

ARTIST  
BERNHARD





PEOPLE  
SERIES

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# BERNHARD SMITH

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'Even on this Earth, where the Southern Cross shines,  
visions of things beautiful may be seen by a Bushman,  
after his fashion - and why should not that be?  
Is not our climate fairer than their climate  
and is not the loveliness of our sunshine a whole power in itself.'

Bernhard Smith

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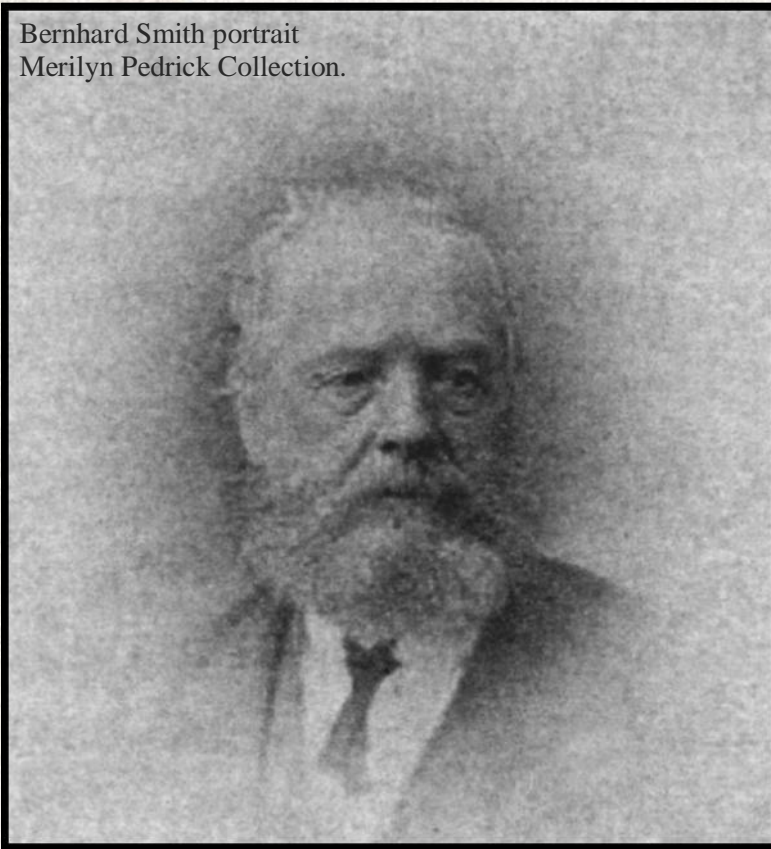
# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## INTRODUCTION

**Name:** Bernhard Smith  
**Born:** 20 January 1820  
**Lived:** England, Smythesdale,  
Ballarat, Alexandra  
**Died:** 7 October 1885 (aged 64)  
**Buried:** Alexandra cemetery

He was a significant world artist in London and Australia. He also served as a Police Magistrate at Alexandra. He died from pneumonia 25 days after being involved in the attempted rescue of two children from a flooded UT Creek at Alexandra.

Bernhard Smith portrait  
Meryl Pedrick Collection.



Bernhard Smith PM (Police Magistrate) was born on 20 January 1820 in England, third son of Mr Lord Henry Smith and Jane Mary (née) Voase. As a young man he worked as a civil servant, while pursuing his love of the arts. He was a member of the Antique School of Art by 1840 and enrolled at the prestigious Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. By 1851 he had exhibited 19 works at the prestigious Royal Academy of Arts in London.

Bernhard was one of the early members of the prestigious Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood (PRB), established in 1848. His good friend and fellow student Thomas Woolner, was one of the highly regarded 'seven

founding members' of this historically significant arts' group. Bernhard's daughter Minnie later suggested that her father had also been a founding member of the Brotherhood, in her manuscript published in 1917. This may have been the case as he knew the founding members and moved in the same circles, was a mentor and inspiration to the group and filled a vacancy when one of the founding members dropped out. In 1849, the year after the group formed, Bernhard signed an artwork he had created of Miss M E Gray (1849) as 'Bernhard Smith **PRB**'. He was later instrumental in helping produce the group's first written publication then called The Germ. This publication was first published in early 1850. Importantly, he was also one of the two most highly educated artists in the group.



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## INTRODUCTION

Bernhard migrated to Australia aboard the Windsor Castle on 24 July 1852, arriving at Hobsons Bay on 23 October. He had travelled with good friend and Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood founding member Thomas Woolner, as well as artist friend Edward La Trobe Bateman (nephew of Governor of Victoria Charles Joseph Latrobe). Woolner was fair haired, short and squat, the opposite to Smith, who was 'a giant' with large hands.

They left Melbourne a week after arriving to fossick the Ovens Goldfields at Beechworth, which had opened up earlier that year. They then returned to Melbourne, staying with friend Dr Howitt. It was here that Bernhard first met Governor Latrobe, as well as his wife and Mrs Lonsdale after they visited Dr. Howitt. Bernhard presented letters of introduction to the Governor at this time. They then travelled to the Fryer's Creek goldfields on 18 January 1853, but returned when Latrobe appointed Bernhard Assistant Commissioner for Goldfields in the Westernport District on 22 May 1854 (reported as being 27 May 1854 in his obituary). As a result of his new appointment, Bernhard was present at the Eureka Stockade rebellion at Ballarat on 3 December 1854. History remembered Bernhard as being a fair and reasonable man.



*Portrait medallion - Sir John Richardson  
(Arctic explorer & naturalist)*



*Portrait medallion - Sir James Clark Ross  
Arctic explorer & Naval officer*

**Two artworks of Bernhard Smith he produced in London.**



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## INTRODUCTION

On 8 January 1858, he and his brother Alexander John (former Royal Navy Officer and polar explorer) were both appointed Wardens of the Goldfields. Then on 12 February 1858 the Wardens were gazetted by the Government to act as Chinese Protectors. From March 1856 to September 1858 he discharged the duties of Gold-Receiver, Chinese Protector and Warden of the Goldfields at Ballarat. In 1860 he was promoted to the position of a Police Commissioner, though resigned his position mid 1861. In August that year he was appointed Commissioner of Crown Lands and then Warden for the Goldfields in September 1861.

On 12 February 1863, Bernhard married Olivia Frances Josephine (nee Boyes) of Stawell at St Paul's Church in Melbourne. Olivia was the daughter of Rev William Boyes and Bernhard had met her while at Stawell. After their married they lived at Pleasant Creek until March 1874.

In 1865 he was appointed a Police Magistrate and Deputy Sheriff at Stawell and by 1878 he was serving at Smythesdale when he was amongst the first group of 300 public servants dismissed on Black Wednesday (9 January 1878) during a radical shakeup of the Public Service by then Victorian Premier Graham Berry. Another 100 staff were sacked on 24 January, raising the total number of sacked workers to around 400. The dismissals included senior officials, judges and department heads. Most of those sacked by Berry were reinstated in April of that year, including Bernhard. He was then transferred to Alexandra, in Central Victoria where he acted as Police Magistrate (PM) and District Coroner for the Alexandra, Woods Point and Jamieson districts. It was considered by some an unusual transfer considering his age at the time and the amount of travel required for the position. A *Ballarat Star* article highlighting the appointments did not mention Mansfield, so it is likely his appointment excluded Mansfield, even though this was unusual. As he was the only Police Magistrate for a very large area, he was overworked and this led to complaints. In September 1880 it was highlighted how he spent only a week of each month in Alexandra, and this made it hard for those needing access to the Court of Petty Sessions.

Bernhard served on the bench with other influential members of the community such as Frederick Wheeler JP, Samuel Allardyce JP, George Whiting JP, Thomas Carison JP, William Knowles JP, William Lade and Richard Wightman JP. These friends often filled in for him when he was away on business in other areas of the district.



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## INTRODUCTION

In June 1882 he presided over a case where Mrs John Downey, Mary Ann Bauderwig and Thomas Robb, very well known local identities, who were all charged with neglecting to cause the children under their control to attend the Thornton State School.

In the article *Picturesque Victoria Marysville to Alexandra*, published in *The Australasian* on 4 July 1885, Journalist Julian Thomas (writing under the nom-de-plume 'The Vagabond') wrote of meeting Bernhard at Alexandra. He described him as a distinguished amateur artist. Julian Thomas was born John Stanley James, but changed his name prior to arrival in Australia). In the article, Thomas was also astonished to hear that a great English sculptor had been a gold prospector on the UT Creek. This might be an imperfect recollection (by Thomas) to Smith's life-long friend Thomas Woolner, as they had prospected together at the Ovens diggings in the early 1850s (nearly 15 years prior to any hint of gold at UT Creek or the Redgate diggings). Woolner returned to England in mid 1854 and went on to become a renowned sculptor. Included amongst his works is the magnificent bronze statue of Captain Cook which stands in Hyde Park, Sydney.

Bernhard's last major neighbour dispute case was between farmer John Bachelor of Buxton and his neighbour William Burchall of the Cathedral Side Hotel. William had reportedly threatened to knock John's brains out during an altercation on 24 March 1885. The case, which included unlawful destruction of property (pulling down a section of fence and a stockyard gate) was dismissed.

During his last recorded sitting on the Alexandra bench (Friday 28 August 1885), he presided with D E Stodart JP and J Quinlan JP, ruling over a case where Mr James Edwards was charged with two cases of



V.  R.

Cathedral Side Hotel,  
Taggerty.

ATHLETIC SPORTS  
ON  
QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

FOOTRACING,  
JUMPING,  
TILTING,  
BOTTLE SHOOTING  
QUOITS,  
And VARIOUS OTHER GAMES,  
as time will permit.

W. BURCHALL.

Alexandra & Yea Standard  
Friday 10 May 1895  
Courtesy National Library Australia



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## INTRODUCTION

unlawful assault and using obscene language against the police. He was given the choice of a three pound fine or six weeks in prison. He paid the fine. Bernhard made a point of saying that he had a determination to inflict severe penalties for using abusive and disgusting language.

On 13 September 1885 Bernhard witnessed two local children fall into the flooded UT Creek (Ultima Thule Creek) in Alexandra, vocally raising the alarm. A young boy Denis Cosgrave had slipped into the creek near Webster Street, while crossing a log bridge with his older sister Mary Jane on their way to the town common (main area) around 4 pm. His sister was pulled into the water by Denis who was panicking, but she managed to make it back to the bank. However after seeing her brother being washed away by the torrent, she courageously jumped back into the water and clung to him while they were both washed downstream.

Bernhard raised the alarm and Mr Pierce Synnot heard his cries. He then heroically rode his horse into the swollen creek and snatched up ten year old Mary Jane. Sadly Denis slipped away from Mary Jane's grasp and was lost. His body was found the following day by searchers. Mary Jane was later awarded the Silver Medal of Bravery for attempting to save her brother and was one of the earlier and younger recipients of the medal in Victoria at that time.



On Friday 2 October 1885 it was reported in the *Alexandra Standard* that 'Mr Bernhard Smith is seriously ill, though is improving'. It was stated that he had suffered from inflammation of the lungs during the previous week and that by Wednesday he was in a critical condition. However on Thursday it was said that he was 'very much better'.



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## INTRODUCTION

Bernhard died from pneumonia at his residence in Bayley Street, Alexandra on 7 October 1885. This was 25 days after he was involved in the attempted rescue of the two children at the UT Creek, so it is considered unlikely that his death was associated with the rescue, especially as it was reported that he only became sick in the week before his death. Bernhard, who was living in the family residence in Bayley Street, Alexandra with his wife and children at the time of his death, was buried at the Alexandra Cemetery and a tombstone was erected (shown later). His wording on the tombstone includes the letters 'PRB', which is short for **Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood**. This indicates that it was known at the time of his death that he was an early member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood art movement.







# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## INTRODUCTION

He was survived by his wife Olivia, three of his four sons and four of his five daughters. Olivia sold their Alexandra house in December 1885 along with a large amount of the family's effects. It is believed she moved back to Melbourne after the sale. She died on 14 May 1924 and is buried beside her husband.

We now know that Bernhard's daughter Minnie had 'inherited her father's abilities'. In 1895 we find her at Melbourne holding an inaugural reception at her new women's and children's clothing salon at The Block Arcade in Collins Street, where she was designing her own clothing range. She was described in the *Leader* as being 'the daughter of one of the early gold wardens, who was afterwards a police magistrate, one of the most artistic and cultured men and a valued friend of Woolner, the sculptor'. Then in 1927 we discover that Minnie submitted her painting *Sister S. A. Smith* (possibly a portrait of her sister Sophie Alice Smith) to the 1927 Archibald Portrait Competition. The present whereabouts of the painting is unknown.

Bernhard had been an important artist in the 1800s, though had found the newly developing colony of Victoria to be less financially viable in relation to art. Towards the end of his life he was starting to reconnect with his artwork (when his busy schedule allowed), as was noted by friend Thomas Woolner in a letter to Bernhard.

In 2012, Leisa Lees brought Bernhard Smith to the attention of Artworkz and work subsequently commenced on this factsheet. At this time the community was unaware of the significance of the man, of his relationship to the early world's art movement of that he was buried in the Alexandra Cemetery. In September 2017 Bernhard was recognised on a township entrance sign at Alexandra, which noted his significant involvement in the world art movement as well as him being a local Police Magistrate.

This initiative was also the result of Leisa, who had submitted the sign idea and his name to the Shire of Murrindindi Chief Executive Officer Margaret Abbey, during an Artworkz Tourism meeting with Margaret in 2015. Leisa had raised the idea that the three main entrances to Alexandra could each be used to highlight a person of note with strong connections with Alexandra. Margaret passed the idea to the relevant official township historical group for involvement, feedback and approval. The project moved forward and by September 2017 the signs were erected.



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## INTRODUCTION

On 16 November 2017 an afternoon tea was held to officially unveil the three new township signs erected in September 2017. At the event three factsheets and posters produced by Artworkz were publically released. A subsequent article in the eSplash highlighted Bernhard's local involvement and his importance as a world artist.





# TIMELINE

BASIC TIMELINE OF EVENTS



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## TIMELINE

- 20 January 1820** Bernhard Smith was born in England, the third son of Mr Lord Henry Smith and Jane Mary nee Voase.
- 1840** Joined the Antique School of the Royal Academy of Arts.
- 1840** Enrolled at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris.
- 23 May 1840** Olivia Frances Josephine (née Boyes), the future wife of Bernhard Smith was born.
- 17 February 1844** Captain Ross is noted in *The Maitland Mercury* and *Hunter River Advertiser* as having a medallion of himself made by Bernhard Smith. This is the first mention of Bernhard Smith in an Australian newspaper, even though he was still living in London at this time.
- 1848** Was one of early members of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and was involved in the preparation of the group's official magazine called *The Germ*, first published in early 1850.
- 1849** Signed one of his works with his name and the acronym PRB, which stood for Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, of which he was a member.
- 1850** The PRB publication known as *The Germ* was first published. Bernhard helped prepare the magazine for publication.
- 1851** By 1851, Bernhard had exhibited 19 works at the Royal Academy.
- 23 October 1852** Arrived at Hobsons Bay, Melbourne aboard the Windsor Castle with friends Thomas Woolner (a notable sculptor and poet of his time) and Edward La Trobe Bateman (book illustrator, draughtsman, architectural decorator and garden designer).
- 22 May 1854** Appointed Assistant Commissioner for Goldfields for the



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## TIMELINE

Westernport District in Victoria.

**3 December 1854**

Was present at the Eureka Stockade rebellion.

**1856 - 1858**

From March 1856 to September 1858 he discharged the duties of Gold-Receiver, Chinese Protector and Warden of the Goldfields at Ballarat.

**8 January 1858**

Appointed Warden of the Goldfields along with his brother Alexander John Smith RN (Royal Navy).

**12 February 1858**

As Warden of Goldfields, Bernhard was gazetted to also act as Chinese Protector, along with other Goldfield Wardens.

**Early 1860s**

Took meteorological observations for R L Ellery's geodetic survey.

**1860s**

Operated as Police Magistrate at Stawell.

**31 March 1861**

Resigned his commission as the Police Magistrate at Stawell.

**August 1861**

Became Commissioner of Crown Lands.

**September 1861**

Became Warden for the Goldfields of Victoria.

**12 February 1863**

Married Olivia Frances Josephine (nee Boyes) at St Paul's Church in Melbourne. She was the daughter of Rev. Boyes of Stawell and they had met at Stawell. After being married they lived at Pleasant Creek until March 1874.

**March 1874**

Posted to Smythesdale. The family lived in Ballarat during this posting. Up until July 1876, the family is mostly living apart. After this date, they are living together. While at Smythesdale, Bernhard experimented with making inks from bark and varnishes from wattle and eucalypts.



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## TIMELINE

- 1865 - 1878** Operated in the position of Police Magistrate and Deputy Sheriff at Stawell.
- 22 April 1878** Appointed to Woods Point District. The article also mentions the Alexandra and Jamieson areas, however Mansfield is not mentioned. (*Ballarat Star*, 22 April 1878).
- 9 January 1878** Bernhard, (along with hundreds of other civil servants) was dismissed on Black Wednesday.
- 1878** Was reinstated and transferred to Alexandra where he operated as Police Magistrate for the wider District, including the Mansfield area. He also conducted the duties of Coroner.
- 1880** In a letter from Woolner to Bernhard, Woolner congratulates Bernhard on his decision to return to his roots of art.
- 1880** Exhibited drawings at the Melbourne International Exhibition, which draws much attention and secured him a second class order of merit. His drawings were reported as mystic in appeal, with figures having long pointed draperies.
- 17 September 1880** A complaint in the Alexandra & Yea Standard highlighted how Bernhard only spent a week of each month in Alexandra, and this made it hard for those needing access to the Court of Petty Sessions. It was mentioned how another Alexandra based Magistrate was needed. (*Alexandra Standard*, Friday 17 September 1880).
- 1885** Built a house at Box Hill, where he planned to retire. Ironically this property was to be the site of one of the *Heidelberg School* Artists' best camps - a year later.
- 4 April 1885** In a letter to one of his sons, Bernhard wrote the following verse:



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## TIMELINE

*Even on this Earth, where the Southern Cross shines, visions of things beautiful may be seen by a Bushman, after his fashion - and why should not that be? Is not our climate fairer than their climate and is not the loveliness of our sunshine a whole power in itself.*

**28 August 1885**

This was Bernhard's last recorded time on the bench at Alexandra (Friday 28 August 1885), he presided with D E Stodart JP and J Quinlan JP, and ruled over a case where a Mr James Edwards was charged with two cases of unlawful assault and using obscene language against the police. He was given the choice of a three pound fine or six weeks in prison. He paid the fine. Bernhard made a point of saying that he had a determination to inflict severe penalties for using abusive language and disgusting language.

**2 October 1885**

It was reported in the *Alexandra Standard* that Mr Bernhard Smith is seriously ill, though is improving. It is stated that he had suffered from inflammation of the lungs during the previous week and that by Wednesday he was in a critical condition. However on Thursday it was said that he was 'very much better'. *Alexandra Standard*, Friday 2 October 1885).

**7 October 1885**

Police Magistrate Bernhard Smith died from pneumonia at his home in the presence of his family. He may have contracted the sickness while involved in saving two children who were caught in floodwaters at Alexandra. It was thought that the unusually heavy snowfalls that year also burdened his health, as he was constantly required to travel. He was aged 64 at the time of his death, and was buried at the Alexandra Cemetery. His tombstone includes the letters 'PRB', short for Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood'. A great number of Freemasons attended his funeral to pay tribute to their late brother.

**9 October 1885**

Obituary of Bernhard Smith published in the *Alexandra Standard*.



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## TIMELINE

It mentions he had been Police Magistrate in the area for the past eight years. (*Alexandra Standard*, Friday 9 October 1885).

- 18 December 1885** Bernhard's wife Olivia Frances Josephine sold their family residence in Bayley Street along with many of their effects. The listing in the *Alexandra Standard* mentioned effects that included one spring bottom double bedstead, one palliases mattress, single child's cot single bedstead, tables, ware, matting oilcloth etc, a nearly new 400 gallon tank, earthenware, glass, and all the culinary utensils
- 1895** Miss M Bernhard Smith (Minnie) held an inaugural reception at her rooms at The Block Arcade in Collins Street, Melbourne. She was described as being 'the daughter of one of the early gold wardens, who was afterwards a police magistrate, one of the most artists and cultured men and a valued friend of Woolner, the sculptor'. (*Leader*, Saturday 9 March 1895).
- 1917** Minnie Bernhard Smith, daughter of Bernhard, published her book '*Bernhard Smith and his Connection with art; or The Seven Founders of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood*.' [manuscript]. A copy can be viewed at the State Library of Victoria. A copy of unpublished papers is also available for viewing at the State Library of Victoria which includes papers, diaries, notebooks, sketchbooks, and photographs relating to the family and descendants of Bernhard Smith.
- 14 May 1924** Olivia Frances Josephine Smith (née Boyes), wife of Bernhard Smith died at Alexandra and was buried beside her husband at the Alexandra Cemetery.
- 1927** Minnie Smith, daughter of Bernhard, submitted a painting titled *Sister S. A. Smith* (possibly her sister Sophie Alice Smith) to the 1927 Archibald Portrait Competition. The present whereabouts of the painting is unknown. Even at the opening of her military salon



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## TIMELINE

in 1895, it was recognised that she had 'inherited her father's abilities'.

**2004**

A book titled 'Worldwide Pre-Raphaelitism' was written by Thomas J Tobin (ISBN10: 0-7914-6265-X). The book talks of Bernhard Smith.

**21 June 2012**

Artworkz commenced work on this factsheet after the subject was made known to us by researcher Leisa Lees.

**16 November 2017**

An afternoon tea to officially unveil three township signs was held by the Shire of Murrindindi. The three signs were for Raymond Weinberg, Dame Pattie Menzies and Bernhard Smith. Three new history posters and three factsheets produced by Artworkz were also published.



# GALLERY

RELATED IMAGERY



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## GALLERY



**Four times all quick'ning Spring had rous'd the sleeping Earth...  
[Jealousy hailed me as her own] 1885, Alexandra, Victoria, Australia**

**Drawing Technique: black pencil, pen and ink, brush and ink Support: paper mounted on cardboard**

**Inscribed lower right in black pencil:**  
'For Bernhard Alexander Smith, I sang this Song.'

**Inscribed and dated lower left in black pencil:**  
'Pictor Ignatus Fecit Jan 20 1885'.

**Inscribed upper edge in black pencil:**  
'Four times All quick'ning Spring had rous'd the sleeping Earth...' (and other text).



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## GALLERY

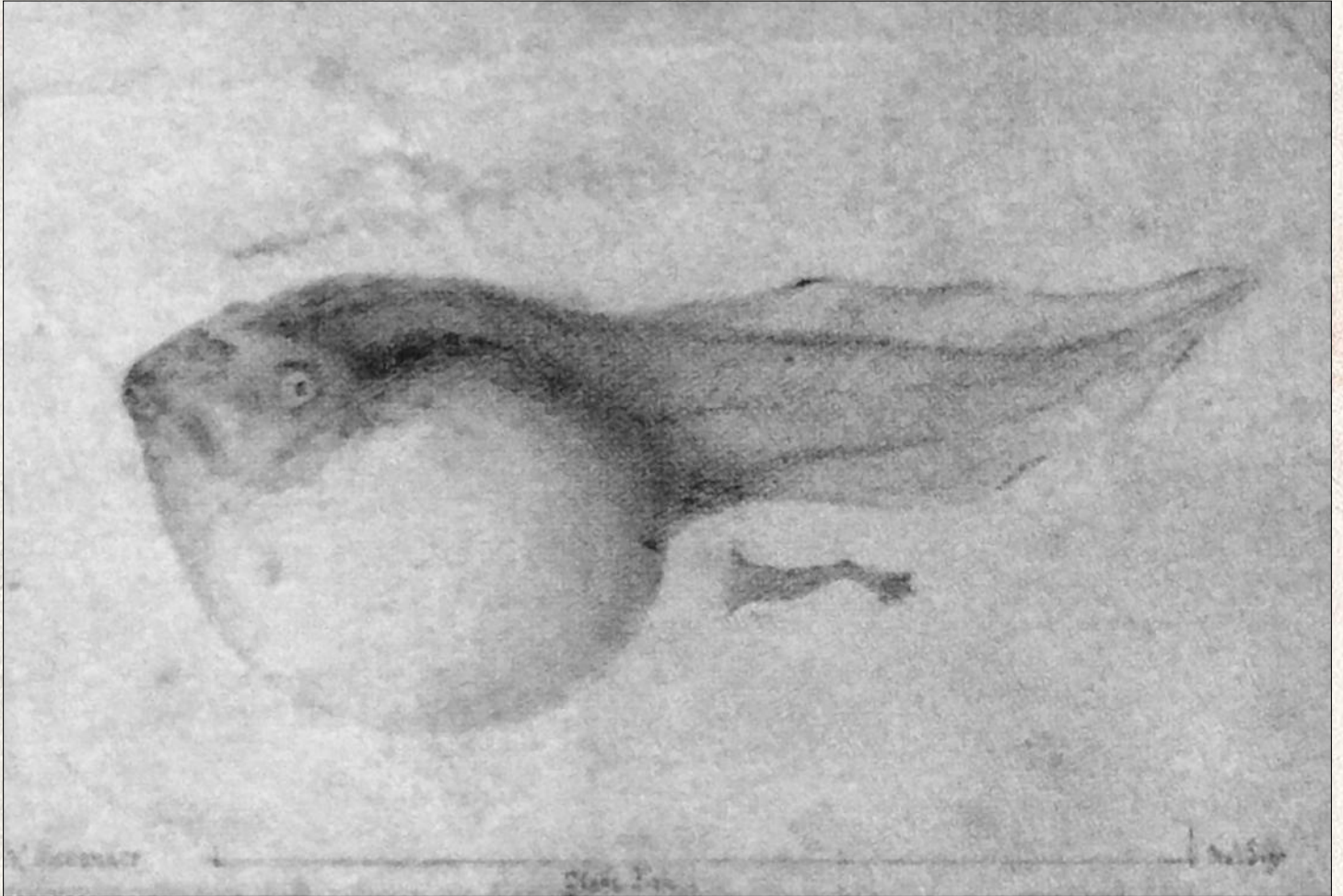


**Illustrations by Bernhard Smith of specimens obtained near Castlemaine circa 1858**



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## GALLERY



**Illustrations by Bernhard Smith of specimens obtained near Castlemaine circa 1858**



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## GALLERY



**Home of Bernhard Smith**  
Sculptor and painter of the Pre-Raphaelite School  
and police magistrate

**One of three signs erected in September 2017 at the three main entrances to Alexandra. Each sign highlights a person of note from Alexandra's past. This sign was erected on the Eildon side of Alexandra on the Goulburn Valley Highway.**



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## GALLERY



**Birthplace of Ray Weinberg  
Olympic and Commonwealth Games Athlete**

**One of three signs erected at the three main entrances to Alexandra. Unlike the other two, this one was erected in December 2016, while the other two were erected in September 2017. Each sign highlights a person of note from Alexandra's past. This sign was erected on the Melbourne side of Alexandra on the Maroondah Highway.**



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## GALLERY



**Birthplace of Dame Pattie Menzies (nee Leckie)**

**One of three signs erected in September 2017 at the three main entrances to Alexandra. Each sign highlights a person of note from Alexandra's past. This sign was erected on the Yea side of Alexandra on the Goulburn Valley Highway.**



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## GALLERY



Burial plot of Bernhard Smith and his wife  
at the Alexandra Cemetery in 2017. The letters  
'P.M.P.R.B.' follow his name and stand for:

- Police Magistrate (PM)
- Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood (PRB)



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## GALLERY



**Burial plot of Olivia Smith, the wife of  
Bernhard Smith, at the Alexandra  
Cemetery in 2017**



# NEWSPAPERS

RELATED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPERS

**CAPTAIN ROSS.—Mr. Bernhard Smith has just put forth a clever and forcible medallion of Captain Ross. Possibly one or two of the characteristic traits of the original may have been a little exaggerated, but the general treatment of the head does the artist credit. We may as well add to this paragraph, as a circumstance not unlikely to have its influences on the talked-of North Polar Expedition, that the marriage of the gallant officer was yesterday announced in the daily papers, to the eldest daughter of Thos. Coultman, Esq., of Whitgift Hall, Yorkshire.—*Athenaeum*.**

The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser  
Saturday 17 February 1844  
Courtesy National Library Australia

Reference of a medallion depicting Captain Ross produced by artist Bernhard Smith in 1844 before Bernhard travelled to Australia

Courtesy National Library Australia



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPERS

**NEW APPOINTMENTS.**—Edward Thomas Bernard, Esq., to be Police Magistrate at Gisborne; Robert Rede, Esq., to be resident Commissioner of Crown Land at Ballarat; Bernhard Smith, Esq., to be Assistant Commissioner for Gold-fields; Edw. Thos. Barnard, Esq., to be Acting Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Western Port District, in the absence of J. C. Thomson, Esq.; John O'Shanassy, Esq., to be a member of the Denominational School Board.

Geelong Advertiser and Intelligencer  
Monday 22 May 1854  
Courtesy National Library Australia

**Bernhard Smith appointed Assistant Commissioner Goldfields 22 May 1854**

Courtesy National Library Australia



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPERS

**WARDENS OF THE GOLDFIELDS.**—The *Government Gazette* notifies the appointment of the following gentlemen as Wardens of the Goldfields:—Gilbert Andrew Amos, Thompson Graham Arnold, Edward Thomas Barnard, Walter Charles Brackenbury, John Edward Newell Bull, Stephen Thomas Clissold, James Maxwell Clow, John Cogdon, Philip Champion Crespigny, James Daly, Francis Crossman Doveton, Charles Chromeley Dowling, William Henry Drummond, William Fenwick, William Henry Foster, William Henry Gaunt, James Prendergast Hamilton, Thomas Denis Stratford Heron, Henry Bowyer Lane, Gorges Macdonald Lowther, Robert Cleghorne Mackenzie, Crawford Mollison, John Stephen Morphy, Virginius Murray, Joseph Anderson Panton, Matthew Price, Charles Wale Sherard, Charles Shuter. Bernhard Smith, Alexander John Smith, Frederick Charles Standish, James Grant Taylor, William Templeton, George Agar Thompson, Graham Webster, and William Willoby Esquires.

Bendigo Advertiser  
Friday 8 January 1858  
Courtesy National Library Australia

**Bernhard Smith appointed Warden of the Goldfields 8 January 1858.  
(His brother Alexander John Smith RN was also appointed).**

Courtesy National Library Australia



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPERS

APPOINTMENTS.—The following Wardens of Goldfields have been gazetted as Chinese Protectors :—Gilbert Andrew Amos, Thompson Graham Arnold, Edward Thomas Barnard, Walter Charles Brackenbury, John Edward Newell Bull, James Maxwell Clow, John Cogdon, Philip Champion Crespigny, James Daly, Thomas Crossman Dove-ton, Charles Chromoley Dowling, William Funwick, William Henry Gaunt, Thomas Denis Stratford Heron, Henry Bowyer Lane, Gorges Macdonald Lowther, Robert Cleghorne Mackenzie, Crawford Mollison, John Stephen Morphy, Virginus Murray, Joseph Anderson Panton, Matthew Price, Charles Wale Sherard, Charles Shuter, Alexander John Smith, Bernhard Smith, James Grant Taylor, William Temploton, George Agar Thompson, and William Willoby, Raquelton.

Bendigo Advertiser  
Friday 12 February 1858  
Courtesy National Library Australia

**Bernhard Smith appointed Chinese Protector 12 February 1858**

Courtesy National Library Australia





# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## QUOTE

“Even on this Earth, where the Southern Cross shines, visions of things beautiful may be seen by a Bushman, after his fashion - and why should not that be? Is not our climate fairer than their climate and is not the loveliness of our sunshine a whole power in itself”.

**Bernhard Smith**

4 April 1885



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPERS

### DEATHS BY DROWNING.

The usual calm serenity of the Sabbath in Alexandra was painfully disturbed last Sunday afternoon by an accident which, unfortunately, was attended with a fatal result to one child and, but for the praiseworthy courage exhibited by Mr Pierce Synnot, would have also terminated fatally to another child. It appears that on Sunday afternoon about 4 o'clock two children, a girl and boy of Mr. C. Cosgrave, the well known and respected coach driver for Messrs. Cobb and Co., were attempting to cross the U. T. creek over a log crossing at the continuation of Webster Street towards the common, when the girl, Mary Cosgrave, aged 10 years, was endeavouring to guide her young brother Denis over the rude and dangerous crossing place at the creek, when the latter got frightened at the roaring torrent of water which was at that time flowing down the creek from the recent heavy rains in the district, and in struggling with his sister fell off the slippery log into the water, dragging his sister into the swift flowing torrent along with him. The girl managed to scramble out on to the bank shortly after falling in, and running a short distance, daringly jumped in the creek with the idea of saving her brother. The two children, clinging to each other, were then carried by the current towards the bridge, by which time, Mr. B. Smith, P.M., who was an eye witness of the accident, had aroused the attention of all persons within hearing with the result that the girl was rescued by Mr. P. Synnot, who, riding by, courageously rushed his horse into the creek and with great difficulty, owing to the strength of the current and depth of the water, safely handed the child to

Messrs. M. Coughlan and Cowie, who ran along the bank awaiting the result of Mr Synnot's plucky efforts. The girl states that she let go her hold of her brother before reaching the bridge, but the little fellow was not seen from the time he fell in until his body was recovered on the following day half-a-mile from the log crossing. The sad accident caused considerable excitement at the time, and much sympathy is felt for the unfortunate parents. The crossing is an exceedingly dangerous place, being the remains of a tree which has at some time or other fallen across the creek, and should be removed and a few planks and hand rail substituted.

A second fatal case of drowning occurred on Thursday morning, when Annie Maria Welsh, aged 15, fell, in a fit of giddiness, into a water hole from which she was drawing water for domestic use and lost her life. An inquest on the body was held before Mr. B. Smith, P.M., and a jury of twelve, at the Court-house on Thursday afternoon.

Margaret Welsh, mother of deceased, deposed that deceased got up that morning to get breakfast ready, and went to the water hole to fetch water to boil the billy. Deceased did not return in ordinary time, and her sister went to see what had become of her. I then went with a close prop and with it felt in the hole and brought the body to the surface. Deceased had been in good spirits lately, but was subject to biliousness and giddiness.

Esther Welsh, William Fooks, and Senior-constable Irvine also gave evidence.

The jury returned a verdict of accidentally drowned.

Alexandra & Yea Standard  
Friday 18 September 1885  
Courtesy National Library Australia

Bernhard Smith present and raises alarm at the drowning of Denis Cosgrave  
in the U.T. Creek at Alexandra.

Courtesy National Library Australia



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPERS

**Mr. Bernhard Smith, police magistrate for the Mansfield district, became seriously ill with cold and fever, while at Alexandra, on the 26th ult., and died at that place yesterday. Mr. Smith was 65 years of age, and was a very old public servant. He was first appointed as an assistant goldfields commissioner on May 27, 1854, and from March, 1856, to September, 1858, he discharged the duties of gold-receiver, Chinese protector, and warden at Ballarat. In the latter year he was appointed as police magistrate, and acted in that capacity in various parts of the colony for many years, until he was allotted the Mansfield district. The deceased gentleman was highly esteemed in the Mansfield district, and in other parts of the colony in which he was well known.**

The Argus

Thursday 8 October 1885

Courtesy National Library Australia

**Death of Bernhard Smith**

Courtesy National Library Australia



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPERS

It is with deep regret we have to announce the death of Mr. Bernard Smith, for the past eight years police magistrate for this district. Mr. Smith came to Victoria in 1852, in the "Windsor Castle," with Messrs Woolner and Bateman, two artist friends, and together they joined the general rush to the gold fields, and went to the Ovens. After roughing it for a short time, Mr Smith presented letters of introduction to Governor Latrobe, who thereupon gave him the appointment of Gold-fields commissioner, and as such was present at the trouble at the Eureka Stockade. He was first appointed assistant Goldfield Commissioner on May 27th, 1854, and from March, 1856, to September 1858, he discharged the duties of gold receiver, Chinese protector, and warden at Ballarat. In the latter year he was appointed police magistrate, and was shortly after removed to Stawell, where he met and married a daughter of the Rev. Wm. Boyes. In 1877, being Police Magistrate at Smythesdale, Mr. Smith was one of those dismissed on "Black Wednesday," and on being re-appointed was sent to this district, but the rough journeys over mountains were most unsuitable to a gentleman of his years, and as a consequence of his last trip to Wood's Point he contracted an affection of the lungs, to which he succumbed, after a fortnight's illness, early on the morning of the 7th inst. Mr. Smith was a very careful and impartial Magistrate, and during the seven years he

Magistrate, and during the seven years he has been in this district has won the respect of all. He was a sculptor and artist of considerable ability, and specimens of his talent have been much admired here, in Melbourne, and in England, whither several have lately been sent to some wealthy friends. The deceased was interred in the Alexandra Cemetery on Thursday, whither his remains were followed by a large number of the residents, the local body of Freemasons, of which craft deceased was an old member and a past master, turning out to pay the last tribute of respect to their late brother.

Alexandra & Yea Standard  
Friday 9 October 1885  
Courtesy National Library Australia

### Obituary of Bernhard Smith

Alexandra & Yea Standard, Friday 9 October 1885  
Courtesy National Library Australia



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPERS

**Mr. S. Perrottet, the clerk of courts at Heathcote, has been transferred to Belfast, to take the place of Mr. E. C. Bell, the former clerk, who was recently removed to Sandhurst. These changes were rendered necessary by the appointment of Mr. J. J. O'Meara, clerk of courts at Sandhurst, as police magistrate for the Alexandra district, on that position being rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Bernhard Smith.**

The Argus  
Wednesday 2 December 1885  
Courtesy National Library Australia

**Magistrate transfers as a result of the death of Bernhard Smith.**

Courtesy National Library Australia



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPERS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19,  
At Ten O'Clock Sharp.

### **Household Furniture And Effects.**

**E.** W. SAMPSON has been favored with instructions from Mrs. B. Smith, to sell by public auction, at her residence, Bailey-street, Alexandra, on the above date, the undermentioned goods—

1 double bedstead, spring bottom

1 mattress, palliases

Single bedstead, child's cot

Tables, ware, matting, oilcloth, &c., &c.

Earthenware, glass, and all the culinary utensils

400 gal. tank, nearly new

Various articles too numerous to mention.

The whole for positive sale, as Mrs. Smith is leaving the district. Come early and secure bargains.

Alexandra & Yea Standard

Friday 18 December 1885

Courtesy National Library Australia

### **Sale of the Smith Estate**

Alexandra & Yea Standard, Friday 18 December 1885

Courtesy National Library Australia



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPERS

### THE EARLIEST SCULPTOR IN VICTORIA.

The pre-Raphaelite movement in England coincided, in point of date, with the gold discoveries in California, and preceded by two years only those in Victoria. The "Brotherhood" numbered seven; one of whom, Millais, afterwards became President of the Royal Academy; another, W. Holman Hunt, achieved the highest distinction in religious art; and a third, Thomas Woolner, became one of the most famous sculptors of his day, besides making a not inconsiderable reputation as a poet. It is among the things which are being obliterated from men's memories in this part of the world that Woolner, together with R. H. Horne, William and Richard Howitt, constituted the odd four on the list of 91,664 immigrants who disembarked at what was then Sandridge in the year 1852.

Woolner's fine powers as a sculptor had already revealed themselves to his brother artists in London, but only one small commission had come to him during a long series of years of patient application to his art, while his intellectual culture had obtained for him the friendship of Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle, for the latter of whom he entertained a kind of worship; of the Rossettis, Ruskin, Browning, Tennyson—"the Royal Alfred," as he used to call him—and Coventry Patmore. In the year 1852, however, Woolner's prospects of success were exceedingly gloomy; and his own despondency of feeling caused him to believe that England and the fine arts were going to the dogs, and that the prospects of sculpture were more hopeless even than those of painting. Holman Hunt was seriously thinking of renouncing his pencil, and either turning farmer, or of going up to Oxford and working hard for a scholarship; and Woolner, finding that William Howitt was organising a party to proceed to Australia, resolved upon trying his fortune on the Victorian gold fields. Both Carlyle and Tennyson are said to have encouraged him to undertake the venture, and the poet is said to have asked him, "Will you be content with £20,000?" and then to have added, "But men never are contented about money, so I need not ask."

It is amusing to read, in a letter written by Dante Rossetti, an account of the sculptor's outfit. "I saw him on board the vessel on Thursday," he writes. "He is accompanied by Bernhard Smith and Bateman, all of them plentifully stocked with corduroys, sou'-westers, jerseys, fire arms and belts full of little bags to hold the expected nuggets." And presently he makes the following circumstantial statement:—"Tennyson was especially encouraging. At his house in Twickenham, Woolner spent two days of his last week. The great Alfred even declares that were it not for Mrs. T. (to whom he had been married only two years before) he should go himself. His expectations seem, however, to be rather practical, as he gravely asked Woolner if he expected to come back with £10,000 a year. If the laureate could have 'looked into the seeds of time' at that moment and have foreseen that his second child, as yet unborn, was destined to become the Governor-General of an Australian Commonwealth, he might have mistaken it, perhaps, for an admonition from Destiny to accompany his friend in his search for the golden fleece, and to have missed his high vocation."

When the sculptor reached Melbourne and called upon Governor Latrobe, who was then occupying a small cottage in Jolimont, in company with Mr. Bateman, who was his Excellency's cousin, he was agreeably surprised to find one of his early works there, Little Red Ridinghood. Woolner's first essay at gold digging was made on the Ovens, where he and his "mate," Mr. Bernhard Smith, were as unsuccessful as they were subsequently on the other gold fields they visited; and when they found that, after spending £180 between them, they had only about 25 ounces of gold to show as the result of their joint labors, and that in order to extract this from the soil they were obliged to work up to their knees in water so that their lower limbs were numbed, while the perspiration streamed from their bodies owing to the excessive heat of the sun, they both came to the conclusion that nature had never intended them for gold miners. But Woolner, writing to Rossetti, said that "he should always be glad to have gone through it, as it had given him a strength and a feeling of life which he had never known before, as likewise an intense appreciation of the smallest amount of ordinary comfort; in short, the faculty of content."

Mr. Bernhard Smith joined a brother, who owned a farm on the Campaspe, and the sculptor returned to Melbourne, where he became the guest of Dr. Godfrey Howitt, one of the leading physicians in this city, who was then living in the bush, close to Spring-street, at the east end of Flinders-lane. While he was the guest of a medical practitioner, who is still remembered with the warmest affection by all who knew him, Woolner executed several medallion portraits in profile, for which he received 25 guineas each. One of these—that of Governor Latrobe—is in the National Gallery here. There was also some talk of commissioning him to execute a statue of the Queen, but the project fell through. These medallions furnished the sculptor with the means of returning to England, and he did so with a commission to carve a statue of Wentworth, for Sydney, as in later years he was likewise selected for the execution of the colossal statue of Captain Cook in that city. Woolner reached London in October, 1854, with, as he said in a letter to Rossetti, "a huge beard, brawny limbs, and a weather-worn, bronzed countenance. I do not intend," he added, "buying up some two dozen defunct nobleman's estates and living like a swarthy Sultan in voluptuous unbecomly, but have to set to work for daily bread, much in the same way as I had to do before leaving in 1852." But this time he applied himself to his profession, with splendid results, for during the next twenty years he executed some of the finest portrait statues in England, and notably those of Bacon, Gladstone and Prince Alfred in Oxford, of Macanley at Cambridge, and of Palmerston in Parliament square, Westminster. In all his works he aimed at the dignity, simplicity and naturalness of Phidias, and as a master of style he has had no superiors in the English school of sculpture. The poetry of his Virgilia and Elaine, and the force and nobility of his Moses and Achilles have excited the admiration of some of the best critics in Europe; and plastic art in England has every reason to rejoice at the persistent run of ill-luck which compelled Thomas Woolner to abandon the occupation of a gold miner in Victoria and return, poor in pocket but rich in health and strength, to his native land, where he died in 1894, leaving a great name behind him.

Thomas Woolner is recognised in this article as the earliest sculptor in Victoria. Thomas was a good friend of artist Bernhard Smith, even travelling to Australia and attending the goldfields with him.

Thomas was one of the seven founding members of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood (PRB) and the only sculptor in the group at the time of its formation. Bernhard joined the group shortly after they were formed and was a more highly educated sculptor than Thomas.

This article notes Woolner as the sculptor who created the 'colossal' statue of Captain Cook located in Hyde Park, Sydney. The statue was commissioned on 26 September 1874 and unveiled on 25 February 1879.

Melbourne Leader  
Saturday 14 November 1903  
Courtesy National Library Australia

Courtesy National Library Australia



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## NEWSPAPERS

Miss M. Bernhard Smith held an inaugural reception last week, at her rooms, "The Block," Collins-street, when Mr. J. A. Panton, P.M., said a few words in commendation of Miss Smith's undertaking, and when a large number of ladies and gentlemen assembled to wish her success. Miss Bernhard Smith is the daughter of one of the early gold wardens, who was afterwards a police magistrate, one of the most artistic and cultured of men and a valued friend of Woolner, the sculptor. She inherits her father's ability, and has for some years devoted herself to the study of the artistic design and execution of all branches of ladies' and children's wearing apparel. Now she is prepared to undertake this work on a larger scale, and for this purpose has secured most conveniently situated rooms, where she held her reception. Miss F. C. Williams and Mrs. Sydney Dixon kindly supplied delicious tea and cakes on the occasion. Miss Bernhard Smith is being introduced by Lady Williams, Mrs. H. M. Ohomley, Mrs. Albert Miller, Mrs. Sylvester Brown, Mrs. Albert Austin, Mrs. Herbert Power, Mrs. D. E. Stodart, Mrs. Rupert Clarke, Mrs. Kenric Brodribb, Mrs. T. Price, Mrs. N. Maine, Mrs. H. Anthony, Miss Ethel Fitzgerald, Miss A. Millar.

Leader

Saturday 9 March 1895

Courtesy National Library Australia

**Daughter inherits fathers ability in the area of designing ladies' and children's apparel and operates out of the Block Arcade (The Block) in Collins Street, Melbourne**

Leader

Saturday 9 March 1895

Courtesy National Library Australia



PRE-  
RAPHAELITE  
BROTHERHOOD

BRIEF DESCRIPTION



# HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

## PRE-RAPHAELITE BROTHERHOOD

The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood (also referred to as the 'Pre-Raphaelites') was a group of English artists which included painters, illustrators, poets and critics which was first founded in 1848 by friends William Holman Hunt, John Everett Millais and Dante Gabriel Rossetti in Millais's home. They were then joined by artists William Michael Rossetti, James Collinson, Frederick George Stephens, Thomas Woolner, making up the first seven founding members of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood group.

According to Minnie Bernhard Smith in her book published on the Smith family in 1917, her father Bernhard Smith was also one of the founding members. While there is insufficient evidence to support her claim of him being present at the establishment of the group, it is evident that he was an early member of the group and filled in after another member vacated his position. This was confirmed by early brotherhood member William Michael Rossetti when he included Bernhard Smith in his list of artists involved in the group (published in 1901 — Preface to the 1901 Facsimile Reprint of *The Germ*). *The Germ* was the official publication of the group and was first published in 1850 (with the involvement of Bernhard). At that time Bernhard was also one of the most educated (in the arts) members of the group. Only four issues of *The Germ* were published due to a lack of public interest, with the second two being published under a different name.

Also supporting Bernhard's association with the group in its initial years was his close friendship with Thomas Woolner, one of the seven founding members. After the two men became disillusioned with the group, they travelled to Australia aboard *Windsor Castle*, arriving on 23 October 1852 and they initially worked the Ovens Goldfield near Beechworth.

In summary, Bernhard was a highly educated world artist of significance, who lived in London where the PRB was formed. He was friends with the original PRB members, moved in the same circles and was a good friend of Thomas Woolner. He exhibited works in London alongside other artists in the group and continued his art in Australia — but to a lesser degree. He died at Alexandra while working as a district Police Magistrate and was buried at the Alexandra Cemetery. His tombstone confirms his connection with the PRB.







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