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S. Schlank & Co Ltd: medal and badge makers of Adelaide 1887-1971

Peter Lane

S. Schlank & Co Ltd (Schlank) was the leading medal maker in South Australia for over eighty years, with the company's lengthy career starting during the year of Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887.* It is therefore surprising that out of all the medal makers in Australia, Schlank is one of the least known among medal collectors today.[1] A significant reason is that in the early years it often did not stamp a maker's mark on medals. The founder, Salis Schlank, was an entrepreneur, and under him the business thrived. On his death it passed to his widow, then through several generations of the family. A few years before the business closed it was taken over by a non-family member, who was a member of the Numismatic Society of South Australia.

The letterhead used by Schlank during the First World War reveals it was 'manufacturing jewellers, gold and silversmiths, diamond setters, electroplaters, gilders and medallists'. Enamelling work was a specialty and the jewellery factory trade mark was a crown. The business premises were located at 17 Chesser Street, off Grenfell Street, Adelaide

Salis Schlank, (born Salis Schönlank, and sometimes incorrectly spelt as Silas Schlanke) the founder of the business, was a native of Chooziesen in Prussia who arrived in South Australia in 1860. In 1872 he became a partner in Messrs P Falk & Co, wholesale jewellers of Manchester, Melbourne and Adelaide, and was manager of the Adelaide branch. It appears he was related to P. Falk, as his mother's maiden name was Falk. When he became a partner, the Adelaide side of the business employed five people, and within six years it had grown to sixty.[2]

Early in 1887 the Secretary to the SA Commissioner of the 1888 International Melbourne Exhibition made enquiries in Adelaide to strike medals for this event, but the quotes

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1 When a recent search of State Government records involving the South Australian Numismatic Collection was undertaken, new evidence of attribution was unearthed. Whilst only involving a small number of medals, the discovery was important. A summary of these documents appears towards the end of this article.

2 South Australian Register 8 Nov 1878 p 4.

were not competitive compared to those of Stokes & Martin of Melbourne. Schlank, being mindful of the profit to be made from this major event by striking medals, nevertheless 'purchased a very powerful press, thoroughly capable of doing the work and becoming acquainted with the position of affairs'.[3] In May 1887 he announced that he was relinquishing his interest and leaving P Falk & Co in three months. He planned to go into the business of striking medals. He made this rather early announcement because he wanted to make everyone aware before they placed medal orders for the 1888 Melbourne International Exhibition. He even cabled the Adelaide Mayor, Edwin T Smith, and the Secretary to the SA Commissioner of the Exhibition, John Fairfax Conigrave, as both were in Melbourne at the time and among other things were planning to order medals there.

A screw press installed at his premises was fully operational to strike medals of all sizes; it was 'the very one that was used to strike medals for the Sydney, New Zealand, and Joubert & Twopenny Adelaide Exhibitions.'[4] The press was purchased in Melbourne, but there was difficulty installing it into his premises as it weighed about eight tons!

Its power was recorded as fifty tons:

> *This power is obtained by the large circulation of a large wheel weighing 31 ½ cwt., the centre of which, revolving on a screw, and thereby attaining increased velocity as it descends, strikes with great force the die over which the metal is placed. The rebound caused by the shock, and the balancing of the wheel allows the immense weight to be screwed up again with very little difficulty.*[5]

The press could be operated by just two men. Conigrave was invited to see the machine working so he could see first-hand that it could do the job adequately and he was told that medals would cost no more to be struck in Adelaide than Melbourne. Schlank was promised space at the Exhibition, but he was later told he had to pay a royalty and closer to the event, was advised there was no space available for him. Apparently he did display his wares there and won a bronze medal for it.[6] Orders for medals came flooding in. As at 22 July 1887, Schlank had struck 'no fewer than 32,500 jubilee medals, and the work is still going on.' It appears that none bore his maker's stamp — a lost opportunity to promote the business — and frustration to later numismatists. Les Carlisle in his monumental work *Australian Historical Medals 1788-1988* (Sydney 2008), records a total of thirty medals for the years 1887 and 1888 as 'maker unknown', of which many may have been minted by S Schlank & Co.

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3   South Australian Advertiser, 10 May 1887 p6.

4   South Australian Advertiser, 10 May 1887 p6.

5   South Australian Advertiser, 10 May 1887 p6.

6   The South Australian Advertiser 10 May 1887 p6.

A tender for the 1887 South Australian Jubilee medals was won jointly by AW Dobbie of Gawler Place, Adelaide and S Schlank & Co.[7] The South Australian Register on the 8 June 1887 recorded the details:

> We have had an opportunity of examining the medals ordered by the Mayor and City Corporation for distribution amongst the Sunday-school scholars in commemoration of the Victoria Jubilee. They have been manufactured conjointly by Messrs. Schlank and A. W. Dobbie, and are decidedly a credit to the city craftsmen. The medals are the size of a penny, and are made of copper, gilt or silvered. On one side is the Queen's head, clearly and boldly defined, with the words "Victoria R. Jubilee," encircled by a beading, and on the other is represented the Adelaide Jubilee Exhibition building, with the title above and below, while outside is the inscription "South Australia's Jubilee, June, 1887." The building and lettering are very cleanly cut and the whole workmanship is excellent. The dies were the work of three engravers, and the medals may be seen, at Mr. Dobbie's shop in Gawler-place. The medals are struck by one operation by means of a powerful piece of machinery in Mr. Schlank's establishment, both faces being impressed at one stroke. The Adelaide order is for 10,000, and 1,000 Western Australia medals of a similar kind are being struck for the Corporation of Albany, and a number are to be made for Strathalbyn, Port Pirie [C 1887/61], Port Wakefield, Milang and other municipalities, each of course bearing an appropriate inscription.

Carlisle was unable to attribute the Port Pirie medal. He records that the Adelaide, Albany and Strathalbyn medals were struck by Stokes and Martin. He bases his attribution on the Stokes and Martin's day book records. It appears that Port Wakefield and Milang did not proceed to have medals struck as none are known to exist. Thus it would appear that at least some of Schlank's 'orders' were in fact mere requests for quotes rather than orders.

In 1888, among Schlank's requests for medal work, the company received and fulfilled an order for forty-eight large and twenty-seven smaller medals for the Wentworth Pastoral and Agricultural Society Show. They also supplied medals for the largest show outside Adelaide, which was run by the Gawler Agricultural Society.[8]

During the first two years of establishing his own business Schlank also manufactured all kinds of things from his business premises which he then called Beaver Factory (after his wife's maiden name). These items were diverse: household medicines, insect powder, jewellery, electroplating, gilding, and four horse-power engines. The most prestigious item he made during this period was a Mace for the Legislative Council of

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7   The South Australian Advertiser 31 May 1887 p5.

8   South Australian Register 1 September 1888 p5.

Western Australia.[9] The products were made under the Beaver Brand and its registered trademark depicted an American beaver. Schlank also imported and in one instance offered coins for sale:

TO NUMISMATOLOGISTS

FOR SALE, COMPLETE SET
of JUBILEE COINS.

In velvet-lined case. Apply Beaver Factory, Chesser-street.[10]

Schlank along with many other South Australian businesses exhibited at the 1888 Victorian Exhibition. He displayed 'a case of all sorts of ingenious and useful manufactured condiments and other toothsome stuffs'.[11]

Probably the firm's first die sinker was Daniel Deeley Thompson of Southwark, who worked for Schlank for some 35 years before he died in 1908 at the age of sixty-five. Deeley was considered 'an exceptional workman. His specialties were in making gold swivels, silver cups, and medal work; also he was an expert steel die cutter.'[12] He was a respected hard worker; sadly in his last year he was frequently away sick and as a consequence he believed he was worthless to the firm and his friends. This depressed him and lead him to commit suicide by cyanide poison. In one of his pockets the police found a note, 'D. Thompson, Southwark, Too old and slow.'[13]

Schlank made a number of medals in association with Dietrich Schmidt, who was an engraver of Gawler Place, Adelaide. On Schlank's 28mm Wentworth Pastoral Agricultural & Horticultural Society medals dated 1888 (engraved date) his name appears on the piece as 'D. Schmidt for S. Schlank'[14] On another medal by that society, same size and date (also engraved date) as 'Schlank & Schmidt'[15] A similar undated medal minted around the same period for the same Wentworth society, 42mm in size, simply records the maker on the medal as 'S. Schlank'.[16] Schmidt worked in association with at least one other silversmith in Adelaide; in 1868 Firnhaber produced a medal and it was engraved by Schmidt.[17]

9   The Inquirer & Commercial News (Perth) 29 February 1888 p3.

10   South Australian Register 7 July 1888 p8

11   South Australian Register 3 Aug 1888 p5.

12   The Advertiser 24 Jan 1908 p8.

13   The Advertiser 17 January 1908 p8.

14   Noble Numismatics Sale 70 (July 2002) lot 936

15   Noble Numismatic sale 98 (November 2011) lot 2191

16   Noble Numismatic sales 98 (2011) lot 2187

17   The South Australian Advertiser 2 March 1868 p6.

An 1888 advertisement showing business premises and company trademark

Gawler Agricultural Society uniface medal by S. Schlank and D. Schmidt. Art Gallery of South Australia accession number 8866

In February 1885 Schmidt's business failed and all his assets were sold.[18] As the medals with Schmidt's name on them were engraved with the date, 1888, it would appear the dies were cut earlier. This concept of using the same dies (or batch of medals) and simply engraving an appropriate date is cost effective as it avoids making new dies each time.

All the Wentworth medals were made from silver sourced from the Broken Hill mines making it among the earliest use of local silver.[19] Schlank struck medals in bronze, silver and even in leather. Medals of the same design made of leather were awarded at the 1905 South Australian Chamber of Manufactures Exhibition. At least two leather medals were awarded for making clay objects using a potter's wheel at the exhibition. One was for the best and the other for the worst amateur. The Chamber's President J.M. Reid, who ran a tannery and who came up with the idea, won the best prize, for a spittoon. The worst was won by L. Grayson for something even he had no name for.[20] John Reid made another medal and it depicts his tannery and was probably also struck by Schlank as it made all the medals for the Chamber of Manufactures exhibitions and Reid had a long and close association with that organization.[21]

Schlank also collaborated with other engravers or used their dies, namely

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18   South Australian Register 5 February 1885 p4.

19   The South Australian Advertiser 1 September 1888 p5.

20   The Advertiser 21 April p4.

21   Noble Numismatics sale 93, April 2010, lot 2041

Generic Agricultural medal by R.C. and SC. Art Gallery of South Australia

Generic Agricultural medal by A.H.W. Art Gallery of South Australia

Wimmera District Pastoral Agricultural Society by J.H. SC and G. Crisp. Art Gallery of South Australia

George Crisp of Melbourne, Julius Hogarth (J.H.) of Sydney and Melbourne, A.H.Wittenbach and Co. (AHW) of 108 Elizabeth Street Melbourne, and R. Capner (R.C.) of Elizabeth Street Brisbane.

In 1889 Schlank appears to have ceased making foods and drugs and decided to let two upper flats in the Chesser Street building by which time he renamed his premises the 'Crown Jewellery Factory'. The advertisement To Let stated it was opposite the German Club. One flat measured 40 x 52 feet and it had fixtures and the other 43 x 68 feet and

was suitable for manufacturing purposes.[22]

Schlank's second-hand screw press that had served the firm admirably was probably used to make the thousands of 1919 World War I Children's Peace medals before it gave up. It was replaced by a slower man-powered stirrup drop hammer. The operator of this hammer, pulled down on a length of rope to raise the weight which supplied the force to a falling die when stamping a medal. Typically, as with many other factories, the original screw press was left lying around, dusty and in broken pieces, for many decades on the shop floor.[23] The die engraver for the World War I Children's Peace medal was William Coward. These 1919 medals were undoubtedly Schlank's largest order: 75,000 — every child in Australia received one, though other interstate makers also struck this medal. Most of the Schlank Children's Peace medals bore the engraver's initials 'Wm C' and Schlank marks 'SS & CO.' or 'SS & CO LD' and some of these marks had dots after the initial. For details on these marks and the medal itself a substantial article appears in JNAA Volume 13 (2002) pp. 48-72.

It appears that William Coward (Jnr) worked for Schlank during WWI and for a few years after. Coward ran his own business as a die cutter before and after with varying degrees of financial success. He undoubtedly had an arrangement to have his medals struck at Schlank and possibly others. Coward advertised in Sands and McDougall's Directory for South Australia in 1913 claiming he was an expert engraver, chaser, die sinker, and medallist who had obtained awards for excellence of workmanship at the Adelaide Chamber of Manufacturers exhibitions held in 1900, 1905 and 1910 (two silver and one bronze medal and four certificates). These South Australian directories show that he was continually moving his business address in Adelaide. In 1901 he was an engraver 'off Charles Street', 1903 at 53 Hindmarsh Square, and in 1906 in Rundle Street, 1909 Twin Street, and in 1913 Hindmarsh Building, 2nd Floor room 9, Grenfell Street. For the years 1913-22 he is only recorded at his private residence, the first year in Parkside and later at 110 Irish Harp Road, Prospect, (now listed as 442 Regency Road). It is most likely during those war years and for a few years after that he worked for Schlank. In 1923 he again set up shop, this time in James Place and two years later he had moved to 18 York Chambers 2nd floor, Gawler Place. In 1929 he only had his private address recorded. In 1930 he described himself as an engineer and had a room in Edments Building, 64 Rundle Street, and remained there until his death on 21 May 1943.[24]

Another employee, and undoubtedly the most famous, was Jack Ellerton Becker (1904-1979) who was later knighted. He gained an apprenticeship, mainly due to being a

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22 South Australian Register 19 October 1889 p8.

23 The Mail 3 May 1947 p8.

24 *Chronicle* (SA) 27 May 1943, p10

1905 South Australian Chamber of Manufacturers medal awarded to William Coward Jnr for Hand Engraving on Metals (uniface electrotypes)

neighbour of Michael Schlank.[25] Becker was an entrepreneur and at the age of 16 he gave music lessons, raising enough money by this activity to visit America. He became a salesman at Allan's music shop, but made his fortune in property. He purchased 7,000 acres of arid land in the Ninety Mile Desert in the South East of the State and when it became viable for farm land through the introduction of trace elements he sold it for 40 times more than he paid for it; and did not pay tax as he claimed he had purchased the land to farm. He later purchased 12,666 acres to the north of Adelaide and promptly sold it to the State Government for nearly six times the price. The land was wanted to build the satellite city of Elizabeth. He again avoided paying tax as he successfully argued his intention was to use it too for farming purposes. In 1961 the Academy of Sciences was in financial difficulties and the Prime Minister agreed to give Becker a knighthood if he was prepared to donate £200,000 over ten years. In 1962 the Science Centre's (CSIRO) headquarters was named Becker House.[26]

At the age of 31 Salis Schlank married 19 year old Laura Beaver on 21 September 1870 in Melbourne. It was a double Jewish wedding with Laura's older sister Evelyn also marrying Julius Salenger, a warehouseman. The minister was Rev. Moses Rintel of the East Melbourne Hebrew Congregation. The Beaver sisters were born in Manchester England, and the family arrived in Australia in 1869. Their father was Louis Beaver who was in the jewellery trade. It would appear that the Salis Schlank marriage was arranged, as his mother was related to the Falk's in Manchester, a Salis' business partner, where Laura had been born, and the fact she lived in another colony. Salis was living in Gawler Place Adelaide when he married. It would also appear the Beavers were affluent as they lived on the Esplanade at St Kilda, a fashionable seaside address in suburban Melbourne.

25 Museum Victoria's website S. Schlank Co

26 Australian Dictionary of Biography: http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/becker-sir-jack-ellerton-9466

S Schlank & Co staff in 1908

Michael Schlank circa 1908

Alfred Gregory, die engraver, circa 1951

S. Schlank & Co Staff picnic 1951

At the time of Salis' death on 3 July 1892 they had four boys and five girls.[27] His widow ran the business and in 1905 it became a public company. She was the managing director and her four sons managed different areas of the business. A photograph of staff and management taken in 1908 shows that at least 28 people were working in the business at that time; only one wore glasses!

In 1910 one son left the business and in 1918 Schlank's widow Laura died. In 1927 another son left, and the following year another son. This left just Michael Schlank, the eldest son, to run the business, which he did until his death in 1950. Michael's only son, Dudley, then ran the company. In Dudley's time a number of annual staff picnics were held in the Adelaide Hills in February; at least one was held at Silver Lake at Mylor and another at Gorge Picnic Grounds, with over 70 attending. During the 1950s the business grew and in 1958 Dudley moved the medal and badge making side of the business to 6 Little Rundle Street, Kent Town and at the same time modernised the showroom in Chesser Street. A year later a further site was found and used as a warehouse at 52 Rundle Street, Kent Town.

Numismatic Society of South Australia badge

At the end of 1964 Dudley passed the management to his son John Lewis Schlank — the fourth generation of Schlank. John was in his early twenties at the time and only remained there for a short time before going to live in England

27 South Australian Register 5 July 1892 p3

for a few years. Shortly after his return he went into the antique furniture trade, and for the past thirty years he has traded as *Maylands Antiques* on Magill Road, Maylands, South Australia.

In 1965, the NSSA's membership enamel badge depicting an Adelaide pound was designed by Maurice Keain (the NSSA Honorary Secretary and later a president of the NAA), and was made by Schlank. The die cutter was Alfred J Gregory.[28]

By the later half of the 1960s business was in decline. 52 Rundle Street closed down in about 1967 and in January 1969 the company was delisted from the stock exchange. A large portion of the shares were acquired by Geoffrey W Tomlinson, who by the end of the year took over the business completely. In 1971 the company purchased an empty factory premises at 15 Lyons Parade, Forestville, an inner southern suburb of Adelaide, and transferred all the minting equipment and dies to that site. This was rather fortuitous as within weeks of the move the Chesser Street property burnt down. Tomlinson closed the business immediately after the fire. Alan J Olson, a former managing director of Schlank, who some years earlier set up his own badge and medal business, purchased all the assets at Forestville. The company itself was then used by Tomlinson to acquire property. The era of the Schlank family and their name passed into the annals of the manufacturing of medals and badges in Adelaide.

Geoffrey W. Tomlinson

When James Hunt Deacon, the numismatologist at the National Gallery of South Australia, died, Tomlinson along with others applied unsuccessfully to the Gallery to succeed him. Tomlinson later studied law at the University of Adelaide, and when he completed his course, he left the State and practiced law in rural Victoria. Some years later he attempted unsuccessfully to become a Board member of BHP. Throughout his life he had an interest in Australian banknotes. In 1952 Tomlinson became a member of the Numismatic Society of South Australia (NSSA) and held a number of council positions and was at one time its journal editor. He wrote two books, the first was *Australian Bank Notes 1817-1963* (Melbourne, 1963), and the second was *South Australian Paper Currency of the Banks of Issue 1837-1910 and Private Note Issues 1836-1875*, (Adelaide 1973). They were printed concurrently in the Australian Numismatic Journal, (NSSA publication) Volumes 24-26, 1973-75.

Writing about Schlank in 1971, Tomlinson claimed that 'many thousands of badges, buttons, and medals were struck, the great majority of which were enamelled.' He also stated 'For over 35 years Alfred Gregory was their die engraver who worked directly on

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28   Keain MB The Society's Membership Badge, Australian Numismatic Journal, Vol 16, No.2 p17, April-June 1965

dies, and F. Crawley made a few dies using a pantograph machine.'[29]

The South Australian Numismatic Collection's papers

When Alfred Chitty was the numismatist of the South Australian Numismatic Collection from 1912 to 1917, he wrote to Laura Schlank in July 1915. Chitty asked for her late husband's 76mm bronze 1888 Melbourne Exhibition Commissioners medal that he won. She willingly donated it. Chitty was delighted and wrote, 'I am pleased that our efforts are crowned with success.'[30]

Following on from his success, in March the following year, he asked for details of medals which the company had struck. Schlank was unable to provide this information and suggested that he make an appointment to come to the office and factory. After Chitty called on the company he noted:

> *I found them most obliging and willing to help. They have presented to the Board a most valuable lot of Bronze Medals (30 as on the back of this [correspondence]) and one WM badge of South Aust Railway Ambulance. They were going to lend these but I argued them to present them which they have done. They have also loaned 11 silver medals for cataloguing purposes say a few days. These I have individualised them to offer to the Board for silver value (I venture to express the opinion that the Board would be sure to purchase here at that price. Messrs. S. S & Co. are striking (from dies they have) specimens of some ½ doz medals of early S.A. Exhibition &c for presentation to the Board omitted in the above report.[31]*

Chitty recorded the medals presented: 1 Royal Agricultural Society of South Australia, Gawler Agricultural Horticultural Society: twenty awarded to James Martin, one awarded to W.J. Jafer [?] and two unnamed; one each for St Peter's College, and Prince Alfred College, plus six other medals.[32] Within a week of Chitty's visit, Schlank advised that the weight of their silver medals was 18 ozs. 12 dwts. and the metal content was valued at £2.6.6. Chitty advised the Board that they were South Australian and offered at a bargain price.[33] During Chitty's visit he saw a gold Indian Mohur, and they later offered it at 'practically' gold value; 35/-.[34]

In June 1916 the company kept its promise and gave the Collection five uniface restrikes

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29 Tomlinson G.W. *Oldest South Australian Medallist*, Australian Numismatic Journal Vol 22, p8-9. Numismatic Society of South Australia, Adelaide, 1971

30 State Records GRG 19/5/18517 July 1915

31 State Records GRG 19/5/21093 April 1916

32 State Records GRG 19/5/21093 April 1916

33 State Records GRG 19/5/21110 April 1916

34 State Records GRG 19/5/21141 April 1916

Wentworth Agricultural Society uniface medals
Art Gallery of South Australia accession numbers:
8485 and 8486

GPO Adelaide (PMG Department) World War One
appreciation medal to E.H.H. Chambers Art Gallery
of South Australia accession number 33688 acquired
Girl Guides Association, 1943

Way College medal for chemistry Art Gallery of South Australia

which were referred to as 'replicas of Medalion [sic] Dies'. They were struck in copper gilt: and Chitty latter described them as: Reverses of the Wentworth Agricultural Society Prize, Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society, Queen Victoria Jubilee Angaston 1887 Jubilee and the obverses of the Gawler Agricultural Horticultural and Floricultural Society and Head of Queen Victoria 1887.[35]

Schlank in June quoted to buy scrap copper, bronze and silver from the Collection - the worn coins, but the offer was not satisfactory.[36] In 1959 the company donated more medals: Way, Scotch College, F.W. Reid Memorial, Metropolitan Regatta (Adelaide), John Lewis, Kings College, South Australian Chamber of Manufactures, S.A. Amateur Athletics Association, 1914-18 GPO Adelaide (damaged), a pattern show and a pattern reverse design. Plus five badges: BHP, IKS, C.O.R, Fire Control Officer, Pope Products.[37]

Schlank family - other interests

Salis Schlank had an interest in prospecting for gold in the Northern Territory of South

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35   State Records GRG19/5/21430 June 1916

36   State Records GRG 19/5/21521 June 1916

37   Accession Register numbers 38979-38995

Australia and in the process purchased land at Palmerston in the Territory in 1885. This property passed to his widow and she in turn transferred it to Olive Marjorie Schlank in September 1914. Salis had other property holdings in the Territory, around the towns of Daly (320 acres), and the same acreage near Batchelor. Family stories that have been passed down the generations say all these properties eventually were sold by the government as land taxes were not paid over a period of years.

Laura Schlank, in May 1901, purchased a patent for an invention for 'improvements in Winnowing Machines' from William Sutton, a watchmaker, of Hawker in the Flinders Rangers. The financial success of this purchase is not known.

Rachel (Racey) Schlank, a daughter of Salis and Laura, was involved in politics and became a founding member of the Women's Branch of the Liberal Union and edited *The Liberal's Cookery Book*, in 1912. While in England in 1914 she became a founder of the United Kingdom branch of *Wattle Day*, an organization that raised funds for the War Effort.[38] When Racey returned to Adelaide she became the State secretary of that organization. One of the fund raising activities was selling tin badges to the general public on street corners.[39]

Michael Schlank, in the mid-1930s, took time off to develop and patent a 'Machine for the separation of gold or other concentrate from sand or other material'. He formed a public company called the Cascade Gold Recovery Ltd and Patents were taken out in Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, Canada and South Africa. The arrangement was that Schlank would make the machines. Newspapers reported on the company from 1935 to 1939 with no adverse publicity. In 1940 an investigation conducted at the Bonython Laboratory, University of Adelaide, revealed that the machine was inefficient in extracting gold. He also patented and manufactured a silver sharpener for safety razors.

Schlank's numismatic legacy

Schlank's Germanic background has long been highly respected in South Australia. In 2012 the Art Gallery of South Australia put on an exhibition of local gold and silversmiths of the 19th Century and published a book titled *Bounty*. In the exhibition and accompanying book, Schlank's medals are represented, along with medals and or jewellery by other Germanic immigrants; Bassé, Lellmann, Schomburgk, Firnhaber, Rettig (Carl Rettig was for a time the foreman of P. Falk & Co.'s Adelaide Jewellery Department when the business was run by Silas Schlank),[40] Steiner, Myer and Wendt, whereas only three were of British origin; Muirhead, Mitchell and Payne. Schlank had a

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38 The Register 24 Oct 1914 p8.

39 The Register 26 November 1914 p6.

40 The South Australian Advertiser 15 February 1887 p6

diverse jewellery business including making medals, however they are more known for their enamel badge making for which they received far more orders.

While the Schlank business was established to make medals over 125 years ago and the family have ceased to have been involved in it for over 40 years, in spirit, if not officially, it lives on through the firm Allan J. Olson Pty Ltd.

Badges manufactured by Schlank

Australasian Medical Congress, Adelaide 1937

Country Womens Association of South Australia

Blair Athol Primary School

Kadina Football Club members badge 1960

RSPCA Junior Branch South Australia

SPF Service badge with two bars

Clarkson Bowling Tournament celebrating 50 years in business 1911-1961

SA Wheat Growers Association

Peter Lane is the Honorary Numismatist at the Art Gallery of South Australia, Life member of the Numismatic Society of South Australia, Secretary of the Numismatic Association of Australia, and in 2013 he was appointed a numismatic expert examiner under the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986. Peter has been a regular contributor to this publication, Collectables Trader Magazine *and has had articles published in the* Australiana Magazine *and the National Museum of Australia's journal* reCollections. *He has been a recipient of the Paul Simon award, the Ray Jewell bronze medal and the Tom Hanley perpetual cup.*