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# HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

(Visit of H.R.H. Prince Alfred)

1868.

BY L. J. CARLISLE

The early history of Agricultural, Horticultural and Scientific activities in New South Wales is often interwoven with individual and dual Societies. A listing of these Societies shows various dates of activities.

1. The Agricultural Society of New South Wales. 5th July 1822 – 22nd Feb. 1836.
2. Philosophical Society of Australia. Dec. 1821.
3. The Agricultural & Horticultural Society of N.S.W. 22nd Feb. 1836-
4. The Australian Society to promote the growth and consumption of Colonial produce and manufactures. 1830-1836.
5. The Australian Floral and Horticultural Society (Sometimes known as Sydney Hort. Society) 1836-1848.
6. The Australasian Botanic and Horticultural Society. 20th June 1848 – 8 Dec. 1856.
7. The Australian Philosophical Society. 19th Jan. 1850-
8. The Horticultural Improvement Society of N.S.W. 15th Jan. 1855 – 8 Dec. 1856.
9. The Australian Horticultural and Agricultural Soc. 8th Dec. 1856.
10. The Agricultural Society of New South Wales. Reformed 1868.

These early Societies had been started and promoted by prominent citizens of New South Wales to foster and promote the importance of Agriculture and Horticulture to the early Colony.

The Floral and Horticultural Society was formed in Sydney in 1836 after the faltering of the Agricultural Society of New South Wales, which had begun at Parramatta in 1822. The Floral and Horticultural Society, also at Parramatta, had its first show in September 1838, showing flowers, vegetables and plants.

The revival of the Agricultural Society of New South Wales began in the late 1860's when they attempted to organise a show at Parramatta for March 1868 to commemorate the visit to Sydney of Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh. This was not achieved and it was left to the Horticultural Society to make an Exhibition in the Botanical Gardens on the

29th, 30th, 31st January and 1st February 1868. The time chosen being too late for Spring blossom, brought the display of many ferns and shrubs instead. As there was no Agricultural show, it was decided to include displays of this nature, as will be shown by the prizes listed below.

The committee formed to manage this large Exhibition was entrusted to Messrs. Crichton, Graham, Parcel, Wooff, Johns, Henderson and T. S. Glaister.

The unique prize medals to be given for 1st and 2nd were to be struck in silver and bronze respectively, the preparation of which was given to Mr. T. S. Glaister and Mr. Luke Wooff. Mr. J. C. Thornthwaite was contracted by them to design the medal which was later struck at the Sydney Mint.

The obverse shows the Staghorn Fern with "HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEW SOUTH WALES" around "PERISTERE. EST PROSPERARE" across in Latin (To persevere is to succeed) "THORNTHWAITE SYDNEY". The reverse shows a wreath design of leaves, buds and flowers and the words "PRESENTED TO" in the centre. Around the border are the words "TO COMMEMORATE THE VISIT OF H.R.H. PRINCE ALFRED DUKE OF EDINBURGH K.G. TO SYDNEY 1868".

On close scrutiny of both obverse and reverse it will be seen that Thornthwaite has recut both dies, as many faint underlying letters show in the field of the medal. Also the date 1868 shows the last figure "8" to have been cut over the figure "7". This, I believe was caused by the re-scheduling of the Springtime Exhibition that would have normally been held in October, being delayed to coincide with the Duke's visit in January 1868. It is also recorded that the next Horticultural show was held in the October of 1868, using a similar obverse medal design but a totally new die. The reverse is also a new design, omitting "TO COMMEMORATE" etc, with the date being inscribed.

In my book on "Australian Commemorative Medals and Medalets from 1788" I quote the

mintage as recorded in an article in "The Queenslander" newspaper by Dr. Roth as 100 Copper, 50 Silver and 1 Gold. I have since found recorded in the Horticultural Magazine and Gardeners Calendar of New South Wales" (No. 51 March 1868 Vol. V.), which gives a full list of the medal winners as 1 Gold to His Royal Highness, Prince of Wales, 52 Silver and 29 Copper presented in the January with the "Commemorative" obverse. Also, in the October 1868 Exhibition, with the altered design, there were only 12 Silver and 8 Bronze issued as recorded in the May 1869 issue of the same magazine. The discrepancy in these figures may be accounted for in the fact that there are some medals seen without inscription.

The January Exhibition was duly arranged in a 240 foot marquee, and long before the appointed time for the arrival of H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, the fashionable company had assembled at the Botanic Gardens. The day was to be marred by frequent rain, causing a hurried entrance by the Duke out of a private entrance from Government House. He was escorted through the Exhibition by His Excellency The Earl of Belmore, Mr. T. S. Mort president of the Society, Mr. H. Prince, Mr. J. R. Young, Mr. Joseph Thompson, and the Mayor of Sydney. The musical arrangements for the day were supplied by the band of H. M. 50th Regiment and Volunteer Rifle Corps.

The medal shown here is to Mr. Joseph Thompson for a display by Mr. Draper, his gardener: "In Mr. Draper's collection were some good plants of Fuchsias, Begonias, Tydeas, Ferns, Hoya variegata, Caladiums, Petunias, Lilliums, Hibiscus, Guilfoyllii, Meyenia erecta etc. This was a very creditable collection, but unfortunately were so crowded that their relative beauties were in a measure hid. They received an award of a Bronze medal. but were no doubt worthy of a higher award". (Judges report)

As well as the medallic prizes there were Schedule Prizes of monetary reward for 1st and 2nd prizes and Honorable Mentions.

The account for the medals for the Commemorative issue was recorded:

Gold medal to H.R.H. Prince Alfred	= £20-0-0
Royal Mint for medals	= 25-12-3
Cases.	= 9-8-4
Leigh & Co. for engraving medals	= 3-10-0

The October 1868 Exhibition was also held in the lower Botanic Gardens in fine weather, which helped to make it a financial success. It was held over a two day period, 21st-22nd October, with the notable attendance of the Governor His Excellency the Earl and Countess of Belmore.



BRONZE  
61mm  
(January 1868)

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
Medals awarded for January 1868.

SILVER MEDALS

1. Mr. Parcel gardener to J. R. Young. - Collection of Plants.
2. Mr. Mortimore gardener to T. S. Mort. - Collection of Plants.
3. Mr. L. Wooff gardener to H. Prince. - Collection of Plants.
4. Mr. Piper gardener to H. Moore. - Collection of Plants.
5. Mr. Wyllie gardener to J. Fairfax. - Collection of Plants. (Fuchsias)
6. Mr. Benjamin Cocks. (Woollahra) - Collection of Plants.
7. Mr. Vernon gardener to F. Tooth. - Collection of Plants (Fuchsias).
8. Botanic Gardens. (Mr. Duff). - Collection of Plants.
9. Mr. Thomas Patterson. - Commercial Plants.
10. Mr. Thomas Patterson. - Prepared Commercial Products.
11. Mr. Thomas Patterson. - Medicinal Plants.
12. Mr. Saxby. (Florist) Botany. - Collection Gloxinias and Phloxes.
13. Mrs. Martin. (Markets) - Collection of Fruit.
14. Mrs. McKeown. (Lane Cove) - Collection of Fruit.
15. Mr. Crichton gardener to J. W. Wood. - Collection of Fruit.
16. Mr. Hilly. (Enfield) - Collection of Fruit. (Apples)
17. Mr. Joseph Graham. (Markets) - Collection of Fruit. (Grapes)
18. Mr. W. Stephen gardener to S. D. Gordon. - Collection of Fruit. (Melons)
19. Messrs. O. B. Ebsworth. - Colonial Tweed.
20. Sydney Glass Works Co. (Druit Street) - Glass-ware.
21. Mr. H. C. Brooks. - Saddlery etc.
22. Mr. Archibald Wright. - Type etc.
23. Mr. Spencer. (Pitt Street) - Models of Ships, Boats etc.
24. Mr. Charles Williams. - Imitation of Woods and Marble.
25. Mr. S. Emanuel. - Wheat.
26. Mr. Louis P. Doyle. - Skinless Barley.
27. Mr. Mulcahy. (Botany Road) - Candles and Soap.
28. Australian Paper Co. - Paper.
29. Mr. Watkins. (Minmi) - Cordage and Rope.
30. Mr. Norris. (Maitland) - Tobacco.
31. Hartley Kerosene Co. - Kerosene, Parafine etc. (sic.)
32. Peruvian Oil Co. (North Shore) - Kerosene Oil.
33. Mr. E. W. Lang. - Preserved Fresh Beef.
34. Mr. J. J. Leslie. - Preserved Meat and Essence of Beef.
35. Mr. H. Richardson. - Sugar.
36. Mr. W. Filmer. (Maitland) - Collection of Colonial Products.
37. Mrs. Holmes. (Clarence Town) - Jams, Marmalade and Jellies.
38. Mr. Charles Brady. - Ailanthus Silk Worms.
39. Mr. McMahan. - Combs.
40. Mr. McMahan. - Brushware etc.
41. Mr. James Vickery (George Street) - Boots and Shoes.
42. Mr. James Kellick. - Silk.
43. Mrs. Alexander. - Ornamental Leather Work.
44. Mr. Glaister. - Photographs of Ferns.
45. Mr. J. Glennie. - White Wine.
46. Mr. Thomas Barker. - Red Wine.
47. Mr. J. Glennie. - Red Wine.
48. Mrs. Holland. - Berlin Wool-worked Pictures.
49. Mr. Thomas Cri - Bride Cakes, Biscuits etc.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
Medals awarded for January 1868.

BRONZE MEDALS

1. Mr. Johns gardener to Mrs. Maclean. - Collection of Plants.
2. Mr. G. Gay. (Florist) - Collection of Plants.
3. Messrs. J. and W. Gelding. (Double Bay) - Collection of Plants.
4. Mr. Draper gardener to Joseph Thompson - Collection of Plants.
5. Mr. Seymour. (Florist, Hunters Hill) - Collection of Plants.
6. Mr. Curran gardener to W. O. Gilcrist - Collection of Plants.
7. Rev. E. M. Saliniere. (Glebe) - Pot Grown Verbenias and Cut Flowers.
8. Mr. Joseph Warren Gardener to Dr. Le  
Gay Brereton. - Collection of Fruit. (Grapes)  
- Collection of Vegetables.
9. Mr. Saxby.
10. Mr. Harris. Market gardener. (Rushcutters  
Bay) - Collection of Vegetables.
11. Mr. Lienbentritt. - Pottery.
12. Mr. Mark Stephenson. - Oars and Blocks.
13. Mr. G. Vinden. - Mudgee Hones.
14. Mr. J. Hinton - Polished Colonial Wood.
15. Mrs. Letheby. (Bridge Street) - Paper Flowers.
16. Miss. ????. (Pupil of above) - Leather-worked Stand and Berlin Frame.
17. Mr. Vidin - Millet Brooms
18. Mr. Spencer. - Model of Morgan's Patent Floats.
19. Mr. Kelly - Tobacco
20. Mr. G. T. Loader. - Preserved Peaches.
21. Mr. Edwin Mathews. - Preserved Meats and Soups.
22. Mr. Cole. - Arrowroot.
23. Messrs. Ward and Co. - Washing Powders.
24. Mr. E. H. O'Neil. (King Street) - Perfumes.
25. Mr. G. Cox. - White Wine.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
(medals awarded for October 1868)

SILVER

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Mortimer. Gardener to T. S. Mort.       | (1st Prize) - Sixty Plants.  |
| 2. Mr. Piper. Gardener to Hon. H. Moore        | (2nd Prize) - Sixty Plants.  |
| 3. Mr. Wooff. Gardener to Henry Prince         | (1st Prize) - Forty Plants.  |
| 4. Mr. Wyllie. Gardener to John Fairfax.       | (2nd Prize) - Forty Plants.  |
| 5. Mr. Johnston. Gardener to A. H. C. Macafee. | (1st Prize) - Twenty Plants. |
| 6. Mr. Johns. Gardener to Mrs. Maclean.        | (2nd Prize) - Twenty Plants. |
| 7. Mr. R. Henderson.                           | - Ornamental Trees.          |
| 8. Mr. B. Cocks. (amateur)                     | (1st Prize) - Forty Plants.  |
| 9. Mr. E. W. Booty. (amateur)                  | (2nd Prize) - Forty Plants.  |
| 10. Mr. Funston. Gardener to Earl of Belmore   | (1st Prize) - Vegetables.    |
| 11. Mr. J. Baily.                              | (1st Prize) - Fruit.         |
| 12. Mr. J. Saxby. Market gardener.             | (1st Prize) - Vegetables.    |

BRONZE

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Draper. Gardener to Joseph Thompson  | (3rd Prize) - Forty Plants.  |
| 2. Mr. Curran. Gardener to W. O. Gilchrist. | (3rd Prize) - Twenty Plants. |
| 3. Mr. Bantin. (Amateur)                    | (3rd Prize) - Forty Plants.  |
| 4. Mr. Johns.                               | (2nd Prize) - Vegetables.    |
| 5. Mr. W. Harris.                           | (2nd Prize) - Vegetables.    |
| 6. Mrs. Morey                               | - Wax Flowers.               |
| 7. Mr. J. Warren.                           | - Oats.                      |
| 8. Mr. W. Dunn.                             | (2nd Prize) - Vegetables.    |



SILVER  
61mm  
(October 1868)