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19th century patina, circa 1850 34cm x 65cm x 65cm.*

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The inaugural Wild River Members Cup of 1882:

A RELIC OF EARLY HORSE RACING
IN FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

A newly discovered English-made silver racing trophy from Far North Queensland was the catalyst for researching the history of the Herberton district, its racing club, mining and personalities. It reveals a rich and active pioneer community in Queensland's far north, quick to introduce the 'sport of kings' and all that it entailed to life on the frontier of civilisation.

Richard A.J. O'Hair*,
Ruth S. Kerr,
Duncan Ray and
Carmel S. O'Hair

1. INTRODUCTION

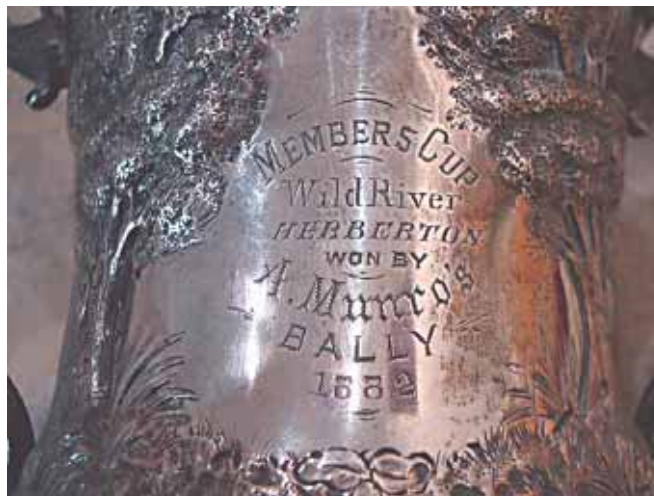
Horse racing was a popular sport in early Australia and a significant number of local racing clubs provided entertainment for small communities across Australia.¹ While the silver and gold awards for the 'major' races have been catalogued,² early awards associated with smaller racing events have received scant attention³. An early racing cup associated with the far north Queensland mining town of Herberton has recently been discovered (plate 1), which forms the basis of this article.

2. THE CUP

The two-handled cup has a detachable lid, is 25 cm high, and weighs a total of 446.0 grams (375.8 gm without lid). It is hallmarked Hilliard & Thomason, Birmingham 1879-1880. These English silversmiths made a number of generic cups that could be used as presentation pieces⁴. The cup has been



Plate 1. Hilliard & Thomason, Birmingham 1879-1880, *The Wild River Members Cup 1882*: (a) side with racing scene; (b) detail of riders, with English hallmarks visible; (c) detail of engraving. Private collection.



1b 1c

chased, possibly by a local silversmith, to show two horses in full flight (plate 1). The engraving reads:

Members Cup
Wild River
Herberton
Won by
A. Munro's
Bally
1882

3. EARLY HERBERTON AND THE WILD RIVER JOCKEY CLUB

The cup was made very shortly after the mining town of Herberton was founded^{5,6}. Driven by his search for mineral wealth, James Venture Mulligan discovered tin in the Wild River near Herberton in 1875^{5,7}. This stimulated John Atherton of Emerald End to lead the Cairns Prospecting Association to explore the region in October 1878, resulting in the discovery of tin at an area they called Tinaroo. When rumours surfaced of a rich tin discovery by Chinese some 30 miles from Tinaroo, prospectors William Jack, John Newell, Thomas Brandon and John Brown, were already on site marking out a 60-acre mineral freehold. They applied at Thornborough on 12 April 1880 for Mineral Selection No. 2824 under the *Mineral Lands Act 1872*⁸.

Jack and Newell had discovered the

most significant tin lode tin in the colony of Queensland, eight miles from Mulligan's twenty-mile camp No. 20 on the Wild River of 1875⁹. Moffat concluded financial negotiations with Jack and Newell for erecting a battery¹⁰ and the prospectors christened the Great Northern on 18 September 1880¹¹. So began the rapid evolution of a mining town, which was to become one of the most prosperous in Far North Queensland.

By 1881 the School of Arts Committee was formed. In 1882, when the race associated with the cup shown in plate 1 was run, the Herberton district was booming. An extensive new group of mines had been discovered on the Great Dividing Range six miles west of Herberton on the hill where the Cardwell - Palmer Road crossed the watershed between the Wild and the Walsh Rivers. The new town of Watsonville was named after Robert Watson the main claimholder on the Great Western. Con Halpin and party had led an expedition further west in 1881 discovering tin. In 1882 a second party of James Gibbs, Andrew Thompson and James McDonald identified a series of tin lodes centring on the Great Southern at the head of Gibbs Creek - renamed Irvinebank after John Moffat and George Young purchased the claims the following year¹².

In 1882 a railway league was formed to advocate construction of a railway from Cairns to the tin fields centred on Herberton. The opening of the tin fields at Tinaroo by John Atherton at nearby *Emerald End* and the opening of the land for selection under the *Crown Land Alienation Act 1876* attracted miners from the Palmer and Hodgkinson Goldfields to the Cairns hinterland. A whole new industry of timber getting opened as cedar getters arrived hoping to profit by transporting the timber to Cairns sawmills on the proposed new railway.

By 1882, *Pugh's Almanac* had finally compiled the first list of a Herberton directory¹³. Although the Wild River Jockey Club is not listed in *Pugh's Almanac* until 1886,¹⁴ an 1884 exhibition pamphlet, which includes one of the earliest contemporary directories of Herberton, lists the following key members of the club¹⁵: 'Wild River Jockey Club - President C.O. Garbutt, Treasurer W. Stevenson, Secretary, T. Mirrls.'

Pike's early history of Herberton states that⁵ 'Racing was popular, noted for the numbers of extravagant wagers wherein successful miners dissipated their wealth' and 'a race club was in existence as early as 1883'.

In fact, the *Queenslander* notes that a Christmas race meeting was held in 1881, prior to the establishment of the Jockey Club¹⁶:

1881- Herberton – 7 December
1881 – Races to be held on the 26
and 27 – prizes total £300. Booth
sold for £67 at auction.

The outcome of this early meeting was reported¹⁷ and notes the formation of the jockey club and the donation of the first cup by the successful Herberton businessman Herman Selig¹⁸:

1881 – Wild River – Herberton –
28 December 1881 – The
Christmas Race meeting was well
got up matter, running over two
days, and the efforts of the
stewards turned out eminently
successful. Besides local nags there
were horses from Port Douglas and
the Herbert, and there were some
700 persons on the course. On the
night of the second day there was
a ball and a supper, both on an
elegant and liberal scale.
On settling night, £287.15s. was
paid in prizes, £250 of which was
distributed amongst four owners of
horses belonging to Port Douglas.
A jockey club was also formed, and
30 gentlemen present put down
their two guineas to start with. Mr
Herman Selig has promoted a
prize next year of a twenty guinea
silver cup.
... By the bye the veritable J.V.
himself was present at the races,
and well and hearty Mr Mulligan,
the veteran explorer looks.

4. THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WILD RIVER JOCKEY CLUB

Several editions of the *Queenslander* in 1882 confirm that the Wild River Jockey Club held its first Annual Meeting on 28 and 29 June 1882. Indeed, club secretary W.H. Stansfield took out an advertisement in the *Queenslander*, shown in **plate 2**¹⁹. Two days of racing featured three main events, the ‘Flying Handicap’ worth 40 sovereigns, the ‘Watson Handicap’ worth 60 sovereigns, and the ‘Wild River Jockey Club Handicap’ worth



Plate 2. Advertisement for the first annual meeting of the Wild River Jockey Club, from *The Queenslanders*, 13 May 1882

100 sovereigns. It is not clear if the last race had the cup as an additional prize. Unfortunately, while two local newspapers were published as early as 1882 (the *Herberton Advertiser* and the *Wild River Times*²⁰), no issues of that year appear to have survived²¹. Furthermore, the *Queenslander* is silent on the winners of the races.

Within the context of prize moneys for other Queensland races, Collins notes that for the 1877–78 race season, the QTC Brisbane cup was worth £500 with an additional trophy worth £50, while the Townsville Turf Club Handicap offered £100²².

5. SUBSEQUENT ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE WILD RIVER JOCKEY CLUB

In the 1890s, Herberton was holding the largest race meetings in Far North Queensland and horses from all over Queensland competed at these meetings²³. The Wild River Jockey Club thus appears to have played a significant role in early Queensland racing, consistent with it being one of the founding members of the breakaway 1885 North Queensland

Racing Association¹²⁴. The Wild River Jockey Club survived into the 1900s, but by the 1920s had declined in importance. Thus Collins and Thompson’s book rather despairingly notes that ‘Herberton has lost a considerable amount of the glamour that surrounded it in the ‘eighties, as it is now but a mediocre tin-mining centre.’²⁵

As previous books on Herberton^{5,6} have paid scant attention to detailing the early years of the Wild River Jockey Club, we decided to gather information on the first ‘golden’ decade of the club from the *Queenslander*, local newspapers and the Queensland Turf Register. Table 1 lists the key dates and races of the Club.

6. ALEXANDER MUNRO: OWNER OF BALLY AND A PROMINENT FIGURE IN EARLY HERBERTON AND FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

The influx of population offered new opportunities for businessmen such as Alexander Munro, the owner of *Bally*, the winner of the Wild River Jockey Club Members’ Cup in 1882. Since Munro is the subject of ongoing research by one of the authors⁴³, only a brief overview is given here. The oldest son of Janet and John Munro, ‘Alex’ was born in Scotland. When he was 10 years old, his family immigrated to New Zealand and then to Beaufort in Victoria around 1867. Alex went to the Palmer River goldfield rush west of Cooktown in 1874.

Alexander Munro arrived on Herberton field immediately after its opening and played a major role in the development in the Herberton district. Thus Munro was first listed on the Herberton Electoral Roll in January 1882 as a ‘Freeholder’ resident of Grace Street, Herberton and later as a ‘Leaseholder’ at Silverfield (presumably he held a silver mining lease west of Montalbion) as well⁴⁴. He had a keen sense of civic commitment, promoted Herberton whenever possible and was actively involved in a

Table 1: List of dates and top races for the first decade of racing at the Wild River Jockey Club

Year	Date of races	Top race	Prize Money for top race	Note
1882	28-29 June	WRJC Handicap	100 sovereigns	19
1883	26-27 September	WRJC Handicap?	unknown	26
1884	24-25 September	WRJC Handicap	£100	27
	26 December	Christmas Handicap	£40	28
1885	2-3 September	WRJC Handicap	£150	29
	26 December	Christmas Handicap	£50	30
1886	18-19 August	WRJC Handicap	£200	31
	26 December	Herberton Handicap	£75	32
1887	3-4 August	WRJC Handicap	£250	33
	26 December	Christmas Handicap	60 sovereigns	34
1888	2-3 August	WRJC Handicap	250 sovereigns	35
	26 December	Christmas Handicap	60 sovereigns	36
1889	21-22 August	WRJC Handicap	250 sovereigns	37
	26 December	Christmas Handicap	40 sovereigns	38
1890	19-20 August	WRJC Handicap	£200	39
	26 December	Christmas Handicap	£30	40
1891	18-19 August	WRJC Handicap	110 sovereigns	41
	26 December	Christmas Handicap	£25	42

range of business and community affairs, as discussed below. Alex Munro died in Cairns on 6 May 1894 from carcinoma of the stomach, aged 39⁴⁴⁻⁴⁸. His obituary noted ‘the deceased gentleman took a most important part in every social, political and sporting movement for the last 10 years.’⁴⁴

Business and Exploration

Alex and his brother William had active interests in the pastoral, butchering, mining and hotel industries⁴⁵⁻⁴⁸. Munro established a butchery with Cardinis and later Robert Gordon, with a shop located on the corner of Grace and William Streets, opposite Jack and Newell’s store. Munro helped develop mining fields around Herberton and on the coast and played a key role in the exploration and opening up of the area. He prospected in the rainforest with Robert Clare at Fisher’s Creek near Innisfail, locating small amounts

of gold in the 1880s. Hearing of the recent discovery of tin at Koorboora from Tony Linedale, the Munro brothers explored and subsequently acquired three leases at Koorboora. They later sold these leases, called ‘Shylock’, ‘Fairplay’ and ‘Ironbark’, to John Moffat & Co. for a handsome profit in 1889.⁴⁹ Christie Palmerston and Munro had a close association with exploration of the area.

Alex travelled to Brisbane to lobby for funds to undertake road construction. In 1882, support for a track to Mourilyan Harbour between Tinaroo and Geraldton Divisional Boards prompted Munro to blaze a tree line to Watsonville (six miles west of Herberton) for a suitable road. In 1884 Alex sponsored ‘The Pathfinder’ John Doyle to blaze a suitable wagon track between Herberton and Georgetown, to encourage trade between Cairns, Herberton and the Etheridge gold field. The road went

through Coolgarra and joined the Georgetown road near Fossilbrook. Munro supported the building of a railway from Cairns to Herberton.

Civic Roles

In 1881 Munro was a member of the newly established Herberton School of Arts. On 16 November of that year he was one of the four founding members of the Tinaroo Divisional Board; the only known photograph of Munro is from the Tinaroo Divisional Board of 1881 (**plate 3**). Contemporary newspaper accounts suggest Munro played an active role in the Wild River Jockey Club, as an owner of the horses *Bally* and *Otho*, both of which won cups in races at Herberton⁵⁰; a rider of other owner’s horses in handicap races where local riders were required⁵¹; and a race steward⁵².

Munro was well liked and respected for his work in the communities of the far north. On his death in 1894, at



Plate 3. Photograph of some members of Herberton district's first divisional board (Alexander Munro seated front left). Photo from the Mrs S C Burrell collection. Photographer unknown. Image courtesy of Eacham Historical Society.

least three different far north Queensland newspapers ran obituaries⁴⁵⁻⁴⁸, different friends inserted death notices in various newspapers⁵³⁻⁵⁵, and a large number of people turned out to his funeral procession. The Cairns *Argus* noted⁴⁵:

The remains were conveyed to the Hides hotel, from which place the funeral eventually started. The coffin was beautifully adorned with flowers, Mrs W.H. Swallow sending in crosses and wreathes, Mrs Symmonds following in the same direction, and Mrs Hides affording other floral tributes. The cortege to the cemetery may have been equalled in Cairns on one or two notable occasions, but it certainly was never excelled, all classes, orders and conditions of men joining in to show respect to the deceased, a man who has that mesmeric influence about his personality that his friends were legion. A grander tribute, if one were needed, was the fact that even the women and children of Cairns were sympathizers, and "poor Alec." was a frequent exclamation. The following to the grave – buggies and men on horseback –

must have extended to nearly half a mile in length, and had his friends in Herberton and out back the time to be present, the procession would have been unprecedented. On reaching the cemetery the bearers included Mr Patience (Mayor of Cairns), and Mr W.H. Swallow (Chairman of the Cairns Divisional Board), Messrs Grimes, Gordon, Martin, and other old friends of the deceased. The service for the dead was impressively read by the Rev. O.K. Hill, and the worth of the departed, his wonderful personal magnetism, was amply demonstrated by the fact that not only his brother, Mr Willie Munro, but many of his intimate friends could not control their emotion.

Munro's grave, which is in the McLeod Street Cemetery in Cairns, has a large ornate marble headstone and square pillar with an urn on top, sitting on a sandstone plinth. The stonemason was J. Simmonds of Brisbane. The plinth sits on a concrete slab with slate and marble tiles and white marble edges. The headstone reads:

Sacred to the memory of
Alexander Munro
Who died at Cairns aged 39 years.
Praises on tombs are trifles
vainly spent
A man's good name is his best
monument

7. WHAT BECAME OF THE HORSE BALLY?

Although we have not been able to track the racing career of Bally, this horse was involved in one of the largest early wagers in Queensland. Since two separate secondary sources give conflicting accounts^{56,57}, we carefully examined the Herberton newspapers for the years 1884-88. The first mention of a match between Bally and another local horse, Finnigan, is in the *Herberton Advertiser* of 1884, where it was announced⁵⁸:

Match – A match has been arranged between Mr. P Casey's Bally and Mr. Smith's Finnigan, two miles, to be run 8th October, the former staking £60 to the latter's £30.

It appears that this match was postponed until Thursday 22 October 1884. The *Herberton Advertiser* devotes substantial space reporting the following Saturday on the outcome of the match⁵⁹. As the State Library of Victoria appears to hold the only known copy of this newspaper, this report is replicated in full here:

Bally V Finnigan

A match between Mr. Casey's Bally and Mr. B. Smith's Finnigan 10 stone up, two miles, was run on the Course on Thursday afternoon. The match, which was arranged on the settling night of the Annual meeting was that Mr Casey laid £60 to £30 that his horse could beat Finnigan. A week or two after £100 to £80 was laid the same way. As the stakes up to this time were nothing unusual, little interest was



Plate 4.
Photograph of
the horse
Finnigan,
winner of the
largest wagers
in Far North
Queensland
racing. Atkinson
Photo collection.
Photographer
Unknown.
Image courtesy
of Cairns
Historical
Society.

taken in the matter. On Thursday morning, however, it transpired that some heavy wagering had taken place and that nearly £5,000 depended on the issue of the race. This created some excitement and about 100 horsemen wended their way to the convincing ground. On arriving there, groups were gathered around each horse, and the general impression seemed to be that Bally was a trifle big. Finnigan – a hurdleracer – did not at all strike the onlooker with admiration, his slab sides and a large swelling on his near hind fetlock giving him a decidedly broken down appearance. The wagering was entirely confined to a couple of supporters on either side, although Finnigan's backers seemed to be the most ready to lay, all the Bally money being taken as quickly as offered. Mr Stevenson was appointed judge, Mr McDonald starter, Mr McCann clerk of scales, and Messrs Reid

and Bowler clerks of the course. As the horses took their preliminary they looked more fitted for a selling race than to compete for the largest stake ever run for in North Queensland and probably the whole of the colony. Mr McDonald got them away at the second attempt, Finnigan having the inside running. Before passing the stand Bally led by a length which lead he maintained all the way round till the entrance to the straight was reached when Finnigan got on even terms with him and passed him before reaching the stand. Bally died away to nothing at the back of the course and Finnigan cantered in an easy winner by about 50 lengths. Phil Doyle piloted the winner and B. Buckley did a like duty on Bally. A Hurry Scurry was then run for £5 given by Mr Munro and was won by Wizard, Spot second, Mahomet third.

THE SETTLING.

In the evening the money was handed over at the Royal Hotel, Mr O'Loan presiding. The original wager of 60 to 30 was handed over by the Chairman to Mr Smith and Mr C Douglas who was stakeholder handed over various wagers amounting to £4,880 to Mr A Munro. Fizz was then ordered in and the toasts of winners and losers drank in bumpers. The manner in which the affair was conducted and the money lost and won reflects the highest credit on all concerned and shows that dull as the times are, money is not the scarce article in Herberton alleged, when the emergency arises.

Given the vast sum of money involved (over \$700,000 in today's money⁶⁰), The race generated interest further afield, with the *Queenslander* reporting⁶¹:

Herberton, October 24.
A private match was run here

Table 2: List of early presentation cups and awards from the Wild River Jockey Club

Year	Presentation Award	Date of race	Winner	Description of the Award
1882	Members' Cup	1882	A. Munro's Bally	
1884	Members' Cup	24-25 Sept	Mr R Firth's Wizard, ridden by Mr Douglas. Note W.J. Munro's Maroon, ridden by A. Munro came 2nd, but won on appeal ⁶²	“Wild River Jockey Club: The Committee of this club met at the Royal Hotel on Thursday evening. ...A handsome Silver Cup was selected from amongst others by the gentlemen present. The cup is about 12 inches high, of chased frosted silver, having two handles, and is surmounted by a nicely executed horse and jockey on the lid. This is the gift of Mr. H. Selig the Vice President of the Club, and to be competed for by Member's horses only.” ⁶³
1885	Merchant Cup	2-3 Sept	Mr Collison, Soldier Boy	The Cup presented by Messrs Benjamin Brothers was placed on view and much admired. The consideration of placing a special race for the Merchant's cup followed when it was decided to be run on the first day. ⁶⁴ Merchant Cup's cup, a handicap race; for a cup value of 25 sovereigns, presented by Messrs Benjamin Brothers , Brisbane, with a sweep of 2 sovs each from starters added; for all horses owned and ridden by members of the club. ⁶⁵
1885	Miner's Plate	26 Dec	Dyne, Wantwood	A piece of plate presented by H. Selig Esq. ⁶⁶
1885	Herbert River Cup	26 Dec	Dyne, Wantwood	Herbert River Cup, value 10 guineas (presented by the gentlemen of the upper Herbert), with a sweep of £2 each from starters added. All horses to be ridden by amateurs who are also members of the WRJ club. ⁶⁶
1886	Merchant Cup	18-19 Aug 1886	A. Munro, Otho	'the gift of Messrs Benjamin Bros., of Brisbane' ¹⁵⁰
1889	Welter Handicap	26 Dec	W. McDonald's Count	A Handsome Cup, presented by Messrs Benjamin Bros., of Brisbane on behalf of the 'Club House Cigar Co.' ¹⁶⁷

yesterday between R. Smith's Finnigan and P. Casey's Bally, the distance being two miles, 10 st. up. Finnigan won easily. There was great excitement over the race, and nearly £5000 was paid over by the stakeholders last night.

It appears that the winning horse Finnigan had subsequent successes. Indeed an early photograph (plate 4), shows Finnigan with rider, and has the handwritten comment:

"Finegan" winner of the celebrated "Baldy" Finegan match for £4000. Also Cadda, Finegan match £500. Owners Smith & Maines.

8. OTHER EARLY PRESENTATION CUPS AND AWARDS FROM THE WILD RIVER JOCKEY CLUB

Contemporary newspaper accounts of the Wild River Jockey Club reveal that a number of other presentation pieces were given to the owners of winning horses in several of the club's races. As the details of none of these other early pieces have yet been published, and as an aid should they be rediscovered, Table 2 list all the awards we have been able to establish from the contemporary records.

The Member's Cup appears to have been awarded only for the years 1882–84, and was donated by Herman Selig for at least two of these years. It seems to have been replaced by the Merchant's Cup, donated by Benjamin Brothers of Brisbane. Newspaper accounts (detailed in Table 2) describe the cups of 1884 and 1885 as 'handsome' and 'much admired'. Alexander Munro won another cup in 1886⁵⁰, while his brother won the Member's Cup of 1884. These cups seem to have been fiercely contested by the club members. For example, Munro won the 1884 cup on appeal, as described by the *Herberton Advertiser*⁶²:

PROTEST.- The committee of the W.R.J Club met on Friday evening at the Royal Hotel to consider the protest lodged by W.J. Munro the owner of Maroon against the Member's Cup and stakes being handed over to R. Frith the owner of Wizard. The evidence, summarized, is as follows: - Mr. Frith produced a receipt dated 20th June which he stated he had received personally on that date from Mr Bowman, the previous owner of the horse Wizard, at Mount Esk near Brisbane. Mr. A Munro, who appeared for his brother stated that it was impossible that Mr Frith could have been at Mount Esk on the date mentioned and produced telegrams from a private gentlemen and agents of the shipping companies showing that Mr Frith did not leave Cooktown until 21st June, Townsville till 30th June and only arrived in Brisbane on 4th July. Mr Clarke and Mr Young also gave evidence, the latter gentleman's statement corroborating the telegrams received. After hearing the evidence Mr Foy moved that Wizard be disqualified for the Member's cup on the grounds that he had not been the property of Mr Firth the necessary three months and that the stakes be awarded to Maroon. The motion was seconded by Mr Stevenson and carried.

9. CONCLUSION

The Wild River Members' Cup of 1882 is an interesting award of an early North Queensland Jockey Club. It illustrates the enthusiasm and commitment of the miners, pastoralists and businessmen to the running of professional race meetings with worthy prizes. The Herberton district's Wild River Jockey Club was representative of regional sporting organisations that attracted most of the populace to attend the track entertainment. The style, extravagance,

performance levels and prizes fluctuated according to the economy of the district and the vagaries of the weather. The fine silver cups presented are now our valued cultural heritage and remind us of the prosperity and significance of the horse racing industry in regional Australia in the colonial period.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank Andrew Lemon for useful discussions regarding early racing in Australia and Patricia Morrish from ABC Far North, whose interview with two of the authors gleaned useful information. In addition, we thank the librarians from the Rare Book Collection of the University of Melbourne, the State Library of Victoria, the National Library of Australia, and the State Library of Queensland (Karen Hind). We thank the Eacham and Cairns Historical Societies for providing the images for plates 3 and 4. We thank Linda Feketeová for taking the photograph in Figure 1a.

NOTES ON UNITS

Imperial units are used throughout. The following conversions can be used:

1 mile = 1.608 km
1 pound (£) = AUD \$2 (conversion on 14 February 1966)
1 pound (£) = 20 shillings; 1 shilling = 12 pence; 1 sovereign = 5 shillings

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NOTES

1 For a list of Australian racing clubs see H Freedman & A Lemon, *The history of Australian thoroughbred racing, volume 2, The golden years - from 1862 to 1939*, Southbank Communications Group, Melbourne, 1990.

- 2 J B Hawkins has published on the 'glamour' cups, e g J B Hawkins 'Glittering Prizes', *Collectors Annual Bicentennial Edition* 1988, tracing the history of all known examples of the Geelong Gold Cups between 1874 and 1889.
- 3 Some of the smaller racing events had magnificent cups made by Australian silversmiths, e g the Brookong Corinthian Cup of 1881 awarded at Urana NSW, attributed to Edward Fischer, and donated to the Powerhouse Museum by Professor Ken Cavill. K. Cavill, *Australian Antique Collector*, 1997, p 102-103.
- 4 J Culme, *The directory of gold & silversmiths, jewellers, and allied traders, 1838-1914 from the London Assay Office registers*. Antique Collectors Club, Woodbridge, Suffolk 1987, vol 1, pp 446-447.
- 5 G Pike, *In the path of the pioneers: the history & progress of the Herberton Shire*, Herberton Shire Council, 1950.
- 6 J Crump, *Herberton's hundredth*, 1880-1980, Herberton Lions Club, 1980
- 7 Expedition in search of gold and other minerals in the Palmer districts by Mulligan and party: 29th April - 23rd September 1875, under the leadership of James Venture Mulligan, Eacham Historical Society, Malanda, Qld., 2007.
- 8 Cat. plan no K124.1109, originally C157.97, Department of Lands; Deed: vol.74 folios 189-192; Selection surveyed by Thomas Horan, Licensed Surveyor, in August/September 1880; MWO 13C/3, Queensland State Archives.
- 9 *Queenslander* 29 May 1880, p 693.
- 10 *Queenslander* 3 July 1880, p 19, quoting *Cairns Advertiser*, on the opening and operations of the battery see R.S. Kerr, *John Moffat of Irvinebank: a biography of a regional entrepreneur - a history of Cairns Hinterland mining 1875 - 1918*, J D & R S Kerr, St Lucia, 2000.
- 11 *Queenslander* 9 Oct 1880, p 468.
- 12 R S Kerr, *op cit* chapter 5.
- 13 *Pugh's Queensland Almanac, Law Calendar, Directory, Coast Guide and Gazetteer for 1882*, William Thorne, Brisbane, 1882, p 335.
- 14 *Ibid* p 480.
- 15 *Statistics and resources of the Wild River District, for distribution at the Charters Towers exhibition: and a general directory of the several centres of population*. Printed at the Herberton Advertiser office, Herberton, 1884.
- 16 *Queenslander* 24 Dec 1881, p 807.
- 17 *Queenslander* 14 Jan 1882, p 39.
- 18 Herman Selig played an important role in Herberton. *Pugh's Queensland Almanac* 1882 lists H Selig as a newsagent/storekeeper in Herberton.
- His shop became known as the Crystal Palace, and carried a range of goods including jewellery and silverware. Various issues of the local contemporary newspapers reveal that Selig held a range of posts on different committees including the Wild River Jockey Club, the cricket club, the School of Arts and the local band.
- 19 The *Queenslander's* turf section mentions the races' key dates (see editions of 13 May, 20 May etc. of 1882), while the advertisement section carries the notice of the Secretary (e g *Queenslander* 13 May 1882, p 603).
- 20 For the early newspapers of Herberton, see R S Kerr, 'Herberton's Early Newspapers', in *Cairns Historical Society Bulletin*, 223, June 1978.
- 21 Pike (n 5) notes that there are few surviving copies of these early newspapers. Regarding the *Wild River Times*, Geoff Bolton notes that 'the newspaper's own files, formerly held by Mr Gilbert Petter, Herberton, were burnt by order of the Public Curator's office after Mr Petter's death in 1957'. See G C Bolton, *A Thousand Miles Away, A History of North Queensland to 1920*, ANU Press, 1970, p 345.
- 22 J L Collins & G H Thompson, *Harking back: the turf, its men and memories*, Brisbane, Standard Press, 1924, p 52.
- 23 G Pike (ed), *Campfire Tales*, Pinevale Publications, Mareeba, North Queensland, 1981, pp 92-94.
- 24 H Freedman & A Lemon *op cit* p 342 illustrate the 1887 Calendar of the North Queensland Racing Association, which lists the club as a registered member.
- 25 J L Collins & G H Thompson, *op cit* p 185.
- 26 *Queenslander*, 22 Sept 1883, p 478.
- 27 *Herberton Advertiser*, 27 Sept, 1 Oct 1884.
- 28 *Herberton Advertiser*, 27 Dec 1884.
- 29 *Herberton Advertiser*, 4 Sept 1885.
- 30 *Herberton Advertiser*, 31 Dec 1885.
- 31 *Wild River Times*, 20 Aug 1886.
- 32 *Wild River Times*, 31 Dec 1886.
- 33 *Wild River Times*, 5 Aug 1887.
- 34 *Wild River Times*, 30 Dec 1887.
- 35 *Queensland Turf Guide*, R E Warwick, Brisbane, 1888, p 29.
- 36 *Ibid*, 1888, p 90.
- 37 *Ibid*, 1889, p 210-12.
- 38 *Ibid*, 1889, p 266.
- 39 *Wild River Times*, 22 Aug 1890.
- 40 *Wild River Times*, 2 Jan 1891.
- 41 *Queensland Turf Guide*, 1891, p 10-12.
- 42 *Wild River Times*, 4 December 1891.
- 43 Duncan Ray will publish a detailed biography of Munro.
- 44 Electoral return for Cook, 1882.
- 45 *Cairns Argus*, 9 May 1894.
- 46 *Wild River Times*, 10 May 1894.
- 47 *The Northern Miner*, as cited in *Cairns Argus*, 12 May 1894.
- 48 *Queenslander*, 12 May 1894, p 871.
- 49 Queensland Archive Records show that Alex Munro held the following leases: MIN/O1 34, MIN/O2 4, 5, MIN/O3 81, 82, 83.
- 50 *Wild River Times*, 20 Aug 1886.
- 51 For example, Munro rode G Aubrey's 'Fair Play' to win the Welter Plate (*Wild River Times*, 5 Aug 1887) and W McDonald's horse 'Design' that came second in the Welter Handicap (*Wild River Times*, 27 Dec 1889).
- 52 *Wild River Times* 23 Aug 1889 notes that 'Mr A Munro, as starter, performed his arduous duties in a creditable manner.'
- 53 'Tell me my soul, can this be death?', *Cairns Argus*, 9 May 1894.
- 54 'And so Aleck is gone!', *Wild River Times*, 10 May 1894. This colourful advertisement describes Munro as having 'a heart as big as a house, and taken all round, was the whitest man that God ever planted in North Queensland - bar none.'
- 55 'Our milestones into tombstones change, neath every one a friend', *Cairns Argus*, 12 May 1894.
- 56 Pike's early history of Herberton states that [5]: A photograph of one well remembered horse named 'Finegan', winner of the celebrated Bally-Finegan races for £4000, and also of the Cadda-Finegan match for £500. Smith and Maines were the owners, and the date given is 1888.
- 57 J L Collins & G H Thompson, *op cit*: 'Probably the most notable stake ever raced for in Queensland was when Finnegan, who was owned by Messrs. Smith and Maines and ridden by Mick Kane was matched against Bally for £4800, which was decided at Herberton, North Queensland, in 1885, and won by Finnegan.'
- 58 *Herberton Advertiser*, 24 Sept 1884.
- 59 *Herberton Advertiser*, 25 Oct 1884, p 2.
- 60 Today's value of the £4,880 payout in 1884 can be estimated using tables for the UK£ as £364,554 (<http://www.measuringworth.com>). Applying an exchange rate of £1 = A\$0.4732, gives A\$770,403.
- 61 *Queenslander*, 1 Nov 1884, p 697, under 'Latest by Telegraph' section.
- 62 *Herberton Advertiser*, 8 Oct 1884.
- 63 *Herberton Advertiser*, 6 Sept 1884.
- 64 *Herberton Advertiser*, 10 July 1885, Supplement Sheet.
- 65 *Herberton Advertiser*, 4 Sept 1885.
- 66 *Herberton Advertiser*, 31 Dec 1885.
- 67 *Wild River Times*, 27 Dec 1889.

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A snuff box comes home

It has been a long round trip. After more than 150 years, a sterling silver presentation snuff box, inscribed 'Mr. Lewis Cohen, Murrurundi 1844' and made by Hilliard & Thomason of Birmingham, England, has found its way home to Bobadil House, Murrurundi.



Silver snuff box inscribed 'Mr. Lewis Cohen, Murrurundi 1844', hallmarked for Hilliard & Thomason, Birmingham, 1851. Private collection, Murrurundi NSW. Photo courtesy Elders Fine Art Auctioneers, Adelaide

Michael Reid

The snuffbox was discovered (thank you Peter Walker) when it appeared as lot 129 (\$1,700) in the Elders Fine Art Auctioneers' dispersal of the Alexander McEwin collection in Adelaide on 28 March. It had previously appeared as lot 60 in Young's Auction in Melbourne on 30 November 2008.

Silver hallmarks tell us that the snuffbox was made in 1851 and presumably given as a gift to Lewis Cohen, with the date and location inscribed 'Murrurundi 1844'. How could the present have been given before it was made?

In 1848, Lewis Cohen was the innkeeper of the Woolpack Inn just off the corner of Mayne and Boyd Streets in Murrurundi, in the Upper Hunter Valley of NSW. The inn was built of local sandstone between 1842 and 1844 for the Australian Agricultural Company surveyor Henry Dangar. The building is now known as

Bobadil House and is the oldest surviving building in the heritage-listed town of Murrurundi. Cohen's Gully runs alongside the house, into the Pages River (this is more interesting than it seems).

When the house was an inn, a shop made of sandstone stood exactly on the corner; its foundations remain to this day. During the early 1840s, Lewis Cohen was listed as a storekeeper. Possibly then, Cohen moved from being a storekeeper in a store to an innkeeper at the Woolpack Inn. Perhaps the snuffbox was given to him as a gift on the occasion of his leaving his store to take over the inn. It was common in the 19th century to engrave going away gifts with the date at which a person originally took up their position. This might explain the discrepancy between the date of the snuffbox's manufacture and the date of its inscription.

Just a few years after taking over the inn, Lewis Cohen died. The inn then changed hands and names several times before being purchased by John

Sevil. The Sevil family, and branches thereof, have lived at the house since the 1890s when John Sevil, having purchased the inn, renamed it Bobadil House, after the family property Bobadil, outside Willow Tree.

So in terms of movable cultural heritage, is the silver snuffbox coming home to the inn or to the remnants of the store? Cohen did not live at the inn for very long and certainly not when the snuffbox was engraved and dated 1844. Yet the gully is named after him, so it is quite possible that he may have lived at the store near the inn and near the gully for many years.

Who knows? Whatever Cohen was doing and wherever he was living at the time, his snuffbox is now home.

Michael Reid is an art columnist for *The Australian* and runs the Michael Reid Gallery based at both Bobadil House, Murrurundi and at Elizabeth Bay in Sydney

The creation and furnishing of Government House, Hobart by Lt Governors Sorell, Arthur and Franklin between 1817–1843

PART II: LT GOVERNOR ARTHUR (1824–1836)

John Hawkins continues his series on early Tasmanian furniture from the houses of the Governors, exploring Scottish and Irish design motifs, and the influence of the architect John Lee Archer. He assigns several early, stylish examples of Tasmanian furniture to Governor Arthur's Government House, and speculates that Archer was the designer.

1



John Hawkins

It is important to explore the design sources and technical skills that may have influenced the construction of colonial furniture in Hobart in the decade after 1820. The key I suggest is the Edinburgh Shipping Company, formed in 1822 with a capital of £100,000, which purchased four ships and ran a three-monthly shipping service from the Edinburgh port of Leith, Scotland to Hobart and Sydney.¹

While much of the grazing land near Sydney in New South Wales had been granted by Macquarie and his predecessors, the pristine aboriginal fire-farmed landscape of Tasmania

1. The Gallery at Paxton completed circa 1815. The pair of Trotter couches placed to take advantage of the warmth from the fire, the matching sabre-legged chairs, centre and side tables are still in situ in this austere but grand Scottish interior



2

2A



2. This important Scottish sofa by William Trotter is signed and dated Edinburgh 1814. Made for the Gallery at Paxton, it is as smart as it gets and carries its original 'marone' upholstery. Collection of J B Hawkins Antiques

2A. A couch, one of a pair en suite with the sofa still in the Gallery at Paxton

Southern Irish fan decorative detail

Plain tablet back of Scottish form with Irish circular ring turned rosettes as supports

In Scottish cabinet-making terms a 'roller'

3



Screw head covers, the show wood front unscrews from the carcase of the sofa, the screws concealed by round plugs, a most unusual form of construction

3. The TMAG cedar sofa presented by the Federal Group in 2005. I suggest that this sofa was designed by John Lee Archer in August/September 1827 and made in the workshops of J W Woolley with the help of an assigned convict chairmaker, possibly 'HW' (see plate 8), whose name is on the lists at Appendix A. Peculiarly Irish decorative features of this sofa are the fan terminals to the ends of the back and the ring turned rosettes either side of the central tablet, key decoration on this somewhat bleak but grand piece of sabre-legged furniture. With the arrival of Franklin and his decision to use Government House at New Norfolk as a country residence, I suggest that the sofa and the missing pair of couches were moved to New Norfolk. Woolley supplied a new suite of drawing room furniture for Government House Hobart and will be detailed in part III of this series. I suggest that with the closure of the New Norfolk Government House before 1900, the sofa (suite) was sold and moved some 15 miles further west to the village of Hamilton. The Hamilton Inn was the provenance given for the sofa prior to its purchase by the Federal Group at Gowan's saleroom in Hobart. Photo courtesy Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery

awaited settlers with the necessary funds. As a result, Scots began to arrive in Hobart in large numbers² and with them the current fashions from the 'Athens of the North', epitomised by the Greek Revival 'New Town' in the city of Edinburgh.

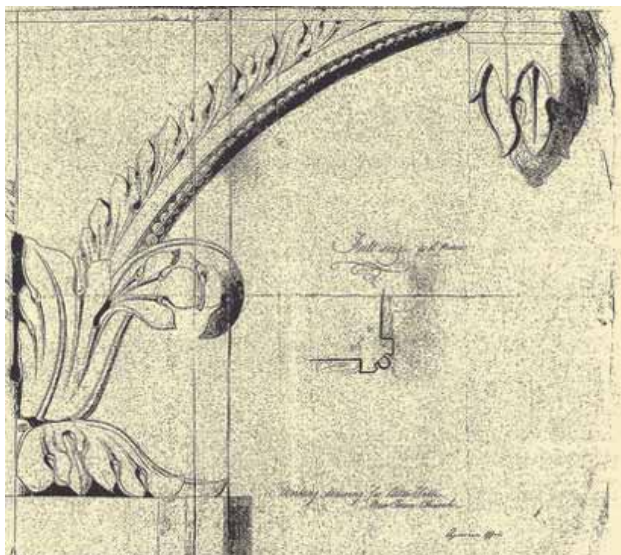
Thus, the furnishing for one of Scotland's leading families of Paxton, a great Scottish house 65 km south of Edinburgh, is instructive, both for the cutting-edge design and for the survival of the estimates, accounts and correspondence relating to its completion. These give a detailed insight into contemporary furniture use, and the costs, which they quoted in full.³

The picture gallery at Paxton (**plate 1**) is a magnificent room and a spectacular space, the largest private gallery of any country house in Scotland. Eighty feet (24.4m) long and 35 feet (10.7m) at its widest point, it is the only room in the house to employ a full classical order for the interior spaces, with deep apses at either end, screened by a pair of robust Ionic columns and pilasters to subdivide the walls. To achieve the diffused lighting suitable for viewing pictures, the architect Robert Reid consulted the painter Sir Henry Raeburn.

It was for this austere yet grand room that the Edinburgh cabinet-maker William Trotter supplied some of his finest furniture in 1814. His total bill came to £1,309, more than a quarter of the cost of the entire building. For the gallery, Trotter provided 14 sabre-legged chairs, two Regency couches with high- and low-scrrolled ends and two pairs of sofas, all made of rosewood. They constitute part of what is the most outstanding collection of Trotter furniture in Scotland.

Francis Bamford, in the introduction to his classic survey states⁴

William Trotter, knowing his customers and the houses they wished to furnish, decided that he must leaven the fashionable elegance prevailing among the English designers of Regency furniture with some suggestion of Scottish dignity.



There is, too, in all his furniture a calculated appeal to that trait in the Scottish character which likes to receive full value for money. His products achieved an air of refined solidity and the materials used were quite clearly of fine quality. He made occasional use of brass inlay to decorate his furniture and, unlike his English contemporaries, he seldom seems to have fitted brass feet on his tables, preferring boldly carved lions' paws. In fact, his success was founded on his belief that he must provide what his customers wanted to possess.

Trotter's original correspondence, estimates and orders for furnishing this room at Paxton survive:⁵

W. Trotter
Edin. 11th Dec., 1813

My Dear Madam,
... After various deliberations with myself I wish to recommend the Chairs & Sofas to be made of solid rosewood instead of black, in imitation of ebony. It will be most in unison with the character of the rooms ...
The sofas will fill the spaces between the pilasters upon the straight wall—and will look handsome even if taken out & placed occasionally in the middle of [the] Room. The Grecian

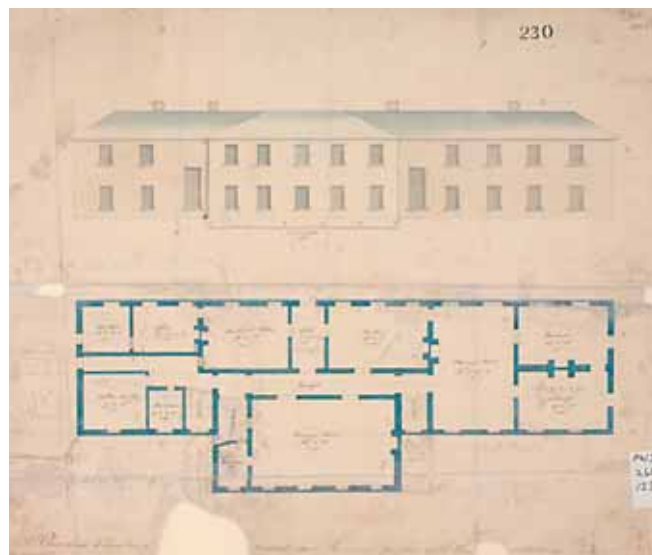
couch will however render it unnecessary to remove them often from the wall ... Still, speaking of beauty & compositions, my mind is led back to the good old chairs—and I am quite rejoiced you have been so happy as [to] make such a muster of them. I shall do them all the justice in my power. The Sketch of the Chair I have sent for the drawing room—has a stuffed panel in the back. The Sofas, as well as the Chairs, are to be covered with the crimson cloth—and perhaps it may not be amiss to have slight overall covers for them ...

I have the Honor to remain,
My Dear Madam,
Your Most Obedt. humble Servt.
W. Trotter.

Estimate of probable expenses:
The Large Grecian Sofas for sides of room stuff'd & finish'd in fine crimson cloth to match chairs—with bolster & pillows will come to 25 or 26 guineas each if of Black wood—and about 3 1/2 guineas more if of rose wood.

The Grecian Couches finish'd to match large Sofas with bolster & pillow - of Black wood from 22 to 23 Guineas each, and 3 1/2 more if of rose wood.

The expense of the whole of the foregoing may be considerably varied

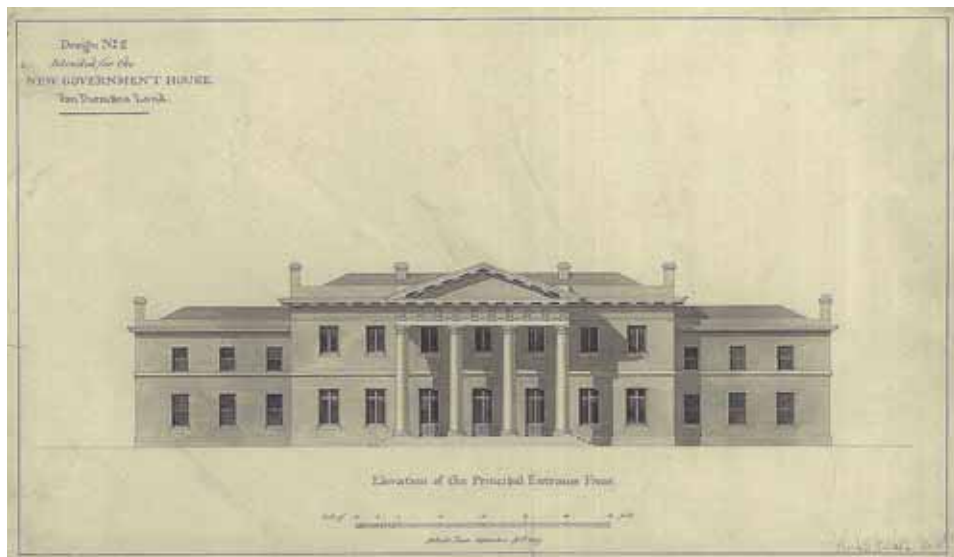
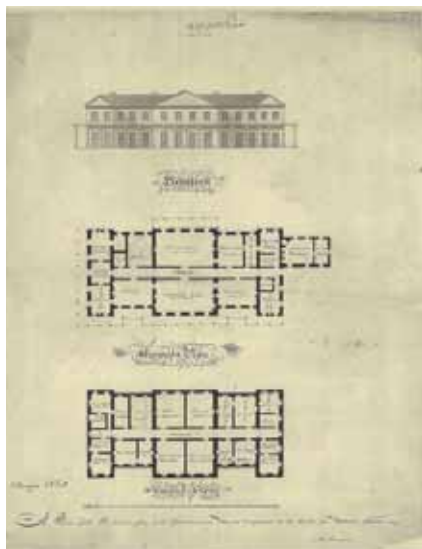


4. One of four furnishing drawings from the Hobart Engineers Office, dated Sept 15th 1835 (PWD 266 / 1517-1520) to the designs of John Lee Archer for an altar and altar table at St John's New Town, Hobart. The working drawings for construction have been signed (266/1520) by Robert Doolin draftsman in Archer's office. The working drawing (266/1517) for the Gothic detail of the altar table (now lost) is probably the earliest surviving detail drawing for an item of Australian furniture. These drawings show Archer's knowledge of design, the drawing skills and the ability within the Colony to draw and carve detail. Collection and photo Archives Office Tasmania, PWD266/125

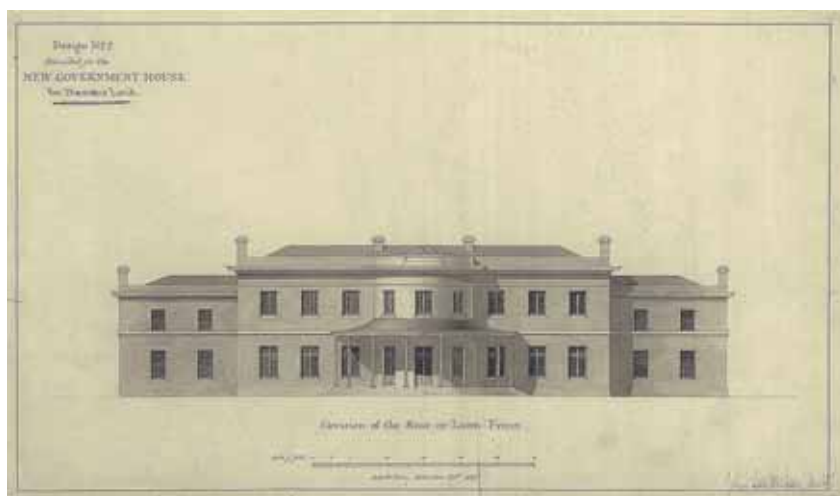
5. *Plan and Elevation of Government House Hobart as completed looking towards the sea with recent additions.* Elevation and footprint of the additions built for Governor Arthur in 1827 to strengthen the existing Government House, with an extension of two rooms at the eastern end and a dining room facing the Derwent to the centre. This elevation, a stop-gap solution to prevent Government House from falling down, is signed J E Addison then draftsman in the Engineers Office (see also part I, plates 7A & B). Collection and photo Archives Office Tasmania, PWD266/125

according to the stile of finishing, particularly as relating to the quantity &c. of carving. To make the things look well, the expense cannot well be diminish'd, but it may be increas'd—and the general good effect thereby improv'd—
W. T.

6A



6C



- 6A. *Design No 1. A plan and elevation of a New Government House proposed to be built at Hobart Town*, signed J E Addison, received in London 7 April 1828 and enclosed with dispatch of 23 Sept 1827. Arthur chose the option of propping and infilling the existing Government House (plates 5A & B). As a result, this rather dull pre-Archer proposed Government House, designed for the Domain, had been superseded. Probably designed by Major Turton, Arthur notes that 'The plan of the new Government House I had approved months since [ie. before Archer's arrival] I have the honour to enclose.' Photo courtesy National Archives, Kew
- 6B. *Design No 2. One of two opposing elevations for the proposed Government House, Hobart, to be erected in the Domain to designs by J L Archer*, signed and dated 21 Sept 1827 and sent to London with Design No 1 (plate 6). This elevation bears many similarities to the elevations for Castlecoole, designed by Richard Johnston for the Lowry Corry family in Ireland in 1789. Photo courtesy National Archives, Kew
- 6C. *No 2. John Lee Archer signed and dated this elevation, Hobart Town, 21 Sept 1827, within a month of his arrival. The cresting above the tablet in the pediment may be a key to a sideboard, chair or sofa-back in the Irish manner; as this freehand scrolling is his signed work in this form. This is the vision splendid, destined for the Domain and judged by Arthur as 'Mr Archer's plan is infinitely more elegant'.* Photo courtesy National Archives, Kew

Bill

George Home of Paxton Esquire
To Wm Trotter, Edinburgh
1814 Jany

...Two large Grecian Sofas of rosewood
with wedge ends & back on castors,

round stuffed with a bordered hair
mattress, 2 round hair bolsters & 2
down pillows with tassels, covered
with morone Cloth & finished with
silk gimp & cord @ £30/15/0
£61/10/0

Two large Grecian Sofas of rosewood
with scroll ends & low backs on
Castors, with a bordered hair mattress,
2 bolsters, & 2 pillows, finished to
match the other Sofas @ £32/10 £65
Two Grecian Couches with high &
low carved ends on Castors, with a
bordered hair mattress, a bolster, and a
pillow covered with cloth and finished
to match the Sofas @ £27/10 £55/0/0.

It is important to understand the contemporary terminology Trotter used in this correspondence. A sofa has ends of the same height, to stand against the 'sides of the wall' and is more expensive (**plate 2**). Couches are cheaper; made as a pair or sometimes as a left and right, they stand within the room with the low end allowing the heat from the fire to warm the feet and the face (**plate 2A**, standing either side of the fireplace in **plate 1**).

In a letter to Earl Bathurst dated Government House, Van Diemen's Land, 3 September 1827, Governor Arthur writes:

Mr Archer arrived at Hobart Town
on the 2nd August last and
immediately entered upon the duties
of Civil Engineer
and Architect ...

Mr. Archer's practice having been
chiefly in the latter profession, I have
felt it my duty to merge the Office of
Architect to that of
Civil Engineer ...

I have no doubt the advantage will
soon be apparent of committing the

7A



7A detail



7A detail

7B



7A. Four of these decorated splat cedar drawing room chairs still survive at Government house Hobart in the Executive Council Room. Numbered with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch chisel marks, the highest number is XIII, the others VII and VIII and one is struck four times with a half-round carving or turning chisel, proving that this set was originally over 12 in number. I suggest these are all that remain from the 24 drawing room chairs in the September 1827 order by Arthur for 48 chairs, and that they were all of the same basic form, 24 dining and 24 drawing differentiated by the splats to the back.

Unusually there are no cross-strengtheners under the drop-in seats in the four Government House chairs, which may help identify chairs from this suite in future. If one accepts this thesis, then John Lee Archer was the designer, J.W. Woolley's workshop the probable source, and the possible chairmaker is the convict 'HW' on assignment. None of these chairs has the broad arrow mark, nor does the sofa (plate 3) Collection Government House, Hobart, photos J B Hawkins Antiques

7A Detail of the decorated back splat with fan and ring turned supports, compare with the sofa Plate 3

7A Detail of scroll and quirk from chair X111

7B. This chair, now at Old Government House Parramatta, has a Tasmanian provenance (Fahy & Simpson *Australian Furniture*, plate 110). With its sabre legs, quirks, triple-reeded back and stump arms, it is a designed chair stylish and quirky enough to be one of the 48 chairs ordered to accompany the sofa in Plate 3. I am suggesting it is one of the 24 dining chairs with the simple triple reed back splat to differentiate the dining from the drawing room chairs. Collection National Trust (NSW), photo courtesy Andrew Simpson's Antiques



7C



8B

8C



8D



7C A single cedar dining chair from the set of 24 remains at Government House, stamped CCC but only three times with a curved carving or turning chisel. Collection Government House, Hobart, photo J B Hawkins Antiques

8A. This sophisticated library chair in cedar, purchased at Gowans in Hobart by a private collector, relates to the Executive Council chairs (plates 9A,B & C), sharing a rather thin, elongated crested panelled back. The chair is stamped 'H W' (plate 8B) and I suggest that the maker could either be Henry Wright or Henry Wood, see Appendix A; biographies will be given in part III. Both men were 'cabinetmakers' employed on Public Works in Hobart, and both originated from Bristol, a city much influenced by cabinet-makers from Southern Ireland. Photo courtesy J B Hawkins Antiques and all details

8B. Half inch chisel marks struck into the seat rail of this cedar chair which contains its original hessian upholstery and horse hair packing as evidenced in the back and the arm. Remnants of black horsehair upholstery exist under the original tacks. It may be possible to read a carving chisel U after H.W. which may indicate this is number 1 of a pair

8C. Detail, back of chair

8D. Detail of finely carved leg

duties of this important department to a gentleman of experience in his profession; at the same time, I must observe to Your Lordship that the undertaking is quite new to Mr. Archer, as the management of any Public Work in this Colony executed by Convicts not only requires a scientific head, but plenty of nerve with an active determined spirit.

A sofa such as that in the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery (plate 3) needs a designer, and I suggest that there was nobody in Hobart capable of designing furniture of this sophistication before the arrival of John Lee Archer (1791–1852) on

the *Lang* in August 1827.⁷ Under Archer, the mechanics in the Lumber Yard (Appendix A) could now channel their skills into the production of more sophisticated furniture. The TMAG sofa, with its Irish idiosyncrasies of design, may have been drawn by Archer as directed by Lt Governor Arthur.

As the colony's architect, Archer designed some of Van Diemen's Land's most notable buildings, making a lasting contribution to the architecture of Hobart. The closest we have to his surviving designs for furniture are the 1835 drawings for a Gothic pulpit, altar and altar table for a colonial church (plate 4).

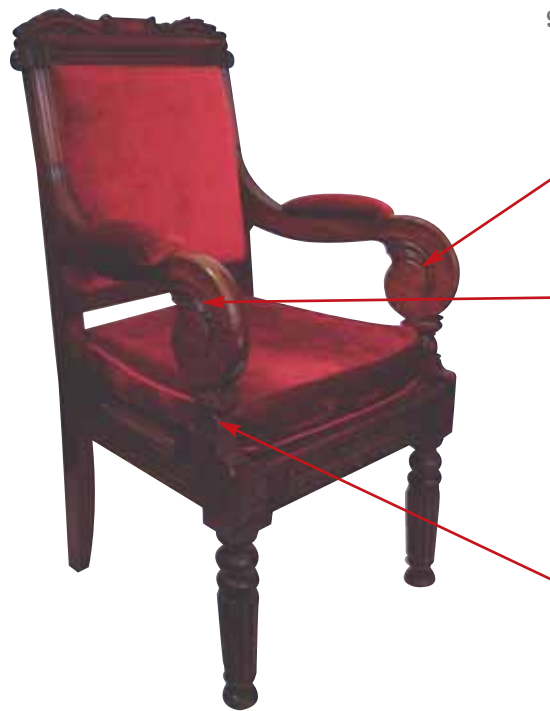
Immediately on his arrival, Archer supplied two elevations for a proposed new Government House⁸ for Arthur (plates 6B, 6C) as explained in the following dispatch. This close and immediate connection over designs for a new Government House suggests that almost immediately Arthur involved the newly appointed Civil Engineer in the affairs of the Lumber Yard. As a result, I suggest, Archer commenced designing furniture for the existing Government House, as noted in this highly important document.

In this dispatch of 23 September 1827, one gets the feeling that Arthur was



9A Detail

9A



9B

1. The scroll and stump arm, a variant of that shown in the Edinburgh Chair-Makers Book of Prices 1811
2. A quirk, the Scottish name for the fan decoration within the scroll
3. The unusual shell decoration to the stump, this shell for some reason, is not present on the Executive Council Chair 9A. Collection The Penitentiary Chapel, Hobart, photographs courtesy Brian Rieusset, National Trust (Tasmania)

9A The Executive Council Chairs. I suggest these chairs were made as a set of four for the repaired and revamped Executive Council Room created in the Davey Government House with the later fitted bow windows. This pair survives in the Penitentiary Chapel, another in the TMAG and one is yet to be located. I suggest that they were in part designed by J L Archer and made in the workshops of J W Woolley in 1827/28, possibly by Henry Wright or Henry Wood. The terminal point of the arms above the front legs have a Scottish form of scroll and quirk (the Scottish name for the fan decoration within the scroll) as found on the tops of the front legs of lobby tables in Edinburgh furniture, and the chair in plate 15. The triangular Huon pine lozenge (see detail) veneered to the central panel, possibly blackwood below the Crown which is centred by an ivory dot is an Irish motif, as are the fanned ends to the top rail. Collection The Penitentiary Chapel, Hobart, photographs courtesy Brian Rieusset, National Trust (Tasmania)

9A detail The triangular Huon pine lozenge (see detail) veneered to the central panel below the crown which is centred by an ivory dot

beginning to sense trouble from London over the construction of a new Government House (**plate 6A**) and its furnishings⁹

My Lord,
I have the honor to acknowledge your Lordship's Dispatch of the 25th March last upon the subject of the New Government House, in the erection of which your Lordship expresses much apprehension that I have undertaken a far more expensive edifice than was in the contemplation of His Majesty's government to sanction, and that your Lordship could not have imagined that a building of so extensive a description, as that which is now reported to be in progress, would have been projected. Your Lordship also requires me to send home with as little delay as possible the most full and circumstantial estimates of the expense of the building together with that of

furnishing. It affords me much satisfaction that I have it in my power to relieve your Lordship from all apprehension of my having used with imprudent haste, or with an improvident regard to public money, the sanction, which your Lordship was pleased to convey to me, of erecting a new Government House, by assuring your Lordship that not one single stone of the Building has been laid! I beg, however, to state to your Lordship that the circumstances of the building not being in progress has not arisen from any doubt being upon my mind that any further reference was necessary, after the authority which your Lordship had been already pleased to convey to me, for some of the Stones were actually quarried, and part of the foundation was already excavated, when the increased dilapidation of the present Government House became alarming that it was not

possible for my family to continue in it even for another week. In this emergency the Colonial Architect suggested that the front of the present house might be considerably strengthened by an additional building so as to fill up the recess in the centre, that the Eastern end might be equally supported by the operation, and that these additional buildings, acting as power abutments, might be so planned as to form very convenient public offices when the new Government House should be erected. [**plate 5**] The masonry and Carpenter's work, the Engineer was of opinion might be executed entirely by the convicts employed in the department, and if the doors and windows were made by contract, he considered that the house might be rendered habitable in the course of three or four months. Under this Report, the Engineer was

9C



9C TMAG chair and details. This chair was transferred from the Justice Department to TMAG in 1996. Unlike the other two, it is stamped twice to the inside seat rail with a broad arrow; behind each inside back face of the front legs near the junction of the seat rail is 'KY' (King's Yard). The arm junctions match 9C as both have clam shells on the stump below the scroll. As with 9A the central tablet to the back is inset with a veneered diamond-shaped lozenge of Huon pine. Collection and photographs Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery

9D



9D Detail of back top rail with panel and lozenge, the paterae contained within a squared border, matches chair plate 8

9E Details of KY [King's Yard] stamp, and broad arrow

9F Detail of central back panel with triangular capping, presumably missing from 9C

9G Detail of shell to stump below the scroll.

9E 9F



9G



directed to desist making any further preparations for the erection of the Government House, and to strengthen the present building in the manner proposed by the Architect... In fitting up the present Government House I have authorised the purchase for the few articles of furniture; ⁴ cedar dining tables, (plate 11) 1 drawing room table, 48 chairs, (plates 7A, B & C) 1 sideboard table, (plate 13) 1 sofa (plate 3) and 2 couches; to supply what was absolutely wanting, and to replace that which was totally worn out, of which I hope your Lordship will approve, some additional articles having been provided at my own expense, but it is altogether a most homely affair. Although this measure is but a temporary expedient, yet an immediate urgent necessity for a new

Government House being thus removed, I directed the attention of the Engineer to the accommodation so pressingly required for the Troops. The plan of the new Government house which I had approved months since, I have the honor to enclose [plate 6A]; a second plan commended by Mr. Archer is also submitted [plates 6B, 6C]. Mr. Archer's plan is no doubt infinitely more elegant, but it does not strike me as affording a more comfortable residence; and if I did not place much confidence in his reputed professional knowledge, I should have considered it a far more extensive plan. His estimates, however, are not prepared, but they will be transmitted to your Lordship by the 'Persian' which will sail in the course of three weeks.

The price of every description of Stores in this Colony so very extravagant, I directed the Architect to furnish the Colonial Secretary with a requisition for such Supplies as he considered necessary for the building, which was ordered to be furnished in the plainest style. *[I interpret this paragraph as meaning that Archer designed the furniture previously referred to 'which was ordered to be furnished in the plainest style.'* This description sits well with the sofa, plate 3; see plates 7A,B & C, 11 & 13] The Requisition to which your Lordship has called my attention, I have just looked into, and altho' I perceive there are one or two mistakes in it, and the article of leaf-gold included, which is quite unnecessary, yet if your Lordship will condescend to re-examine the

estimate, it will not perhaps appear to be an unreasonable requisition for a Government House. The Colonial Secretary however will require Mr. Archer to furnish a fresh Requisition to accompany his Estimate.

This 1827 dispatch I suggest refers to the sofa in the TMAG (plate 3), as the use of a Grecian leg precludes a later date for its manufacture. In Scotland, at this date Trotter had gone from the Grecian sabre leg to the turned leg, either carved or fluted, as evidenced by his commission for the sofas for the Signet Library, Edinburgh in 1822.¹² The only possible sabre-legged survivors known to me are from the set of 48 chairs commissioned by Arthur in September 1827, illustrated in plates 7A,B & C, five of which are still at Government House; they correlate in design with the surviving TMAG sabre-legged sofa. They differ only in their back rails, reeded for the dining room, decorated for the drawing room, see Appendix B.

The precedent for payment for the supply of this furniture already delivered to Government House was confirmed to Arthur in a reply from Lt Cotton of the Engineers Department in Hobart, who wrote to Governor Arthur on 20 September 1828:

Having obedience to Your Honour's wishes applied to Major Ovens, Chief Engineer of New South Wales, for information as to the mode of providing the Government House with furniture, etc., I received a communication from that officer that His Excellency, the Governor in Chief, receives from the Engineers Department such articles of furniture as are required at the Government Houses at Sydney and Parramatta – I beg leave to state for Your Honour's further information on this subject that supplies of this nature, for the use of the Government Houses at this station have invariably been received from the same source.¹³

I suggest that Arthur was seeking written advice to clarify his rights to

order furniture through or from the Engineers Department, now under the control of John Lee Archer.

Stylistic evidence links a number of pieces of furniture that have either been designed and/or made by the creator(s) of the TMAG sofa. These survivors also involve the skills of the veneer cutter and a turner. One design element of the sofa that points to an Irish designer and/or maker are the fan-carved lunettes to each end of the sofa back; this is a detail used in the design of the chairs made for the Executive Council (plates 9A, B, & C). It is also found on the back of a Grecian sideboard in the Tasmanian Club, Macquarie Street, Hobart, and on a trayback Belfast sideboard with a Tasmanian provenance in the Art Gallery of Ballarat (plate 10A & B).¹⁴

By sheer chance, a copy of the return of convict chair-makers and cabinet-makers working in the Hobart Lumber Yard dated February 1828 survives (Appendix A). This list was compiled within six months of the completion of the Government House order,¹⁵ and was created when the Commandant at Macquarie Harbour requested that chair-makers be sent from Hobart. Those marked with an X by their name were apparently sent to the penal settlement on Sarah Island at Macquarie Harbour. The furniture ordered by Arthur was probably constructed by workmen named on this list, then assigned to Hobart retailers.

The separation of the governments of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land was confirmed at the first sitting of the four-man Executive Council at Government House, Hobart on 29/30 December 1825. As a result, Government House required new rooms (plate 5). The first problem was to source cedar from New South Wales to be used in the construction of the Government House furniture and for fitting out these two rooms (plate 5B footprint plan). In February 1826, 276 cedar planks arrived per ship *Medway* from Sydney in return for sheep shipped to Sydney¹⁷ to replace those lost in the wet season the previous year.¹⁸

A separate meeting room for the Executive Council was to be added to the eastern end of Government House. By 30 December 1826 Major Kirkwood, the acting Engineer, costed the joinery work at £149 for this addition.¹⁹ The builder, John Jackson, on 5 February 1827 estimated the cedar required 'to complete the addition to Government House at 3,000 feet straight to be got as soon as possible as it will require some time to season.'²⁰ By 19 March 1827, Jackson agreed 'to finish the joiners work of the Long Room and the two new rooms built as a wing to the Main Government House for the sum of £73-0-0.'²¹

Arthur wrote to those involved

We congratulate the Engineer with the Superintendents, who have so ably cooperated with him, on the diligence and workmanship displayed in the additions just completed at the Government House. The rooms have been very judiciously and economically planned so as readily to be converted into Public Offices, which it is understood they will be as soon as the Government House in the Domain is completed. The convenience arising from the several Government Offices being in one central spot is most desirable.²²

Arthur's plans for the future are obvious!

A table and four chairs had been ordered for the Executive Council's Office under the auspices of the then Chief Engineer, Major Turton. In a letter to Commandant Butler of Macquarie Harbour on 8 August 1827, Arthur's private secretary Parramore refers to this order²³

... regarding the Engineers requisition for different articles of furniture the Lt Governor thinks it would be better, as you have no cabinetmakers at the settlement, to send the materials to Hobart Town for [the] purpose of being made into furniture here ... The wood of the table His Excellency thinks extremely pretty and would be

glad if you [could] send any you can obtain of the same description

Archer received his first directive from Arthur on 25 August 1827

regarding the anteroom at Gov House a table has already been required [plate 14] 4 chairs are also wanted (Plates 9A, B & C) ... ordered by the late Major Turton²⁵ 8 months ago not yet supplied request the contractor to state the delay.

I suggest that the four chairs may have been partly made, but were redesigned and finished by Archer and survive as a result with individual variations, shown in plate 9A-H. Of these four chairs for the Executive Council three survive, one at the TMAG and two others in the Penitentiary Chapel (plate 9A, B).

Arthur had received a missive from Lord Stanley at the Colonial Office in December 1833 leaving him in no doubt as to the ownership of the furniture in Government House. As a result, a return of furniture was drawn up on 19 October 1834 (Appendix B). If the furniture constructed in the Lumber Yard for Arthur was to his private account, it would allow for its removal and sale on his departure from Government House and should be locatable in the sale catalogue of the contents belonging to Arthur, advertised to take place at Government House on Friday and Saturday 9 and 10 September, 1836:²⁶

The Household Furniture consists of, Elegant mahogany dining tables, Drawing room chairs, Four-post bedsteads, feather beds and mattresses, Work and dressing tables, Chests of drawers and wash-hand stands, Tent bedsteads, Looking glasses, ... An upright piano forte, Harp,²⁷ Guitars...

No mention is made in this sale notice of items included in the September 1827 order. I therefore assume that acting on Bigge's dictum, neither Sorell or Arthur were purchasing Lumber Yard items for themselves. As a result, they were paid for

through the Colonial Secretary's Office and therefore had become Government property, as per the list of 1 October 1834 (Appendix C), remaining at Government House on the departure of the Governor. I suggest that those items included in the auction sale were purchased by Arthur from Hobart retailers and therefore sold on his account. None of them appear to indicate a colonial timber in their construction and must therefore be imported from Britain, India, Canton or New South Wales.

It is probable that the surviving TMAG sofa, drawing and dining room suite, the Executive Council chairs and table were outsourced to local free cabinet-makers who would have been assigned a number of skilled convicts from the Lumber Yard, as per the list (Appendix A), to do the Governor's bidding. The products of this workshop would owe their decorative details, as distinct from their design, to the background of the owner of the business, and the skill of the convicts employed.

Possible retailers of the Government House furniture working in Hobart in 1827 are:

Robert Household who arrived free and is listed in the VDL directories from 1825. There is a strong link to a family business in London as evidenced by an entry in the *Dictionary of English Furniture Makers* for a Robert Household of 16 New Road Ratcliff, London a bedstead and cabinet maker (1781-89).

Thomas Household, who was a bedstead manufacturer, undertaker and cabinet-maker (1820-1839) trading at 72 St George's Place in 1820; 27 New Road, St. George's East in 1822; and 14 Crombie's Row, Commercial Road in 1839. Robert Household the free settler in an 1832 Hobart advertisement had a business of substance, making him someone to keep in mind for early Tasmanian-made furniture. He was assigned in 1828 the chair-maker Thomas Bower (Appendix A) who had arrived at Hobart in November 1824. By 1835 he was calling his business The Commission Rooms; he was insolvent the following year.²⁸

James Jeffrey who arrived free from

Edinburgh in 1824 is another possibility. The Edinburgh Directories show that Jeffrey was a common name at this time in Edinburgh; nine people of this name had various occupations from advocate to gentleman, from draper to wright. A James Jeffrey is listed as a wright at 2 King Street, Edinburgh in 1819, but he is no longer listed in the 1822 Directory.²⁹ Jeffrey had the license to the Cabinet-makers Arms in the early 1830s, and was fortunate enough to have a fellow Scot, James Penman, assigned to him. Penman was a fully trained, qualified cabinet-maker, convicted of theft at Berwick in 1829, a border town adjoining Paxton and close to Kelso, location of another leading Scottish cabinet-maker, James Mein. His convict record while assigned to Jeffrey makes interesting reading. This is another example of a skilled convict working outside the Lumber Yard, assigned to a free settler with a cabinet-making business.

Joseph William Woolley, who may have served his apprenticeship as a cabinet-maker at Newbury in England, is the most likely supplier of the suite of furniture and the four Executive Council Chairs, as per Arthur's dispatch of 23 September 1827. He arrived free on the *Venerable* in 1822 and commenced business in Hobart. The evidence for this is a letter written by John Lee Archer³⁰ to the Colonial Secretary on 18 March 1828:

with reference to the Government order of 3rd September last, the Engineer requests that a Board of competent persons examine and report upon Cedar Loo Table and twenty four Trafalgar chairs made for Government House by Mr Woolley at the following prices.

Loo Table £21/0/0

24 Chairs, the 2 arm chairs as three @ £2/15/- each Total £68/15/0

On 21 March 1828, the items were found 'to be suitable and the price fair and reasonable.'³¹ A precedent had been set and Woolley was to provide furniture to refurbish Government House for the new Governor Sir John Franklin in the 1830s, as will be

APPENDIX A MACQUARIE HARBOUR

Macquarie Harbour was a convict settlement established to harvest Huon pine from the Gordon River. A workshop was set up within the Harbour on Sarah Island so that skilled men could work the timber in situ, as evidenced by this correspondence, from the Colonial Secretary's Office.

CSO1/228/5567, pp 63–71

On 12 January 1828, Commandant Butler at Macquarie Harbour requested 'that a man be sent who can make a few dozen chairs.' As a result this survey of skilled men was made with the possible candidates' names marked with an x. I have added the date of arrival of the convict vessel for ease of reference.

Return of Chair and Cabinetmakers as per general indent of convicts, 1st Feb 1828.

John Lakeland Principal Superintendent of convicts.

Name	Ship	Sentence	Trade	Where employed
John Allen	Albion Oct 1823	7	Cabinet maker	Public Works Ross
William Ames	Princess Charlotte Nov 1824	7	Cabinet maker	Prisoners Barracks
Ralph Aitkin	Lady East April 1825	Life	Chair & cabinet maker	Absentee
Charles Ball	Lord Hungerford Dec 1821	7	Cabinet maker	Ticket of Leave
John Brown	Caledonia Nov 1822	Life	Chair Maker	Absentee
Thomas Bowles	Caledonia Nov 1822	7	Cabinet Maker	G C Clarke
Thomas Bower	Princess Charlotte Nov 1824	7	Cabinet Maker	Prisoners Barracks
George Bradley	Lady East April 1825	7	Turned Chair Maker	Constable New Norfolk
Thomas Chase	Asia 3rd Dec 1827	14	Cabinet Maker	Prisoners Barracks
George Duncan	Andromeda Feb 1827	14	Cabinet Maker	Public Works Hobart Town
John Ember	Phoenix 1st Jan 1822	7	Cabinet Maker	Prisoners Barracks
David Edwards	Princess Charlotte Nov 1824	Life	Chair Maker	Public Works Hobart Town
Francis Edeson	Gov Ready Aug 1827	Life	Cabinet Maker	Prisoners Barracks
William Flashman	Morley Jan 1823	Life	Cabinet Maker	Dead
John Graham	Caledonia Nov 1822	14	Cabinet Maker	Prisoners Barracks
George Haldane	Lord Hungerford Dec 1821	14	Cabinet Maker	Absentee
John Hardy	Morley Jan 1823	Life	Cabinet Maker	Public Works Hobart Town
Thomas Johnson	Coromandel Mar 1820	Life	Chair Bottomer	Absentee
William Jones	Andromeda Feb 1827	Life	Cabinet Maker	Public Works Hobart Town
Daniel Lewis	Commodore Hayes Aug 1823	7	Chair Bottomer	Macquarie Harbour

Edward Miller	Asia 3rd Jan 1827	Life	Chair Bottomer	Prisoners Barracks
Arch Orr	Lord Hungerford Dec 1821	14	Cabinet Maker	Public Works Sorell
John Pearce	Princess Charlotte Nov 1824	Life	Chair Maker	Maria Island
William Rose	Juliana Dec 1820	14	Cabinet Maker	Public Works New Norfolk
Moses Rogers	Sir G Webster Dec 1823	7	Cabinet Maker	Mr Hobbs
John Richardson	Sir Charles Forbes April 1825	7	Cabinet Maker	Prisoners Barracks
William Sherwood	Guildford Oct 1820	7	Cabinet Maker	Free
Henry Shrader	C Harcourt July 1821	14	Cabinet Maker	Maria Island
William Smith	Richmond Apr 1822	7	Cabinet Maker	Prisoners Barracks
John Slater	Commodore Hayes Aug 1823	7	Cabinet Maker	Ticket of Leave
Henry Sissons	Earl St Vincent Aug 1826	7	Cabinet Maker	Public Works Hobart Town
John Turner	Hibernia May 1819	14	Cabinet Maker	Prisoners Barracks Hobart Town
Samuel Thornton	Sir Chas Forbes or Medina -Sep 1825	7	Chair Maker & Rush bottomer	G Stevens VD
Henry Wood	Competitor Aug 1823	7	Cabinet Maker	Public Works Hobart Town
Thomas Wilson	Commodore Hayes Aug 1823	Life	Chair Maker	Mr Presnell
Henry Wright	Earl St Vincent Aug 1826	Life	Cabinet Maker	Public Works Hobart Town
John Gemstone	Claudine Dec 1821	7	Cabinet Maker	Free by Servitude

This list provides a potential insight into pre-1830 makers of Tasmanian furniture

Pages 64-71. Lists the records of all these men noted above. Relevant notations are for 'John Graham who is in the chain gang under sentence may be removed by the earliest opportunity to Macquarie Harbour... This man is a good chair maker and there is already at Macquarie Harbour, a man named Daniel Lewis, who is a chair bottomer... Thomas Bower, No. 786, chair-maker, arrived 'Princess Charlotte.' At Prisoners Barracks.'

His conduct record has; on 25 Feb 1826, 'not delivering the chairs, the property of Mr Household, Thursday last to Mr Stephen when sent to do so. Chairs returned.'

This last entry confirms that the free settler cabinet-maker Robert Household was using Bower as an assigned convict to make chairs for Alfred Stephen, the Crown Solicitor.

CSO1/289/6940, p 339

3 Jun 1828. Macquarie Harbour. 'This settlement is badly off for a turner, one to be sent down. The prisoner who did the turning work has become quite insane and not fit to resume his occupation. Butler, Commandant.'

CSO1/289/6940, p 333.

19 Jun 1828 to Colonial Secretary from John Lakeland, Principal Superintendent's [of convicts] Office. 'A turner was required at Macquarie Harbour of bad character. Only 3 by that trade listed on convict register, 2 are assigned to settlers and 1 employed in the Public Works by the Engineer. He is of drunken habits and if removed the Engineer will not be able to replace him. These men are very rarely sent out.'

These comments show how Macquarie Harbour was viewed when sending skilled men from Hobart.

APPENDIX B

In October 1834, J L Archer prepared an inventory of the contents of Government House Hobart, leaving the gate open for its complete refurnishing on or before the arrival of the new Governor, Sir John Franklin.

CSO1/11/169, pp 266-271

Return of Furniture and other Public Property in the Government House at Hobart Town 1st October 1834.

No of articles	Description	No of articles	Description	No of articles	Description
	Drawing Room		Bed Room No 5		Housekeepers Room
1	Pair of Rods and Curtains	1	Bedstead	1	Carpet
1	Pair of Couches without ends (a)	1	Set of Drawers (b)	1	Table
1	Sofa (a) (plate 3)	1	Dressing Table	1	Pair of bogs
24	Chairs (plate 7A)		Bed Room No 6	1	Pair of Tongs
1	Carpet and Rug			1	Fender
1	Grate	1	Pair of Dogs	4	Chairs
1	Fender	1	Fender	1	Childs Chair
	Small Drawing Room	1	Window Curtain	1	Book Case
1	Reclining Chair	1	Set of Drawers (b)	1	Set of Drawers (b)
1	Pair of Dogs	1	Bedstead		
1	Set of Fire Irons	1	Table		Servants Hall
1	Carpet and Rug	1	Chair	1	Pair of Dogs
1	Pair of Curtain Rods & Curtains			1	Fender
2	Looking Glasses		Bed Room No 7	1	Set of Fire Irons
1	Chest of Drawers (b)	1	Wash Hand Stand (b)	1	Table
1	Dressing Table	1	Carpet	2	Forms
1	Wash Hand Stand (b)	1	Window Curtain		
	Large Dining Room		Bed Room No 8		Pantry
1	Set of Dining Tables (10 in number) (a) [so 6 must have been added] (plate 11)	1	Wash Hand Stand	1	Table
24	Chairs (a) (plates 7B & 7C)	1	Window Curtain	1	Lamp
2	Fenders	2	Chairs		Small Store Room
2	Sets of Fire Irons	1	Set of Drawers (b)	1	Bread and Flour Bin
2	Grates			1	Pair of Steps
2	Pair of Bell Pulls		Bed Room No 9	1	Stool
9	Brass Branches	1	Reclining Chair		Hall and Passages
1	Lamp	1	Window Curtain	1	Table
5	Rod and Curtains	1	Pair of Dogs	1	Safe
1	Carpet	1	Fender	3	Lamps
2	Hearth Rugs	1	Set of Fire Irons	1	Carpet
1	Square Side Table (plate 12)			1	Time Piece
	Small Dining Room		1st Nursery	2	Oil Cloths
12	Chairs (c)	1	Wash Hand Stand (b)		Mens Room
2	Reclining Chairs	2	Window Curtains	2	Bedsteads
1	Side Board (a) (plate 13)	1	Fender	1	Set of Drawers (b)
1	Table				Kitchen
1	Screen		2nd Nursery	1	Boiler
1	Grate	1	Table	1	Fire Screen
1	Fender	1	Bedstead	3	Tables
1	Set of Fire Irons	5	Chairs		Bake House
1	Pair of Rods and Curtains	1	Fender	1	Large Copper
1	Pair of Bell Pulls	1	Press (2?)	1	Table
1	Carpet	1	Deal Table	1	Jelly Stand
1	Hearth Rug			1	Baking Trough
	Bed Room No 1		3rd Nursery	1	Corn Mill
1	Bedstead (c)	2	Presses - 1 Press divided (c) [Press with Mirror?]	1	Oval Tub
1	Table	1	Wash Hand Stand (b)		Laundry
1	Wash Stand (b)	1	Bedstead	1	Mangle
	Bed Room No 2	1	Set of Drawers	2	Coppers
1	Bedstead and Furniture (c)			1	Set of Fire Irons
1	Set of Drawers (b)		Plate Room	2	Tables
1	Wash hand stand (b)	1	Table	1	Fender
1	Reclining Chair	1	Tray Stand	2	Bedsteads
1	Hearth Rug	1	Lamp		Staircase
1	Fender			1	Carpet quite worn out
1	Set of Fire Irons		1st Anti Room	1	Lamp
1	Bell Pull	1	Window Curtain		Miscellaneous
	Bed Room No 3	1	Bell Pull	1	Pair of Dogs
1	Bedstead	1	Table	4	Coal Scuttles
	Bed Room No 4	1	Carpet	3	Grates
1	Wash Hand Stand (b)			8	Pedestal Lamps
1	Fender		2nd Anti Room		
1	Bell Pull	1	Pair of Fire Dogs		
1	Set of Drawers (b)	1	Bell Pull		
1	Pair of Window Curtains	1	Window Curtain		
2	Chairs	1	Table		
		1	Carpet		



10. Shell-backed Grecian sideboard, Tasmanian pre-1830. The tray back of Belfast form, the ring-turned honeypot legs, scrolls to the back, the shell centre and the fan decoration all relate to Irish design details found in Hobart furniture pre-1830. These decorative features link all the items of furniture used to illustrate this article. Collection and photograph courtesy Art Gallery of Ballarat

10 detail. Detail of shell back and ring-turned scrolls. Collection and photograph courtesy Art Gallery of Ballarat



shown in part III of this series.

The Engineer has the Honor to remark that although he considers the furniture enumerated in this return to be generally in good condition yet he does not consider it a suitable fit for a Government House, being generally of an inferior quality therefore recommend that it be replaced by other of a superior quality and better adapted for the requisite purpose.

Civil Engineers Office
1 Oct 1834

John L Archer C.E.

I have annotated the list (a) (b) (c) and I suggest that the Government owned furniture was supplied

as follows:

- a: As per Lt Governor Arthur's order, 27 September 1827
- b: Ordered from Macquarie Harbour, 1828 arrived Jan 1829, see Appendix C
- c: Arrived on *Cyprus*, 27 April 1829, see Appendix C

APPENDIX C

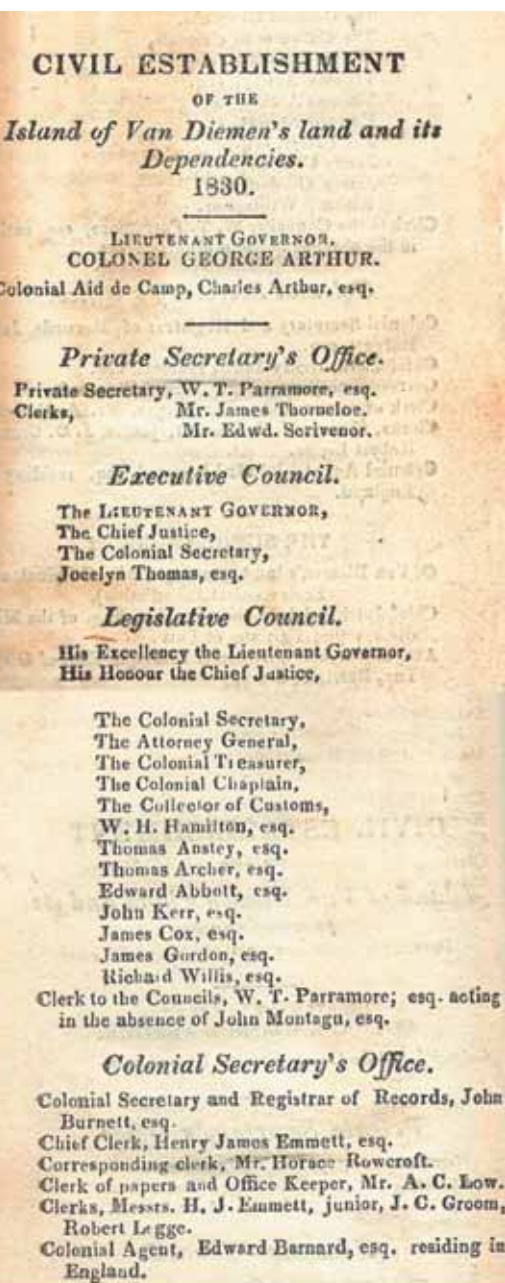
J.L. Archer's correspondence with Macquarie Harbour

As Chief Engineer, Archer was providing designs for furniture as well as ordering its construction, as evidenced by the following correspondence.

CSO1/11/169, p 58
17 Jan 1829

To Col. Secretary,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter for the 31st Dec, and, in reply, beg to inform you, for the information of the Lt Governor, that I have, in conjunction with the Assistant Engineer Examined the five cases of furniture received from Macquarie Harbour, and marked them with the "Kings Broad Arrow." All the articles of furniture in Government House belonging to the Crown have been entered in the books of the Department together with the contents innumarated in the margin, of the 5 cases from Macquarie Harbour.
Charles Arthur



10A



11



11A



11B



11C



11D

10A. *The Hobart Town Almanac* for the year 1830, printed by James Ross. This names the members of the Executive Council, Legislative Council Office and Colonial Secretary's Office. With no Colonial Offices, all these people were housed in offices within Government House. They required four chairs for the Executive Council office and at least 18 chairs for the Legislative Council Office, probably supplied as 24 Trafalgar chairs ordered from Woolley on 3 September 1827

11. Remarkably all ten of the dining tables remain at Government House although some have been altered. The original set of four, made of the finest figured cedar and with brass feet, was ordered in September 1827, of Irish form that makes an interlocking table of two different widths, a system used by the Dublin firm of Mack Williams & Gibton. The six later tables are of lesser quality with poorer quality cedar and carved timber feet. This is one of the finer original four, stamped with the broad arrow to the back of the right hand rail and E.D. for Engineers Department. In two of the tables the top supporting rail has been cut to take two later fitted drawers, a change of use from dining table to writing table, painted inventory number 6

11A Detail of ED stamp of Engineers Department

11B Detail of painted inventory number 6

11C Detail of brass castor from the four original tables

11D Detail of timber copy of a castor from one of the six later tables. Collection Government House, Hobart, photographs J B Hawkins Antiques



Barrack Master

[Annotated in margin]

CasesContents

1 st	4 chest of drawers
2 nd	4 chest of drawers
3 rd	A table and 3 footstools
4 th	Three washing stands
5 th	Three washing stands and six towel rollers

This entry acknowledges that the furniture produced at Macquarie Harbour was marked with the 'Kings Broad Arrow' and I suggest ED for Engineers Department as distinct from LY for Lumber Yard or KY for King's Yard. CSO1/228/4952, p 287

An invoice dated 27 April 1829, for cargo shipped on the *Cyprus* from Macquarie Harbour to Hobart includes:

- 10 cases containing 5 presses upper and lower parts
 - 1 case containing 1 bedstead 7' long, 4' broad & 7' high
 - 2 cases containing 12 chairs in frame
 - 1 case containing 1 bedstead 6' long, 3 1/2" broad and 6'9" high
- addressed to Government House care of J.L. Archer.

CSO1/208/4952, p 299

On the arrival of this consignment from Macquarie Harbour, John Lee Archer writes to Lt Governor Arthur on 15 June 1829:

I beg to report for the information of His Excellency the Lt Governor that the timber and other articles noted in the margin have been received from the brig "Cyprus" being part of the cargo brought by that vessel from Macquarie Harbour... I beg to know how the several articles are to be disposed of?

Written in the margin: '50 pine logs, 89 pine boards, 40 lightwood planks, 5 presses, 1 bedstead, 1 small ditto, 12 chairs in frame.'

12A



12B



12 This is, I suggest, all that remains of the Anglo-Indian pegged construction hardwood Sorrell dining table of circa 1820, presumably originally in three parts, the central drop-flap section now missing. This table would be en suite with the Anglo-Indian chairs shown in Part I of this series. It may be the table listed in the 1834 inventory as 'square side table' in the large dining room. Steel hinges are struck with the broad arrow, and both parts have the inventory number 2 painted underneath. An alternative thought, subject to a wood test, is that the table is blackwood and Tasmanian. A later cedar armchair matching this suite was sold Sotheby's, 9 Nov 1999, Lot 858, stamped XII and VI under the back seat rail.

12A Detail of Irish leg

12B Detail of hinge, stamped three times with broad arrow mark

12C Detail of pegged construction. Collection Government House, Hobart, photographs J B Hawkins Antiques

12C





CSO1/208/4952, p 749

John Lee Archer writes from the Civil Engineers Office to the Colonial Secretary on 8 June 1829:

... I beg to state that all the furniture has been sent there [Government House] except the Huon Pine presses....
Two presses for the Police Office
One press for the Land Board
One press for the Colonial Secretary.

So Governor Arthur kept a press, the beds and chairs for Government House and distributed the rest among the Government offices within the building.

CSO1/406/9170, p 48

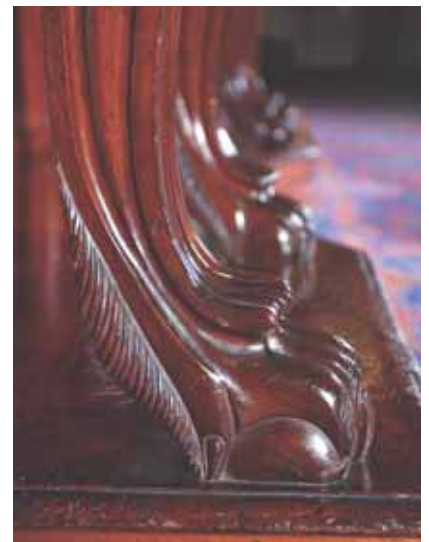
14 Jul 1829. 'Enclose design for a writing table suitable for Public Offices, to be sent to Macquarie Harbour and constructed, 6 tables. JLA'

p 50. Civil Engineer Office 23 Jul 1829 "Approval received for 12 chairs for Police Office at Hobart Town, request the Commandant at Macquarie Harbour may be instructed to get 3 dozen lightwood chairs, wooden seats, made at the Settlement to meet the demand of several Public Offices. Chairs to be quite plain and strongly made. John Lee Archer to John Burnett Colonial Secretary."

p52. 4 Sept 1829. 'Submit a copy of design for a writing table, 6 of which may be made at Macquarie Harbour. John Lee Archer.'



13A



13B



13C

p37, Civil Engineer Office 16 Nov 1829. 'Instructions to be sent to the Commandant at Macquarie Harbour to have 48 pine tables made at that Settlement, for the Military Barracks at Hobart town. Tables to be 6 feet long, 3 feet wide, 2 feet 6 inches high, with tops one & half thick, 4 legs to each table & stretchers to the legs.'

p54. Macquarie Harbour 9 Dec 1829, to John Burnett from Commandant J Briggs. 'Sent by Brig "Tamar" 3 dozen lightwood chairs with wooden seats.'

p56. 9 Dec 1829, 'shipped from Macquarie Harbour by the "Tamar" 6 writing tables by design but fear they will be found rather too low.'

p64-65. 15 Sept 1830, 'Agreeable to the instruction conveyed in your memorandum of the 6th instant, we

13 Only one cedar sideboard or serving table remains at Government House and this is missing its rear upper superstructure. Four hairy paw feet of thin Glaswegian form support trusses with acanthus strap decoration. The front drawer is curved to match the incurved base. The centre drawer is stamped with a "WA" chisel mark possibly for the cabinetmaker William Ames, a convict who arrived on the Princess Charlotte, November 1824. Collection Government House, Hobart, photographs J B Hawkins Antiques

13A Detail of end view of serving table

13B Detail of hairy paw foot

13C Detail showing WA 1/2" inch chisel mark, possibly for William Ames, see Appendix A



14 In the Governor's study is a fine oval table with a leather top, cross banded in casuarina with blackwood turned column supports. The uprights, where they join the base, terminate in casuarina collars, the top veneered onto blackwood. Arthur described the wood in the table as 'very pretty' in a letter from his Secretary Parramore in August 1827; this, I suggest, refers to the casuarina cross-banding. The table does not appear in the 1834 Government House inventory, if part of the set of 24 Trafalgar chairs and the four Executive Council chairs, it is technically state office furniture. This table, at which decisions of state were made in 1827, still fulfils this function in the Governor's office, 182 years later. Collection Government House, Hobart, photographs J B Hawkins Antiques



14A 14A Detail showing casuarina cross-banded frieze. This use of casuarina is nearly unique in Tasmania, however the stair balusters at Clarendon are also in this timber

14B Detail showing one of two broad arrow marks, one to each end under the frieze

14C Detail of foot and casuarina collar

14D Detail of underside of table. The original top appears to have been veneered and cross-banded on to blackwood



14B



14C



14D

have inspected the furniture which arrived by the 'Tamar' from Macquarie Harbour, and have the honor to report for the information of His Excellency the Lt Governor, as follows,

The four dozen chairs, we find to be, of a very rough and defective kind, and not suited for the service of the Military Officers mess-room, but we conceive, that, after they shall have been put into a proper state by the Engineers Department, they may become serviceable for Officers Quarters, or at Outstations.

The table tops and frames, per the 'Tamar' are understood to be intended for the Council Room, but, we have inspected the Barrack tables, brought from Macquarie Harbour some time since, in frame, and consider them well calculated for the Privates Barrack rooms. Signed Charles Arthur, Barrack Master, John Lee Archer CE.'

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I intend to acknowledge all those who have helped me with this series of articles at their conclusion in Part III.

NOTES

1. I am in possession of the 1842 Bankruptcy documents of this company and hope to publish them in the future.
2. J B Hawkins, 'The 1839 Gillows Commission to furnish Woolmers in Van Diemen's Land for Thomas and Susannah Archer', *Australiana*, vol. 24 no 1. Feb2002.
3. F Bamford, Dictionary of Edinburgh Wrights and Furniture Makers, *Furniture History Society Journal*, 1983 pp. 118 - 121
4. *Dictionary of Edinburgh Furniture Makers 1660-1840* p.33
5. *Ibid* p.33 The Furniture History Society Newsletter, No. 133 February 1999
6. *HRA Series III*, p 152.
7. See *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. John Lee Archer, born Ireland, trained England, returned to Ireland where he spent 8 years as an architect before being appointed Civil Engineer to Van Diemen's Land.
8. *HRA Series III*, vol. IX, p.348. Letter from Lieut-Governor Arthur to Viscount Gooderich dated Government House, Van Diemen's Land, 23 Nov. 1827, refers to the John Lee Archer design, Plates 6A

& 6B. AOT PWD 266/163. "My Lord, ...the Sum of Seven Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty four pounds, prepared by Mr. Archer, the Engineer, of the expense of erecting a Government House means of Convict mechanics and labourers, calculated in design No. 2... it was scarcely possible to determine upon a less expensive plan than the Design No. 1, which I have approved, and which I think is the most simple and most suitable building, though certainly not the most elegant."

9. *HRA* Series III, vol VI, p. 235 Letter from Lieut.-Governor Arthur to Earl Bathurst dated Government House Van Diemen's Land, 23rd Sept., 1827
10. The Dublin firm of Mack Williams & Gibton seemed to have pioneered the idea of construction of individual free standing centre pedestal dining tables decorated to all four sides. These could be joined together with clips to make a never ending single dining table. I suggest that Archer, the Irishman from Dublin, was aware of this design and introduced it into Tasmanian furniture
11. Plate 6A refers to the more economical Government House designed by John Addison, a copy of which is in the Public Record Office (AO7 Reel 1106T)
12. *Furniture History Society Journal*, 1983, vol. XIX, pl.68
13. AOT, CSO1/137/3361
14. Accession number 1998.112.A-D, pointed out by Warwick Oakman
15. AOT, CSO1/228/5567
16. *HRA*, Edition III, Vol V, p182
17. *Hobart Town Gazette*, 15 Feb 1826
18. Letterbook of dispatches sent to the Secretary of State, Arthur to Bathurst, GO25/3, p.26
19. AOT, CSO 1/11/169, p1
20. AOT, CSO 1/11/169, p9
21. AOT, CSO 1/11/169, p19
22. *HTG* 28 Jul 1827, p2, c2
23. AOT, GO53/1, p74
24. AOT, GO 53/2, p81
25. AOT, GO53/2, p122
26. *TAAR*, p.282/3, 26 August 1836
27. The presence of a harp at Arthur's Government House is not as odd as it may seem. The Scots and the Irish played great heed to the publications of the Legends of Ossian by James Macpherson of Blavil who researched the stories and legends of the Celts as played on the harp. Information supplied by David Jones, the Scottish furniture historian.
28. *Dictionary of English Furniture Makers*,

15 This armchair is, I suggest, one of a pair costing £2-15-0 each and the sole surviving chair remaining at Government House from the suite of 24 Trafalgar chairs ordered from JW Woolley for the Legislative Council Offices in 1827. Arthur queried the £68-15-0 cost of the set but the matter was settled. The chair bears a chalk mark, possibly JW for Joseph Woolley. Casters are fitted to the front foot for ease of movement from the table. The ferrule holding the shoe of the caster may be original, while the porcelain caster is circa 1890. The three-ball back splat is an unusual feature which identifies other chairs from this suite; Warwick Oakman knows of at least 10 survivors. It bears the broad arrow Kings Yard mark and has many affiliations with the four stump arm and scroll and quirk chairs for the Executive Council. Collection Government House, Hobart, photographs J B Hawkins Antiques



15A 15B



15C

- p. 452 Household, Thomas, London, bedstead manufacturer, (1820-39) and help from Robyn Lake.
29. *The Post Office Annual Directories*, Edinburgh 1817 and 1822
30. AOT, CSO/11/169, Memo to Col Secretary, 18 Mar 1828 from John Lee Archer.
31. AOT, CSO1/11/169
32. A quote from Craig, Fahy & Robertson: *Early Colonial Furniture in NSW and VDL*: 'In Tasmania the Acacia known as blackwood in the northern part of the state and lightwood in the south was frequently used as a furniture timber' further. The well known Tasmanian cabinet maker Peter Collenette confirmed to me that lightwood is, a colloquial name used to this day in the north of Tasmania for blackwood.

15A Detail of chalk mark

15B Detail of three-ball back splat

15C Detail showing broad arrow KY mark

John Hawkins is a well-established antique dealer now based in northern Tasmania. He has been president of the Australian Antique Dealers Association (now the AAADA), has been instrumental in putting together several major collections of Australiana and silver, and is the author of several books and numerous articles on antiques.

Reflections on Glass

GLASS AROUND THE WORLD

Mal Harrop

Glass is one of the oldest substances known to mankind yet scientists and technicians in this space age are still developing new properties from this remarkable material. Apart from being collectible in a variety of forms – from art glass to antique bottles, carnival glass to jelly moulds or cut crystal to leadlight, to mention just a few examples – this extraordinary material touches most aspects of everyday life.

Window glass, safety glass for both the automotive and construction industries, glass containers such as bottles and jars, pressed and blown glass ware for use or decoration, optical glass and fibreglass may be the better known commercial applications but Macfarlane and Martin, writing in *Glass - A World History*¹ add a further dimension. They emphasise the importance of glass in scientific experiments, defining the role of glass in twenty experiments that changed the world. These include Robert Norman's first accurate measurement of magnetic dip in 1581, achieved by floating a compass needle in a large wine glass. Isaac Newton used three glass prisms and a glass lens to separate white light from the sun into a spectrum of colours and to combine and in turn separate these in 1672. Ernest Rutherford used largely glass apparatus for the first artificial transmutation of one element, nitrogen, into another, hydrogen, in about 1919 – leading to his work on the atomic bomb.

These facts could well trigger a new collectible in significant laboratory glass but that is far from the intent of this article. Sir Alastair Pilkington, the inventor of the float glass process which revolutionised the worldwide



The Portland Vase, generally believed to be a late first century BC Roman cameo glass piece, continues to inspire both glass and porcelain makers. Displayed at the British Museum since 1945, it is made of violet blue glass covered by a single continuous cameo of white glass.

It is believed to have been discovered by Fabrizio Lazzaro in the sepulchre of the Emperor Alexander Severus around 1582 and passed through several hands before being acquired by the Bentinck family. William Cavendish Bentinck, the third Duke of Portland lent the vase to Josiah Wedgwood before entrusting it to the British Museum. An 'intemperate' vandal smashed the vase on 7 February 1845. After decades of research and experiment the vase was restored to its current condition by the use of white and blue epoxy resins. Courtesy The Trustees of the British Museum, London

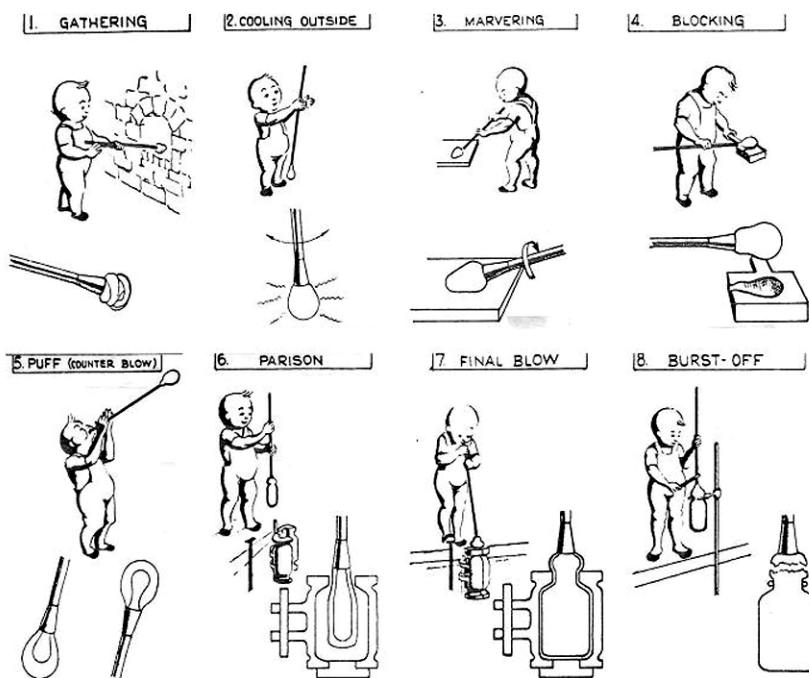
This series of eight cartoons depicts the stages of making a hand blown glass bottle. The cartoons were found in an abandoned engineering shop at the Spotswood bottle works in Victoria. Glass making began at Spotswood in 1890 and Owens-Illinois Asia Pacific continue to produce bottles on the site today. Hand blown bottles were made at Spotswood until the early 1920s. The plant produced some 5 million bottles and jars in its first full year of production. By contrast, in its centenary year one furnace at Spotswood had the capacity to make a million stubbies a day

manufacture of flat glass, once described glass as having a 'fatal fascination'. Regardless of the type of glass that you may choose to collect, part of this fascination is the history of man's relationship with glass and of how glassmakers around the world including Australia² have learned new techniques to improve the quality and range of products made in glass.

The first glass furnaces were volcanoes and man first used naturally formed glass or obsidian to make cutting tools as long ago as 75,000 BC. Another example of volcanic glass activity was aided by the high winds blowing across Mount Etna's molten lava, sending gossamer filaments into the air. These were known as 'goddesses' hair' to the ancient Sicilians.

Australia too provides evidence of early glass working. While successful commercial glass making did not begin here until the latter part of the 19th century, Aborigines were mining and working obsidian over 40,000 years before the arrival of the First Fleet. Stone axes from the Mount Isa/Cloncurry region were particularly prized and widely traded, while another Aboriginal quarry yielding a volcanic greenstone extended for almost a kilometre along a ridge at Mount William near Lancefield in Victoria.³

There is no hard evidence to confirm when humans first started to make glass. The probability is that it may have been discovered by Egyptian or Mesopotamian potters while they were



firing their wares some 3500 years ago. Pliny the Elder (AD 23-79), the prominent Roman historian, suggests that glass was discovered when some Phoenician merchants stranded at the mouth of the Belus River in Palestine used blocks of carbonate of soda from their ship's cargo as the base for their cooking fires on the beach. The result from the fusion of soda and sand was a residue of glass. Whether true or not, the ingredients for most commercial glass today are sand, limestone and soda with soda acting as a flux and limestone as a stabiliser to provide durability.⁴

Glass fragments found in western Asian archaeological sites show that by 1500 BC craftsmen were forming glass beads and jewels and making small containers by dipping a sand core into molten glass. Glass vessels were first made in Egypt during the reign of the Pharaoh Thutmose III (reigned c. 1480-1426 BC). Thutmose began a series of conquests in Asia in 1481 BC and he may have brought back glass workers to Egypt to set up an industry. There was certainly extensive use of cobalt in early Egyptian glassware, which suggests that they derived their skills from Asia, with the nearest cobalt source being Iran.⁵

While there has been little change in basic glass making ingredients since these first attempts, there have been vast improvements in both quality and product range as we have better understood how to work glass. Products made before 100 BC bore little resemblance to today's wares in that early glass was seldom transparent and usually contained impurities and imperfections.

The introduction of the glass blower's pipe some time after 50 BC was a major breakthrough that would remain at the heart of all blown glass production until the 19th century. The pipe was the sole means of glass production in Australia until the middle of World War I. Successive improvements in mould-making techniques coincided with the spread of glassmaking from Asia and Africa to Europe and the Orient. This was facilitated by the growth of the Roman Empire with Syrian, Jewish and Alexandrian glass-blowers working not only in Rome but throughout the provinces as glass came to Spain, the Low Countries, Germany, Gaul and Britain. Glassmakers could now produce functional blown tableware as well as decorative pieces and demand for their products grew. Indeed glass furnaces

became so numerous in Rome that their smoke became an environmental nuisance and from AD 200, the city authorities forced glassmakers out of central Rome.

Egyptian glassmakers were slow to take up the new blow-pipes, apparently preferring to concentrate on making mosaic and other finely coloured, decorated and cut glass. The finest surviving example of their craft, the so-called Portland Vase, dating from the late first century BC, combined both glass blowing and the finest cameo cutting. The dark cobalt blue inner glass was covered with a cameo cut casing of white glass.

All efforts to reproduce this masterpiece of ancient glass making have failed. Most notably, John Northwood of Stourbridge, Britain's acknowledged Victorian expert in glass cameo work, came close to success. His Northwood Vase, made in 1873, was almost complete when it suddenly cracked. If, as suspected, this was caused by strains in the two layers of glass, it only highlights the skills of the craftsmen who created the Portland Vase.⁶

The art of glass decoration and increasing manufacture of utilitarian glass containers flourished side by side in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. Glass makers at the famous glass works at Trier in Roman Germany were the first to apply a late Latin term *glesum* to their product. This appears in turn to have derived from a Germanic word for a transparent, lustrous material.⁷

Like many other art forms, glass making suffered during the so-called Dark Ages only to re-emerge during the Renaissance as a significant and highly regarded skill, particularly in Italy. Glass makers enjoyed a high status in society and guarded their trade secrets jealously. This was illustrated by an edict passed in Murano, the Venetian glass making island in 1459. This read

If any glass workman carries his art to a foreign country, he will have first an order to return. If he does not obey, his nearest relations will be put in prison. If, in spite of

this, he obstinately remains abroad, some emissary will be charged to slay him.

Today Murano's glassmakers use gentler persuasion. It just seems more difficult to find the complimentary boat that brings tourists to the island until satisfactory purchases are made! The Venetians successfully restricted art glass fabrication to Murano for almost four centuries (AD 1250–1650).⁸

One of Murano's best-kept secrets was the use of additives such as pyrolusite to the batch or mix of ingredients to improve glass transparency. This 'glass maker's soap' contained manganese, which oxidised any iron content in glass, thus increasing clarity. Over time and after long exposure to sunlight manganese resumes its original purple colour, which can help in dating old church windows.

By the 17th century, while many forms of glass decoration continued to develop using coloured, transparent, semi-transparent and opaque glass, the material was increasingly appreciated for its utility. It had become the accepted tableware of the wealthy and small glass bottles were increasingly being used for cosmetics, perfumes and medicines.

In Britain one of the major steps in establishing a glass industry came in 1567 when Queen Elizabeth I granted a license for 21 years to an Antwerp Huguenot merchant, Jean Carré, to make window glass. Carré brought a team of glassmakers from Lorraine and Normandy and set up business in the Weald. As important to the future of glass making in England as this first flat glass monopoly was the fact that most of Carré's team chose to stay on to establish their own businesses in various parts of Britain.⁹

A similar 21-year license was granted to Giacompo Verzelino who brought a team of Venetian glass makers to premises in Broad Street, London in about 1575 to make drinking glasses 'such as be accustomed made in the towne of Morano'.¹⁰

While well pleased with both arms of the infant glass industry, the British

government soon became concerned at the alarming amount of wood required by the insatiable glass furnaces which were competing for fuel with the equally greedy iron industry. The answer was another monopoly, giving William Slingsby the sole right to develop and use coal fired furnaces. Dudd Dudley (1599–1684), a metallurgist and Royalist officer in the English Civil War who escaped while under sentence of death to continue his research into metal smelting, records that the first glass to be melted with English pit coal was near Stourbridge on the border of Staffordshire and Worcestershire.¹¹

Monopolies continued to flourish with one of the dominant figures in the history of English glass making being Sir Robert Mansell. By 1618 he had purchased the whole glass monopoly and would retain control of this for almost 40 years. Mansell encouraged glassmakers to settle near the coalfields of Tyneside, Stourbridge and southern Scotland by building glass furnaces there. He also retained the Broad Street premises in London to produce glassware in the Venetian style. His entrepreneurial flair and shrewd use of monopolies in both flat and container glass created capital both for new furnaces and for product development.

Mansell's major improvement to the quality of English glass came through the import of large quantities of barilla, a Spanish plant ash with a high soda content, which gave greater translucency when added to the mix of raw materials. He also seems to have supported the development of craft guilds, which saw the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of the City of London chartered in 1664.¹²

A significant date for collectors of cut glass is 1676, the year in which the English glassmaker, George Ravenscroft, perfected glass with a high lead content. His work so impressed the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers that they set him up in a glass house at Henley-on-Thames in Oxfordshire to complete his experiments. His lead glass was softer, heavier, clearer and more brilliant than traditional soda-lime glass.



Window glass was made for many years by either the crown or cylinder glass methods. This photograph from the late 19th /early 20th century shows a glass blower with a crown of glass from which small panes would be cut. Even the centre pane broken off from the glass blower's rod or puntil would often be glazed. All window glass used in Australia was imported until 1931 while no high quality flat glass was locally made until Pilkington ACI opened the first float glass plant in the southern hemisphere at Dandenong in 1974

The major significance of Ravenscroft's development was that for the first time glass raw materials had been changed to produce particular desired properties in a finished product. His 'new' crystal glass was easy to cut and engrave and English glass grew in both prosperity and collector interest because of the distinctive brilliance of lead glass.¹³

Whitefriars, a name to become familiar with later generations of glass collectors, scores a much earlier mention in glass history. An early newspaper reports that the Royal Navy

paid a visit to the glass works looking for able-bodied men.

Yesterday a Press Gang went into the glass-house in White Fryars to press some of the men at work there, but they were no sooner got in but the metal [molten glass] was flung about 'em, and happy was he that could be out first, and in hurrying out they ran over their officer, who was almost scalded to death.¹⁴

As England struggled for maritime supremacy with France and Spain, there

are no further reports of attempts to turn glass workers into seamen.

The next significant breakthrough in glass technology came towards the end of the 18th century when a Swiss glassmaker, Pierre Guinand, developed a way to stir molten glass. His technique produced a more homogeneous composition from which he was able to produce an optical glass with relatively few imperfections. Guinand's work was pursued by French scientists who began a series of investigations into the possibilities of adding other materials to the glass making mix initially to find lens systems with differing optical properties.¹⁵

Edward Drummond Libbey invented a form of fibreglass. Fibreglass neckties, lampshades and a dress to be worn by the actress of the day, Georgia Cayvan, were a popular feature of the Columbian Exhibition in Chicago in 1893. It was rumoured that the menfolk of Chicago turned up in the hope that the dress was transparent. However the early fibreglass made at Toledo, Ohio was neither transparent nor comfortable to wear since it could be neither creased nor folded.¹⁶

The pace of finding new glass ingredients and properties quickened throughout the 19th and 20th centuries as did the quest to make various forms of glass more efficiently initially by switching from hand craft to machine

and later using the potential of the technological revolution. New properties are still being found for this versatile material with self-cleaning windows, glass reinforced cement and fibre optic cable among recent developments.

Despite Geoffrey Blainey's well identified 'tyranny of distance', glass making became a major Australian industry. The next article in this special *Australiana* series tells how various forms of glass making came to Australia.

NOTES

- 1 Alan Macfarlane & Gerry Martin, *Glass - A World History*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 2002 pp 208-211.
- 2 Mal Harrop, *Good Things Came From Glass - A History of Glass Making in*

Australia 1812-1987, Melbourne

University Press, 2008

- 3 *Minfact 84* NSW Department of Mineral Resources Newsletter, January 2000 pp 1-4.
- 4 RW Douglas & Susan Frank, *A History of Glassmaking*, Foulis, Henley-on-Thames, UK, 1972, p 1
- 5 *Ibid* p 2.
- 6 *Ibid* p 5.
- 7 *Ibid* p 5
- 8 Personal experience and article on glass making history, *ACI News*, August 1972, p 3.
- 9 Douglas & Frank, *op cit* pp 10-11
- 10 *Ibid*
- 11 Dudd Dudley, *Metallum Martis*, 1665.
- 12 Douglas & Frank, p 13
- 13 *ACI News*, August 1972, p 3.
- 14 *Whitehall Evening Post*, 1732
- 15 *ACI News*, August 1972 p 3
- 16 *Ibid*

Dr Mal Harrop OAM Ph.D worked as an employee in and consultant to the Australian glass industry for over 35 years. The interest which he developed over these years culminated in his embarking on four years full time study when he retired. His successful doctoral thesis at Melbourne's La Trobe University, *Good Things Came from Glass - A History of Glass making in Australia from 1812-1987*, has just been released by Melbourne University Press and is available from the publisher.

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Alexander Dawson (Colonial Architect)



Cape St George Lighthouse, 1859
Watercolour, pen & ink
100 x 65 cm

A rare early pair of architectural drawings for the Cape St George lighthouse. Both drawings are signed and dated by the Colonial Architect, Alexander Dawson, and further notated by the stonemason and builder.

The Cape St George Lighthouse was infamous for having being built in the wrong place by several miles, and it is believed that this was because the builder's quarry was close to this position. Its location made it totally ineffectual, so after approx. 30 years the navy used it for target practice. The lower rooms still remain and are now a tourist attraction.

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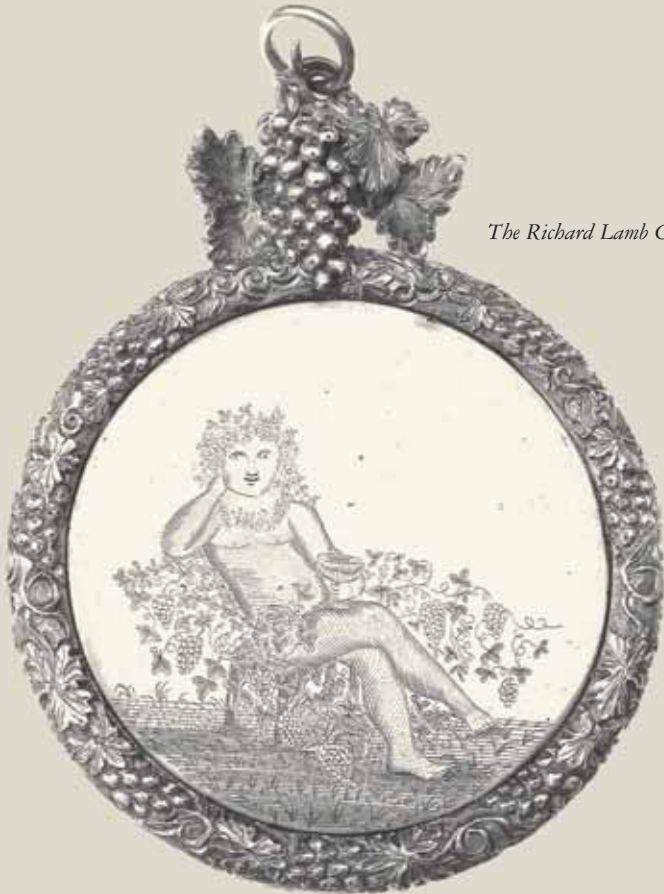
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The Richard Lamb Cumberland Agricultural Society Medal of 1847, made by Charles Jones.



The Richard Lamb Euphrates Box 1843, made by Charles Jones.

Inside Top



Inside Bottom



In recent years I have sold the Richard Lamb medal and the Richard Lamb box. In my original advertisement I did not record the marks, I have now determined that the maker is Charles Jones, formerly working with Forrester in Barclay's Hobart workshop as a convict silver smith until 1841, in which year Jones gained his freedom and moved to Sydney. He could not emboss or chase but had mastered the art of hinge making, he made the box in 1843, cast the border and supplied it to Lamb for engraving and marking. Sydney did not have a die sinker, hence the problem with the punches used by Lamb, which are almost indecipherable. I suggest the medal, an art form in which Jones specialised, was made in Hobart after Jones' return in 1845, the depression of the 1840's having decimated the ranks of the New South Wales working silversmiths.



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