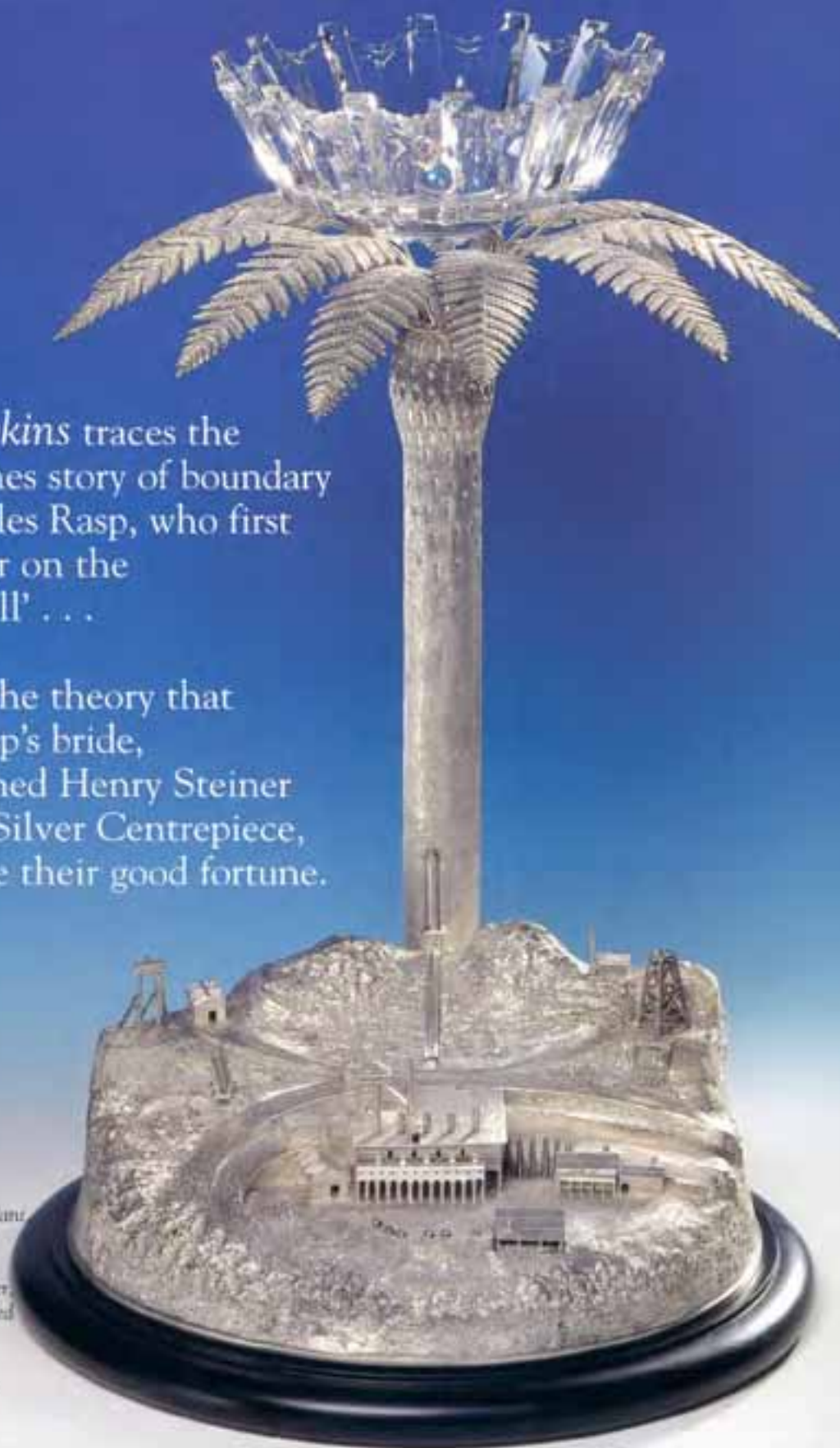


# Charles Rasp & the Model of the Broken Hill Mine

*John Hawkins* traces the rags-to-riches story of boundary rider, Charles Rasp, who first found silver on the 'Broken Hill' . . .

and poses the theory that Agnes, Rasp's bride, commissioned Henry Steiner to make a Silver Centrepiece, to celebrate their good fortune.

*A model of the first smelting plant, crusher and mining shafts at Broken Hill executed in solid silver, marked by Henry Steiner, made circa 1886/87 and retailed by A. L. Brunkhorst. Weight of Silver 166 oz. Height 25.5 in. Width 17 in.*





- |   |   |  |  |                                    |                              |                  |
|---|---|--|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. General<br>Manager's<br>House<br>Captain Sleep | 2. George Bell<br>Renowden<br>Silver King<br>Kenworthy?<br>Mo...ony?<br>Kelly's Shaft | 3. Ellis Vaughan,<br>Town &<br>Country Bank<br>J. Nolans<br>Sully's Store<br>Bonanza Hotel | 4. Ram's Dent?,<br>Quinn & Jones<br>P. Horan | 5. P. Danns?,<br>Stewarts (Dairy)? | 6. ....?<br>.....?<br>.....? | 7. Pat ? Dunne's |
| 8. Rasp's shaft                                   |   | Air shaft  | Smelter site                                 | 9. Mc Culloch's shaft Rasp's camp  |                              |                  |

## Charles Rasp

was born in Stuttgart, Germany on 7th October, 1846<sup>1</sup> and emigrated to Melbourne in 1869. In Australia he took up various itinerant occupations until becoming a boundary rider on Mount Gipps Station near Silverton in northern New South Wales.<sup>2</sup> Rasp spoke, in addition to his native German, fluent French and possibly Russian, and may well have had some technical knowledge of chemistry.<sup>3</sup> A knowledge of chemistry may account for his decision to peg Block 12, some forty acres in area on the hill with the unusual broken outline, on September 5th, 1883.<sup>4</sup>

Rasp was helped by two bullock team drivers, David James and James Poole, who at that time were working on the station. That afternoon they rode over to visit the local policeman, Senior Constable Richard O'Connell,<sup>5</sup> Police

Officer, Acting Clerk of the Petty Sessions, Mining Registrar<sup>6</sup> and Warden's Clerk, at his cottage half a mile north of Mount Gipps Homestead and registered their lease to mine tin and, as an afterthought, silver.

On Rasp's return to the Mount Gipps Homestead the station manager, George McCulloch, became aware of his employee's decision to peg what he thought was an outcrop of tin, some nine miles from the homestead. The pegging of claims was almost an industry in the area at that time with approximately four thousand prospectors and miners in the district in 1883; in that year 1,222 mineral leases and 114 miner's rights were processed.<sup>7</sup> A decision was taken that night to peg the whole of the 'broken hill', so the following day the station staff proceeded to the hill and pegged a further six blocks of forty acres along the line of the ridge.



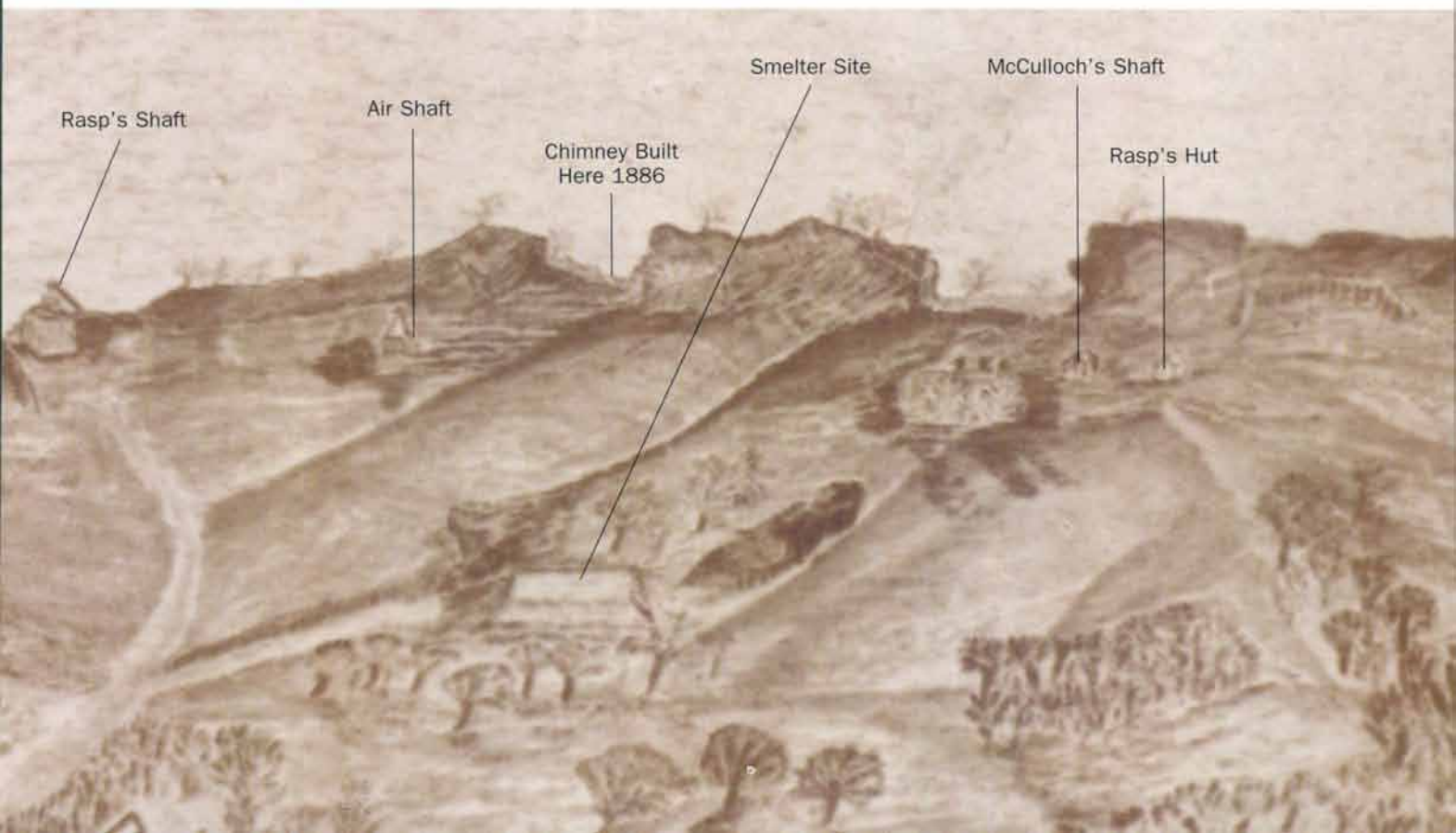
Photograph Property of the Broken Hill City Library, 9011/119. Whereabouts of original draughting unknown.

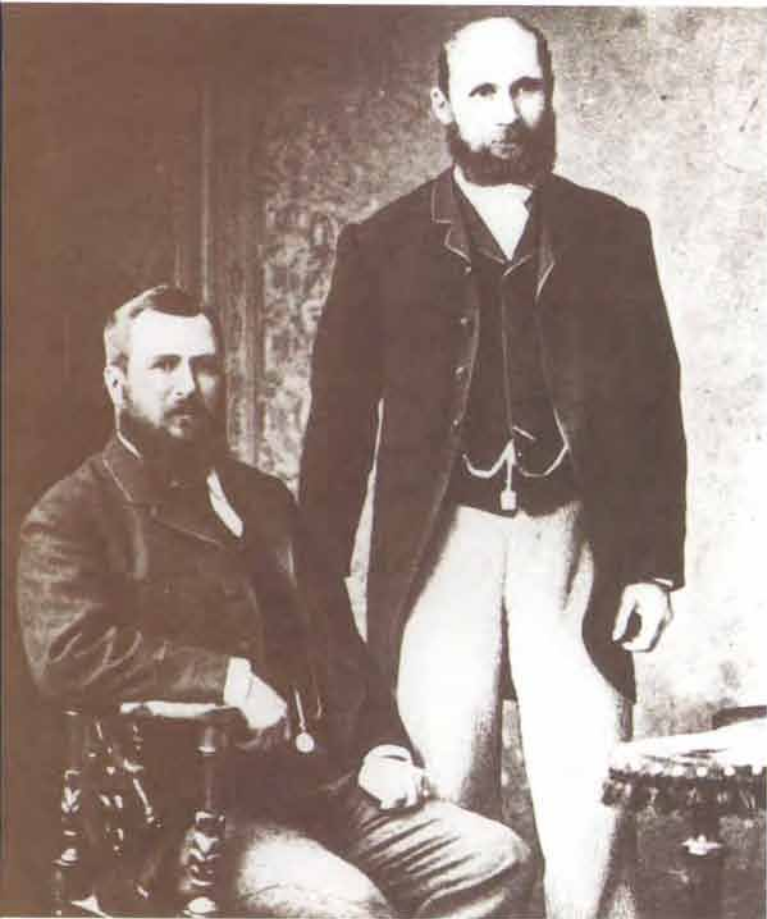
10. Clay pans

This important view gives an indication of the broken outline of the hill which was to give its name to the city. The then town at the bottom of the hill already had a bank and three pubs before Christmas of 1885. Sully's store was a branch of their business in Silvertown and the clay pans are the future site of the water storage tanks.

Carefully identified on the key below the drawing are Rasp's shaft, the air shaft, smelter site, McCulloch's shaft and Rasp's camp. The drawing encapsulates, running from the north-east on the left hand side to the south-west on the right-hand side, all the seven leases pegged by the syndicate. The model of the mine may be imagined facing you, as in the drawing overlooking Broken Hill.

This contemporary drawing clearly outlines the Broken Hill. It locates Rasp's and McCulloch's shafts and notes the site of the smelter, and must therefore date from soon after the incorporation of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company in July/August 1885 and the start of construction of the smelter in December of that year. Sleepy's house had been completed. He was appointed Manager on the 18th March, 1885. Various small pubs – the Silver King, the Bonanza Hotel and possibly Quinn & Jones – had already opened, so the stage is set.





*George McCulloch & Charles Rasp.*  
Broken Hill City Library. 90/1/1945

So that;<sup>8</sup>

Block 10: was pegged by George McCulloch, Charles Rasp, David James.

Block 11: was pegged by Phillip Charley.

Block 12: was pegged by Charles Rasp, David James & James Poole.

Block 13: was pegged by George McCulloch.

Block 14: was pegged by George Urquhart.

Block 15: was pegged by George Lind.

Block 16: was pegged by George Lind, James Poole and Charles Rasp.

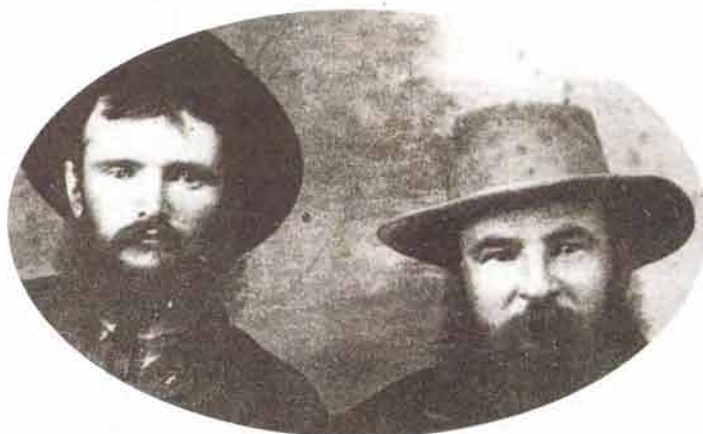
McCulloch and Rasp returned to Richard O'Connell and registered the six further leases on what was to become one of the richest mineral claims in the world, now known as 'Broken Hill'. News travelled fast, and the *Wilcannia Times* of 12th September reported that on the 8th September, 1883, the Thackaringa correspondent had written: 'I have to report the finding of a new silver lode. It was discovered by two boundary riders on Mt Gipps Station . . . when the news was brought here a few of the miners packed up and were off to the scene of operations at once, but I have not heard the result of the rush.'<sup>9</sup>

Having protected their interest the station staff formed a syndicate of seven, agreeing to subscribe for seven equal shares in the seven leases for seventy pounds a share, payable over a period of time. The station manager, George McCulloch, must be given credit for holding this little team together: Rasp, James and Poole we have met; of the others Phillip Charley was under 21 and out from England as a jackeroo, George Urquhart was the station overseer and Charles Lind the storekeeper.

In November 1883 a posthole size shaft named in honour of Charles Rasp was sunk on block 13 close to the boundary with block 14 to a depth of sixty-five feet and nothing of note was discovered.<sup>10</sup> The remainder of 1883/84 was extremely hot and dry, and no further work was commenced until the drought broke with the coming of the rains in June 1884. A call was made on the syndicate members, and the McKay brothers at a charge of £2/5/0 per foot<sup>11</sup> enlarged Rasp's shaft all to no avail, for by sheer bad luck the shaft had missed the lode.

A decision was made that to finance work the members of the syndicate could divide their shares in two and sell the resulting 1/14th, providing it was offered first to other syndicate members. Charles Lind was the first to fall by the wayside. He sold his two 1/14th shares, one to Rasp and the other to McCulloch. Urquhart followed selling his two shares to the Station carpenter, Sam Hawkins.<sup>12</sup>

In August 1884 William Jamieson, the mining surveyor for the New South Wales Government, arrived in the District to complete an accurate survey of the leases so far granted. Much impressed with the Broken Hill leases, he purchased three individual 1/14th shares from Rasp, James and Charley for a total of £320. McCulloch gambled away a 1/14th share to a jackeroo called Cox in a game of euchre for £120, then the following day purchased a 1/14th share from Sam Hawkins for £90, making, as he noted, £30 on the deal.



*James Poole & David James, bullock drivers, helped peg the original claim.*  
Broken Hill City Library.



*Rasp's shaft.*

*This photograph depicts work on the air shaft, presumably in 1885, during the expansion underground of Rasp's and McCulloch's shafts.*

*The beginning of construction of the smelter site is visible below on the right hand side. A sail was used to deflect the wind into the shaft to supply fresh air to the miners. Later tunnels of air were driven in from the other side of the hill to aerate the shafts. The photograph gives an indication of the isolation and desolate nature of the site on which such an enormous venture was to appear and was probably taken from the track on the path to Rasp's shaft.*

*The topography should be compared with Renousten's sketch. Broken Hill City Library 90/1/1956.*

The original syndicate of seven finally resolved itself into a syndicate of fourteen with some shares further diluted to 1/28ths, the two largest shareholders with 3/14ths each being Charles Rasp and George McCulloch:

1. Charles Rasp, Boundary Rider, Mt Gipps Station.
2. George McCulloch, Manager, Mt Gipps Station.
3. David James, Contractor and Bullock driver.
4. James Poole, Contractor, his mate.
5. Phillip Charley, Jackeroo on Mt Gipps Station.
6. Solomon Wiseman, Rabbit Inspector.
7. Kenneth Brodribb, Station Owner, Poolamacca.
8. Bows-Kelly, late Station Manager, Billilla.
9. Samuel Hawkins, Carpenter.
10. W. R. Wilson, Manager, Barrier Ranges Association.
11. James Dalglish, District Surveyor, Dubbo.
12. A. Cox, Jackeroo.
13. Williams Jamieson, Surveyor.
14. J. C. Palmer, probably W. C. Palmer, Silverton Auctioneer & Land Agent, closely linked with E. Thomson.

This infusion of new blood and funds allowed further exploration of Rasp's shaft and by October 1884 the shaft had been deepened to 100 ft – but still the lode had not been struck. Traces of chlorides had been noted in the tailings by Phillip Charley. Close inspection of the shaft on a bosun's chair found their location and silver, assaying 700 ounces to the ton, was discovered.<sup>11</sup>

The shareholders' meeting held at Mt Gipps Station as a result of this discovery on March 18th, 1885 found George McCulloch, Kenneth Brodribb, William Jamieson, Phillip Charley, Charles Rasp and Samuel Hawkins present.<sup>12</sup> It was decided by the shareholders to further expand Rasp's shaft and to send away for assaying half-a-ton of the bulk ore. A Mr (Captain) Sleep was to be appointed working manager at a salary of £300 per annum. This was nearly the last of the shareholders' meetings attended by Charles Rasp, and some form of confrontation appears to have taken place between Rasp and McCulloch over a 1/28th share, obtained from Rasp by a prospector called Thomas Low, in exchange for information as to the location on their leases of a new outcrop of silver chloride.<sup>13</sup> Jamieson told Low that he could get him this share if he showed him where to look. For reasons that are no longer apparent, Low represented Rasp as a shareholder at the meeting on the 25th April, 1885<sup>14</sup>, having presumably gained possession of his 1/28th share. At this meeting Jamieson was made General Manager at a salary of £500 per annum. One of the original seven shareholders, David James, the bullock team driver, was declared 'not a fit and proper person' to be a director. McCulloch was proposed by Jamieson and seconded by Low as a director, and Low was voted a 'bonus not to exceed £500', if within six months his discovery should prove profitable. The recorded minutes never reflect the true positions or discussions of the parties present, and it seems odd for so many important decisions to be made in the absence of Rasp, a major shareholder.

Matters finally came to a head in the General Meeting of shareholders held at the Broken Hill mine on the 3rd June 1885.<sup>17</sup> At this meeting Wilson (1 proxy), Jamieson (2 proxies) and McCulloch (2 proxies), together with Bowes-Kelly, Wiseman, Rasp and Cox, were present. It was agreed to issue '16,000 shares at £20 each of which 2,000 were to be issued to the public paid to £19 . . . with 14,000 shares apportioned to the present proprietors'. Of the £18,000 raised, £15,000 was to be placed to the credit of the company for work on the mine and £3,000 returned to the shareholders, the provisional directors being voted as McCulloch, Bowes-Kelly, Wilson, Hawkins, Jamieson and Brodribb. The odds were becoming stacked against James and Poole the bullock drivers, Wiseman the rabbit inspector, Charles Rasp the German and a mysterious Mr E Thomson.<sup>18</sup>



*Proposed by Mr. Wilson  
Seconded by Mr. Brodribb  
That the Broken Hill Mining Co.  
shall issue only to the original  
Proprietors of the Broken Hill  
Mining Company as registered  
in the 20th June 1885 an equal  
proportion of 10,000 one thousand  
shares each the fourteen thousand  
(14,000) shares forming part of the  
consideration for the purchase  
of the Mineral Lease & other property  
in the Broken Hill Proprietary Company  
Limited from said Broken Hill Mining  
Company &  
Carried & voted as follows*

*For the motion*

- Mr. Brodribb
- Hawkins
- Wilson
- Rasp
- James
- Jamieson
- Provisional
- Delprat (per J. Jamieson)
- Thomson
- Charley per Mr. McCulloch
- Cox per Mr. McCulloch
- Mr. McCulloch
- Kelly

*Proposed by Mr. Wilson  
Seconded by Mr. Brodribb  
That a subcommittee composed of  
Messrs Kelly, Jamieson & Co. be  
appointed to complete the necessary  
business in connection with the transfer  
of the Broken Hill Mining Company's  
to the Broken Hill Proprietary Company  
Limited & to wind up the Broken  
Hill Mining Company's business  
Carried*

Resolution setting up the Broken Hill Proprietary Company on 16th July, 1885. Extract above from Broken Hill Mining Coy. Minute Book. Mitchell Library.





*Charles and Agnes Rasp on their wedding day.  
Pictures from Broken Hill City Library.*

Six weeks later on the 16th July, 1885<sup>19</sup>, armed with proxies, the directors won the day and the Broken Hill Proprietary Company was born. Rasp, although present and one of the largest shareholders, the discoverer of the lode, and in whose shaft the first chloride deposits were noted, was not even on the Board.

The money generated by the floating of the Company enabled Rasp to return to Adelaide and commence a social life amongst the large expatriate community of his fellow countrymen. In 1886, he was a middle aged man of forty who was looking for a wife. He married on the 22nd July, 1886 Agnes Klaversahl<sup>20</sup>, a German waitress in Kindermanns Coffee Shop, then located at No. 13 Rundle Street.<sup>21</sup> The Kindermanns may have had an interest in the silver and jewellery manufacturing business of Kindermann & Brunkhorst<sup>22</sup>, further down the street at No 27. Brunkhorst, the manufacturing silversmith of this partnership, was to purchase Henry Steiner's jewellery and silver business, located some 300 metres east of the restaurant at 106 Rundle Street in 1885. It has been said that it would have been quite possible to transact all the business of daily life in Adelaide at this time in the German language, and the expatriates certainly patronised their own.

After their marriage Mr & Mrs Rasp immediately left for their honeymoon in Broken Hill, a remarkable choice, and are reported to have camped for the night in Rasp's old hut.<sup>23</sup> The newly constituted board of BHP held a board meeting on the 15th August, 1886, of which no record seems to exist. Rasp's interest in Broken Hill at this time may have been to attend that meeting so as to protect his 3000 shares (3/14th's) which were then quoted on the Melbourne Stock Exchange at approximately £40 per share, giving him an investment of £120,000 in the Company.<sup>24</sup> Within eighteen months those shares had risen in value to over £400 a share, making him a millionaire with a shareholding of over £1,200,000. The Rasps' second honeymoon was spent in Europe, and on their return the magnificent townhouse 'Willyama' was acquired at Menindie, a northern suburb of Adelaide. 'Willyama' was the original, but now forgotten, name of the City of Broken Hill.



*Rasp's Hut.  
Picture from Broken Hill City Library. 92/1/2.*



◀ **The Broken Hill Proprietary Company Mine, Feb.-Mar. 1887.**

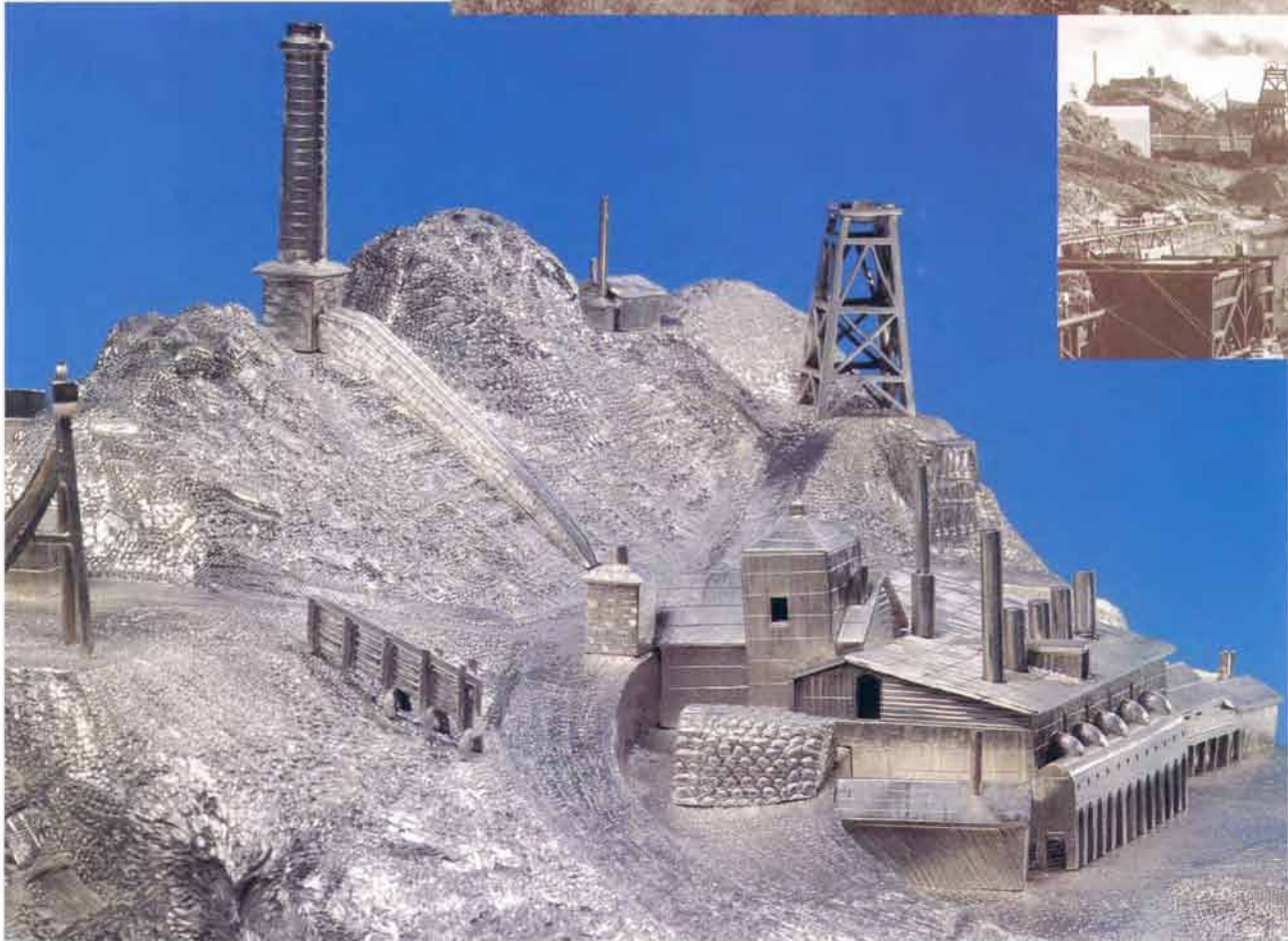
*The McCulloch shaft with its engine house to the left are evident in the centre of the photograph. The stack of masonry sixty feet high and six feet in internal diameter with its fume tunnel are obvious on the left hand side. The buildings have already begun to be altered; in the forecourt of the furnace building the large new smelter with its attachments is in place, so the photograph must date after January 1887. A building to the left hand side of the furnace house has been extended in a north-south direction over the original small east-west construction. An enormous chimney has been placed on the road above the smelting site,*



Broken Hill City Library, reference no 90/1/2152  
Photograph no 162.

**Henry Steiner's silver model of the Broken Hill Mine, made 1886/7.**

*The model probably commissioned by Agnes Rasp on her return from her honeymoon visit to Broken Hill.*



Photograph: Ken Wilde.

replacing the small original stack. The coke in sacks and wood supplies are still stacked in the same position close to the entry point to the crushing plant and smelting house. No rails have yet been laid to move the ore to the smelter, the work being done by bullock and horse drays. The summit of the hill between Rasp's shaft and the large chimney stack has been largely removed to level the site for the expansion of Rasp's shaft. All the vegetation is being removed from the hill and the surrounding countryside and Broken Hill is growing up in front of the smelter site. This photograph must date to the first 2 or 3 months of 1887.

### BHP Mine 1887.

Broken Hill City Library, 901/2152.



### View of Outcrop 1886.

Looking North along ridge line from Block 10. This is a most important photograph for purposes of dating the silver mine model.

The 60 ft skyline chimney is built and smoking, so the smelters must be operational. The chimney stack to the McCulloch shaft engine house appears to its left and the edge of the roof of Rasp's engine house to the distant left.

Think 40 degree heat and the ladies' and children's dresses!

Broken Hill City Library, 901/2146, no 13.

### McCulloch's shaft, circa 1888.

Viewed from Rasp's shaft, looking south-west and showing remnants of flue. The ridgeline chimney stack has been demolished, the railway track laid and a second storey added to the smelter, possibly in 1888.

Mitchell Library photo ML PX1517, 22a.



### Slightly later, circa 1888.

Viewed from the edge of Block 13, looking south along the Tramways Co. Line.

Rasp's shaft, now extended, in the foreground, McCulloch's in the centre.

Mitchell Library photo PX1517.



### BHP Block 13, circa 1889

Rasp's shaft now fully operational.

Courtesy of the Mitchell Library, photo PX1517, 26c.





Mr. & Mrs. Rasp in the landau, at 'Willyama', circa 1886.

Broken Hill City Library. 91/1/36.

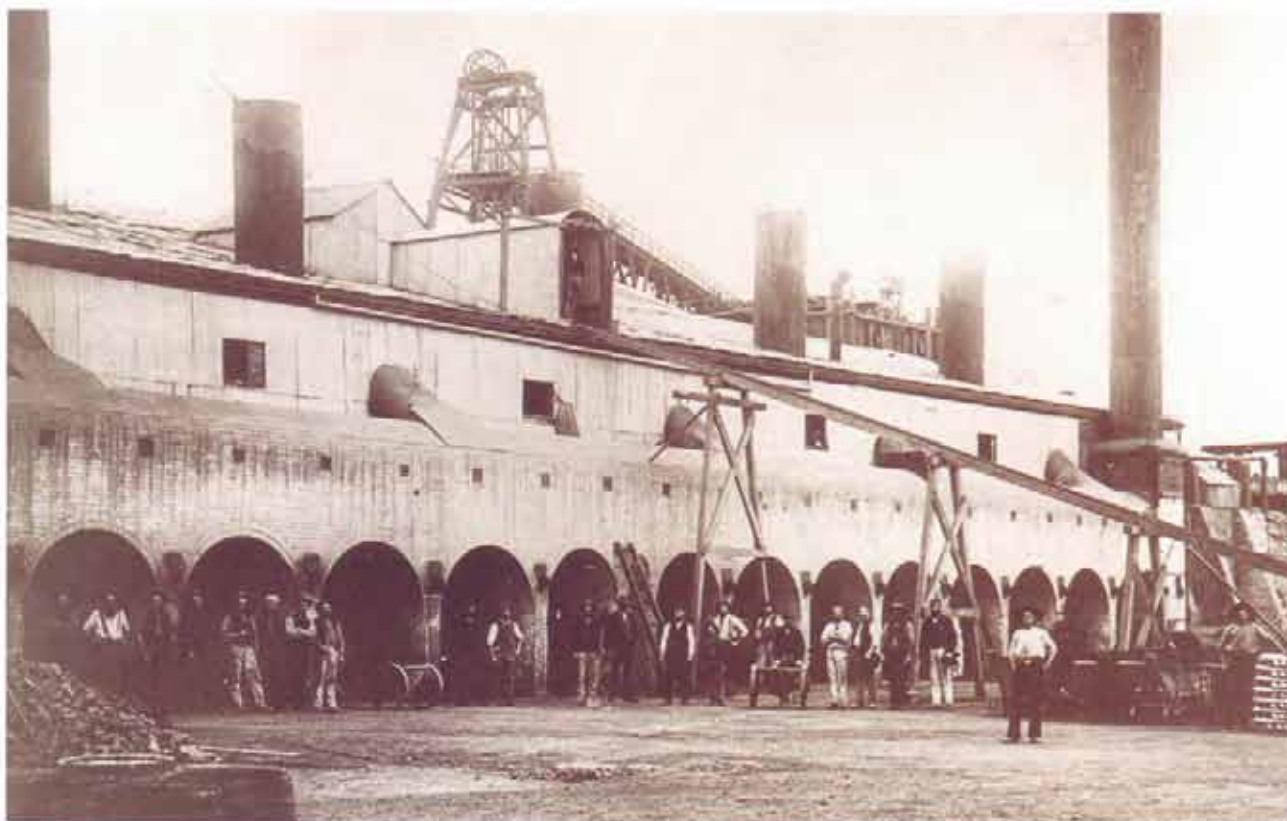
Photograph: Ken Wilde.



The silver model of the mine overlooking Broken Hill.

There are two Australian silver centrepieces that may be associated with Rasp: the so-called *Boundary Rider Centrepiece*<sup>25</sup>, probably acquired by Rasp in 1886 or early 1887 from Brunkhorst, and the *BHP Mine Centrepiece*, manufactured by Steiner for Brunkhorst in 1886. The *Boundary Rider Centrepiece* was exhibited by Steiner in the Melbourne International Exhibition of 1880 and by Brunkhorst at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London in 1886. It is known to have been in Rasp's possession circa 1900. It has been suggested that this centrepiece was manufactured by Steiner, from silver mined at Broken Hill, as a presentation to Rasp. This is incorrect. The fact that Brunkhorst still owned the *Boundary Rider Centrepiece* in 1886 suggests a possibility of the commissioning of the mine model in that year.

The silver model shows the mine facing the town of Broken Hill, it being sited on block 13, with the tower of McCulloch's shaft and engine house, containing the lifting gear, evident to the right hand side and similarly Rasp's shaft to the left. The McCulloch shaft became known as 'the Engine and Permanent Working Shaft'. Between the two shafts but not shown on the model was an air shaft constructed to prevent the miners from suffocating. In the Directors' Report of 6th December, 1886, John Provis describes the buildings on the site, as follows: 'The ores are at present smelted in water jacket furnaces, of these there are four . . . an additional furnace is being erected . . . they are erected on the western slope of the hill between the Rasp and McCulloch shafts, they are substantially constructed and solidly built . . . there is a stack of masonry 60 feet high



*A view from the forecourt of the smelter which helps to prove the accuracy of the model: a stereoscopic photograph from a box of glass plate stereoscopic negatives with one view of Broken Hill, circa 1888. The tower to McCulloch's shaft is in the background, the four chimneys to the original furnaces are in position but the building has been extended to take the fifth furnace with its tall chimney to the right hand side, alongside the shutes in the distance. The bays' five funnels divided by four windows and four chimneys should be compared to the model. A disused silver pulling container is discernible in the foreground, see model. The silver is now produced in ingots, as viewed stacked to the right of the photograph. (Mitchell Library, slides 20, nos. 27, 28 [56])*

The second centrepiece is an exact model of the mine, probably paid for from the proceeds of the share float of June 1885, and may be compared with the contemporary photographs. The mine buildings were completed in April 1886, enabling Steiner/Brunkhorst to construct this model.<sup>26</sup> By June 1886 1,791 tonnes of ore had been crushed and 195,508 ounces of silver produced, so it is possible therefore that this model was made from Broken Hill silver.

and six feet in internal diameter on the crest of the hill to carry off the gases and fumes . . . at the base of this and connected with the furnaces are the condensing chambers where by means of sheets of iron and a jet of steam the heavier and more mineralised portions of the fumes are collected . . . the ores are brought from the various shafts to the crushing floors and passed through the crusher . . . then on to the furnaces.<sup>27</sup>

The four chimneys of equal height to the front of the building represent the water jacket furnaces. An additional furnace was erected to the south of the building and is located by the tall chimney to their right in the 1887 photograph. The 60 foot high stack of masonry and its connecting channel are obvious. The crushing building leads back to the road. To the left of the main building may be seen piles of timber for firing the furnaces and in the photograph note should be made of the bags of coke, all the way from Adelaide by bullock dray. To the front of the smelter are the puddling containers for the newly smelted silver, the final product of the mine.

A search of all the contemporary newspapers relating to Broken Hill, Adelaide and Melbourne for this period<sup>19</sup> has failed to discover any mention of a presentation dinner or the gifting of this centrepiece. The Board minutes and records of BHP, which are reasonably complete, make no mention of sanctioning such a commission.<sup>20</sup> The centrepiece may therefore have been ordered in a private capacity, the state of completion of the buildings as shown in the model precluding a date earlier than April 17th, 1886, when smelting commenced and a date after the end of December 1886, when the fifth furnace was installed. The only people who would have had an occasion for such a presentation would have been Jamieson, who resigned as Mine Manager between January and June 1886, and McCulloch who left Broken Hill in 1887 to float the British Broken Hill Proprietary Company, based on blocks 15 and 16 to the north. Neither McCulloch nor Jamieson

had a presentation dinner suitably recorded in the press or the Company records. I suggest that Mrs Agnes Rasp commissioned this Centrepiece as a wedding present to her husband, modelled from photographs taken on her honeymoon in August 1886.

The silver Centrepiece may have been manufactured as a result of an introduction from her previous employer, Kindermann, to his former partner, Brunkhorst. If Brunkhorst, aided by Steiner whose marks its bears, produced this present, such a family gift would not have been recorded in the newspapers. The Rasps then lent the 'Silver Model of Broken Hill Mine' to Brunkhorst for the Melbourne Centennial Exhibition, 1888.<sup>21</sup>

Charles Rasp died childless at Willyama on the 22nd May, 1907, leaving an estate of £48,000.<sup>22</sup> Agnes left Willyama in March 1908 for Germany, where she became engaged to Field Marshall Baron Richard von Eisenstein, on condition that she pay his son's debts. Later the Field Marshall in full dress uniform visited Agnes and, for reasons known only to himself, put a pistol to his head and blew out his brains in front of her.<sup>23</sup> She subsequently married his Aide-de-Camp, Count von Zedtwitz at the Savoy Chapel in London on the 28th May, 1914. She was in Berlin when war was declared. The Count fell early in the fighting – so there she remained until 1919.

Agnes Rasp left a friend, Hermann Heinicke, as caretaker of Willyama when she went overseas in 1912. On the outbreak of war Agnes had 'enemy alien' status in Australia. An inventory was carried out at Willyama under the Enemy

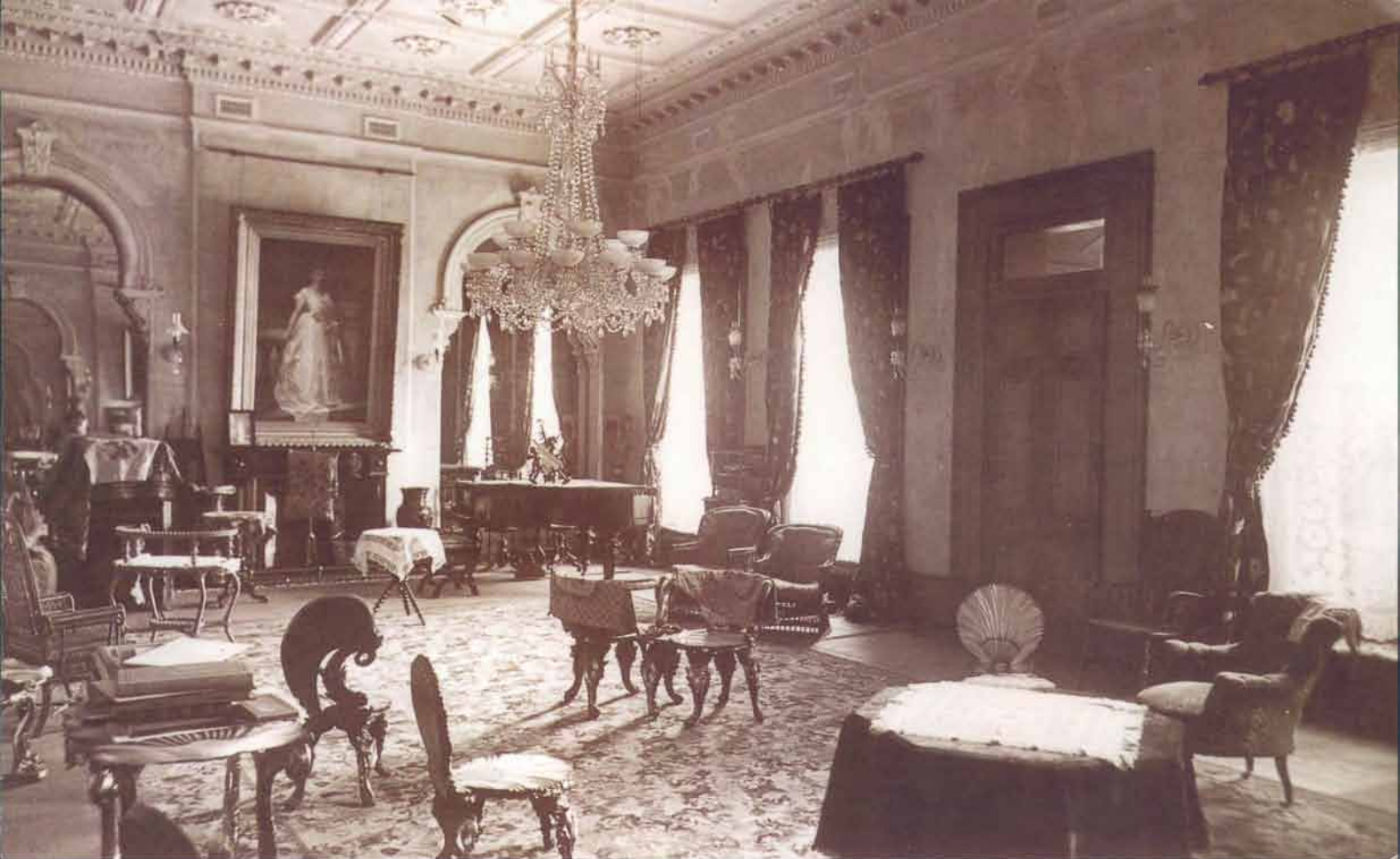


#### **The Model of the Broken Hill Mine: When was it made?**

*Steiner sold his business to Brunkhorst and went to Germany in 1885, but returned to South Australia as a result of the Bank crashes in 1887. Steiner made the Boundary Rider Centrepiece which was first exhibited at the Adelaide Exhibition of 1880. Steiner probably sold this to Brunkhorst with the business in 1885. Brunkhorst exhibited this centrepiece at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London in 1886. Before it left or on its return in 1887, he would have sold it to Rasp, for Rasp is known to have owned it circa 1900, as proved by a photograph in the Mortlock Library.*

*This link in 1886/1887 gives a reason for the Steiner/Brunkhorst joint venture to receive an order from the Rasps to make the Mine Model which, like the 1892 Block 10 Mine Model, must have been constructed from photographs. The contemporary reference for the Block 10 states it took six months to make, which would suggest that if the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Mine Model started in 1886, it would not have been completed until 1887.*

*The Broken Hill Proprietary Co. model was exhibited by A. L. Brunkhorst at the Melbourne Centennial Exhibition of 1888, where it gained an Honourable Mention as a 'Silver Model of Broken Hill Mine'.*



The Ballroom, 'Willyama', circa 1895. The oil painting of Agnes Rasp hangs above the fireplace.

Broken Hill City Library, 91/1/40.

Property Act of 1915 and her estate was vested in the Adelaide Public Trustee. To them Heinicke stated: 'A large quantity of valuable furniture and household effects . . . is stored in certain of the rooms . . . placed by the said Countess . . . before I entered into possession . . . The doors of such rooms were locked by the said Countess . . . her intention to deposit the keys . . . with The Union Bank of Australia Limited. Since the departure of the said Countess . . . the doors . . . have not been opened.'<sup>11</sup> I suggest that it was during this war time period that the two centrepieces – *The Boundary Rider Centrepiece* and *the Broken Hill Mine Centrepiece* – vanished from 'Willyama', for neither of them are listed in the Public Trustee's inventories.

'Willyama' was sold up on the death of the Countess under the instructions of Sir Edwin Lucas and Mr F. T. Bruce (the auctioneer). The estate however was sold by another Adelaide auctioneer, William Waite, in a sale of 1,840 lots held over four days between Monday 23rd and Thursday 26th November, 1936.<sup>14</sup> There is no mention of either of the silver centrepieces, but an original catalogue has not been located. It may have been coincidence or just a quirk of fate that the *Adelaide Advertiser*, published on the last day of the Willyama Sale, carried the following advertisement.

## Special Mart Sale

Friday 27th Nov. at 10 am

*Contents of six suburban houses removed to our mart . . .*

Unique 30 inch handmade sterling silver epergne supporting large cut glass dish. The epergne depicts a gum tree with an aboriginal figure, sheep, mounted stockman in high relief.

A wonderful piece of work designed and manufactured by Steiner.'

**Theo. Bruce & Co., 70a Grenfell Street.**

Bruce was the Countess' executor and may well have gained control of some of her property. The model of the mine appears not to have been sold at this time and reappears unidentified as a piece of plate in a garage sale in Adelaide in 1996, one hundred and ten years from the date of its manufacture.



Agnes Rasp.

Broken Hill City Library 90/1/3185.

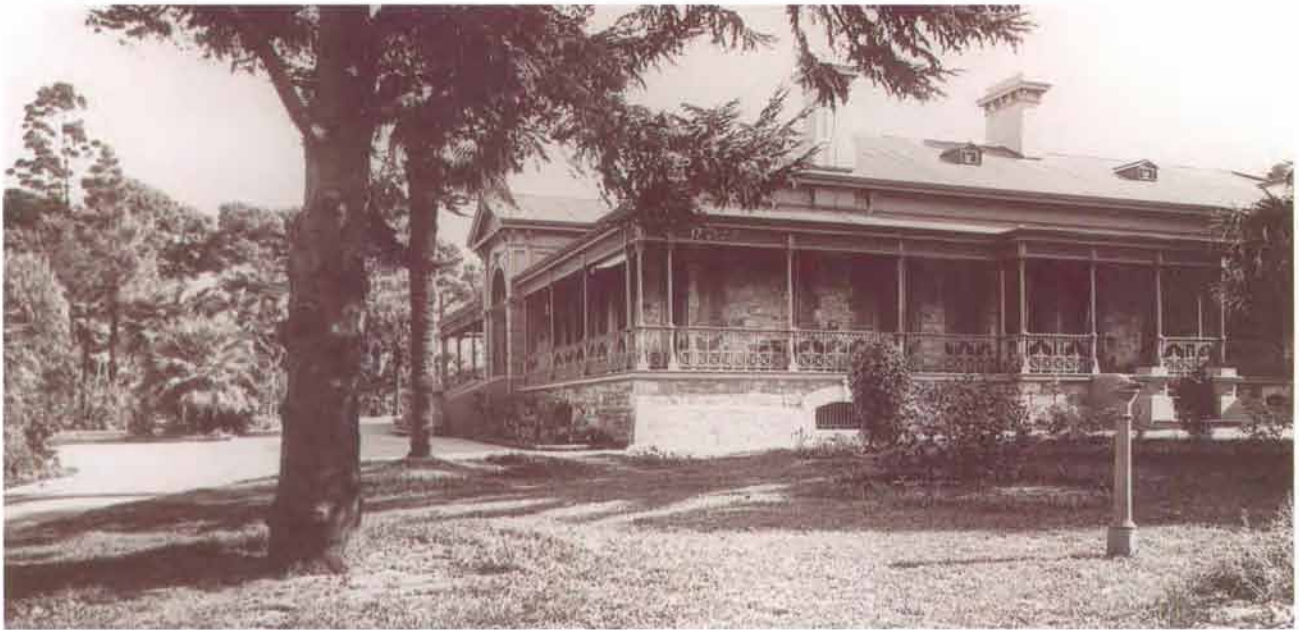
1. *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Rasp.
2. ADB. McCulloch: 'a well developed property of 540,000 acres with 71,000 sheep in 1877'.
3. *Advertiser*. 15th July 1989, Magazine p.5.
4. ADB. Rasp.
5. Hubert Willoughby, *History of Broken Hill*, compiled from research completed between 1945 and 1954 whilst working in Broken Hill between 1937-1962 for the Zinc Corporation, Limited. Mitchell Library Manuscript, ML M85 2584. This is a neglected but accurate source of local history.
6. R. H. B. Kearns, President, Broken Hill Historical Society. Silverton, p.11.
7. *ibid.*, p.12.
8. Willoughby, Chapter 4, p.6.
9. R. J. Solomon. *The Richest Lode*. Hale & Ironmonger, 1988, p.24.
10. Willoughby, Chapter 4, part 1, p.1.
11. *ibid.*, Chapter 4, part 1, p.2.
12. *ibid.*, Chapter 4, part 1, p.13. He gives a good description of the game of euchre and the redistribution of the shares.
13. *ibid.*, Chapter 4, part 2, p.1.
14. Broken Hill Mining Co Minute Book, pp.5-9. Mitchell Library. This manuscript was discovered on a rubbish tip at Broken Hill in 1898.

15. Willoughby, Chapter 4, part 2, p.3-4.
16. BHM Co Minute Book, pp.11-17.
17. *ibid.*, pp.25-32, General Meeting held at the Broken Hill Mine, 3rd June 1885, present: Wilson with proxy for Thomson (2), Brodribb, McCulloch with proxy for Hawkins and Charley (3), Wiseman, Kelly, Rasp, Cox, Jamieson with proxy for Dalglish and James (3), Poole absent.
18. *ibid.*, p.5: 'A letter from Mr W. C. Palmer asking if his name appeared on the Company's Books as purchaser of 1/14th share from E. Thomson'.  
*ibid.*, p.13: 'Mr E. Thomson and Mr D. James are not fit and proper persons to be directors for non attendance of meetings'.  
*ibid.*, p.35: McCulloch asked 'Mr Thomson if he had sold his 1/14th share in the Company, Mr Thomson declined to answer.'
19. *ibid.*, pp. 33-39, Meeting at Baum's Hotel, Silverton at 4.30 a.m., see photograph of the important Resolutions.
20. *Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages (SA)*, Saturday 24th July 1886, p. 4, col D, Marriages: Rasp - Klaversahl (sic) . . . Charles Rasp of Cannstadt, Germany, late of Silverton, to Agnes Klaversahl of Woldenburg, Germany.
21. Sands & McDougall *Adelaide Directories*, from 1880-1886, at 13 and/or 15 Rundle Street.
22. Sands & McDougall *Adelaide Directories*, from 1880 -1883, list Kindermanns & Brunkhorst, (various spellings), 27 Rundle Street; 1885-1891: Brunkhorst. A.L.106 Rundle Street.



Agnes Rasp and companion at 'Willyama'.

Broken Hill City Library 90/1/1940.



'Willyama' and gardens.

Broken Hill City Library, 91/1/45.

23. W. S. Robinson, *If I Remember Rightly: the Memoirs of W.S. Robinson*. The Rasp section of Robinson's Memoirs are a collection of 'facts' from the papers of Rasp's close friend, Dr Hedly R. Marston F.R.S., F.A.A., collated by Archie Watson. Robinson knew Countess von Zedwitz personally.
24. Willoughby, *op. cit.* Appendix. The Share Market: He gives a monthly value to BHP Co. shares from 5th September, 1885, to 1st September, 1888, and dividends and bonuses, showing shareholders received £1,160,000 in dividends and £5,760,000 in bonuses to the end of 1889, in addition to the increase in value of their shares.
25. J. B. Hawkins. *19th Century Australian Silver*. Antique Collectors' Club, Woodbridge, Suffolk, 1990, Vol II, pp.149 and 322. The *Boundary Rider Centrepiece*, property of the Broken Hill City Council.
26. If Rasp was capable of visiting Broken Hill on his honeymoon I am sure Agnes would have taken her camera. I suggest it was her photographs that would have been used to construct the model.
27. Report of Mr John Provis on The Broken Hill Co.'s Mines, 6th December, 1886. Copy held Broken Hill City Library. The first two furnaces were installed in April 1886. Two more were erected by August/September 1886 and a large one (the 5th furnace) was delivered in December 1885. See BHP *Directors' Report*, 22nd December, 1886.
28. Newspapers searched: *The Broken Hill Age*, 30th August, 1884 – 1st August, 1887, (known as *The Silver Age* from 1893). Brunkhorst advertised as Brunkhorst, Late Steiner Silversmith, 29th August, 1885 and at various intervals through to 1886; *The (Adelaide) Advertiser* and the *Melbourne Age*.
29. Letter from Helen Smith, BHP Corporate Archivist, 1st July, 1996.
30. Hawkins, *op. cit.* Vol II, pp.326 and 329. A model in silver of the Block 10, mine in no way associated with Rasp, is illustrated in pl. 85 and 86 and is the property of the Broken Hill Historical Society.
31. Charles Rasp's will was proved in the South Australia Supreme Court, 24th June, 1907. Willyama and its contents must have been in his wife's name; he left household goods (approx. £50), property (£2,500) and investments, shares etc., making up the balance.
32. Robinson, *op. cit.* p.34.
33. These entries and the inventory are extracted from GRG 33/7 – being records from the Public Trustee, S.A. – under *The Enemy Property Act 1915 (S.A.)* (South Australian State Reports).
34. *Adelaide Advertiser*, Saturday 14th November, 1936, p.4, col B.



Broken Hill City Library 90/1/1948.

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