Model of the Burra Burra Mine. — There is now exhibiting at Kooringa a model of the Burra Burra Mine, which is acknowledged to be one of the most complete yet accomplished. It is the invention and ingenious workmanship of one Henry Geyer, a German miner. The surface and underground workings are to be seen, with the captains and miners actively employed and stirring about in their respective capacities; the engine is at work, and the horses at the whips are doing their duty with astonishing regularity and precision. After this week we understand it is Geyer's intention to take it to Adelaide, exhibiting it at the different townships on his way to the city at a charge of 1s. each.

A little over a decade later on 7 November, 1862, the Bendigo Advertiser reported another model.

A Curiosity. - Last evening a German miner, named H. Geyer, brought to our office a most curiously constructed little model of a mine, showing the various operations both underground and on the surface. The whole affair is so perfect, and composed in so small a compass, that it is a most interesting little triumph of ingenuity. What is still more noticeable is, that the whole is constructed in the interior of a quart bottle with a narrow neck not three-quarters of an inch wide, the stopper being fastened in with a cross piece, till one wonders, like George III, with the apple dumplings, how they get the inside in. The ingenious and persevering artist is a quartz miner.

Henry’s next effort was a Smithy, as reported in the Riverine Herald of 1 October, 1863:

We have been shown a very pretty and ingenious model, the design and work of Mr. Geyer, watchmaker, Echuca. It represents the interior of a large smithy, in which several men are at work at various smithy employments. The figures, which are little more than an inch in length, are well made, and are set to active work by an ingenious contrivance below the floor of the forge. The model is well worth inspection. Some time ago the model of a quartz-mine, executed by Mr. Geyer, was exhibited in Sandhurst. The whole was comprised within a small glass bottle.

In February 1864 another model was reported, this time of a deep quartz mine. Space prohibits the inclusion of that article, but it does note the model was the result of five months work. Henry GEYER was variously employed as a miner, engineer, mechanic, watch-maker, and photographer. It is clear he had an ingenious brain and clever hands. It’s a shame none of his models appear to have survived. Like his photographs, evidence of his work is sadly now in short supply!

BOOKS

The book collection has not grown much since moving house. I have added a few general histories, and Sojourners, the second volume of Eric Roll’s book on the Chinese in Australia. I also got a copy of Chris Sanders book cataloguing the life and work of Les van der Sluys, whose passing was reported in the last newsletter. I’ll follow up on that in the future.

For those of you interested in the Bonney story, the book details are:

Hope, Jeanette and Lindsay, Robert The People of the Paroo River: Frederic Bonney’s Photographs. Sydney, NSW, Dept of Environment, Climate Change & Water, 2010

YOUR INPUT

Again we have more photos and comments about family happenings, as feedback is that you like to see this. So we need your help – please send in of what’s been happening in your part of the family – even a paragraph or a picture (or both) would be great. I can scan and return photos, if that helps.

CAN YOU HELP?

If any of this material has stimulated a recollection, memory, or snippet of information that might be remotely useful then please let me know. It can be a whole story – or even a note with a couple of sentences. You never know what might be useful! I can always ring and check for more.

I can be contacted at:
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FEEDBACK

Please let me know if you've found this interesting or useful. Do tell me if there's anything you would particularly like me to include next time!

BACK PAGE

This is the draft layout for the information board to be erected at the Old Tintinlallogy Cemetery. It includes a brief history, some sketch maps and details provided by Max HAM, some photos we have received via Doug BURT and Angela LORIENTE, and the currently known details for those buried in the cemetery. Final version is 1200x900mm in size
Old Tintinallology Newsletter
No. 10

Friends of the Tintin...