examines a short, but vitally important, segment of that story between 1877 and 1900. This period marked the beginning of the transition from traditional mining systems to mechanised mining companies, and embraced the first modern gold rush in Ghana. The gold rush was one of the great gold-mining migrations characterising the second half of the 19th century when the lure of El Dorado drew thousands of men to the four corners of the earth.

In the case of Ghana, the gold rush marked the insertion of a prototype capitalist mining industry in an undeveloped country, bringing a 'complex set of sectoral changes' in its wake. These changes embraced a host of issues – technology, land, transportation, labour, entrepreneurship, health, housing, capital, mines management, incipient mechanisation and government policy – all of which are explored in the book. Although the coverage of themes is comprehensive, one aspect that is missing is some consideration of the environmental impact of mining which must have been quite considerable. The period examined ends when 20 years of accumulated problems, both natural and man-made, brought a temporary halt to progress. The main problems arose from the concentration on early production at the expense of long-term planning and development, and the absence of efficient transport in the form of a railway, which inhibited the introduction of heavy extractive machinery. The heavy rains of 1897-98 underlined transport difficulties in extremely wet conditions and the inadequacy of pumping capacity in the mines.

There is much of comparative interest for the mining historian in this book, but perhaps the most fascinating aspect is the co-existence of two mining frontiers – a phenomenon found among peasant societies in Latin America but not in the gold mining histories of other countries such as Australia, South Africa, Russia, North America and New Zealand.

The most dramatic and visible frontier was the mechanised mining frontier centred on the towns of Tarkwa, Abosa and Herman-Prestea in Wassa. Concentrated in pockets or 'fingerlike enclaves along river valleys or the crests of ridges', the mining installations (headgear and crushing equipment) cut 'strange silhouettes' in the midst of the tropical rain forest. While expatriate capitalists dominated this frontier, indigenous African entrepreneurs also played a part in paving the way for a modern gold mining industry in Ghana. As Dumett points out, 'the very idea of indigenous African entrepreneurs taking the lead in modern mining concessionaire activity deserves emphasis because it was extraordinary in the context of Africa at this early juncture.' This frontier brought in its wake new money, disruptions to indigenous labour and relations of production, and undermined the authority of chiefs. Above all it upset traditional land-holding relationships. It was this latter point that marked the major effect of mining capital on

indigenous society rather than the more expected consequence of the mobilisation of an industrial proletariat. A labour force had to be constantly created because the local labour force did not have much taste for continuous mine employment, preferring to remain closely tied to their traditional rural home economies. Thus the mechanised mining frontier had to rely on Kru and Bassa migrant labourers from Liberia to make up 67-70 per cent of the labour force during the period 1877-1900.

The 'traditional' or 'indigenous farmer-miner' frontier existed side by side with the mechanised mining frontier but with a dynamic of its own. This frontier was marked by the traditional village-based and family-based relations of production in gold mining. In territorial terms this frontier was more pervasive and far-reaching than the mechanised frontier. Its constantly changing 'pulsations and directions' embraced the environs of villages and hamlets close to the main roads, isolated river valleys and remote, sparsely-inhabited, heavily forested regions. The kind of mining practised on the traditional frontier comprised surface pit mining, deep level reef gold mines and washing for river gold.

Peasant gold mining survived and expanded because mining was 'an age-old talent passed down over the centuries', and especially because of the seasonal cycle of family-based economic activity. Mining was undertaken during the dry season in the interval between planting and harvesting, and was a necessary part of a family's livelihood.

There were crossovers and interactions between the two frontiers. Because

traditional mining was neither static nor backward and innovations with tools and technologies were developed over the centuries, it comes as no surprise that African farmer-miners made use of devices and experience gained during their six-month stints in mechanised mines. Among the new methods and new technologies deployed were tunnelling, timbering, the use of steam-powered drills and the increased use of explosives. The latter would provide a welcome alternative to the ancient technique of fire setting, an arduous process involving the heating of the quartz reef with big piles of slow-burning wood, known as *krodze*, letting the fires burn for several days, and then dousing the red hot rock with cold water to crack it.

The book is well structured, with a clear exposition of organisation and scope of the study at the beginning, matched by a retrospect and aftermath at the end. Eschewing grand theoretical evaluations and moral judgments about the long-

term impact of western technology and colonialism on West African society, Dumett has sought rather to reconstruct the past in a realistic way. In so doing, he has modified or challenged a number of older interpretations. Among the new interpretations are the assertions that African traditional mining was dynamic and often innovative, that middle class Africans played an important and creative role in the modern mining sector, and the notion that the individualisation of land transfers was the most disruptive effect of western

capitalism on the indigenous societies of
West Africa.

The book is richly illustrated with a host of fascinating photographs depicting both indigenous and expatriate gold mining. These photographs are drawn from a range of repositories, and include not a few taken by the author himself. My only grumble is that references to the photographs in the text (as well as references to figures, maps and tables) are not accompanied by page references to facilitate access to them. Helpful features of the book are the glossaries of Twi (the language of the Akan) and mining terms.

Overall this book provides a thoroughly enjoyable and illuminating read, and one looks forward to the next volume promised by the author, when the strictures of what he felicitously calls 'indifferent imperialism' gave way to the more robust imperialism of the Chamberlain era after 1900, and the modern gold mining industry of Ghana really took off. The foundations for that take off were laid, however, in the period 1877-1900.

(Prof) Ruth Edgecombe, University of Natal

Apology

Sorry if the newsletter is a week or so late but a technical hitch with the photocopy machine - a brand new gizmo that didn't quite live up to the advertizing blurb, is the cause of the delay. Having called in the 'doctor' mechanic, all should prove well for the June edition.

MJD/March'00



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Newsletter No. 2

JUNE 2000

Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

Issue 21

Web page: <http://www.econs.ecel.uwa.edu.au/AMHA/amhamain.htm>

Editorial

Those of you who have gone through the agony of reading old newspapers via microfilm will applaud the latest venture to make life easier for researchers. The project, as detailed below under heading of 'Newspaper Sources on the Web', marks the beginning of an era when you will no longer have to trot to the archive to queue for a machine or wait for someone to finish with the one reel you are desperate to view. Instead, you can sit at home in the comfort of your armchair and peruse or even download information at the touch of a button. Having already gone through the motions of downloading from the ARC funded Australian Cooperative Digitisation Project 1840-45, I enthusiastically applaud the scheme and await with interest and anticipation the extension of the project to other archival materials. As Malcolm Frazer once said, 'life wasn't meant to be easy', but this new approach to help the researcher will undoubtedly receive the blessing of all those who enjoy the good life, or who wish to ease the burden of the hard life!

Our annual conference, the 6th in the series, is almost with us again. With nineteen papers and a variety of topics to titillate the tastes of mining history enthusiasts, it is hoped that the Adelaide venture will prove as successful as preceding events. Thanks again to the local committee for stirring up local support, and Greg Drew, in particular for organizing a two day tour that will take in Kapunda, the Barossa Valley mines (and wines?) and the delights of the Burra Burra copper mining site and township. We hope to see you there so as to renew and to make new acquaintances. Try to join us at the AMHA dinner if you can. The programme and abstracts are listed towards the back of the newsletter, as are details of the tour on 3rd - 4th July.

Correction:

AMHA Officers and Committee

Please note that the e.mail address for David Carment (NT) entered in the last newsletter was incorrect. His address should be:

David.Carment@ntu.edu.au

CONFERENCES

AMHA Conference - Adelaide 5-7 July

Tour and Dinner Information

As you will note from the appended abstracts, we have had a good response in our call for papers. However, there's also beer and skittles on the menu, and attention is drawn to the enclosed information on the two day tour that is being arranged and conducted by Greg Drew. As we must have numbers in advance, it would be appreciated if you would return the bottom portion of the **pink** flier as soon as possible, and certainly no later than **Monday 19th June**. The same applies to anyone wishing to attend the **AMHA dinner** on Wednesday 5 July. This will take place at the 'Director's Hotel', 259 Gouger Street, Adelaide and the cost will be approximately \$20 plus GST.

With respect to the tour accommodation, there is a choice of either taking up the comfort of the Burra Motel or the plain but excellent heritage cottage accommodation at Paxton Square. This latter accommodation has all mod cons (I doubt if there's TV) but you might have to make your own bed. However, you can be sure that you'll be much better catered for than the miners who first took over this housing provided by the South Australian Mining Association in the 1840s/1850s. Hope to see you there!

5th International Mining History Congress, Greece

The Milos Congress, to be held between 13th &- 17th September, has attracted a great deal of interest. A few weeks ago, as member of the Programme Committee ('Program' for our N. American members!) I had the task along with fellow committee members of ploughing through over 120 titles and abstracts. It's expected that this will finally come down to about 90 presentations (due to withdrawals) which means that this will prove a very crowded and hectic four days. The number of papers suggests that there will be between 200 - 300 in attendance. Glad to say, there looks to be a healthy Australian contingent once again at this international event. If you wish to attend, you can contact the organizers at:

Heliotopos Professional Congress Organisers, Terpsihoris 38, 17562 Paleo Faliro, Athens, Greece. Web details on: <http://www.heliotopos.net/conf/imch/index.htm>

Australasian Economic & Maritime History Conference

This will be a joint conference of The Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand and The Australian Association for Maritime History, that will take place held at the Novatel Northbeach, 2-14 Cliff Road, Wollongong (NSW) between 1st & 3rd December 2000.

Offers of papers, respecting all aspects of economic/business history, including but not restricted to aspects of the histories of Australia and New Zealand, the Pacific, and the broader Asia-Pacific region; the maritime history of these regions and the wider world; associated aspects of labour history and social history, including labour migration; **mining** and other resource histories; theoretical and methodological issues of economic, maritime, socio-economic, and institutional history, including relationships among the historical social sciences. history are invited (phew I feel breathless after typing that!).

Conference registration is \$200 plus \$40 for conference dinner. Offers of papers, plus a brief abstract must be submitted by 30 September 2000, to:

Dr James Reveley, Department of Management, University of Wollongong

Wollongong, NSW 2522.

Tel 2-4221 4626. Fax: 2-4227 2785

e.mail: james_reveley@uow.edu.au

or, contact, Professor Paul Robertson

e.mail: paul_robertson@uow.edu.au

Mineralogy Workshop

Member Patrick Murphy will extend a welcome to any AMHA members who might at any time be visiting South Australia, to participate in the Mineralogy Workshops that he will be running on a monthly basis from 2 July. These will be run on the first Sunday of each month from 1.00pm at the NDGC Inc., Clubrooms at the 'Happy Home' Reserve, off Waterloo Corner Road, Salisbury North (opposite the Salisbury Swimming Centre). An activity charge of \$3 that also covers light refreshments will be made. If interested in the workshop, or on finding out more on activities of Gem Clubs, please contact, Patrick Murphy, 'Mineralogy Workshop Co-ordinator, 59 Harvey Road, Elizabeth Grove, SA 5112. Tel. 8-8255-6347.

e.mail: jmurphy@iweb.net.au

Information Wanted

A request has been received from Keith Adsley in the UK, for any information on the Alpha Gold & Tin Mining Company that was in existence at the end of the 19th century. His interest is linked to a share certificate belonging to his grandfather who visited Sydney as a sailor in 1897. The certificate he holds is dated June 19th 1897 and the £25 share entitled him to a one-twentieth interest in the venture. The share certificate is signed by Rozina Hindman and Dr. W (N?) Tucker. Please direct any information to:

Keith Adsley, 29 St James's Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 OHF, UK.

e.mail: adsleyfamily@hotmail.com

Newspaper Sources on WEB

The following information has been taken from the pages of the AHA website and will prove a boon to researchers interested in the early 19th century history.

"Periodicals and novels published in Australia during the period 1840-45 are

now freely accessible online via the World Wide Web. These works - digitised as part of the ARC funded Australian Cooperative Digitisation Project 1840-45 - provide a record of a seminal period in the development of Australian colonial culture.

The project has been a collaborative initiative between the University of

Sydney Library, the National Library of Australia and the State Library of New South Wales. The project sought to preserve and provide enhanced access to these scarce works through an integrated method of microfilming and digital conversion. The partners investigated and developed - in conjunction with industry contractors - a production process which would enable this work to be carried out as seamlessly and effectively as possible. The need to address and test production specifications with a goal of generating the highest quality images prolonged the project beyond initial planning dates. More information about the project is available through the Project website at

<http://www.nla.gov.au/acdp/>

Periodical publications and novels are accessible by following the links

listed below, or directly through records in Kinetica, the national bibliographic

database. Where necessary specific help instructions are available at each site and feedback can be sent using the facilities provided.

1) Australian Periodical Publications 1840-1845 - <http://www.nla.gov.au/ferg/>

54 titles are currently accessible with more to be added in the near future. The project will also be providing searchable indexes and table of contents where they have been published as part of the periodical, and is testing OCR (Optical Character Recognition) conversion of the text of some periodicals as a means of providing a form of keyword access.

The titles are provided in PDF (Portable Document Format) to facilitate zooming, browsing, printing and cutting and pasting. Instructions on use of PDF are provided at the site".

The following is a sample of just some of the titles listed:

The Adelaide independent and cabinet of amusement. Adelaide; 1841.

The Australasian odd fellows' quarterly magazine. Sydney; 1845.

The Australian and New Zealand monthly magazine. London; 1842.

The Colonial and Asiatic review. London; 1852-1853.

The Colonial magazine and commercial maritime journal [London]; 1840-1842.

The Colonial magazine and East India review. London; 1849-1852.

Colonization circular. London; 1843-1859.

Commercial journal and advertiser.

Sydney; 1835-1840.

Commercial journal, general advertiser and Odd Fellows' advocate. Sydney; 1845.

Cumberland times. Parramatta, N.S.W., 1845 - [1911?]

Fisher's colonial magazine and commercial maritime journal. London;1842-1843.

The Launceston courier. Launceston, Tas.; 1840-1843.

The Melbourne courier. Melbourne; 1845-1846.

The Melbourne weekly courier. Melbourne; 1844-1845

The Odd Fellows' magazine. Adelaide; 1843.

The Shipping gazette and Sydney general trade list. Sydney, 1844.

The South Australian colonist, and settlers weekly record of British, foreign and colonial intelligence. London;1840.

South Australian news. London; 1840-1852.

The South Briton, or, Tasmanian literary journal. Hobart Town; 1843.

The Star and working man's guardian. Parramatta, N.S.W; 1844-1845.

The Swan River news and Western Australian chronicle. London; 1844-1849.

Tasmanian journal of natural science, agriculture, statistics &c. Hobart, Tas.; 1842-1849.

The True catholic. Hobart Town; 1843. *The True sun and New South Wales independent press.* Sydney; 1843.

Van Diemen's Land temperance herald. Launceston, 1845

The Weekly register of politics, facts and general literature. Sydney; 1843-1845.

Also listed are numerous novels published in Australia between 1840-45.

AMHA Conference Timetable, Adelaide University,

Wednesday 5 - Friday, 7 July 2000

Venue: Lower Napier G23

Wednesday 2.00 - 3.30

Mining Technology

Ralph W. Birrell

The Role of Minerals Separation Ltd. in the development of the flotation process

Gilbert M Ralph

Gold Dredging in Central Victoria

Nicola H Williams

Oertlings and Assay in Australia

Wednesday 4.00 - 5.30

Mining Management and Development

Roger Kellaway

Oil shale at the Mersey: prelude to development 1851-1901

David Palmer

Progressive' Management in Traditionally 'Non-progressive' Industries: American Shipbuilding and Australian Mining Compared, 1910-1941

Glyn Roberts

Past Government Assistance to the Tasmanian Mining Industry. Was it necessary or effective?

Wednesday 7.00

AMHA Dinner

'Director's Hotel', 259 Gouger Street, Adelaide

Thursday 9.00 - 10.30

Heritage and Environment

David Carment

Presenting Mining's past in the Northern Territory

Barry McGowan

The environmental affects of alluvial mining: an historical perspective

Thursday 11.00 - 12.30

Heritage. and Book Launch

Greg Drew

Mining Heritage in Mexico

Michael Pearson & Barry McGowan,

Book Launch - *Mining Heritage Places Assessment Manual* (Australian Heritage Commission and the Australian Council of National Trusts, Canberra 2000)

Thursday 2.00 - 3.30

Mining & Social Environment

Sue Harlow

Life on the Maranboy tin fields from 1913 - 1950

Zelda Martin

The Rise and Fall of Central Victorian Gold Mining Towns

Thursday 4.00 - 5.30

AMHA Annual General Meeting

Friday 9.00 - 10.30

Mining & Fraud

Philip Hart

Salting the Sands: a case-study of a fraud

Patricia Summerling

A conflict of interest: Using a social network to analyse the major players involved in the establishment of the Moonta and Wallaroo Mines between 1859 and 1868

Friday 11.00 - 12.30

Mining Transport

Mel Davies

Burra Connections - routes and transport options 1845 - 1870s

Barry Sykes

Mines, Railways and Railfans

Friday 2.00 - 3.30

Mining Personalities

Bernie O'Neil

Johannes Menge - an illustrated update of recent research findings: Parts I & II

Nic Haygarth

SB Emmett: a Pioneer Tasmanian Prospector, from Bendigo to Balfour

Friday 4.00 - 5.30

Mining Institutions/Closing Proceedings

Naomi Segal

The emergence of the Chamber of Mines of Western Australia (Inc.): the first stage

D.A. White

Serial publications of the Mines Department/Geological Survey of Victoria: overview, comparisons, effectiveness and responsibility to the mining industry and constituency of greater Victoria.

Close of Proceedings

MINING HISTORY ABSTRACTS

6th Annual AMHA Conference

BOOK LAUNCH - Michael Pearson & Barry McGowan, *Mining Heritage Places Assessment Manual*, Australian Heritage Commission and the Australian Council of National Trusts

David Carment - *Presenting Mining's past in the Northern Territory*

How do individuals, communities and government agencies think about mining history in the Northern Territory and how is this history presented as part of wider strategies concerned with cultural heritage management? This paper discusses the orientation of mining history in the Territory in the light of growing 'heritage awareness' and mining history's role in selected agencies and organisations. Attention is given to the interpretation of mining activities in a national park, museums and heritage trails. Within the Arltunga Historical Reserve there are a visitor centre and tours that encompass drives and walks to conserved mining sites. A number of Museums including the Pine Creek Miners Park and the Tennant Creek National Trust Museum are concerned with mining history as are such trails as The Northern Territory Heritage Trail that includes the Northern Goldfields Loop. The standard of the interpretation strategies varies widely. At Arltunga, the interpretation is of a high professional quality but this is not the case with some museums, which, reflecting the priorities of their owners and keepers, often present an overly romantic picture of mining history that avoids the widespread social conflicts and tensions in the industry. The paper emphasises attitudes, memories and imagination that endow physical forms of the Territory's mining past with particular meanings.

Ralph W. Birrell - *The Role of Minerals Separation Ltd. in the development of the flotation process*

The story of the flotation process for the concentration of ores, since the first patents were granted in the nineteenth century has been well documented. Also highlighted are the contributions of engineers, chemists, metallurgists and entrepreneurs to this development in England, Broken Hill and the Americas. Several relevant patents are accredited to The London Company, Minerals Separation Ltd, which was involved in litigation over these patents. However, the role of the company and staff, in developing the process between 1905-1913, in Broken Hill and elsewhere has not been adequately described. Documents have recently come to light that give insight into the conduct of applied technical research in a period when scientific methods were being introduced into the Australian mining industry. They reveal cases of industrial espionage, attempts to corner markets and glimpses of the inter-personal relationships of people in the mining industry. Blainey has commented that American histories hail the flotation process as the fruit of American ingenuity. This paper looks at how the staff of Minerals Separation Ltd. was at the centre of development of the process in Broken Hill and elsewhere in Australia, and was the key to the transfer of technology to the Americas, both south and north.

Mel Davies - *Burra Connections - routes and transport options 1845 - 1870s*

There were a number of transport options open to the South Australian Mining Association to service their Burra Burra Mine at Koorunga. The options related both to routes and forms of transportation. These options included following the direct inland route or the shorter Port Wakefield to Koorunga road, and transport that involved options and combinations of water transport, bullock, donkey, horse and rail conveyance. Why the Burra directors chose some options over others will be the subject of this paper.

Greg Drew - *Mining Heritage in Mexico*

Proficiency in melting, soldering and casting of precious metals was the hallmark of the Aztecs long before the Spanish arrived in Mexico in 1519.

Within a few years of the establishment of New Spain in 1521, the Spanish began to locate the sources of Aztec wealth and by the mid 16th century, large quantities precious metals were being exploited, and sustained populations in Guanajuato, Zacatecas, Pachuca and Taxco. Today, a few mining towns retain the atmosphere associated with mining. Real Del Monte near Pachuca, which developed around the mines in an irregular fashion, is now protected by Federal law. Following independence from Spain in 1821, English capital was required to revitalise the industry, and with it came the steam engine and Cornish miners. By 1850, most mines had been acquired by Mexican companies but during the first half of the 20th century, investment came mainly from the United States until nationalisation of mines in the late 1940s.

The history of mining in Mexico is traced through its mining heritage and illustrates the colonial, Cornish and American influences. The remaining Cornish engine houses at Fresnillo, Pachuca and Real Del Monte and their similarity to South Australian examples is highlighted.

Sue Harlow - *Life on the Maranboy tin fields from 1913 - 1950*

The small tin field of Maranboy in the Northern Territory was the principal producer of tin for thirty-six of its forty years of mining. As with many other mining communities in the north of Australia, the residents of Maranboy discovered that the field's isolation was its greatest obstacle to realising their expectations of acquiring wealth. This isolation highlighted the importance of social groups such as women and Aborigines whose presence and contribution to the field's life are often overshadowed. Male and female Aboriginal labour was essential to the continuation of mining. Women, in their capacity as housekeepers, nurses-social workers, boarding house owners and miners led to an increase in living standards for many residents. These economic and social correlations influenced the life of all on the field, from its optimistic beginnings until its decline four decades later. Supported by slides, this paper examines the people behind the industry, the men and women from a diversity of cultures and backgrounds, who laboured to make a living in difficult times. Maranboy is today a ghost town some three hundred and seventy kilometres south of

Darwin, where only scattered remains of the dwellings and mine sites are evident of the once thriving community.

Philip Hart - *Salting the Sands: a case-study of a fraud*

At the end of 1886, a farmer in Waitoa, New Zealand, who was also a prominent public figure, discovered what he took to be gold. Investigations by experts suggested that a payable field had been discovered, despite being in a geologically unlikely area. Investors formed syndicates and one mining company, and there was hope that thousands of hectares would prove to be auriferous, thus solving both the financial depression. However, closer examination revealed that gold sovereigns had been filed to provide the high returns sometimes obtained from the samples. Although for a time many were unwilling to admit that a fraud had been perpetrated, further tests proved that salting had indeed taken place. The method used was to salt the bags in which samples had been collected for testing; but the identity of the man or men responsible for the salting was never discovered. This case study highlights some of the problems facing investors in the fraud-ridden world of mining investment, how some experts failed to detect salting, and the difficulties in proving who was responsible for the latter.

Nic Haygarth - *SB Emmett: a Pioneer Tasmanian Prospector, from Bendigo to Balfour*

In 1871 James 'Philosopher' Smith sparked the Tasmanian mining industry by finding immense deposits of tin. However, but for misfortune the title 'discoverer of the Mount Bischoff tin mines' might have belonged to another prospector, Skelton Buckley (SB) Emmett, the champion of the Arthur River system. His efforts to follow the Arthur to its headwaters near Mount Bischoff were frustrated by confused exploration reports and maps and government scepticism. Instead of finding Mount Bischoff, this supreme optimist had be satisfied with a minor goldrush and a discovery of tin at Balfour, which turned into a meteoric copper field, a 'poor man's' Mount Bischoff or Mount Lyell.

Roger Kellaway - *Oil shale at the Mersey: prelude to development 1851-1901*

Discovery of oil shale on the Northwest Coast of Tasmania in March 1851 attracted scientific attention that focused on the nature of the resinous material, the oil content available for extraction and the geological relationship between the oil shale and the nearby coal. Syndicates formed in Hobart and Launceston in the late 1850s and early 1860s attempted to discover whether it had practical use. The Scottish model was obviously critical. Lighting kerosene and lubricating oils featured in proposed developments, as was production of town gas and use as both fertilisers and insecticides. Mining at the 'Great Bend' was limited to a few quarries and exploratory shafts and adits. Interest briefly revived in 1880 when the Mersey Tasmanite Company was formed in Melbourne. It was planned to use the shale to produce a range of unusual products, from foundry mouldings to silver polish. The company quickly disappeared leaving queries about the credentials of the promoters and their activities. However, it served the function of redirecting attention to the Great Bend where Frank Richards of Devonport began systematic exploration in the 1890s. His work saw formation of the Tasmanian Shale and Oil Syndicate in 1901. Ten years later, this company erected the first retorts.

Barry McGowan - *The environmental affects of alluvial mining; an historical perspective*

Alluvial mining at its worst was a form of accelerated erosion and the scars left on the landscape are in many instances both unforgettable and permanent. There are some who would insist that such landscapes have their own charm and significance and others that lament their very existence. Regardless of the point of view they cannot be ignored. This paper includes a discussion of the technologies used in all types of alluvial mining, in particular, the more capital intensive forms such as hydraulic sluicing, and centrifugal and bucket dredging. The main focus, however, is the environmental effect of alluvial mining, for example, siltation, pollution, erosion, and deforestation. Some of these effects are still very visible today, but others are much less so and are now incorporated into the landscape. Examples will be taken from mining fields in south east NSW, particularly in the Braidwood area, and in north east Victoria, for example, Beechworth,

Yackandandah, Omeo and Mitta Mitta. Of particular note will be the debate on the effects of alluvial mining in Victoria, which occurred in the mid 1880s and early 1900s. Some of the material to hand on these debates suggests that this may be a neglected area for both mining and environmental historians.

Zelda Martin - *The Rise and Fall of Central Victorian Gold Mining Towns*

This paper is part of a thesis examining the rise and fall of gold mining towns in Central Victoria in the period 1851-1871. More specifically the paper highlights the usefulness of business advertisements from country newspapers in building up an overview of the town's development in its early years. An important feature of the early gold field towns was the movement between gold fields of both the miners and the businesses that served their needs. Newspaper advertisements, combined with directories such as Bailleries Official Post Office Directory, also provide valuable information about the movement of these people around the gold field towns.

Bernie O'Neil - *Johannes Menge - an illustrated update of recent research findings (in 2 parts)*

i) Biographical detail; ii) Illustrations

Johannes Menge (1788-1852), regarded as 'The Father of South Australian Mineralogy', was a modest but multi-faceted person. Menge had an eventful and colourful career as a self-taught mineral dealer/mineralogist/geologist in continental and offshore Europe and Eurasia, and as a language teacher in London. A true cosmopolite, he arrived in South Australia in January 1837 as the South Australian Company's 'Mine and Quarry Agent and Geologist'. Losing that position within 18 months, Menge then eked out a living as a mineral collector, an agent for George Fife Angas, a soil/garden experimenter, a teacher, the first editor of the first bi-lingual newspaper in Australia and even as a basket-weaver! He died on the Victorian goldfields in October 1852. Just as in Europe, his life in Australia reveals a character of contrasts, at once seemingly simple-minded and eccentric (as said by more than a few of his fellow colonists) while in retrospect appearing to be far-sighted, extraordinarily worldly and perceptive in his comments and observations. The talk will describe diverse aspects from the wholeness of Menge's life and will update the latest findings. It will be accompanied by illustrations from my recent research in Europe, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Australia.

David Palmer - *Progressive' Management in Traditionally 'Non-progressive' Industries: American Shipbuilding and Australian Mining Compared, 1910-1941*

Internationally, companies in certain major industries have been classified by business and labour historians as having 'non-progressive' management styles because they refused to fully establish peaceful relations with unions. American shipbuilding and Australian metal mining have been stereotyped in this way. A detailed investigation of managerial practices at the Broken Hill mining companies (Australia) and Bethlehem Shipbuilding (a division of Bethlehem Steel in the United States) between 1910 and 1941 reveals that these companies actually pioneered 'progressive' management and employment relations practices, despite their strong anti-union positions. Executives and managers in these companies acted not only from their immediate experiences in production, but also utilized ideas drawn from ongoing connections with industry executives and managers overseas. This dual process of developing managerial policy indicates that the 'globalisation' of corporate policies, including employment practices, was far more widespread in the early part of the twentieth century than many presently believe.

Gilbert M Ralph - *Gold Dredging in Central Victoria*

The gold dredges operated by Victoria Gold dredging Co and Central Victoria Dredging Co near Newstead and Avoca between 1938 and 1958 were amongst the largest in Australia. In total they treated 33 million cubic yards of alluvial for the recovery of nearly 175,000 ounces of gold. The conventional bucket dredges

were designed by Alluvial Mining Equipment Co of Sydney and were built by Thompsons Engineering and Pipe Co of Castlemaine. This paper describes, and illustrates, aspects of the design, construction and operation of the dredges, their remarkable efficiency, low cost of operation, technical difficulties and the successful land rehabilitation that followed.

Glyn Roberts - *Past Government Assistance to the Tasmanian Mining Industry. Was it necessary or effective?*

Between 1880-1914, the Tasmanian Government adopted various strategies to assist the Tasmanian mining industry that can be categorised as follows:

1. Exploration - Enthusiasm for diamond drills purchased in the early 1880s to assist with exploration of mineral deposits at depth fell away rapidly as expectations were unmet. Additionally, just before WWI, money and effort expended on surface prospecting for new metalliferous provinces on the West Coast was unsuccessful.
2. Deep Sinking - Financial assistance was concentrated on the gold mining industry at several fields but later focus shifted to a lead-silver mine in the Zeehan field.
3. Access - Government money was expended from the late 1880s in providing rail access to various mining areas and mines.
4. Government Management of Mines - In 1914 the Government took over the Beaconsfield gold mine and a silver-lead mine at Zeehan in unsuccessful attempts to maintain production.
5. Provision of Water for Alluvial Tin Mining - A privately built water race in the North east tin fields was purchased and run on a quasi-commercial basis from the mid-1880s.

Following a discussion of the background and progress of such assistance and involvement by the Tasmanian government, the effectiveness or otherwise of such actions will be analysed.

Naomi Segal - *The emergence of the Chamber of Mines of Western Australia (Inc.): the first stage*

The emergence of the Chamber of Mines of Western Australia (Inc.) as a peak employer group coincided, more or less, with Parliament's passing of the Western Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1900. Was there a relationship between the two events and, if so, what was it? As a first step in an attempt to re-examine this question, this paper describes early industry attempts to organize the gold mining industry and assesses the importance of the activities of predecessors of the Chamber in forging corporate consciousness of mutual interests, including in relation to labour.

Patricia Summerling - *A conflict of interest: Using a social network to analyse the major players involved in the establishment of the Moonta and Wallaroo Mines between 1859 and 1868*

The Wallaroo and Moonta copper mines were discovered by the shepherds of a sheep-farmer, Walter Watson Hughes, in 1859 and 1861. At the time he was in debt, to Adelaide firm, Elder Stirling & Co. However, this in no way impeded his pursuit to befriend two of the firm's directors who came to his aid when the Wallaroo Mine was discovered. Within six months they became involved in a partnership deal.

Using a social network framework it will be revealed how Hughes was able to use his family and business connections to obtain these mines. The tale does not end there, for the Moonta Mine was fought for by rival syndicates who alleged that Hughes claimed and possessed the Moonta Mines by fraud. The fight for Moonta lasted until August 1868. Legal investigations into the allegations spawned a government select inquiry, the first case in SA to be heard in the Privy Council, and appearances in the Supreme Court. The battle was finally won, not because Hughes and partners were legally entitled to own the Moonta Mines but because they, as the capitalists with the biggest bank balance, simply wore down all other rivals until an out of court settlement was agreed upon.

Barry Sykes - *Mines, Railways and Railfans*

Railways featured long before the age of steam, with the first recorded wooden ways being recorded in a Nottinghamshire coal mine at the end of the 16th century. Since then, there has always been a symbiotic link between mining and railways and that has been as true for Australia as with developments in other countries. Some of the Australian railways were built as part of state railway system, either to serve private or state owned mines. Others were built as private ventures and often as general service providers as well as servicing mines, while a third group was associated with mining companies specifically for mine development purposes. This paper provides a bird's eye view of such developments, while also looking at some of the technological detail and the establishment and functioning of such 'railfan' organisations as the Australian Railway Historical Society and organisations intent upon preserving mine/rail heritage.

D.A. White

Serial publications of the Mines Department/Geological Survey of Victoria: overview, comparisons, effectiveness and responsibility to the mining industry and constituency of greater Victoria.

The discovery of gold and the issue of Colonial Government to Victoria were closely timed. Reporting of detailed mining activity from the gold fields to prospective miners was initially in the hands of a Board of Science. Responsibility passed to the Secretary of Mines in the form of quarterly Reports of the Mining Registrars. Dissemination continued to 1889. Mine safety statutory issues were dealt with by concurrent Annual Reports of the Secretary for Mines and results of geological discovery were carried in Progress Reports of the Geological Survey from 1874 to 1899. Monthly Progress Reports to March 1900 followed with Special Reports and Rapid Surveys filling in the knowledge gap. Memoirs (complete treatises), Bulletins (shorter complete reports) and Records (collections of short reports) opened twentieth century mining and geological reporting. The Records were last issued in 1937 and a biennial Mining and Geological Journal published. Geological Survey of Victoria Reports issued by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment are the principal source of technical information by the State of Victoria for the mining industry of Victoria today. This paper considers issues of organisation, capability, and performance and public responsibility connected with the history of mineral production in Victoria.

Nicola H Williams

Oertlings and Assay in Australia

From the middle of the nineteenth century, discoveries of gold and other minerals were made all over Australia, making necessary the need for assays. Precision balances were an integral part of the assay process, being used in analytical laboratories in mints, at mines, and later in educational institutions. As

Curator of the Faculty of Science Instrument Collection at Monash University, my particular interest is beam balances, especially those made by the London firm of Oertling. In collaboration with two colleagues in the UK, who are writing a history of the firm and trying to trace as many as possible of the extant instruments and weights, we (my husband, Mike) and I have located a number of assay Oertlings in various Australian towns, usually those with a history of gold mining. In this short paper I will discuss some of the instruments and their importance, and the excitement of the search.

MJD/June'00

AUSTRALIAN MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at: Adelaide University (Napier LG23)

Thursday 6th July, 2000

at 4.00pm

AGENDA

1. Minutes of AGM 1st October 1999

2. Matters Arising from Minutes

3 Treasurer's Report/Auditor's Report

4. Correspondence

5. Election of Officers

a) President; b) Secretary; c) Treasurer, d) Auditor; e) Committee (Not less than seven additional members) #

6. Motions and Changes to Constitution (please note that as per constitution, any motions or suggested changes to the constitution must be posted so as to reach the Secretary by **Thursday 15th June**)

7. Setting of Fees for 2001

8. General Business (items may be raised from the floor)

a) Venue and date for next Conference

Current Executive Committee members are:

Patron Prof. Geoffrey Blainey, AC

President Dr. Patrick Bertola (WA)

Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Mel Davies (WA)

Current Committee members are:

ACT - Mr. Chris Carter, Mr. Barry McGowan

SA Dr. Peter Bell, Mr. Bernie O'Neil,

NSW Dr. Graydon Henning, Mr. Ross Mainwaring, Mr. Tony Webster.

NT Prof. David Carment,

Qld Dr. Ruth Kerr, OAM, Assoc. Prof. Diane Menghetti, Dr. Jan Wegner

TAS Mr. Greg Dickens, Dr. Glyn Roberts.

Vic Mr. David White, Mr. James Whitehead

WA Ms. Wendy Carter, Dr. Charles Fox, Ms. Sachiko Sone.

NZ Dr. Philip Hart.

Anyone wishing to nominate or re-nominate for positions should contact the Secretary before the AGM. Nominations may also be accepted from the floor.



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Newsletter No. 3

September 2000

Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

Issue 22

Web page: <http://www.econs.ecel.uwa.edu.au/AMHA/amhamain.htm>

Editorial

Two conferences have gone since I last addressed this page. The first, our own production at Adelaide, the second, the International Mining History Congress at Milos, Greece. Through good fortune I was able to attend both and from the experience my observation is that mining history is prospering and in good health. Once again, the observation that came through was the friendliness of the occasions and the strong rapport between academic historians and non-academics alike. At Milos, the Australian presence was strongly felt with Tony Dingle, Ruth Kerr, Sandra Kippen, Ian Plimer and Maja Sainisch-Plimer, our Canadian member, Jeremy Mouat, and yours truly presenting papers and joining in all the accompanying social functions with the usual gusto. A report on the latter event will be presented in the next newsletter. Life these days seems to revolve around meeting mining historians which after all is a pleasant pastime. That this will go on for some time seems inevitable, especially as we are already planning for 2001 and the Kalgoorlie Conference. This seems to have stimulated quite a bit of interest and already a number of people, not only from interstate but also from overseas, have

indicated their intention to attend. So, back to the planning board and the hope that this next conference will prove as successful as our past ventures.

CONFERENCES

AMHA Conference - Adelaide 5-7 July

The Adelaide conference attracted a good turnout of members and there were in excess of 20 and sometimes up to 30 in attendance at each session. As we were also in competition with sessions of the AHA National conference (and yours truly attended one session at which there were only four people present!) then on numbers alone the three-day meeting was a great success. Most people stuck to their allotted 25 minutes and question times were keenly contested with the chairpersons having the unenviable task of having to cut off questions at the allotted times. However, as there was a great deal of socialising no-one could have gone away without having had a chance to collar the presenters.

The AMHA dinner was a pleasant affair at the 'Director's Hotel', so pleasant that it caused some members to suggest that perhaps we should consider running our meetings in pubs rather than in academic venues - not such a bad idea!

Highlight of the Adelaide visit, at least for the nine folk who were fortunate enough to attend, was the two-day coach tour arranged and directed by Greg Drew. This took us to the 150 year old Barossa Gold Field, an eye-opener for most who were not even aware of the existence of the site and certainly a pleasant surprise when note was taken of the excellent signposting and heritage interpretation. Kapunda was also a highlight, with again an excellent conducted tour of the copper field by Greg, and a fruitful visit to the excellent displays at the local museum.

The first evening was spent at Burra with a meal at one of the local hostelries, while the next day was spent at the sites of the Burra Burra and Bon Accord Mines and the old Welsh 'Smelts' (the pressing question of the tour was whether Welsh chimneys were always square, and Cornish round!). Again, under Greg's guidance much meaning was put into the visits to these excellently preserved areas, and all who attended will be eternally grateful for his efforts over the two days.

Forthcoming Conferences

You might like to note in your diaries the following conferences.

American Mining History Association.

National Conferences:

2001 - Butte, Montana.

2002 - Kellogg-Wallace, Idaho.

For further information, contact:

Mining History Association, PO Box 150300, Denver, Colorado 80215.

AMHA

As previously notified, our own **AMHA** Conference will, be held at Kalgoorlie/Boulder from 24-28 September 2001. Abstracts (200-250 words maximum) should be sent to reach me by 30 June at the latest.

6th International Mining History Congress

This will be held in Japan during 2003, and arranged by Koko Kato. However, because of some uncertainty at this stage, don't be surprised if the venue isn't moved to Kalgoorlie, which the Milos Congress chose as an alternative.

7th International Mining History Congress

This will be held in Vancouver, Canada, in 2006. Jeremy Mouat will be the coordinator.

Cultural Heritage in Geosciences, Mining and Metallurgy.

The 6th International Symposium, to be conducted at Idrija, Slovenia, August/September 2002.

Theme of the conference is: 'Hygiene, occupational health and sociability in mining history'.

The symposium will be sponsored by the Idrija Municipal in the 16th Century Gewerkenegg Castle and at the Idrija Mercury Mine. For further details contact:

Tatjana Dizdarevic,

tatjana.rzs.idrija@s5.net

Martina Pisljar, rudnikzs@siol.net

Web Page

The American Mining History Association web page can be found at:

<http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mha/mha.htm>

You can find the webmaster, Erik Nordberg on his e.mail at:

Copper@mtu.edu

Information Wanted

T. R. H. Nelson and the Ogofau Gold Mine.

Peter Cloughton (Exeter University and keeper of the International Mining History Web page) would appreciate any information on geologist, T.R.H. Nelson or his descendants. Peter writes:

"During the 1930s T. R. H. Nelson was the geologist for Roman Deep Mines Ltd. and British Goldfields (No. 1) Ltd working the Ogofau Gold Mine at Dolaucothi, Carmarthenshire, Wales. In 1944, some six years after the mine closed he wrote an article, published in 'Mine and Quarry Engineering', in which it was clear that he still had access to documents relating to the mine and its geology.

Nelson is believed to have moved from Wales, to work in Australia, after the closure of the mine. There is the possibility that his descendants still live there and are still in possession of his papers, including material on Ogofau.

There has for many years been interest in the Ogofau Mine because of its Roman connections, but a recent reassessment of the site has suggested that the mine had already been worked extensively before the arrival of the Romans. Information gathered during the last period of operations, in the 1930s, when the deeper 'Roman' workings were explored, would be an invaluable aid to further investigation of the mine". Any information will be greatly appreciated and Peter can be contacted at the following addresses:

Peter Cloughton, Blaenpant Morfil, Rosebush, Clynderwen, Pembrokeshire, Wales, SA66 7RE, UK

Tel. 01437 532578; Fax. 01437 532921; Mobile 07831 427599

Or,

Department of History, School of Historical, Political and Sociological Studies, Exeter University, Devon EX4 4RJ, UK

E-mail: P.F.Cloughton@exeter.ac.uk

Eds. Note: It has been postulated from recent evidence that the Ogofau mine at Dolaucothi near Pumpsaint, was worked in the Iron and Bronze ages, some 1,000 years before the arrival of the Romans in Britain. This suggests that not only is this site the oldest in Britain, but also one of the oldest in Europe. Referring to recent investigation, the head of the archaeological section of Britain's National Trust, David Thakray, recently stated that "This work shows Dolaucothi is a site as archaeologically significant

as Stonehenge and Sutton Hoo, which are the National Trust's most important archaeological properties and which are World Heritage Sites". The Celts and the Romans mined the site extensively and it the only site in Wales marked on Livy's map of the world. Incidentally, there is still gold on the site.

Book Launches & publications

Member Patrick Murphy (in association with James Murphy) will be officially launching their second book on minerals, *Fossicking for Minerals at the Puttapa Zinc Mine in the Flinders Ranges of South Australia*, at the Adelaide Gem & Mineral Club Inc. '2000 Mineral, Gem and Graft Exhibition. This will be held at the George Creswell Hall, Unley High School, Kitchener Street, Netherby, South Australia, on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th October 2000. Copies of the publication and of first publication, *Fossicking for Minerals in the Arkaroola Bore Area, South Australia*, will also be available at their stand. Alternatively, orders can be directed to the publishers:

Osmond Earth Sciences, PO Box 658, Kent Town, SA 5071.

Tel & Fax: 08 8332 5454

E-mail: kiltman@senet.com.au

Ed. Tonks, *Historic Hotels of the South Maitland Coalfields*, Charlestown, NSW, 2000.

Member, Ed. Tonks is offering copies of his pocket-size guide-book to 20-plus mining-linked hotels on the NSW coalfield, for a bargain \$10 (including postage and GST). There are coloured photographs of each of the establishments, details of licensees, year of construction and alterations, information on architects, general history, name changes, and a handy reference map. Orders to Ed Tonks at:

19 Wahal Street, Charlestown, NSW 2290.

Ralph Birrell, *Australian Mining History Monographs*.

Ralph Birrell has been running hard in the publication stakes and has a certain winner in his seven published monographs.

Glossary of Mining terms.

The powder Magazines of Victoria.

Claims and leases in the Bendigo Mining District. The first 21 years. 1851-1873.

The Zebina Lanes - father and son, Australian Miners, Managers and Mining Entrepreneurs.

The Miner versus the Gold Commissioner. William Howitt v Joseph Panton 1853.

The Psychology of Mine development ion the Bendigo Goldfield in the Nineteenth century.

The Role of Minerals Separation Ltd. in the development of the Flotation Process.

These are available from Ralph at \$6 per monograph, plus \$1 postage per publication. If you'd like the set, it can be obtained for \$40, plus \$5 postage.

Send orders to Zlota Press, 279 Turners Road, Strathfieldsaye, Vic. 3551.

Tel. 03-5439-5428

Noel Butlin Archives

You might remember that a year or two ago we appealed for members to write to protest at the eminent closure of the Noel Butlin Archive at ANU. That threat again looms and an appeal from The Friends of the Noel Butlin Archives Centre, contains the latest information as to the value of the collection and the gravity of the situation. This is a copy of their letter:

"The treasure house of Australian business and labour archives at the Australian National University has no stable future in the new millenium. The ANU Executive proposes to fund the Noel Butlin Archives Centre for only two more years (2001-2002). Any further funding is to be determined by review.

Staff levels are to be cut to two professional positions. This is not sufficient to maintain adequate services to researchers. Drastic cuts to critical areas such as the production of finding-aids and opening hours will be necessary. The University Archivist is to be relieved of her responsibility for the Archives. A deputation from the Archives' Advisory Committee, whose advice on the future of the Archives has been rejected by the ANU Library, will shortly be meeting with the Vice-Chancellor to seek a review of the proposal.

In Melbourne **Professor Geoffrey Blainey** commented, "The Noel Butlin

Archives are a major source for those studying Australia's history. Nobody can investigate the history of Australian businesses and trade unions without using these Archives. So much of the nation's economic and social history is preserved here. It would be a tragedy if this outstanding collection continues to receive a low priority from the Australian National University, its present owners."

Stuart Macintyre, Ernest Scott Professor of History at Melbourne University, stated that "the Noel Butlin Archives are one of this country's great historical treasures. They consist

of the records of major businesses and trade unions reaching back well into the nineteenth century. Future generations would find it hard to comprehend that such a vital resource should be squandered."

Professor Macintyre pointed out that you can find in the Butlin Archives the documentary records of the pastoral industry, mining, shipping, manufacturing and other enterprises around which the Australian economy grew. Here also you find the records of the shearers' union, the miners, the waterside workers and also of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, as well as those of the National Farmers Federation. Together these records are our most important source for the history of enterprise and working life.

Tracing the history of the collection, Professor Macintyre noted that the collection is named after the late Noel Butlin, who first assembled such records as he pioneered the economic history of Australia. Butlin was a leading researcher at the Australian National University, and his research school entered into agreements with the donors of the papers. It also made agreements with other collecting institutions, including the National Library and the state libraries, that it would accept a national role in this area of manuscript collection.

Professor Macintyre recalled that "Some years ago the Research School of Social Sciences sought to repudiate its custodial responsibilities. That brought a storm of protest and the University Library took over management of the Noel Butlin Archives. Now it appears there are to be further cuts and researchers are threatened with the mothballing of the Archives."

"Historians, archivists and librarians are horrified by this vandalism", Professor Macintyre said. "Business, professional and union representatives are highly concerned by the irresponsibility of a public institution. It is unthinkable that the Research School, which receives block funding from the Commonwealth for its national research role, should throw off its obligations and endanger such a crucial national asset."

Professor Macintyre suggested that "Perhaps Professor Chubb, the newly appointed Vice-Chancellor who takes office soon, will draw the ANU back from this threat to the good name of the University. Perhaps our Commonwealth Parliament, which provides the funding for the University, will step in."

Please support the protest by contacting the following with your objections:

Professor Deane Terrell, ANU Vice-Chancellor. Tel. 6249 2510;
Vice-Chancellor@anu.edu.au

Mr Colin Steele. ANU Librarian. Colin.Steele@anu.edu.au

Senator Kim Carr, ALP Representative on the ANU Council
senator.carr@aph.gov.au

(cc to <butlin.archives@anu.edu.au>)

AMHA Officers and Committee

The following members were elected to office at the 2000 Adelaide Conference:

Patron, Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

President: Dr. Patrick Bertola, School of Social Sciences, Curtin University, GPO Box U 1987, Perth, WA 6001. tel. 08-9266-7395

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

Secretary/Treasurer: Mr. Mel Davies, Economics Dept., Univ. of WA, Nedlands 6907, WA. tel. 08-9380-2939

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

COMMITTEE

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Christopher.Carter@anu.edu.au

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e.mail: pbell@mail.adelaide.on.net

Mr. Bernie O'Neil, 36 Tallack Street, Windsor Gardens, SA 5087. tel. 08-82610077

e.mail: boneil@arts.adelaide.edu.au

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e.mail: ghenning@metz.une.edu.au

Mr. Ross Mainwaring, 5 Sheather Avenue, St. Ives, NSW 2075. tel. 02-94492738

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Dr. Jan Wegner, James Cook University (Cairns Campus), PO Box 6811, Cairns, Qld. 4870.

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Vic

Mr. Ralph Birrell, 279 Turner Road, Strathfieldsaye, Vic. 3551. Tel. 03-54395428.

e.mail: rbirrell@netcom.net.au

Mr. David White, P.O. Box 432, South Yarra, Vic 3141.

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MJD/Oct'00



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

Newsletter No. 4

December 2000

Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

Issue 23

Web page: <http://www.econs.ecel.uwa.edu.au/AMHA/amhamain.htm>

Editorial

A spate of membership applications from Gemmologists indicates that the appeal of the Association is getting wider. This interest has no doubt been sparked by Patrick Murphy (Adelaide) who has advertised our existence in the lapidary magazine. This opens up a whole new avenue, and as we have never had a conference presentation on precious stones, then perhaps in future our proceedings will be enriched by exposure to this fascinating area of mining. The link has also extended overseas and one of my side-trips during the recent Milos conference was, through the auspices of Patrick Murphy, to call on Dimitris Minatidis at the Greek Ministry of Development. Dimitris described himself as a fanatical Gemmologist and that was evident by the magnificent display of minerals, for which he was responsible, that were showcased in the foyer of the building. His knowledge of the geology and mining history of Greece was all encompassing, as was his interest in Australian mining history. A result of this extension of contacts is seen below in the notice for the 15th Gem Fair to be held in Athens in 2001.

Forthcoming Conferences

AMHA

As previously notified, our own **AMHA** Conference will be held at Kalgoorlie/Boulder from 24-28 September 2001. **Abstracts** (200-250 words maximum) should be sent to reach me by **30 June** at the latest. If you are planning to come along, then set two days aside on 22nd and 23rd, as Wendy Carter is arranging with the local Prospectors group to organize a mining tour - this will mean clogs and rough denim rather than dancing pumps and suits - so be forewarned.

Sixth International Mining History Congress 2003

In the last newsletter it was announced that while Japan had been chosen as the next venue for the 6th Congress, Australia had been nominated as a fallback location. That latter possibility is now growing slimmer and slimmer as Koko Kato, who is negotiating to run the Japanese Congress is obtaining favourable signs from government authorities that sponsorship will be forthcoming. As you might well know, Japan has a number of regions that hold a rich heritage of mining, especially for coal and copper. As shown by Satchko Sone at our Hobart Conference in 1999, the social and cultural history of mining and industrial relations in Japan bear similarities, yet many differences, to the history of mining that most of us are familiar with. No doubt, many of our members will want to take advantage of the opportunity offered to explore these distinctions and to widen their perspective.

Cultural Heritage in Geosciences, Mining and Metallurgy.

The 6th International Symposium, to be conducted at Idrija, Slovenia, August/September 2002.

Theme of the conference is: 'Hygiene, occupational health and sociability in mining history'.

The symposium will be sponsored by the Idrija Municipal in the 16th Century Gewerkenegg Castle and at the Idrija Mercury Mine.

15th Athens GeMin 2001 International Mineral, Gem, Jewellery and Fossil Fair, Athens, Greece

This event will take place on 2nd, 3rd, 4th November 2001, at the Royal Olympic, 28-32 Diakou str., Athens EL-117 43, Hellas. Tel. 30-1-9226-411; Fax: 30-1-9233-317.

The fair will be supported by various Museums, Geological Institutes, Mining Companies and gemmology businesses.

Exhibits will include Minerals, Rocks, Crystals, Fossils, rough and polished Gemstones, Jewellery, Books and Periodicals, CD-ROMs, Educational Products in Earth Sciences, Maps, Mineral Posters, Geophilately, Computer Applications in Mineralogy, Crystal Healing and many more. For further information contact:

GeMin Fair, c/o Oryktologika Nea - News on Minerals, 70 Queen Sofia Avenue, Piraeus EL-185 32, Hellas

Tel. Intern: 301-4171-680.

Fax: 301-4132-570

E-mail: minat@hol.gr

Conference Reports

Curtin University - one day conference

The following report was submitted by President, Pat Bertola:

Several members of the Association presented papers to a mining studies conference recently held at Curtin University in Perth. Naomi Segal, a PhD candidate at Curtin who is working with Association President, Patrick Bertola, led the effort in bringing together a number of people researching in the area of mining history and heritage. Naomi and Mel Davies presented papers that cast new light on WA mining history. Naomi has been working on the role and organisation of peak employer bodies in the mining industry and presented on the topic of the genesis of arbitration legislation in WA and pointed to the significant and previously understated role played by the Chamber of Mines in Kalgoorlie in the 1902 legislation. This paper follows another by Naomi covering the cyanide patent dispute in WA that was recently published in the journal *Prometheus*. As many members would know, Mel has been beavering away on a history of the doyen of early WA mining entrepreneurs, Claude de Bernales. Fresh from the international mining history conference at Milos and notwithstanding the jet-lag, Mel presented a very interesting paper on the man and his entrepreneurial activity.

Other members who presented papers included Lenore Layman whose research on asbestos mining continues to yield important insights into WA and international mining history; and Gerard McGill, who enlivened proceedings with a photographic tour on mining heritage sites around the State. Sadly, those assembled were unable to hear from Charlie Fox who was absent because of the recent death of his father. I am sure that you would join in the expression of condolence that I passed to Charlie on behalf of the Association.

Certainly, one of the highlights of the day was the keynote presentation from Justice Robert French in which he reviewed the history of Native Title legislation and recent developments in the area.

Professor Tom Stannage, the Executive Dean in the Division of Humanities at Curtin provided material support for the conference and is supporting my efforts to develop a mining studies unit at Curtin. The Division also provided Naomi with a grant to publish the conference proceedings. For further information you can contact Naomi at the School of Social Sciences at Curtin University (GPO Box U1987, Perth 6845) or email naomiseg@inet.net.au

Patrick Bertola

7 October, 2000

Millennial meeting of The International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage

The following was forwarded by our Queensland correspondent Ruth Kerr, and is taken from the September 15 edition of the *Mining Journal*.

The concern expressed at the conference was that much industrial heritage was being swept away with immodest haste, leaving little to remind future generations of their social, economic and cultural past. The conference covered the full range of industrial heritage, including mining and metallurgy. Presentations specific to this sector included conservation of the Miike district in Japan, identification of the industrial remains of Sweden's first coal venture on Svallbard in the early 1900s and work being done in Russia to safeguard the future of metallurgical sites of interest in the Urals. Highlighted in that region were 'Porogi' electro-metallurgical complex, which still has in operation Swedish, German and British equipment that was supplied when the plant opened in 1909; the Ust-Borovskoy salt works, operating with its original timber buildings that date from the 1870s; and the site of the 18th Century blast furnaces in the city of Nizhny Tagil. Of concern was that a survey taken of city residents showed that few if any recognised the historic value of the latter site. Stressed at the meeting was that preservation for its own sake is rarely an effective strategy. Selection of those sites that are worthy of being maintained for the benefit, pleasure and education of future generations thus becomes a key issue.

Further challenges facing those involved in conservation include either too little documentation or a surfeit. Knowing where to draw the line under a recording project, especially where the site has only recently closed, or is still in operation, can pose some major problems, especially where complete sets of working drawings exist. The conservator is faced with the task of blending visual evidence with historical documentation in such a way as to make the complete record meaningful.

Also pointed out was that conservation of mining heritage can be problematic, for unlike, say, dockland buildings that can be turned into sought-after residences, few derelict coal washeries offer such attractive conversion. In consequence, mining sites tend to be reconstructed with education and tourist attraction forming the principal focus. However, the universal observation was that sites are often expensive to maintain in terms of both

running costs and continuing maintenance and are subject to early casualties of cuts in government expenditure. The need to persuade government authorities and local communities of the value of preservation seems to be a universal problem.

We are sure that many of our members will empathise with the comments as outlined at the TICCIH conference, and no doubt many battles will rage in future years in Australia over such debates relating to mining heritage.

Information Wanted

Johnathan Wearne, University of Melbourne, is seeking information on the early days of the uranium industry, so as to pave the way for an American colleague, Gabrielle Hecht of the University of Michigan. Gabrielle is involved in a large project examining the history of uranium exploration, and mining, with an emphasis on countries that were once colonies. Some of you might know Gabrielle's recent major work, *The Radiance of France*, MIT Press, which deals with the French nuclear industry in French society after WW2.

Her approach in this latest project will be to focus on the uranium exploration, mining & milling technologies and practices, as a way of exploring wider cultural and social history. Her examination will span from the most local concerns of mineworkers and technicians to the trade in uranium materials and technologies. She intends to examine the global perspective, and will treat the different aspects of atomic energy programmes, corporations, mining communities, engineers, scientists, indigenous people, activists and mineworkers in a fair and balanced way. At this stage the period she is interested in is from WW2 until about the 1980's.

Jonathan's role is to identify and provide a 'road map' to promising archives, primary resources and other documentation centres in Australia, for her visit sometime early next year. The road map will be an overview of the resources - location, access conditions, contact persons, etc. The material she is interested in includes that which is mine specific and that which pertains to Australia's uranium dealings on the global front. Details of mine managers, indigenous liaison officers, leaders of social movements, retired mine engineers, prospectors, miners, supervisors, and anti-uranium campaigners would also be welcomed. If you have any information, please contact Jonathan Wearne at:

j.wearne@cshs.unimelb.edu.au

Alfred Ashley Atkinson

Ted Stuart from the UK is researching four generations of mining in the Atkinson family of Northumbria. Their history embraces mining engineers from the late 1700's to the mid-

1900's. One member of the fourth generation, Alfred Ashley Atkinson, born 1858, moved to Australia to work, and he died here in 1939. Ted has reference in 1904 to him working in the Department of Mines, Sydney. He also has references to two papers by him, one on 'Working Coal under the River Hunter near Newcastle', and the other on 'Experiments with Explosives'. Then a mention in 1905/6 of 'Mr A.A. Atkinson, Chief Inspector of Coal Mines in New South Wales' (his father, and two of his brothers also served in various parts of the UK as H.M. Inspectors of Coal Mines!).

Ted has no idea whether he was married and/or produced any sons who carried on the family tradition in mining, though there are some hints of 5th generation involvement. If anyone can point Ted to any Australian sources of information about him, his life, family and career he would be delighted. If you can help, please contact Edward Stuart, Blackthorn Cottage, Llanharry, Pontyclun, CF72 9JP, UK. e.mail: Stuart@Cardiff.ac.uk

On the Web

Drawn to my attention has been a URL relating to models of various mining equipment built to scale by Roger Bradford of South Australia. The page also contains photographs of equipment and is well worth an investigation. Find the page at:

<http://freepages.travel.rootsweb.com/~miningmodels/index.htm>

Member, Robin Bailey draws attention to the following notice taken from a genealogical website that will certainly prove of interest to some in our midst:

Coal Mining History Resource Centre

Do you have an ancestor who worked in the coalmines of Great Britain? If so, you want to look at Ian Winstanley's Coal Mining History Resource Centre. This Web site includes comprehensive sources for mining deaths - some 65,000 names of people who died or suffered injury in the mines of Great Britain from 1850 to 1909. It also presents a great deal of material about the lives of the men and boys who worked in the mines. Subjects on this Web site include:

Books on Mining History; Mining Texts;

Mining Prints; A Database of mining deaths; Mining Disasters in Great Britain;

A Glossary of Mining Terms; Catalogue of Abandoned Mines - 1928; Miners Lamps Poetry Corner; Children in the Mines - Transcripts of the Royal Commission; Reports on the working conditions of children and young persons in the coalfields of Great Britain, 1842.

This informative online resource can be found at:

<http://www.cmhrc.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk>

Victorian Goldrush History

The Victorian Premier Steve Bracks has announced that the government will fund, to the tune of one million dollars, the 150th Anniversary of the Victorian Gold Rushes, which will be held in 2001.

The focus of the anniversary will be regional (ie in the goldfields) and the money is available for 'community events, tourism projects and infrastructure Also, to spread awareness of the state's gold heritage'. It is believed that a historical conference is in the pipeline as well as a number of publications.

Warwick Frost writes to say that he has built up a lot of information on similar historical anniversaries in California, the Yukon and the Klondyke. If anybody is working in this area he would be interested in making contact. You can find Warwick at:

Warwick.Frost@buseco.monash.edu.au

Studies in Victoria's Goldfield Heritage: the Mount Alexander Diggings, 1851-1901

The following notice is probably related to the previous item, and offers an opportunity for interested researchers and students among our ranks:

The Australian Research Council recently announced three-year funding support (2001-3) for a cross-disciplinary research project on the Mount Alexander Diggings in central Victoria. 'The Mount' is widely regarded as the greatest shallow alluvial goldfield in world history, and today the Mount Alexander Shire contains the largest assemblage of gold-mining artefacts in Australia.

The new SPIRT project will study social life on the goldfield from discovery in 1851 until Federation. Particular attention will be paid to Chinese settlers, who comprised the largest group of non-British immigrants the goldfields. The research team will build upon heritage surveys undertaken by David Bannear between 1993-99 for the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, and archaeological and historical research funded by the Australian Research Council during 2000 (including the survey of approximately 300 miners' habitation sites).

Two Australian Government Postgraduate Awards (APAI) for PhD research will be offered. One PhD scholarship will be offered in history, the other in historical archaeology. These scholarships will be provided at the highest rate of the Australian Postgraduate Award range. Scholarship rates are indexed annually. Contributions towards relocation and other expenses are provided for. Applicants should normally have at least a four-year honours degree in history or archaeology. Applicants for the PhD in historical archaeology should also demonstrate a familiarity with historical archaeology, and field

experience in excavation and survey methods. Full details about entry requirements and facilities for postgraduate study at the two partner universities are available from the School of Graduate Studies at the University of Melbourne:

<http://www.unimelb.edu.au/research/sgs/>

and:

the Research and Graduate Studies Office at La Trobe University:

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/www/rgso/>

The successful applicants will participate in a team that is committed to integrating history with archaeology (involving close research collaboration between the University of Melbourne and La Trobe University); the channelling of this research in support of a significant national museum (the Museum of Chinese Australian History); and the practical expression of its findings through community-history activities within the Mount Alexander Shire (co-ordinated by the Mount Alexander Diggings Committee).

The project team welcomes enquiries from potential applicants.

The team leader is Associate Professor Alan Mayne (Department of History, the University of Melbourne).

Tel: (03)83445975

Email: a.mayne@unimelb.edu.au

The other Chief Investigators are:

Dr Susan Lawrence (Senior Lecturer, Department of Archaeology, La Trobe University).

Tel: (03) 9479 1790

Email: s.lawrence@latrobe.edu.au

Paul Macgregor (Curator, Museum of Chinese Australian History).

Tel: (03) 9662 2888 Email:

mcah@vicnet.net.au

David Bannear (Regional Archaeologist, Parks Victoria & Heritage Victoria).

Tel: (03) 5434 5150

Email: david.bannear@doi.vic.gov.au

The application procedure and a closing date for receipt of applications will be announced shortly.

Commonwealth Heritage Laws

Sue Marsden of the Australian Council of National Trusts draws attention to the new Commonwealth heritage legislation recently introduced into Parliament. The relevant Bills are:

Environment and Heritage Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2000; Australian

Heritage Council Bill 2000; and Australian Heritage Council (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2000.

These bills will replace the Australian Heritage Commission Act of 1975 and establish a new (and less independent) Australian Heritage Council, and also make amendments to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) by inserting various heritage provisions. The main heritage amendments to the EPBC Act will involve provisions to establish a new National List and a list of heritage places on Commonwealth land, both of which will involve more stringent Commonwealth controls over actions that may affect these places than has been afforded by the Register of the National Estate. These lists will replace the 13,000 item RNE that has been compiled over the past 25 years. The legislation has immense implications for how the majority of Australians will encounter and appreciate 'tangible history' for the next quarter-century or so.

The bills have been referred to the Senate Environment References Committee for consideration and report by 28 March 2001. The Committee invites persons and organisations to lodge written submissions by 1 February 2001 with: The Secretary, Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee, S1.57 Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600.

The Committee encourages submissions in electronic form. E-mailed submissions must include your name, postal address and telephone number and may be sent to: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au

Further information, including copies of the Bills, explanatory memoranda and second reading speeches, is available at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/news/news.html>

Alternatively, preferably in e-mail form by 5 January, to:

Susan Marsden, Australian Council of National Trusts.

email: acnt@spirit.com.au

Book Launches & Publications

Ruth Kerr, *John Moffat of Irvinebank - Biography of a regional Entrepreneur*, 2000. pp.296. ISBN 0 9595072 6 4 Hardcover and 0 9595072 7 2 Softcover. The price is \$50 **hardcover and \$35 softcover (includes postage)**.

The book represents the fruits of 30 years of research by our valued committee member and was launched at Loudoun House Museum on 10 December, with over 100 people in attendance.

The publication is available from John & Ruth Kerr, 105 Highland Terrace, St. Lucia Qld 4067. Tel. 07-38709588; e.mail: rkerr@dme.qld.gov.au

Further details can be viewed under ' John Moffat - Wonder of the North' on web page: <http://www.geocities.com/scribble67/history/johnmoffat.htm>

Barry McGowan, *The Golden South, a history of the Araluen, Bells Creek and Majors Creek gold fields in southern New South Wales*, Capital Fine Print, Canberra, 2000. Pp.182, 10 maps, 85 photos. ISBN: 0-9586765-1-8.

Price: \$31 plus postage.

This is the fourth in a series of books which Barry has published on mining communities in the region. Together with *Bungonia to Braidwood*, which was published in 1996 and reprinted in 1999, it provides a complete coverage of all gold fields in the Braidwood and Shoalhaven Districts, including Araluen, that was for many years one of the leading gold fields in New South Wales. The book was assisted by funds allocated to the Royal Australian Historical Society through the New South Wales Heritage Office.

Based on an environmental and heritage overview of the gold fields in the Araluen catchment area that he completed in 1998, this work was sponsored by the Upper Deua Landcare Group and funded by the Lower South Coast Catchment Management Committee. One chapter in the book has, therefore, been devoted to heritage and environmental considerations.

Copies can be obtained from Barry, at LPO Box A 336 ANU, Canberra, ACT 2601. Tel. 041 611 8107 E.mail: barry@cyberone.com.au

L. J. (Jeff) Buller (compiler), *Images of England: Mining in Cornwall - Volume Three - Penwith and Kerrier*, Tempus Publishing, Stroud, 2000.

£9.99 (Paperback), ISBN: 0752417592. Available from: Liz Mabley, Tempus Publishing Ltd., 'The Mill'. Brimscombe Port, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL 5 2QG.

e.mail: emm@tempus-publishing.com.

Keith Johns reports that the third volume of the 'Mining in Cornwall' series (see report in our March 2000 issue) is now available. He enthuses that it covers the Penwith and South Kerrier areas, the Penwith Peninsula being the second largest producer of tin in the Duchy (after the Camborne/Redruth/St. Poole district). Compiler, Jeff Buller, has included 200 photographs from his collection so as to "illustrate the history of the most important industry in the County". Many of the stunning photographs in the attractively presented volume are published for the first time and are supported by details and carefully researched captions describing the development of this industry throughout the last two centuries.

The publication, says Keith, will appeal to anyone with an interest the mining, history and culture of that region. It should also prove invaluable to anyone interested in Australia's earlier mining epoch, for mining methods, haulage, processing of ore and pumping were all based largely on Cornish technology and methods that remained prominent in Australia until the 1st World War.

Book Reviews

Michael Pearson & Barry McGowan, *Mining Heritage Places Assessment Manual*, Australian Council of National Trusts and the Australian Heritage Commission, Canberra, 2000, pp. viii, 187. ISBN 0 908 19815 9

The text is aimed mainly at non-specialists to make basic decisions about heritage value and to aid them to nominate mining places to a heritage register.

It is a comprehensive, well-written and timely volume. It is a valuable resource for all those interested in historic mining places. The authors have covered a huge topic in a relatively small space.

Dozens of Australia's regional towns and cities owe their existence to mining fields. Many local historical societies and history groups take an active interest in the mining places in their districts. Historic mining places are important tourist destinations in most parts of Australia and a significant proportion of published historical archaeological research is related to mining places. When all this is taken into consideration, it is remarkable that such a volume has not previously been produced. The authors are to be commended for their efforts.

As a criticism, though through no fault of the authors, the binding of the book is quite weak (the review copy I was given is already coming apart). It would not survive long under field conditions and is therefore not going to be particularly useful as a reference while actually on-site.

Michael Pearson and Barry McGowan have packed a substantial amount of information into this volume. They divide the book into two main sections. The first section is entitled

‘Recording and Assessment Guidelines’ and the second, ‘Supporting Guidelines and Information’.

Recording and Assessment: This is a clearly written and well-laid out section. It provides a logically developed and comprehensive review of the process of identifying site elements, recording them, analysing the results and assessing their significance. As a bonus, the authors also provide details of how to complete the often-complex heritage register forms.

There are only a couple of minor criticisms that I would make about this section. Because the manual is aimed at the non-specialist, then a short section explaining the actual process of undertaking a site survey would have been useful. Perhaps a worked step-by-step example in photographs and diagrams so as to show the methods of surveying a mine site (e.g. a compass and tape survey) would have been worth including. The example could show how field observations are collected and converted to the site plans that are such an important part of mining place assessments. An explanation of the types of plans that are commonly produced for a site record, and what they aim to achieve, might also have been useful.

In the appendices, there are many excellent examples of readily recognisable pieces of machinery remaining *in situ*. However, all too often, the physical remains at mine sites are much subtler and less easy to interpret and machinery is rare. So I would have liked to see a few photographic examples of the more common physical remains found at sites, such as machinery footings, hut sites or battery footings. The feature could be shown as it is today, with a description, photograph or reconstruction diagram so as to show the way it looked when it was part of a functioning mine.

Mine workings (shafts, adits, costeans, open cuts, prospecting pits) and mullock dumps are not well illustrated and the examples focus mainly on the equipment and built infrastructure and technology of the mine sites.

Supporting Guidelines and Information: In the second part of the manual, the authors have provided a handy introduction to the sources of historical and other information on historic mining places. Key contacts for further information are listed and a comprehensive glossary of mining terms is provided. The glossary is especially useful for those who are not familiar with the mining industry.

Appendices

The authors round the entire manual off with a valuable set of four model type profiles of mining places. They have chosen their examples from four of the most commonly encountered mine types (coal, copper, alluvial gold and reef gold).

It is to be hoped that the Mining Heritage Places Assessment Manual is made widely available. It is a very significant resource and will be of great value to professional and amateur practitioners alike.

Tony Webster

Curator, Broken Hill Geocentre

2001 Subscriptions

Its that time of year again when we call on all kindly folk to renew their subscriptions. The bargain basement fees of \$5 unwaged and \$20 waged still apply and the New Year should even provide you with a free issue of the first number of our journal. A renewal form is enclosed and your early return of same would be appreciated. If you've already paid for 2001, just ignore the form.

Journal/Conference Proceedings

Thanks for your patience, for at last there is light at the end of the tunnel. Editor, Patrick Bertola, is confident that past Proceedings (from and including 1998) and the first volume of the AMHA Journal (containing a mix of refereed and non-refereed articles) will be published in the next couple of months. This is catch-up and these publications will then be quickly followed with publication of the Adelaide proceedings from the 2000 conference.

Mining History Bibliography

This too is on the verge of being published and the 1997 edition has been extended to include New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. Any last minute references would be appreciated by yours truly.

SEASONS GREETINGS

Here's wishing everyone the Compliments of the Season. A Happy New Year and the beginning of a happy and prosperous 21st Millennium!

MJD/Dec'00