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PETER BELL: *Great Expectations, Bad Geology: Edward Head and the Keelbottom Freehold Copper Mines 1872-1902*

Dr Peter Bell is a historian who has been writing about the Australian mining industry for thirty years. Formerly an academic and public servant, he now has an Adelaide-based consulting business, Historical Research Pty Ltd.

This paper tells the story of the Keelbottom Freehold Copper Mines in North Queensland, and the company's principal, Edward Head, who raised five separate companies to work the mines over a period spanning thirty years. The mines absorbed tens of thousands of pounds in investment capital, but never produced any copper. It is a compelling example of the power of delusion to outweigh both personal experience and professional advice.

RON M. CALLENDER: *The Baile an Or Project: Robert Nelson Gilchrist (1821-1877), A Scottish 'Hargaves'*

Ron Callender is a former scientist and an authority on 19th century photographic history, but he relishes researching obscure aspects of Scotland's past. As co-ordinator of the Baile an Or project, (funded by the UK's Heritage Lottery Fund), Ron and his colleagues have just completed successful investigations in local history, applied photography, archaeology, geology, reconstruction and tracing people.

Home on leave from the Australian goldfields in the winter of 1868, Robert Nelson Gilchrist's discovery of gold in Sutherland, Scotland, sparked a gold rush the following year. The Duke of Sutherland tolerated the gold miners on his land for 12 months and then issued an ultimatum to close the goldfield. By then, Gilchrist had returned to Victoria.

VALERIE FLETCHER: *Value Adding to Northern Territory Copper, 1901-1910*

Valerie Fletcher was awarded a history doctorate from the University of Queensland on 'Nineteenth Century Railways and the Constitutional Conventions'. Her other areas of research are the building of transcontinental/interstate railways in Australia and the history of the Northern Territory, especially the 1895-1910 period and the Commonwealth takeover of the Territory.

Mining in the Northern Territory has always been considered the means of attracting population and capital as well as providing the means for improving infrastructure and industry. The 1901-1910 period was one of isolation, an uncertain political future and hopes for a brighter future. The construction of two copper smelters during this period was seen as the promise of this better future.

PHILIP HART: *The Thames Miners' Union: Defending Miners and the Mining Industry*

Philip Hart is a Research Fellow in the Department of History, University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand, and is enjoying the long-awaited freedom to write up research accumulated over many years into the history, especially the social history, of gold mining in the Te Aroha district.

The Thames Miners' Union was modelled on its Australian counterpart, and shared its structure and philosophy. It united miners to defend and improve their conditions and to provide friendly society benefits. It boasted of its moderation, and any strikes that occurred were forced upon it. A declining mining industry united both miners and managers in seeking assistance from government and capital from investors, and union leaders accepted that the interests of miners, managers, and owners were intertwined.

BRIAN R. HILL: *A Reinterpretation of the History of the Acquisition of the Blackwater Gold Mine, New Zealand*

Early in his career Brian Hill optioned and sold to mining companies several prospects he had located. None turned out to be a bonanza. Later he developed a substantial gold mine in WA. In his retirement Brian has obtained MLitt and PhD degrees.

The Blackwater Gold Mine, the second biggest gold producer in New Zealand, was originally purchased by a speculator from its discoverers for a pittance. The extensive literature concerning the history of this mine decries this and affirms that he made a huge and unjustified profit when selling to a large mining company, but the enormous profit made by this company in floating the mine is not remarked upon. A critical and more rigorous analysis involving the calculation of a DCF Present Value of the mine at each transaction and comparing these values with the considerations paid, leads to an opposite interpretation to this accepted theme.

R. KEITH JOHNS: *The Cornish at Burra, South Australia*

Following retirement from his position as Director General of the South Australian Department of Mines and Energy, Keith Johns has taken a special interest in mining history. That interest has focused, in particular, upon the Cornish influence in the mining sphere – not surprising, as he traces his Australian ancestry back to the early days of European settlement in South Australia.

Opened in 1845, the Burra Burra Mines proved a magnet for immigrants from all over the world but especially Cornwall. The cultural impact upon the locality can still be felt and indeed is set in stone in the many fine buildings that have survived the impact of time. This paper examines the growth of the town of ‘Burra’ – an amalgamation of a number of townships that sprang up in and around the property of the South Australian Mining Association.

TIMOTHY JONES: *David and Isaac Daniel and the Mt Wells Tin Mine*

Following wartime service in the RAAF, Timothy Jones graduated from Melbourne University in 1954. For many years he acted as the Canberra based Public Service Inspector for the Northern Territory. Taking an interest in the Territory’s history, he has, since retirement, published a number of books and articles on mining and on the activities of the Chinese.

That versatility and tenacity was a virtue among early miners is illustrated by the activities of the Daniel brothers from the 1880s to the second decade of the 20th century. The paper focuses on their activities at the Mt. Wells Tin Mine but also examines the vital role of Chinese tributors. Following the deaths of the brothers, the paper examines developments at Mt Wells to the 1970s.

KEN McQUEEN: *Hidden Copper: The Early History of the Cornish, Scottish and Australian (C.S.A.) Mine, Cobar, NSW*

Ken McQueen is a geologist with a keen interest in mining history. He currently holds the positions of Associate Professor in Landscape Evolution and Mineral Exploration at the University of Canberra and Reader in Applied Geochemistry at the Australian National University.

The Cornish, Scottish and Australian mine is now recognised as the largest copper resource in the Cobar region with an estimated 1.6 million tonnes of copper metal. However, it took more than 30 years from discovery of the outcropping gossan to location of the first payable ore and another 60 years before the full potential of the deposit was identified. The history of discovery and development of the C.S.A. mine illustrates the difficulties encountered in exploring for Cobar-style ore deposits in an ancient, deeply weathered and semi-arid landscape.

PHILIP PAYTON (Keynote address 11th AMHA Conference, Kadina, 7 July 2006):
Making Moonta: The Invention of 'Australia's Little Cornwall'

Philip Payton is Professor of Cornish & Australian Studies at the University of Exeter, and Director of the Institute of Cornish Studies, based at the Cornwall Campus near Penryn in Cornwall, UK. Professor Payton obtained his PhD at the University of Adelaide and has published widely with respect to the Cornish identity and Cornish influence on mining.

In the second half of the nineteenth century, South Australia's Moonta was the centre of a major copper mining industry. Many hundreds of Cornish miners and their families settled there, making the district arguably 'the largest Cornish community beyond Land's End'. As this paper seeks to demonstrate, although Moonta had much in common with other Cornish settlements, throughout the world, it sought early on to distinguish itself as 'Australia's Little Cornwall'

NAOMI SEGAL: *Danger and Health Hazards: Western Australian Gold Mining – the Early Decades*

Naomi Segal has recently submitted her PhD in Industrial Relations in the School of Economics and Commerce at the University of Western Australia where she is a tutor and occasional lecturer. Her other publications include an article on the McArthur-Forrest patent dispute in Western Australia and an article on the genesis of compulsory arbitration in Western Australia.

This paper explores the labour process in the gold mines of Western Australia in the period up to World War I, especially as related to changes associated with the technical stages of production. Attention is brought to the logic that drove some of these changes and the particular tasks, dangers and hazards that this entailed for workers. The main thrust is to examine the labour experience. The assumption behind this micro-study is that knowledge of the labour process and worker grievances provides an appropriate departure point for a wider study of the sense of class that emerged in the mines.

JAN WEGNER and JUSTIN LAMBERT: *The Emuford Battery, North Queensland: A study in survival*

Jan Wegner is a lecturer in history and heritage at the Cairns Campus of James Cook University. Justin Lambert is a fourth year student at James Cook, and is the 2003 winner of the W.T. Johnston Memorial Prize in History.

Well preserved tin mills dating from before the First World War are rare in Australia. This paper looks at the reasons why the Emuford Mill in far north Queensland survived virtually intact to the present. It found economic, political and personal motives were important, as well as isolation and the recent interest in heritage.