

**The Background to an Armorial Tea and Coffee Service, ordered by the former
Governor of New South Wales, General Lachlan Macquarie,
on his return from New South Wales in 1822**

Part IV

A catalogue of decorative arts objects known to have belonged to or to have been associated with Governor Macquarie.

Since I came to Australia in 1967 only two objects known to have belonged to Macquarie have been sold at public auction: The Macquarie Sword and the Macquarie Collectors Cabinet/Chest. One was made in Australia the other in the United Kingdom. The value of the Macquarie chest was greatly enhanced by being produced entirely within Australia.



Reputedly Macquarie's Regimental dress sword it was not made in Australia. It is of standard regimental form with neither the hilt nor the blade having any form of inscription as to presentation or ownership.

In 1917, Lady Strathallan, (pre 1860-1920), of Methven Castle, Perthshire, the widow and second wife of the James David Drummond (1839-1893), 10th Viscount Strathallan, offered the sword of

Major-General Lachlan Macquarie and a dirk that was believed to have belonged to him at auction in London.

The sword is most likely to have come into the Strathallan family through James Drummond (1767-1851) who first befriended Macquarie in Macao in 1796, at the time of the death of Macquarie's first wife, Jane *nee* Jarvis (1772-1796). He became a life-long friend, supporter, a trustee and executor of his will, and guardian of his son, Lachlan (1814-1845). Drummond inherited the title of 8th Viscount Strathallan in 1824. He was succeeded by his son William Henry Drummond (1810-1886), 9th Viscount Strathallan, in 1851; and his grandson, James David Drummond (1839-1893), 10th Viscount Strathallan, in 1886. The family as owners of Drummonds Bank became money lenders to Lachlan Macquarie II and gained possession of his assets on his death.

After the death of the 10th Viscount, Lady Strathallan inherited the sword as well as a significant cache of Macquarie journals and letter books which had been acquired under the terms of a codicil attached the will of Lachlan II, the Generals son. These were retained within the family until January 1914, at which stage she sold the manuscripts to the Mitchell Library, Sydney. The sword (and dirk) were subsequently auctioned in London in 1917. Lady Strathallan supplied the auctioneer with a letter attesting to the weapons' provenance.

The successful bidder was Sir John Ferguson (1881-1969), bibliophile, collector, judge of the New South Wales Industrial Commission and author of the *Bibliography of Australia*, the standard reference for printed material relating to Australia published between 1784 and 1900. Ferguson valued the weapons for their association with Governor Lachlan Macquarie and brought them back to Australia. They were retained within the Ferguson family and in the 1960s Sir John presented the sword and dirk to his youngest son, Alexander, on his 21st birthday.

The sword and dirk were subsequently auctioned on 5 June 1976 by Geoff K. Gray Pty. Ltd. The pre-auction valuation was \$1500-\$2000:

"A spokesman for Geoff K. Gray Pty Ltd, the auctioneers, said that although the sword was worth only between \$1500 and \$2000 its historical value could not be gauged.

When the private bidders had been bettered in the auction by the Government bidder, it was announced that the sword and dirk had been purchased by the Government – which brought a rousing cheer."¹

The Department of Home Affairs and Environment had been authorised by the Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser, to bid up to \$10,000 and purchase the weapons 'on behalf of the Australian people for inclusion in the national collection'. The items were acquired for the sum of \$7,500.



The Macquarie Chest from Strathallan Castle

This is the most important historic Australian made item sold in recent times and it is now in the Collection of the State Library of New South Wales.

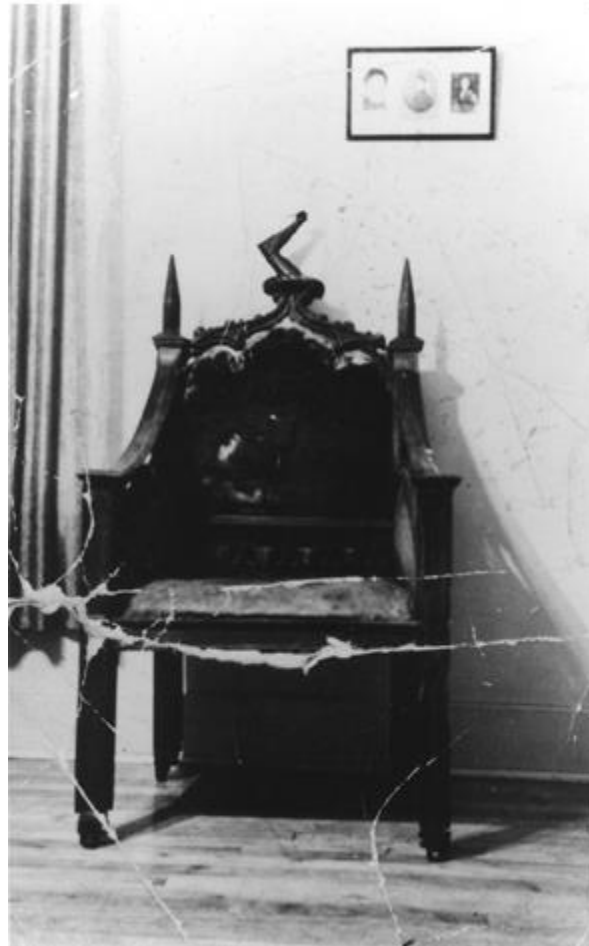
Strathallan Castle is situated some 3 miles northwest of Auchterarder in Scotland and dates from 1818 when an earlier building was remodelled by Robert Smirke for the Member of Parliament James Drummond of the banking family, the trustee and executor of Macquarie's will who built a substantial two-storey castellated Tudoresque mansion, with an unusual turreted porte-cochère on the site.

In 1910, the castle was bought complete with its contents by Sir James Roberts (1848 - 1935), a Yorkshire industrialist, the chest was sold by his grandson Sir William Roberts (1936 - 2012) at Sotheby's in Melbourne in 1989.

I purchased the Strathallan Chest as it was then known as Lot 327 at this auction on Monday 17th April 1989 having previously negotiated a three-month settlement with the auctioneers. I had visited the castle twice in an attempt to purchase the chest from Sir William Roberts after a failed sale at Bonhams in Perth some 10 years earlier when it did not meet the reserve price of 1000 pounds.

I firstly offered it to Warren Anderson who declined the purchase when he heard it had been underbid by Rene Rivkin. I then rang as agreed the late Ruth Simon at Claridge's Hotel in London and she purchased this wonderful object much to the satisfaction of us both. I was later to be responsible for the Strathallan chest's eventual sale to the State Library of New South Wales.²

A Pair of Vice Regal Chairs of State



Macquarie Chair in Canada in c.1930.

Photo: Photographer unknown

Macquarie University Archives RS 330

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History of the Chairs

Col. Greenhill-Gardyne gifted this pair of chairs to a Macquarie descendant as: *two Government House chairs*, using information presumably supplied by Isabella the widow of Lachlan II. This suggests that they were used as Chairs of State by the Governor and his wife on formal occasions at Government House and that they were removed as a perquisite of office by Macquarie on his departure. If this suggestion is accepted it follows that the Governor's chair has lost its central finial a Vice-Regal Crown a requirement when in use as a Chair of State. They were constructed during the six months between John Webster's arrival on 7 August 1820, and their listing in the Government House inventory of 21 March 1821.

Temple and Webster were commissioned by Thomas Hobbes Scott, secretary to Commissioner J. T. Bigge [and subsequently appointed Archdeacon of New South Wales (1824-1829) to make him a

third chair of similar proportions - though with some slight alterations. This chair is now located in St. James Church, Sydney.

When Governor Macquarie left New South Wales in February 1822, he took the two chairs back with him to Gruline House on the Jarvisfield estate on the Isle of Mull, Scotland. The chairs were purchased by Elizabeth Macquarie from the trustees of her husband's estate and were left to her son Lachlan II. On his death in 1845 they passed to his widow Isabella Campbell Macquarie. Isabella later left them to Lt. Col. Charles Greenhill Gardyne, then living at Glenforsa house on Mull. Gruline house was extended by Greenhill Gardyne using the architects Peddie & Kinnear between 1861 and 1865 on the settlement of the court case. It was connected to the three bay cottage that was the old Gruline house by a corridor and the whole renamed Glenforsa.

Greenhill -Gardyne moved with the chairs and the painting to Finavon house near Forfar and in turn gave them to Macquarie's great nephew George Willison Macquarie (1816-1894), who bequeathed them one each to his two sons, Rowland (1873-1945) and Archibald James (1875-1945).

Both brothers emigrated to Canada in the 1890s, taking the chairs with them. Rowland worked as a marine engineer (with 1st Class papers). Eventually the chair in his possession was passed (via his widow, Elizabeth Stewart) to the Vancouver City Museum in the 1930s. It remained there until 1961, when it was acquired by the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney (now the Powerhouse Museum). This chair has subsequently been on display at Old Government House, Parramatta; the Mint Museum, Sydney; and the Museum of Sydney (MOS). It is currently on permanent exhibition at the Powerhouse Museum.

The second chair remained as part of the possessions of the family of Archibald James Macquarie in New Brunswick (eastern Canada). He worked as a banker, firstly with the Bank of Scotland, and subsequently with the Bank of British North America (1897-1903), and the Bank of New Brunswick (1904-). Later he became the manager of different branches of the Bank of Nova Scotia, in the Maritime Provinces, and continued living in eastern Canada after his retirement until his death on 29 December 1945. Twenty years later, following the death of Archibald's widow, Constance Sturdee, in 1965, the chair was bequeathed to one of her three daughters, Phyllis (Mrs J.E. Taylor), who arranged for it to be shipped back to Edinburgh, Scotland that year.

At this stage, Malcolm Ellis, a noted Australian journalist/historian, and the first major biographer of Lachlan Macquarie, notified the executive staff of the recently founded Macquarie University of the chair's existence. It was suggested that the acquisition of this chair would provide a unique link between the University and its namesake. Negotiations began, and the chair was subsequently presented as a gift by Mrs J. E. Taylor to the University. The chair was shipped to Australia on the S.S. *Helenus* in September 1967 and arrived at the University in December 1967.



The Macquarie University Chair [2001]

Photo: Macquarie University.
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The University Chair

The University decided that the chair would be best used for ceremonial purposes, in particular by the University Chancellor. In fact, it is now officially referred to as the "Chancellor's Chair" and is a central feature on the dais at every graduation ceremony enacted at the University.

In 1969, restoration work was carried out by craftsmen in Sydney. Some repair work to the chair frame and timber carving was necessary, as well as re-polishing, and the replacement of the upholstery. It was established that the fur upholstery on the inside panels was in fact grey kangaroo, and consequently must have been original to the chair. However, given the age and brittleness of the skin, there was no choice but to replace it.

The photograph of the chair taken in Canada in the 1930s and now held in the Macquarie University Archives is interesting on two further counts. Firstly, there appears to be a small black shield set in the back of the chair; however there is no further trace or recollection of this. Secondly, the chair is sitting upon metal castors which have now been removed.

On 30th April 1971, the chair was made available to the National Trust of Australia for use during the Official Opening of Old Government House at Parramatta by Her Majesty the Queen. In 1989, it was lent to the Art Gallery of South Australia for use in their "Great Australian Art Exhibition" (23 May 23 - 16 July 16). At all other times, from 1972 - 1990, the chair has been kept in the University Council Room.

A decision was taken in 1990 to relocate the chair to the University Library, where it could be placed on display inside the Lachlan Macquarie Room, the reconstructed parlour room from Macquarie's house on the Isle of Mull. This would not only re-establish the connection between the chair and Gruline House, but also help to regulate the amount of humidity and the levels of light that it was exposed to.

In 1991 restoration work was carried out by Mr. Julian Bickersteth. The following year he published a description of his work and his assessment of the two chairs in the journal *Australiana*. This journal article is an invaluable entry point into the history of the chairs, and the role of the convict artisans William Temple and John Webster in their construction. However, Mr Bickersteth is incorrect in his assertion that only one chair was taken to Canada (as discussed previously) and that this one was subsequently acquired by the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences while the second one remained in Scotland. The same assertion was made by Ann Watson, Curator of Furniture and Woodwork at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney, in the journal *Craft Australia* in 1984. We now know that both chairs were shipped to Canada at the turn of the twentieth century.

Additional restoration work and some minor repairs were carried out by specialists at International Conservation Services Pty Ltd (Sydney) in September 2000. At this time, as the leather upholstery on the seat of chair needed replacing, the decision was made to replace it with kangaroo fur. As a consequence, all sides of the chair now have matching fur surfaces. This decision was based upon the evidence of the original upholstery on the Powerhouse Museum chair, which would appear to have been originally upholstered in kangaroo fur. This means that the University chair now has kangaroo fur on the inner back and outer sides dating from 1969, and fur on the seat and inner sides dating from 2000.

After further restoration work in 2006 a decision was made by the University to discontinue the practice of using the chair as part of every University graduation ceremony held throughout the academic year. This decision will help to ensure that the chair is preserved for future generations to enjoy. It has now been placed on permanent public exhibition in the University Library in the display area adjacent to The Lachlan Macquarie Room.



A comparison of the two finials the one on the left is the original on I suggest the wrong chair the one on the right is the copy with the incorrect heraldic scroll mount. The original pommel to the dirk is missing hence the copy is also incorrect.

Construction of the Chairs

Height:

1310mm (overall)
680mm (to top of front legs)
340mm (to underside of seat rails)

Width:

730mm (front)
610mm (back)

Depth:

680mm

The chairs were made from rose mahogany or Australian rosewood (*Dysoxylon fraserianum*), and are the earliest known examples of the "Colonial Gothic" style. They feature extensive gothic decorative features, derived in part from designs appearing in George Smith's *Collection of Designs for Household Furniture and Interior Decoration*, published in London in 1808, including pointed arches, pinnacles, and pierced quatrefoils.

The chairs also include pierced fretwork along the lower part of the back, and blind fretwork on the leg facings. All faces of the legs and the sides of the seat rails have casuarina panels set into them, while the top rail of each chair has a carved arm clutching a dagger or *skian dhu* (the crest of the Macquarie family). There are finials on the top of each back leg.

Both chairs have been repaired and modified a number of times since 1821, including the replacement of the crest on the Museum chair during restoration work carried out in Sydney in 1969-70. Fragments

of the carved crest are referred to in a letter to the Vancouver City Museum in 1937, but these were missing when the Museum chair was finally shipped to Australia. When the new carving was carried out in Sydney, the University chair was used as a model.

The chairs no longer have their original upholstery, though some of it survived until the return of the chairs to Australia in the 1960s. Restoration work carried out in October 2000 and August 2006 has further increased the similarity between the two chairs: both the Museum chair and the University chair now have kangaroo fur on the seat, as well as on all their inside and outside panels. Prior to this, the University chair had tan leather on the seat and inside side panels, and kangaroo fur on the inside rear panel and the outside panels.

However, it is the substantial differences between the two chairs that are more important to note:

Firstly, the finials on the top of each back leg are plain on the University chair, and ornately carved on the Museum chair. This is because the finials on the University chair are made from African mahogany (*Khaya ivorensis*) (this appears to be an early replacement), while those on the Museum chair are the original rose mahogany, carved by John Webster.

Secondly, the underside of the top rail of the University chair is lacking the two carved rosettes that appear on the Museum chair. A photograph taken of the chair in the 1930s shows that the rosettes were missing. Closer examination during conservation work in 1991 has confirmed that the rosettes existed once but had been sawn off, presumably to facilitate upholstery.

Thirdly, the back of the University chair is now a stained plywood panel, whereas it is upholstered on the Museum chair.

This is not a conundrum if the University chair was used as the Chair of State on official occasions, the now lost and replaced finials being originally carved as the royal supporters of the Lion and the Unicorn centred by the Crown of State; the original decorative shield set in Kangaroo fur being held in place by a wooden back to the centre of the chair was probably originally carved with the Royal Arms. These decorative features would have identified the University chair as Macquarie's Government House, Vice Regal Chair of State. The Macquarie crest from his wife's chair has I suggest been put back on the wrong chair after shipping to Canada they each being dowelled in place.

In all other aspects of detail and proportions the two chairs are almost identical.

Sources

Archival & Mss Sources

Macquarie University Archives: RS330 (Box 451 S11/B2)

Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences Museum Archives

Additional material by John Hawkins regarding the use and decoration as a Chair of State

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The Powerhouse Museum chair is described as:

...crafted by convicts in 1820-21 ...it is the plaque on this chair identifying its makers as John Webster and William Temple that has enabled the makers of the two chairs to be identified. Made of Australian rose mahogany, a NSW timber felled extensively during the Macquarie period, red cedar, Casuarina and with replacement eastern grey kangaroo fur upholstery (1982), the chair bears the Macquarie crest of a raised dagger as its central finial and was crafted by convicts William Temple (1779-1839) and John Webster (1798-1842). Temple, a 'carpenter and joiner', was transported to NSW in 1813 and worked in the government lumber yard in Sydney and with the cabinetmaker Lawrence Butler (1750?-1820). Temple was granted a conditional pardon by Macquarie in November 1821 having worked for Macquarie at Government House. John Webster, a carver and gilder, was transported to NSW, arriving on 7 August 1820. Governor Macquarie must have set him to work on the carving of the chairs soon after he arrived in the colony, for they were completed by the time the Macquarie's returned to Scotland in early 1822. Webster was also granted a conditional pardon in November 1821. It is possible that both pardons were associated with the completion of the chairs. The chairs may in fact be the "2 large armchairs" listed in an inventory of the contents of Government House, Sydney in March 1821. With their carved Gothic detail and formal vice-regal proportion's the chairs were probably made for the Macquarie's official rather than personal use. Their taste for the Gothic style, fashionable in late 18th -century England, is reflected in a number of buildings the Macquarie's erected including the Government House stables (now the New South Wales Conservatorium of Music). The relatively sophisticated styling of the chairs may also indicate the reference by Webster and Temple to George Smith's 'A collection of designs for household furniture and interior decoration', a highly influential pattern book published in England in 1808. Smith's publication shows several chairs with Gothic detailing similar to the Macquarie armchairs... The MAAS chair was lent to the Vancouver Museum by a "Mrs R Macquarie [sic]" in about 1937 but, after lengthy negotiations, was donated to the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences in 1961. Almost 140 years after it had left Australia the chair's final resting place was the city of its origin! Anne Watson Curator.



The replacement finial on the Museum chair the original is on the University chair and they should be transposed. This was Mrs Macquarie's chair as the Governor's wife. The matching chair now at the University is I suggest the Vice regal chair which should have the Royal Arms reinstated.

The Macquarie Dinner Service



A "Japan" pattern Macquarie Serving Platter. Macquarie University © All rights reserved.

History

This serving platter formed part of a Staffordshire ironstone dinner service belonging to Governor Macquarie.

It was presented to Macquarie University in September 1982 by the daughters of Dr. & Mrs. Frederick Watson. Dr. Watson was the editor of the *Historical Records of Australia*, Sydney, Library Committee of the Commonwealth Parliament, 1914-1925 (thirty-three volumes), one of the principal collections of published primary sources for the study of early Australian history.

Dr. Watson acquired the platter in 1910 from Professor Sir I.P. Anderson Stuart who at that stage owned what remained of the complete dinner service. According to Dr. Watson the reason that Anderson Stuart sold him the meat serving dish was because it was too large to be stored in the china cabinets in his house "Linaludin" at Double Bay, Sydney. The remaining dinner and pudding plates were dispersed at auction following Anderson Stuart's death in 1920, and some of these pieces now belong to the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney and the National Trust of Australia.

Professor Anderson Stuart was the Professor of Anatomy (later Physiology) at the University of Sydney 1882-1920.

Provenance

The large Staffordshire meat dish is boldly decorated with a "Japan" pattern inspired by the decoration on Japanese Imari ware in underglaze blue and overglaze red/orange with gilt enrichments.

The platter has suffered major damage (presumably in the nineteenth century) when it was broken into 4 pieces, and there is also a hairline fracture along one edge. Repairs have been carried out using metal staples on the reverse side. A short length of the raised foot on the base has also been broken off.

In addition, there is a handwritten paper inscription pasted on the base that reads:

"Formerly belonging to Governor Macquarie and purchased at Mr. O'Brien's sale held at Bradley Norton and Lamb in Spring St Sydney." (No date)

More of this service appeared at the Vickers and Hoad sale 2011 with labels to the tune of Mr O'Brien's Sale held by Bradley, Norton and Lamb in Spring St Sydney 14.7.

The serving platter is currently on public display in The Lachlan Macquarie Room, Macquarie University Library.

Other parts of this non armorial service made between 1810 and 1820 bearing similar labels formerly in the Kennedy Collection, Rawson House. Sydney, now in the National Museum of Australia.

Australian Silver and Associated Objects with a Macquarie Connection

The only source of bullion in the infant colony was the coinage which required melting and flattening to be worked into silver.



This Madrid Holey Dollar was listed for sale at \$600,000. A Lima Holey Dollar set a world record for an early Australian coin when it was sold to a West Australian collector for \$495,000 in 2013. Illustration Belinda Downie rare coin dealer.

In 2014 it was reported in the press that a small collection of coins had been stolen from the State Library of New South Wales the resulting press report provides a history of the subject:

Police are hunting for a thief who stole \$1 million worth of rare coins - including one that sold for \$410,000 two years ago - during a brazen robbery at the State Library of NSW.

Dr Alex Byrne, the State Librarian and the library's chief executive, said the thief broke into a coin case about 3.40pm on Wednesday and escaped with 12 coins, including examples of Australia's earliest currency that Dr Byrne said were "historically, extraordinarily important".



The 1813 holey dollar which sold in Melbourne for \$410,000 in August 2012.

The theft was captured on the Sydney library's CCTV system and footage has been handed to police. They have launched an investigation into the incident and believe it may be linked to a second theft from a hotel later on Wednesday.

Dr Byrne said 15 coins, part of the library's collection, were on exhibition in a "secure locked case" in a gallery at the library.



A dump cut from the centre of the "holey dollar" was worth 15 pence when it was in circulation.

Dr Byrne said that at the start of the 19th century, Governor Lachlan Macquarie recognised that there was no coinage in Australia so he bought 40,000 Spanish dollars. The dollars were large coins, and Governor Macquarie had a hole punched through the middle.

The central plug, known as a dump, was valued at 15 pence, and the outer ring was worth five shillings. The coins were re-stamped and went into circulation in 1814.

"Historically the holey dollar is extraordinarily important. It's about this country developing all the aspects of a civilised society," Dr Byrne said.

Dr Byrne said there were other holey dollars in collections in Australia, but he was unaware how many and said they were very valuable.

Rare coins worth \$1 million - including 'holey dollar' - stolen from State Library of NSW

Sydney Morning Herald, Megan Levy August 8, 2014.



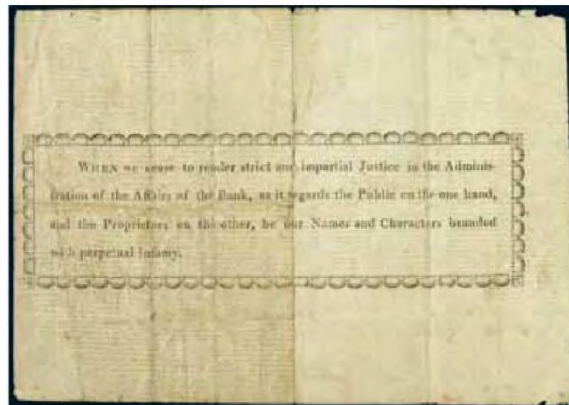
The global symbol of Macquarie Group, the holey dollar was Australia's first official currency and earliest example of financial innovation.

In 1813, Governor Lachlan Macquarie, addressed a severe currency shortage by importing 40,000 Spanish silver dollars and punching a hole through the centre of them to create two unique coins.

The currency stimulated the economy while retaining its intrinsic value, with the two new coins – the holey dollar and the dump – worth 25 per cent more than the original. Two centuries later, Australia has evolved into one of the world's major financial centres.

More than two hundred years since its creation, the holey dollar remains a relevant symbol of financial innovation and, within the Macquarie business, inspires our best efforts to deliver new ideas and products for our clients.

The first working silversmith to raise silver from the flat in Australia was the Scottish silversmith Alexander Dick who arrived in the colony in 1824. Prior to this date only imported British silver, some Anglo Indian or China Trade silver was available for purchase in Sydney.



At the Noble Numismatics auction in Sydney on March 26 a bidder acting for Westpac paid \$334,000 for one of the first Australian banknotes which was issued in 1817.

The Noble Sale catalogue entry reads:

Lot 2800. Bank of New South Wales, ten shillings, Sydney, 8 April 1817, No.55, imprint S. Clayton Sculptr, payable to J.Lee or bearer, signed E.S.Hall Cashier, Entd. R. Campbell Jun. Signed by directors J.Harris and R.Jenkins (MVR type 1a), tablet on back with legend. Printed at the office of the Sydney Gazette. Three vertical folds, perforations on centre-fold otherwise fine and clear, excessively rare if not unique, the ultimate Australian banknote icon. Estimate \$125,000

The unassuming appearance of this note belies its vast significance. Recently brought to light from a private Scottish collection, it was issued the day the Bank of New South Wales opened in 1817 and is Australia's oldest known banknote. The story behind the note follows the establishment of Australia's first bank and regulated currency issue.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lachlan Macquarie, upon arrival in Sydney at the end of 1809, was confronted with a colony in crisis. Those who arrived with the First Fleet in 1788, with only two years' provisions and without knowledge of Australian agricultural conditions, had nearly starved. Compounding the problem of basic survival was the lack of a stable local monetary system. A provisional local currency had evolved including promissory notes that were easily forged and often dishonoured, a mixture of overseas coins brought to the colony by visiting ships, and anything that could be used for barter, especially rum. As the new governor, Macquarie was given extensive powers to reshape the colony, but despite this, his first request to London to establish a bank was rejected. In 1812, to alleviate the shortage of currency, he imported £10,000 in Spanish coins from India and manufactured the famed holey dollars and dumps. These efforts did little to improve the situation. The

import was insufficient to meet the needs of the colony and the other prevalent practices continued. So efforts to establish a bank were renewed.

In 1816, Macquarie revived the plan, this time pushing ahead without approval from London. Upmost in his mind were the needs of the colony for a stable and secure currency to facilitate commerce and trade. At a meeting with 13 selected citizens in the Judge Advocate's chambers it was agreed that a bank would be established. On 22 March 1817, the charter for the first bank in Australia signed by Governor Macquarie, was delivered to the banks President, prompting the Sydney Gazette, voicing the support of the community, to hail the move as a 'great colonial undertaking'.

Thirty-nine respondents offered to invest a total £5,000 of the £20,000 allotment after an invitation to subscribe was published in the Sydney Gazette on 5 December 1816. With the capital groundwork laid, prospective subscribers then approved a committee of fifteen to draft a corporate constitution of the bank, which was completed on 29 January 1817 and submitted to a General Meeting on 7 February. Forty-nine of fifty regulations were unanimously adopted and the remaining rule was amended. One particular rule stipulated the notes to be issued; two shillings & sixpence, five shillings, ten shillings, one pound and five pounds, signed by two directors and the cashier, and countersigned by the principal bookkeeper. The seven elected directors were D'Arcy Wentworth, John Harris, Robert Jenkins, Thomas Wylde, Alexander Riley, William Redfern and John Thomas Campbell (President and Chairman). The first meeting of directors took place on 12 February where, among other things, it was decided to appoint an engraver.

Samuel Clayton, the colony's first engraver, was appointed to produce plates for the new banknotes. As a measure against forgery and until banknote paper arrived from England in 1820, the back of each note was to be inscribed with a legend by a letterpress unique to the colony. The legend on the note in question is previously unrecorded and reads 'When we cease to render strict and impartial Justice in the Administration of the Affairs of the Bank, as it regards the Public on one hand, and the Proprietors on the other, be our Names and Characters branded in perpetual Infamy'. This security measure had been established earlier in 1815 when the Sydney Gazette also printed the Police Fund notes, of which only unissued forms now exist. The verse was, however, in Latin from Cicero. The left margin device used on the Police Fund notes is virtually identical with this note, showing wavy lines interspersed with stars, the guiding light to the colony. The border device on the back is also identical with that on the Police Fund notes.

The final major decision regarded the place of business. A committee of three directors, including Jenkins, inspected premises offered by tender. On 6 March they selected the house of Mrs Mary Reibey in Macquarie Place with terms of a two-year lease at a rental of £150 per annum.

On 8 April 1817 the Bank of New South Wales opened for business at 10am. One hundred ten shillings notes were issued on the first day. In accordance with a decision recorded in the bank's minutes of that day, all notes were made payable to 'J.Lee or bearer'. It should be noted that John Lee is listed in the Colonial Secretary Index 1788-1825 as being rewarded from the Police Fund for £10-0-0 on 10 February 1816 as 'a reward for himself...[for] catching two horses belonging to Assistant Surgeon Redfern'. William Redfern was a founding director of the bank (see above).

It was two years before Macquarie replied to the advice from London, by which time the bank was a proven success, forcing it in 1822 to move to new and larger premises on George Street. With a vision of the future, faith in the colony and the support of the public, Macquarie had established a great Australian enterprise, confident it would provide the solution to the currency problem in the colony. After concluding his service as governor, Macquarie regarded the Bank of New South Wales as his chief financial accomplishment, referring to it in a letter to Lord Bathurst as 'the saving of the colony from ruin'. Indeed, the immediate impact of the new bank extended beyond New South Wales - The Bank of Van Diemen's Land was modelled after the original charter and opened in 1824. Today the

Bank of New South Wales continues operation after merging with the Commercial Bank of Australia Limited on 1 October 1982, becoming Westpac Banking Corporation. ³

Silver colonial made trowels with a Masonic connection

Three recorded trowels were probably flatted by the professional engraver Samuel Clayton, a convict forger who engraved the copper plates for the first banknotes for the Bank of New South Wales in 1817. These trowels would have had to have gone through the process of flatting prior to engraving.



Samuel Clayton (1777-1853)

In 1815 Clayton was found guilty of forgery in the Commission Court, Dublin, and sentenced to seven years' transportation to Australia where, as Margaret Smith reveals in her book *'Samuel Clayton: Forger, Freemason, Freeman'*, he reinvented himself as a successful businessman and became one of the colony's leading lights.⁴

The Claytons were Protestant artisans based in Dublin City. Born in about 1777, Samuel was the eldest son of Benjamin Clayton, a well-established engraver who resided in Great Britain Street (now Parnell Street) on the city's north side during the boom years of the Georgian Age. His grandfather, also Benjamin, was a clockmaker based in Temple Bar but it was engraving that became the skillset for Samuel and his brothers who learned the trade from their father.

Like his father, Samuel attended the Dublin Society Drawing Schools located in Grafton Street then under the direction of Henry Aaron Baker. By 1793 16-year-old Samuel was making a splash in the publishing world, engraving the abbey in Castledermot for the publication *Anthologia Hibernica*. He was also working as a miniature painter and, of most relevance, producing revenue stamps for the Stamp Office in Powerscourt House on South William Street. These stamps were used as a form of revenue tax in a variety of transactions, such as cheques, will probates, insurance, newspaper sales, excise duty and alcohol sales.

Samuel was one of Dublin's most diligent Freemasons, initially attending Lodge 374, which met in Chapelizod, and later Lodge 6, where he was installed as Worshipful Master in 1813. He clearly enjoyed the convivial company of his fellow brothers which greatly boosted his network of contacts across the city. However, there was considerable shock at the close of 1815 when this upstanding citizen and respected member of the Grand Lodge – a bastion of moral and spiritual values - was arrested on a charge of forgery.

The case against Clayton centred on an investigation into forged revenue stamps that had defrauded the revenue by a whopping £200,000. Samuel was one of eight men taken into custody and committed to Newgate Prison which stood in present-day St. Michan's Park near Smithfield. Although no evidence was found during an extensive search of his home, he was found guilty of supplying forged stamps amounting to about £45 to Messrs. Dickinson and Finlay, notaries public, as well as to the Anchor Brewery on Usher Street.] James McClelland, Baron of the Court of Exchequer, sentenced him to seven year's penal servitude in Australia.

After nearly six months in Newgate, he was shipped south to Cobh and placed on the ship *Surry*. On the plus side, he was accompanied by his wife Emma and son Benjamin for whose transit he was able to pay the fare. The 150 convicts on board were supervised by 30 soldiers from the 46th Regiment of Foot. Most of the convicts hailed from Tipperary where there had been an upsurge in Whiteboy aggression since the Napoleonic Wars ended at Waterloo in June 1815. At 38 years of age, Clayton was one of the older convicts; the average age was 27 but there were two 14-year-olds and a 65-year-old on board.

The passengers were entitled to feel nervous as the *Surry* set sail from Cobh in July 1816. On the ship's previous outing, 51 people had died of typhus, including the master and the surgeon. However, a strict regime imposed by the ship's captain ensured that all but one passenger survived the 159-day voyage, via Rio de Janeiro, to Port Jackson, Sydney. They arrived in a rainstorm shortly before Christmas and were promptly inspected by Lachlan Macquarie.

Macquarie realised that the best chance of success for the fledgling Australian colony was to convert convicts into good, honest citizens. As such, he needed role models and not surprisingly his eyes lit upon Samuel Clayton. Clayton was a literate, educated and skilled craftsman with no previous convictions. He was also a Protestant and, like Macquarie, a Freemason.

Although he appears to have been assigned to work for a merchant and auctioneer in Sydney on arrival, Clayton immediately submitted a petition to have his sentence mitigated. Astonishingly, less than two months after the convicted forger's arrival he was commissioned to engrave the copper plates for Australia's first banknotes. One of these copper plates was sold at auction in 2014 for the equivalent of €230,000.

By January 1818 he had received a convict pardon on condition that he remained in New South Wales until his seven-year term expired. He soon established his own base at Pitt Street, from where he operated as a painter, engraver and copper plate engraver. By the 1820s he was being applauded as 'the finest silversmith in the colony'. As well as creating the distinguished service medals awarded to the 48th Foot, he made the silver prize medals for the Sydney Grammar School. The school was established by the notorious Laurence Hynes Halloran, a poet and unordained clergyman from County Meath, who had also been convicted of forgery. Clayton later opened a perfumery and sold an early form of camera.

Clayton was also eager to re-join the Freemasons but as the only lodges in Australia at this time were military, he sought and obtained permission from the Grand Lodge of Ireland to form a civil lodge. This was the first regular lodge in Australia and, as such, Clayton is today hailed as the Father of Freemasonry in Australia.⁵

It was common practice at this time for Masonic Lodges to be formed on board naval vessels and within regiments of the British Army and for Freemasonry to be practiced wherever the ship or regiment was stationed.

Nothing is recorded regarding Freemasons and Macquarie's 73rd Regiment but Macquarie is known to have been a mason. The 46th Regiment of Foot, which arrived in 1814, had attached to it the Lodge of Social and Military Virtues No. 227, Irish Constitution. The 48th Regiment with Lodge No. 218, Irish Constitution, replaced this regiment in 1817. It was this Lodge that granted dispensation to form the first Lodge in Sydney in 1820 at a time when the total population of the colony was only 30,000. This Lodge, with just twelve foundation members, was called the Australian Social Lodge and was issued with warrant No. 260 by the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The Lodge still meets in Sydney as Lodge Antiquity No. 1 on the register of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Captain John Piper a mason invited W Bro Captain Sanderson to conduct a masonic foundation stone laying ceremony at his new mansion Henrietta Villa at Point Piper most, if not all in the Regiment were masons, none had brought their regalia.⁶

Governor Macquarie immediately saw opportunity and summoned Greenway, demanding that he design and indeed manufacture a unique masonic apron for the occasion.



Robert Campbell's Halloran medal engraved by Samuel Clayton 1819. Illustration Belinda Downie rare coin dealer.

Arriving in Sydney upon the transport *Baring* in June 1819, Halloran discovered that an old friend from South Africa, John Thomas Campbell, was the Vice-Regal Secretary. Exploiting the connection, Halloran had Campbell recommend him to Governor Macquarie, who almost immediately issued Halloran a 'ticket of leave'. It was also Macquarie who played a key role in helping Halloran, in 1819, establish a school – known at the time as 'Dr Halloran's Establishment'.

The forefather of Sydney Grammar School, today one of Australia's leading private schools, Halloran's establishment was very successful. Indeed, Governor Macquarie stated at the time that Halloran was 'the best and most admired instructor of youth in the Colony'. Alas, Halloran's unrelenting penchant for writing libellous material saw him constantly in trouble with the law. This led to financial problems, and he moved the premises of the school frequently, in an attempt to avoid his creditors.⁷

No raised silver seems to have been made at the stake in Sydney before 1825. Silver trowels were the limit of the skillset and the first trowel presented to Macquarie is still missing, is recorded in Macquarie's diary together with the mention of a Holey Dollar and a dump:

Saturday 11th. Ocr. 1817!!!

This afternoon at 6.O'Clock, after Dinner, I proceeded to the Scite [sic] of the new intended Church in the new Burying Ground at Windsor for the purpose of going through the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of this Building which was done accordingly in presence of His Honor Lt. Govr. Erskine, Capt. Gill, Depy. Comr. Genl. Allan, Wm. Cox Esqr. J. P. Jas. Mileham Esqr. J. P., Major Antill, Mr. Fitzgerald, and Mr. Kitchen the Architect and Contractor for building the New Church, which I christened St. Mathew's – Depositing a Colonial Silver Dollar and also a Colonial Fifteen Pence Silver Piece under the foundation stone. —

I made a present of Five Gallons of Spirits to the Artificers & Labourers employed by Mr. Kitchen in erecting this Holy Edifice. — Mr. Kitchen presented me with a Silver Trowel on laying the foundation stone of the new Church.

The Gentlemen who attended me at the Ceremony came back with me to Govt House to drink success to the Church of St. Mathew. — I regreted [sic] much that the Revd. Mr. Cartwright was unable to attend on this occasion owing to indisposition...

The following two trowels and the Halloran series of prize medals are the only surviving examples of worked silver made in the Colony before Macquarie's departure in 1822. Without an engraver of Clayton's ability nothing could have been produced of this quality in the Colony of New South Wales prior to this date.



In August 1819 Erskine was promoted colonel and made a C.B. He was on good terms with Macquarie and as Commanding Officer of the 48th he was the Lt. Governor of the Colony. On 25 February 1823 he sailed for England in the *Marshal Wellington*, bearing an address and this silver trowel presented to him by his fellow masons and engraved by Samuel Clayton.



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The trowel engraved by Samuel Clayton with masonic symbols for presentation to the Governor Lachlan Macquarie. This is the only known representation of Macquarie's arms on an Australian made object. These arms were the creation of Macquarie and they were not matriculated, suggesting close contact between the two masons Macquarie and Clayton in its production. Collection State Library of New South Wales.

Silver Trowel used by Lachlan Macquarie at the ceremony of laying the first stone of the first Catholic church in Sydney, 29 Oct. 1821. Made and inscribed by S. Clayton. Presented by Mr. and Mrs. C.G. Campbell of Jura, Argyllshire in 1962. Collection State Library of NSW.



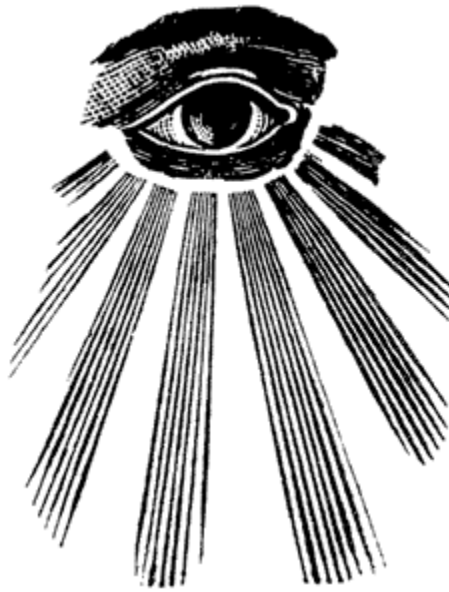
This trowel indicates that as expected Macquarie was a Freemason. The initial "G" stands for Geometry, and is to remind Masons that Geometry and Freemasonry are synonymous terms described as being the "noblest of sciences", and "the basis upon which the superstructure of Freemasonry and everything in existence in the entire universe is erected.

Wisdom is represented by a Ionic Column, which is the most complex in design of the three, therefore requiring the most knowledge and skill to create hence is representative of the Master of the Lodge.

Strength The second pillar a Doric Column, stands to the South Side of the Temple of Solomon for the Senior Warden of the Lodge.

Beauty is the third and. last pillar, a Corinthian Column stands to the North Side of the Lodge, the most ornate of the three is said to represent the Junior Warden of the Lodge.

All are words are suitably encompassed in the trowel for laying the foundation stone for a church.



The Masonic Eye is symbolic of the Eye of God. It is the symbol of His Divine watchfulness and His ever-present care of the universe.

The Macquarie Gold watch



Macquarie's gold watch. Collection Museum of Sydney

This pair cased gold pocket watch made by Philip Barraud is hall marked on the pair case for London 1784. To the rear of the pair case are the correctly blazoned arms of Lachlan Macquarie as found on his seal. These arms created to his own design presumably in London prior to his departure as Governor elect in 1808 the date of the pair case would suggest that it was purchased second hand and later engraved prior to his departure for Australia. Above the arms there is an engraved inscription presumably added by Clayton: *Presented by L Macquarie to Lieut. Watts 31st of January 1819.*

John Cliffe Watts (1786 to 1873) emigrated to South Australia after returning with dispatches to England. He was in the 46th Regiment and served as Macquarie's trusted and much loved ADC

English Silver that belonged to Governor Macquarie.

One of a pair of Coasters





Detail



Lot 7 Lawson's Auctions Sydney, Australian History, Fine Decorative Arts & Jewellery - Sale 8169 - 25 February 2016. Unsold

Governor Lachlan Macquarie English Hallmarked Sterling Silver Wine Coaster engraved with the Macquarie Coat of Arms 'Turris Fortis', having round bellied bodies, with applied gadroon borders, hand-chased swirl-fluted decoration & a wood-turned base.

Sheffield, 1807, maker John Parsons & Co.

Originally produced as a pair, and brought to Australia as part of Macquarie's household effects, further description of its partner is on the Powerhouse Museum link:

<http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/collection/database/?irn=172202>

As Harrison Jones notes: "This object is a tangible link to the personal life and history of one of the most important figures in Australian history", this was a personal possession of the man who proscribed Sydney's streets, and is noted as "The Father of Australia."

Diameter - 14.5cm

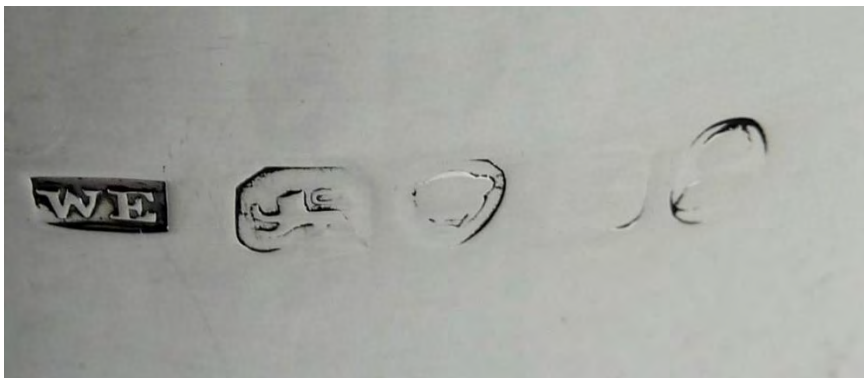
Estimate \$50,000-80,000

This coaster was unsold as it had been at a previous auction. The pair is in the Powerhouse Museum Sydney. The crests to each coaster, they are not a coat of arms, are heraldically correct but have been added later hence the matching coaster to the pair remaining unsold on two separate occasions when offered at auction. The source of the engraving to the coasters is the illustration in my book on Australian silver of the trowel illustrated above. The photograph was supplied by the Library for my book and was taken in the 1970's and was known to the engraver who worked in the Melbourne trade.

The Macquarie Coffee Biggin



Maker William Elliot 1822 8" high and weighs 28oz.



The Marks to the body



Marks to the lid



Details of Marks Crest and Coat of Arms to the Macquarie Coffee Biggin. The lymphad is correctly depicted as originally drawn by Macquarie without sails or oars and with a single flag or pennant.

Collection J. B. Hawkins Antiques

¹ *Sydney Morning Herald* 7 June 1976 p.2

² An important essay on the chest by Elizabeth Ellis is to be found at:
<https://www2.sl.nsw.gov.au/archive/events/exhibitions/2006/chest/docs/exoticaguide.pdf>

³ https://www.noble.com.au/site/docs/cats/sale_80/A10.pdf

⁴ Also see www.turtlebunbury.com/history/history_heroes/hist_hero_clayton.html
for a detailed history of Clayton in Dublin

⁵ www.turtlebunbury.com/history/history_heroes/hist_hero_clayton.html

⁶ Article extracted from the Australian Freemason Magazine, September 2014, page 20

⁷ <https://www.downies.com/news/about-sydney-laurence-halloran-1819-prize-medal/>