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# AURUM

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Newsletter of the Ballarat Gold Museum  
Society

Vol. 25 No. 6 2014

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## JULY MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm when our speaker will be Dennis Spielvogel who will speak about his grandfather, Nathan. The 5-minuter is from Elaine Maberly. Shirley Prowse, Jane Miller and Liz Rosa are on the Tea Roster—if you can't cover this would you please tell Joanne.

## JUNE MEETING

Snjez Cosic, from the Melbourne Museum, gave a very informative talk about H. V. McKay and The Sunshine Harvester Company. The machine was developed near Bendigo but the operation moved to Ballarat before the development of the community at Sunshine. A worker's village was set up along the lines of those in Industrial England developed by several leading Quaker industrialists such as Cadbury.



This is an item recently acquired by the Gold Museum thanks to the Hinchey's donation, which was announced on June 30<sup>th</sup>. For further details please see The Curator's Notes on the back page.

STOP PRESS.....

At the last Committee Meeting it was decided that a copy of Aurum should be put onto the Gold Museum website. Last month's copy is now on line and this month's will go on late next week. The following is our website and there is a link at the top of the page which says *Gold Museum Society*.

[www.goldmuseum.com.au](http://www.goldmuseum.com.au)

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

A new projector has been ordered and will be available for our July meeting. Dennis Spielvogel, one of our new members, will be guest speaker. I have asked him to talk about his famous grandfather, Nathan Spielvogel, whose local history papers have been published by the Ballarat Historical Society. I am particularly keen to hear his talk as I am currently transcribing Nathan's 1897 hand-written journal, written when he was quite a young man. I am astonished at his wisdom and maturity as I work on it.

After our lively and well attended June meeting, I am hopeful of even better numbers this month.

## GUIDING NOTES

When our members arrived at the Gold Museum on the morning of June 24<sup>th</sup>, expecting to enjoy another morning tea, they were greeted by much waving of arms at the front door to be directed "round the back"! The wild weather had resulted in a power outage and nothing electrical was functioning. Not allowing a small issue like that to interrupt our plans, the meeting started in the entry area before adjuring upstairs, when the power was speedily restored.

An excellent morning tea had been provided—thank to those who contributed—and the meeting proceeded with an interview with our long-term member Ian Smith. Ian had been Town Clerk here in Ballarat from 1969 and he had a fascinating life, so interesting, in fact, that he has been asked to write about it for next month's *Aurum*.

Following the formal part of the meeting a lively discussion developed about issues that our Guides would like to see addressed. The lack of opportunity to socialize and lack of background knowledge about what goes on at Sovereign Hill were two of several other things that came up and these will be addressed. See boxed note below!

The next Tea will be a day meeting on Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup> between 10am and 3 pm. Please put it into your diary—it will be informative and social.

Helen Muir

**CHRISTMAS in JULY is being celebrated over at Sovereign Hill! AND IS WELL WORTH A VISIT!** Huge, decorated Christmas trees in the street with many buildings and cottages beautifully restooned. There is a comprehensive programme over the school holiday of activities, including a spectacular light show after dark. The park will be open until 6.45 every night.

## BALLARAT GOLD MUSEUM SOCIETY

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## NOTES FROM THE ASSISTANT CURATOR

Claire Muir

### Researching the Stone Collection



Over the last few months, I have been developing an exhibition that focuses on the Gold Museum's costume collection. Although the original plan was to present a broad history of multiple local businesses, the focus has since been narrowed to one: Stone's Drapery Store (in operation 1860-1965). More specifically, the exhibition will centre on the figure of Jessica Simon (née Stone) and her costumes, from her wedding in 1949 through to the mid-1960s.

Keeping in mind that this project is still in development and is subject to change, *Stone Style: The Fashion of Jessica Simon* (working title) will aim to explore Jessica's role as a fashion director at Stone's within the broader context of her life and Ballarat's social history. The

exhibition will feature costumes including wedding dresses, dinner gowns, cocktail frocks and tailored suits, in addition to a range of accessories, such as shoes, hats and handbags.

The Stone Collection was donated to the Gold Museum in 1982 and contains a wealth of material relating to the Stone and Simon families. I have been working through the records and found some really interesting objects. There are number of items relating to the fashion program hosted by Jessica on BTV6, from photographs on set to advertising placards, and a script for a special on 100 years of fashion that was aired in 1965.

One of the key areas I would like to highlight in the exhibition is Stone's Bridal Boutique. From what I have been told in general conversation with Ballarat citizens, Stone's was once "the" place to buy a wedding dress. The Stone Collection includes an account book with Jessica's dress sketches, clippings of advertisements from the *Courier* and copies of a booklet for brides-to-be entitled *When a Girl Marries*.

In writing this article, I would like to make an appeal to readers of *Aurum* to ask that if anyone has any recollections of Stone's as a business (e.g. buying clothing, seeing advertisements), or any memories of Jessica herself, I would be most interested to hear about them. You can contact me on (03) 5337 1137 or [cmuir@sovereignhill.com.au](mailto:cmuir@sovereignhill.com.au)



## Notes from the Curator

At the recent Mossgreen Auction of Australian and Colonial Antiques and Historical items, the Museum was fortunate in securing an interesting range of additional items for the collections. The purchases were made possible by a very generous donation from Robert and Noelle Hinchey. Bob Hinchey was a long time Board member of Sovereign Hill and the items acquired as a result of the donation will be known as the Hinchey Collection.

The major item amongst the acquisitions is a mid-nineteenth century gold miner's brooch which includes its presentation box, stamped with the name "H F Hutton, Watchmaker and Jeweller, Ballarat". The brooch consists of the readily recognised shovel and rope with two tiny nuggets, one on the blade and one on the handle. The shovel is meticulously detailed and in good condition. Brooches of this design were a recognised way of displaying one's newfound wealth and the basic concept of the miner's brooch continued through the second half of the nineteenth century.

A rare hot water urn made by John Holloway & Sons of Ballarat makes an impressive addition to the collection. Holloway came to Ballarat in 1854 and started a tin smith business. In the 1850s Holloway was producing the simplest of tin water bottles, but this urn comes from a much later period when more sophisticated manufacturing was possible and homes required products that looked more impressive.

A Cobb & Co. printed advertisement used in the Daylesford area is a rather unusual item that highlights the operational practicalities of running a horse-drawn

coach service. Included with the advertisement are two tickets. This type of ephemera is really quite uncommon and an important chance to better understand the workings of the service.

The Gold Museum already has a nationally significant collection of miner's rights and this has been added to with eight more. Seven of the group were issued to Ellen Kersteen Rasmussen in the Ballarat district in the early twentieth century. An 1888 miner's right issued to a William Harcourt of Moonee Ponds makes up the group. Included with the lot were 9 Ballarat focussed bank cheques which are so useful for their designs and illustrating the standards of printing used for such instruments in the nineteenth century.

An insight into the postal service of the 1850s comes with the Ballarat post marked letter sent to the Gold Commissioner's camp at Creswick in February, 1857. One needs to imagine the nature of the postal service of the day and the vital role played by that service in keeping people in touch.

A fine souvenir of the 1905 electrification of Ballarat's trams is a postcard sized "ticket" issued to passengers on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 1905 when the upgraded tram service commenced. This numbered and punched postcard was subsequently posted to Melbourne with comments on the new service being provided. The card is printed in blue with a series of sketches of the system infrastructure and the new trams.

The auction in Melbourne, combined with the generosity of Bob & Noelle Hinchey, has brought to the Museum a range of fascinating items that will all be out on exhibition in future.

Roger Trudgeon

*Editor's Note Many thanks to Roger for submitting these notes before he left on holiday when he had plenty of other issues to deal with.*

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