

The prize medals and decorations of Charles Allen Brown

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Abstract

Charles Allen Brown, one of the most prominent silversmiths and jewellers to work in Brisbane during the latter decades of the nineteenth century, established a career fashioning an impressive array of bespoke jewels for Queensland's discerning public. Among his works are numerous medals and decorations, many of which are connected to significant events and persons in the state's history. This article identifies a selection of exonumia produced by Brown, provides details of surviving pieces, and notes some important works awaiting rediscovery.

Keywords

[Charles Allen Brown] [Silversmith] [Queensland] [medals] [Freemasonry] [numismatics]

Introduction

Charles Allen Brown (1850-1908) was one of the most prominent silversmiths and jewellers to work in Brisbane during the last decades of the nineteenth century. Catering to Queensland's most discerning public, he crafted a varied assortment of bespoke jewellers' confections including items of exo-numismatic interest, notably prize medals, awards and decorations fashioned for a diverse range of institutional clients including sporting clubs, Masonic fraternities and Friendship societies.¹ This paper lists a selection of exo-numismatic fancies executed by Brown's firm, sourced from contemporary news reports and surviving examples. Although this list is not an exhaustive representation of Brown's exo-numismatic output, it reveals details about Queensland's social landscape in the later decades of the nineteenth century, highlighting the events and personalities that shaped the young colony.

¹ Exonumia covers a broad range of objects including trade tokens, medals, badges, and modern currency equivalents including credit and debit cards. Currently there is no standardised definition for what is covered under this umbrella term. Charles Allen Brown did not create trade tokens or currency, so the term in this context is applied to his medals, awards, presentation jewels and medallions.

Charles Allen Brown: silversmith

Charles Allen Brown was born in Sydney on 2 February 1850, son of Henry and Elizabeth Brown. All that is known of Brown's upbringing is that his parents separated while he was still young, and as a young man he was placed in the custody of Sydney-based silversmith Christian Ludwig Qwist, where he undertook an apprenticeship as a jeweller and silversmith.²

Danish-born Qwist was a prominent silversmith in Sydney, and had previously operated a photographic studio in Bendigo. His first-class workmanship earned him a display at the 1867 Paris Exposition Universelle, and allowed him to secure several major prize trophy commissions, including the 1870 and 1871 Sydney Cups. Qwist's name resonated further afield than New South Wales – an important gold openwork necklace made by Qwist around 1867 features photographic portraits of the family of Queensland pastoralist and politician John Watts (Fig.1).³ Brown learnt all the techniques required by a capable jeweller while undertaking his seven-year apprenticeship under Qwist from 1863 until 1869, and used his skills professionally when he established his own business in Brisbane in 1870.

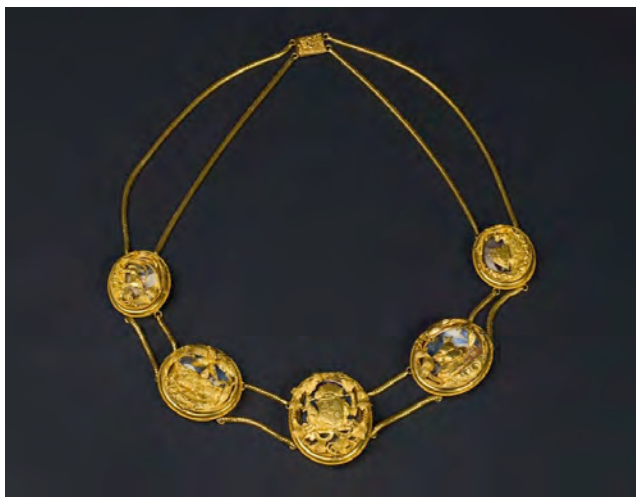


Figure 1. Christian Ludwig Qwist, *John Watts Necklace*. 18k gold openwork necklace with hand coloured photographs. 6681, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland, Australia.

- 2 Sue Air, 'Charles Allen Brown (1850-1908): Australian Silversmith', *Australiana*, vol 23 no 3, August 2001, pp 72-73.
- 3 The John Watts Necklace, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland ACC6681. For further information, read Dianne Byrne, 'The John Watts Necklace: a masterpiece of Australian gold jewellery by Christian Ludwig Qwist', *Australiana*, vol 35 no 1, February 2013, pp 23-27. Other orders from Queensland are also reported. 'Mr Qwist has also on view at his shop a handsome set of wedding ornaments in gold, ordered for a lady in Queensland. These are all beautifully finished, and, for the most part, of a novel design, especially the bracelets, in which provision has very skilfully been made for portraits.' *Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 July 1866, p 5.

Brown's motivations for moving to Brisbane are unclear; family reasons are plausible, however, as his mother had moved to the city following her separation from her husband.⁴ His arrival in Brisbane coincided with an affluent period in Queensland's history, as payable deposits of gold had been discovered in Gympie just three years earlier, and soon another large deposit of gold would be found in Charters Towers. Brisbane prospered as the seat of government for the 11-year young colony, and boasted a thriving manufacturing and commercial scene.

Brown was not the first manufacturing jeweller to establish himself in Brisbane. This distinction is usually given to Augustus Kosvitz, a Prussian-born watchmaker and jeweller who was a partner to Sydney-based jewellers Hogarth, Erichsen & Co before he established his own business in Brisbane in 1861.⁵ Before Kosvitz arrived in Queensland, presentation silver was often sourced from England, or commissioned from prominent Sydney-based firms, including Flavelle Brothers and Hardy Brothers who both opened stores in Brisbane to accommodate such requests.

During Brown's nearly four-decade career in Brisbane, he produced dozens of presentation articles and various jewellers' confections. These ranged from a set of silver-mounted horse's hooves fashioned for James McConnel of Cressbrook Station, to a silver and vermeil model of a pile driver which was presented to Lady Musgrave on the occasion of driving the first pile of the South Brisbane wharves; several scale model wheelbarrows and bassinets in silver, and a set of silver mounts which were attached to an album of photographs presented to Queen Victoria on her Golden Jubilee in 1887.⁶ Regrettably, many of these works have not come to light, however a handful of Brown's works are known to be in public and private collections internationally.⁷

4 Sue Air, *op cit*, pp 72-73.

5 For details on Augustus Kosvitz, Timothy Roberts, 'An early jeweller in Queensland: the life and career of Augustus Kosvitz', *Australiana*, vol 31 no 3, August 2009, pp 4-8. For details on Hogarth, Erichsen & Co, J B Hawkins, 'Julius Hogarth, behind the shopfront', *Australiana* vol 22 no 2, May 2000.

6 Brown collaborated with Alder in 1878; *The Brisbane Courier*, Fri 5 July 1878, p 2. In 1884 Brown supplied a scale model of a pile driver, for presentation to Lady Musgrave on the occasion of driving the first pile of the South Brisbane Wharves from contractor John Watson. *The Brisbane Courier*, Tues 4 November 1884, p 5. Brown prepared silver wheelbarrows for the turning of the sods of the Maryborough Railway in 1878; the Fassifern Railway extension in 1886; and the Maryborough to Gayndah Railway in 1887. *The Brisbane Courier*, Wed 20 March 1878, p 3; *The Queenslander*, Sat 23 March 1878, p 6; *The Brisbane Courier*, Fri 8 January 1886, p 6; Mon 19 August 1887, p 5. Silver cradles were supplied to Alderman Hipwood in 1886; Thomas L Holmes in 1889; George Watson in 1892; and Alderman J Nicol Robinson in 1901 on the births of their children. *The Brisbane Courier*, Wed 4 August 1886, p 4; Wed 5 February 1890, p 4; Mon 16 January 1893, p 5; Tues 20 December 1892, p 4; Thurs 7 February 1901, p 6. For Brown's 1887 Jubilee casket, Timothy Roberts 'Fit for a Queen: two Royal jubilee testimonials from colonial Queensland', *Australiana*, vol 35 no 4, November 2013, pp 11-15; *The Brisbane Courier*, Wed 16 March 1887, p 5.

7 Works by CA Brown's firm are held in the National Gallery of Australia, Queensland Art Gallery, State Library of Queensland, Museum of Brisbane, and The Royal Historical Society of Queensland.

Brown's work is distinguished by its quality, though not all of his creations bear his identifying stamps of "CA BROWN" or "CAB", and "BRISBANE". While not attempting to present an exhaustive list of Brown's prize medals and decorations, the following selection of exo-numismatic works identified to be produced by Brown's workshop indicate the importance of this silversmith amongst Queensland's late-nineteenth century decorative artists.

The Masonic and Friendship Society Decorations

Brown began producing official regalia and medallions early in his career, most notably a series of orders from Masonic fraternities and Friendship societies throughout Queensland. Brown's first order from a Friendship society came in 1872, just two years after he established his business in Brisbane. The Ancient Order of Foresters in Brisbane commissioned a presentation jewel for Brother Alfred Grant for his service as secretary – a post he had maintained since 1865. The *Brisbane Courier* described the jewel as taking the form of crossed pens bearing a stag's head, encircled by a band emblazoned with the Order's motto "Unitas Benevolentia et Concordia." The *Courier* noted that Robert King completed the engraving on the piece.⁸

In 1874 and 1875 Brown received two commissions from the Hiram Lodge and Royal Arch Chapter respectively for presentation inkstands fashioned from silver and emu eggs. The 1874 inkstand, the earliest known surviving piece by Brown at the time of writing, was donated to the Queensland Art Gallery in 2011 by descendants of the recipient, Edwin Young.⁹

The Hiram Lodge again commissioned Brown in 1877, this time a "most artistically executed" set of Masonic jewels, which the *Brisbane Courier* noted showed "considerable taste in design and ornamentation."¹⁰ The following year Brown joined the St Andrew's Lodge, beginning a close professional relationship that saw the creation of no fewer than 19 presentation objects for various societies around Queensland.¹¹

In 1880 the Athole and Melville Lodge commissioned a jewel to be presented to Walter Scott for his services as Right Worshipful Master from 1876 until 1879 (Fig.2). The jewel featured a variety of Masonic motifs including the eye and the square, and was encircled by a garland of thistles, symbolic of the Scottish constitution under which the lodge was founded.

8 *The Brisbane Courier*, Wed 30 October 1872, p 2.

9 *The Brisbane Courier*, Thurs 9 April 1874, p 2; Wed 3 March 1875, p 2; Timothy Roberts 'CA Brown, Inkwell 1874', Artlines 4-2014, p 43.

10 *The Brisbane Courier*, Tues 19 June 1877, p 3.

11 Brown was initiated into St Andrew's Lodge on 1 March 1878. Sue Air *op cit*, p 74.



Figure 2. Charles Allen Brown, *Masonic decoration* 1880. Gold. Masonic Memorial Centre, United Grand Lodge of Queensland. This decoration was presented to Walter Scott.

The next year, Brown completed a striking gold jewel modelled as a Maltese Cross for presentation to Past Grand Paul Modini from the members of the Loyal Star of the Downs Lodge, Warwick.¹² Modini had been a member of the Odd Fellows for 21 years and during that time had served in senior positions within the Lodge. The jewel was engraved with an inscription on one side, and bore emblems of Odd Fellows on the other.¹³

In 1883 Brown completed a suite of jewels for the three Trustees of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The elaborately designed jewels comprised a gold medal which featured relief-work of two clasped-hands, roses, thistles and shamrocks, surrounded by the initials “M.U.I.O.O.F. 1883” in relief lettering.¹⁴ Later

12 In the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the title of Grand corresponds to the Masonic title of Master, meaning the office bearer Chairs one Lodge. A Grand Master, like in Freemasonry, is in charge of all Lodges within a jurisdiction.

13 *Warwick Examiner and Times*, Sat 5 November 1881, p 2.

14 *The Brisbane Courier*, Sat 10 February 1883, p 5. The three Trustees’ names were Messrs Martin, Smith and Dennis.

that year, Roma's Raphael Lodge celebrated Brother Abraham Hertzberg's service as Secretary by ordering Brown to execute an elegant jewel, featuring gold crossed pens in relief above a rose gold ground, circled by a gothic motif that Brown employed liberally in his presentation cups and silver-mounted emu egg ornaments (Fig. 3).



Figure 3. Charles Allen Brown, *Masonic decoration* 1883. Gold. Masonic Memorial Centre, United Grand Lodge of Queensland. This decoration was presented to Abraham Hertzberg.

The Raphael Lodge returned to Brown in 1885 calling for another “very tastefully executed” Past Master’s jewel in 18 carat gold for presentation to CS Young.¹⁵ The same year, Brown prepared emblems for the regalia presented to Edward Griffith upon his return to Europe, after having served as Grand Master of the Loyal Orange Lodges in Queensland. Such a distinguished position deserved a distinguished token, and the emblems Brown produced included a five-pointed star encircled within a gold garter, inscribed “L.O.L.Q. Presented to the Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Reverend Edward Griffith, by the brethren of the Loyal Orange Lodges of Queensland, at the Protestant Hall, Brisbane, 17th February 1885”; an open Bible inscribed “Search the Scriptures” and “This we will maintain”; a crown inscribed “Our cause is good, and firm

15 *The Brisbane Courier*, Tues 13 January 1885, p 4.

will stand”; arms of Australia, inscribed “United we stand, divided we fall”; and a figure of King William III on horseback crossing the Boyne, inscribed “Derry,” “Aughrim,” “Enniskillen,” and “Boyne.” (Fig. 4)¹⁶

Curiously, despite a progressive downturn in Queensland’s economy during the first years of the 1890s, Masonic patronage of Brown’s workshop continued steadily. In 1890 Brown made a medallion from over an ounce of gold for the St George’s Lodge at Herberton. The medallion depicted the Level and Problem in dull gold, with frosted gold surrounds detailing the name, number and constitution of the Lodge in polished gold block letters.¹⁷ Scrollwork connected the medallion to a gold bar, which outlined the years 1889-90 and featured a pierced and engraved depiction of St. George and the Dragon. The reverse of the medal was inscribed “Presented to Worshipful Bro. James Wilkinson by the brethren of St. George’s Lodge, Herberton, March, 1890.”¹⁸



Figure 4. Mathewson & Co. (photographer), Reverend Edward Griffith in Masonic robes c.1885-1891. Photograph. Negative 76288, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland, Australia.

The beginning of 1891 saw Brown produce a gold Past Master’s jewel for the Tweed Lodge, No. 2085 E.C. The jewel took the form of a medallion, with a Square and Problem in the centre, surrounded by a wreath of bay and laurel leaves. The highly ornate decoration included a one-carat diamond in the centre of the square, and relief-worked wording on the front detailing the initials of the recipient and the name and number of the lodge. The reverse was engraved “Presented to Bro. Wm. McGregor, past master, by officers and brethren of the Tweed Lodge, No. 2085, as a mark of esteem and respect. January 1891.”¹⁹

One month later the Raphael Lodge again chose Brown to manufacture a Past Master’s jewel. The 18 carat gold jewel represented the five pointed star, which had the Square

16 *The Brisbane Courier*, Wed 18 February 1885, p 5.

17 The Level, represented by a plumb level, and the Problem, represented by three squares forming a central triangle, are two symbols associated with Freemasonry.

18 *The Brisbane Courier*, Thurs 29 May 1890, p 4.

19 *The Brisbane Courier*, Sat 31 January 1891, p 4.

and Problem superimposed upon it. The jewel itself and the bars were engraved, and were attached to one another by scrollwork. The reverse of the medallion was inscribed “Presented to Worshipful Bro. John Fowles, P.M., by the members of the Raphael Lodge, 1850, E.C., Roma, in token of their appreciation as master in 1890.”²⁰

In June 1891 Brown produced a Masonic jewel for the Maranoa Lodge at Roma, No. 730, S.C. The jewel bore the emblem of a rising sun, over which was applied the family crest of the recipient engraved on a dull gold shield. The name of the Lodge was featured in raised letters in a circle on the jewel. Attached to the jewel was the Problem and the Square. On the reverse of the jewel was the inscription “Presented to R.W.M. Bro. Lewis Jackson by a few of the brethren of the No. 730, Maranoa Lodge, Roma, S.C., June 1891.”²¹

Later in 1891 Brown fashioned a Past Master’s jewel for Worshipful Brother J. J. Hogg, Past Master of the St. Andrew’s Lodge No. 435 S.C. The gold jewel was engraved on the reverse “Presented to Past Master Bro. J. J. Hogg by the officers and brethren of the Lodge St. Andrew, 435, S.C., as a mark of esteem as master for two years. Sept. 2nd, 1891.”²²

1892 was an equally prosperous year for Brown, with another two Past Master’s jewels being fashioned at his workshop. The Toowong Lodge, No. 2306 EC, commissioned a five-pointed star adorned with a Square and the forty-eighth Problem for presentation to James A Hamilton; and the St Andrew’s Lodge, No. 455 SC, received a chased and ornamented 18-carat gold jewel representing a Square, for presentation to immediate Past Master Worshipful Brother J Lang.²³

The Black February floods of 1893 caused widespread devastation throughout south-east Queensland. The event caused significant depreciation of the value of Brown’s land holdings, and he also endured a decline in business due to the lack of community resources to spend on fancy objects and jewellery. Faced with the prospect of liquidation, Brown was forced to resign from the Masons, whose fraternity he had enjoyed for 15 years, but nonetheless he remained a preferred jeweller for lodges around Queensland.²⁴

As Queensland’s economy regained buoyancy in the mid-1890s, Brown was commissioned with several orders from Masons. In 1894 Brown executed an order from Roma’s Maranoa Royal Arch Chapter No 247 SC. The elaborate jewel consisted of a solid gold sun surrounded by a wreath of Scotch thistle, resting on circumvolutory wavy

20 *The Brisbane Courier*, Wed 4 March 1891, p 4.

21 *The Brisbane Courier*, Wed 1 July 1891, p 5.

22 *The Brisbane Courier*, Fri 4 September 1891, p 6.

23 *The Brisbane Courier*, Thurs 28 January 1892, p 4; Mon 5 September 1892, p 3.

24 Sue Air, *op cit*, p 74

bars engraved *Sic itur ad astra* (Such is the way to Heaven), surrounded by a triangle on which reclined a crown studded with rubies and emeralds. The jewel was presented to Past Zerubbabel Mayfield as a token of the Chapter's high esteem.²⁵

In 1896 Brown fashioned a Past Master's jewel to be presented to T J Holmes, retiring Master of the North Australian Lodge, No 796 EC. The Brisbane Courier reported that the jewel was "massive", and one of the "most costly and elegant presented to any Past Master here for many years."²⁶ The next year a special commemorative Past Master's jewel was ordered by the North Australian Lodge for presentation to J R H Lewis. The piece comprised a five-pointed star positioned above a base-plate of burnished gold set with a diamond. It was surrounded by the inscription "Victoria's Diamond Jubilee". The reverse of the jewel was inscribed "Presented to Wor. Bro. J. R. H. Lewis, P.M., by the brethren of the North Australian Lodge, 796, E.C. Brisbane, May 20, 1897."²⁷

Brown created two more Past Master's jewels in 1898, firstly a medallion of gold surrounded by vine leaves with the jewel of the Past Master centrally set in burnished gold for presentation to J T Newell by the members of the North Australian Lodge; and secondly Brown's "handsome" Past Master's jewel for George Elliot was presented at the annual installation of officers of Lodge St Andrew, 435, SC.²⁸

The North Australian Lodge, undoubtedly Brown's best Masonic client in the 1890s, commissioned Brown to fashion another Past Master's jewel in 1899, to be presented to J B Cochrane. The jewel was in the shape of the five-pointed star, with the Past Master's emblem and inscribed circle. A gold *Albert* chain fashioned by Brown was also presented to Cochrane.²⁹

In 1902, Brown fashioned a "very handsome" 18 carat gold Past Master's jewel for the St. Mungo Lodge, Coorparoo. The jewel, which was in the form of a pendant, was presented to retiring Master Worshipful Brother George P Walker at the annual installation meeting on Tuesday 17 June 1902.³⁰

Brown's Masonic connections afforded him a steady stream of commissions and income, as well as the opportunity to promote his work to an influential and affluent client base.

25 *The Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser*, Tues 26 November 1894, p 2. The title Zerubbabel belongs to the First Principal of a Royal Arch Chapter. There are three Principals in a Royal Arch Chapter who represent biblical heroes, namely Zerubbabel, Joshua, and Haggai.

26 *The Brisbane Courier*, Sat 23 May 1896, p 9.

27 *The Brisbane Courier*, Sat 22 May 1897, p 8.

28 *The Brisbane Courier*, Sat 21 May 1898, p 11; Mon 27 June 1898, p 6.

29 *The Brisbane Courier*, Sat 20 May 1899, p 7.

30 *The Brisbane Courier*, Fri 20 June 1902, p 7.

Though at the time of writing only a few of Brown's Masonic commissions have been located, it is hoped that more pieces will come to light in future years.³¹

Agricultural Exhibition medals and awards

From the 1860s Queensland communities organised Agricultural and Industrial Exhibitions to promote local industry. Brown was an enthusiastic exhibition participant, and contributed displays to the 1875, 1877, 1878, 1879, and 1886 Queensland Exhibitions, as well as the 1884 School of Arts Exhibition. A novel feature of Brown's displays from 1877 was the inclusion of a working jeweller's desk where visitors could witness the jeweller's art unfold before them. Brown won several awards from his exhibition displays, including a silver medal at the 1875 exhibition, and first prize at the 1877, 1878, 1879, and 1886 shows.³²

Brown won the tender to produce prizes and medals for the 1875 Queensland Exhibition (Fig. 5).³³ He produced three patterns of medals, two in silver and one in gold, which reflected the monetary value of the prizes. The medals were engraved with the name of the winner and the nature of the exhibit. Similarly, the silver prize cups, which were valued at £5, were criticised by the *Brisbane Courier* for their plain appearance, but were considered to "have an honest colonial look about them".³⁴



Figure 5. Charles Allen Brown, *Queensland Exhibition medal* 1875. 18 carat gold, 48mm diameter including gold rim mounting. Rim stamped CA BROWN BRISBANE 18 (crown). Private collection, Australia.

31 The author knows of three surviving examples of Brown's Masonic works. These are the 1874 presentation inkstand, today held in the QAGOMA Collection, Brisbane; the 1880 presentation jewel for Walter Scott and the 1883 presentation jewel for Abraham Hertzberg, both in the collection of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland.

32 *The Brisbane Courier*, Tues 13 July 1875, p 3; Fri 19 November 1875, p 3; Thurs 23 Aug 1877, p 3; Wed 21 August 1878, p 7; Sat 24 August 1878, p 7; Thurs 31 July 1879, p 6; Thurs 17 July 1884, p 5; Sat 21 August 1886, p 6.

33 *The Brisbane Courier*, Tue 10 August 1875, p 1.

34 *The Brisbane Courier*, Wed 27 October 1875, p 2.

Several examples of Brown's 1875 medals survive. An excellent gold medal, inscribed on the reverse "FOR BEST CARRAIGE" (sic) circling an engraved buggy, surrounded by a laurel wreath in low relief, was awarded to Grice & Co.³⁵ A silver medal awarded to F W Wilson & Co for "1st PRIZE BISCUITS" similarly features an engraved sheaf of wheat (Fig.6). In her article on CA Brown, Sue Air photographically records the silver medal valued at £3 for Brown's own efforts at the 1875 exhibition.³⁶



Figure 6. Charles Allen Brown, *Queensland Exhibition medal 1875*. Silver, 35mm diameter. Photograph supplied by Noble Numismatics.

Besides serving the Queensland Exhibitions, Brown also established links with other Pastoral Societies throughout Queensland, and was in communication with both the Western Pastoral and Agricultural Society and the Eastern Downs Horticultural and Agricultural Association.³⁷ An unmarked silver medal attributed to Brown for "BEST DURHAM COW" was presented to E Cross following the Central Queensland Graziers & Farmers Society exhibition at Gracemere in 1878 (Fig.7). Several other similarly engraved medals from the 1877 Gracemere exhibition are held in a Brisbane private collection. Further research may confirm the attribution of these works to Brown's studio (Figs. 8 & 9).

35 This medal is in an Australian private collection.

36 *The Brisbane Courier*, Fri 19 November 1875, p 3.

37 *The Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, Wed 31 August 1887, p 2; *Warwick Examiner and Times*, Sat 9 March 1889, p 3.



Figure 7. Charles Allen Brown (attrib.), *Central Queensland Graziers & Farmers Society medal 1878*. Silver, 41mm diameter. Photograph supplied by Noble Numismatics.



Figure 8. Unknown silversmith (possibly CA Brown), *Graziers & Farmers' Society Central Queensland medal 1877*. Silver, 42mm diameter. Private Collection, Brisbane. Note the similarity of the engraving and comparable size of this medal to the 1878 medal.

Figure 9. Unknown silversmith (possibly CA Brown), *Graziers & Farmers' Society Central Queensland medal 1877*. Silver, 42mm diameter (50 mm including mount). Private Collection, Brisbane. Note the similarity of the engraving and comparable size of this medal to the 1878 medal.

Other exo-numismatic fancies

Outside the jeweller's workshop, Brown enjoyed many pursuits, including cricket. In 1875 he joined the Albert Cricket Club, and played several matches for the club as well as attending meetings.³⁸ He was responsible for a silver cup that was presented to the highest scorer of the 1875 Intercolonial Cricket match, and submitted two designs to the Queensland Cricket Association for a permanent Challenge Cup in 1879.³⁹ In 1879, Brown completed a suite of gold medals that were awarded to the Albert Cricket Club's best players of the season. On one side of each medal, the arms of the Albert Club were represented, and the other side bore the name of the recipient. Described by the *Brisbane Courier* as being "finished in first-class style, and reflect great credit on the maker," the medals were presented to Messrs J Egan and F Myers for batting; Messrs A Street, Henry Strickland, and John Marquis for bowling; and L G Dixon for his services as Captain of the Challenge Cup team.⁴⁰

The following year Brown executed a design by Lieutenant Byrne for the D Company champion gold medal. The medal displayed the words "Champion Medal" on two gold bars, and "D Company, 1st Queenslanders" in raised letters on the gold medal, which featured a depiction of a laurel wreath, supported by crossed Martini-Henry rifles. The medal was presented on Monday 26 April 1880 to Sergeant G. Rogers.⁴¹

In 1881, Brown completed a gold medal for presentation to Bernard Simmonds from the St Stephen's Choir. The medal comprised three bands of ornamented and chased gold bearing the monogram "B. S." over a ribbon, to which a chased gold Maltese cross with harp in the centre was affixed. The medal was inscribed "Presented to Mr. Bernard Simmonds by the members of St. Stephen's Choir and admiring friends, for services rendered for the past eight years, 25th December, 1881."⁴²

Brown's support for local sport continued into the 1880s and 1890s, during which time he presented several prize medals and cups to community sport gatherings around Brisbane. At the 1885 Annual athletic sports meet of the Union Athletic Club, Brown presented a gold medal to FW Belbridge, the winner of the amateur 2-mile Bicycle Handicap.⁴³ The next year, Brisbane's St Patrick's Day holiday featured a number of

38 The State Library of Queensland holds a selection of documents created by the Albert Cricket Club, including minute books confirming Brown's attendance at Club meetings, and correspondence. OM66-17 Albert Cricket Club Records, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland, Australia.

39 *The Brisbane Courier*, Fri 24 December 1875, p 2; *The Queenslander*, Sat 22 February 1879, p 14.

40 *The Brisbane Courier*, Sat 13 December 1879, p 5. The medals were presented at a special meeting of the Albert Cricket Club at the Queen's Hotel, on 8 December 1879.

41 *The Brisbane Courier*, Tues 27 April 1880, p 2.

42 *The Brisbane Courier*, Sat 24 December 1881, p 4.

43 *The Queenslander*, Sat 6 June 1885, p 16.

aces, including a 2 mile Handicap walking match. Brown offered a special gold medal as 1st prize for this race, valued at £5 5s. The medal was won by W Slattery.⁴⁴ It appears that Brown offered this prize several times, as in 1889 another medal was presented when W McCallum won the 2 mile Handicap.⁴⁵

In 1888, the Arfoma Football Club commissioned a gold medal by Brown to commemorate the “untiring energy and zeal” that Arfoma FC Secretary George Beal had committed to the ongoing progress of the club. The medal was inscribed on one side “Presented to George Beal by the President, in recognition of his untiring zeal as secretary of the Club, season 1888.” The reverse of the medal was inscribed, “Arfoma F.C.,” with the sign of goal posts, cross bar and ball.⁴⁶

In 1894, Brown produced a medal of 18-carat gold for presentation to Harry Darker from the Ipswich Cycling Club, celebrating his victory at the club championship. The medal is reported to have weighed as much as two sovereigns, and was shaped like a star with a bicycle on one side. A second silver medal was made by Ipswich jeweller J. H. Law, and was presented to Mr A Partridge.⁴⁷

In 1900, teenager Joseph Neilson was presented with a silver medal for rescuing a man from drowning at the dam of the Syndicate Crushing Mill on 22 October 1899 (Fig.10). The obverse of the medal featured the Maltese Cross with a crown in the centre to symbolise Queensland, surrounded by the text “Queensland Government, 1900”. The reverse of the medal was inscribed “Presented to Joseph Neilson, Charters Towers, Queensland, for bravery in saving life, 22 October, 1899.”⁴⁸



Figure 10. Marion Studio (Charters Towers), photograph of Joseph Neilson. Published in *The North Queensland Register*, Monday 10 December 1900, p 25. Neilson is wearing the silver medal fashioned by C A Brown's firm in this photograph.

44 *The Queensland Figaro and Punch*, Sat 20 March 1886, p 6.

45 *The Queensland Figaro and Punch*, Sat 23 March 1889, p 6.

46 *The Queensland Figaro and Punch*, Saturday 5 October 1888, p 5 (supplement).

47 *The Queenslander*, Saturday 22 December 1894, p 23.

48 *The Queenslander*, Sat 20 October 1900, p 5; *The North Queensland Register*, Monday 10 December 1900 pp 25, 31.

On 26 April 1901, the chains of office worn by Lord Mayors of Brisbane, arguably Brown's best-known work, were presented to the Brisbane Municipal Councillors⁴⁹. The work was manufactured by Brown's son, Charles Brown Jr, and consisted of a handsome central medallion bearing the Arms of Brisbane surrounded by a wreath of palms, grapes and pineapples, accompanied by a 25-link chain in gold bearing the names of twelve Mayors who served the Brisbane electorate. These mayoral chains are still used by Lord Mayors of Brisbane, and the tradition of adding links to the chain bearing the names of Lord Mayors is still practiced.

The 1901 Queensland Federation Medalet

Following the lead of other Australian colonies, in October 1900 the Queensland Government sought tenders for the production of 100,000 medals commemorating the establishment of the Australian Commonwealth, for presentation to schoolchildren throughout Queensland. Tenders were received from Brown, WJ Amor, AJ Parkes, and HF Smith. Brown was awarded the tender at a cost of £1250, initially to produce an impression of the 1899 Promote Federation & Prosperity Medalet, though after some deliberation the 1901 Queensland Federation Medalet design was adopted (Fig. 11).⁵⁰ Brown sent the order to Melbourne firm Stokes and Martin to mint the coins in gilt bronze.⁵¹ The medals were distributed throughout December 1900 in anticipation of Federation Celebrations in January 1901.⁵²



Figure 11. Stokes & Sons (manufacturer), *Federation of Australian Commonwealth, Queensland medal 1901* (Carlisle 1901/37). Proof medal with original swatch of ribbon used as evidence in the civil case *McMahon Bros v CA Brown*. State Archives of Queensland.

49 *The Brisbane Courier*, Mon 29 April 1901, p 4. The chains were produced at a cost of £62. *The Brisbane Courier*, Sat 1 June 1901, p 14.

50 *The Brisbane Courier*, Fri 23 November 1900, p 2.

51 *The Brisbane Courier*, Sat 31 August 1901, p 14.

52 *The Brisbane Courier*, Sat 22 December 1900, p 5.

In January 1901, Brisbane-based theatrical and general agents James and Joseph MacMahon commenced proceedings against Brown, claiming that he had breached terms of contract between the parties, which involved profits from the tender to be split 75% to the MacMahons and 25% to Brown. The case was heard before Justice Cooper in the Queensland Supreme Court on 30 and 31 August and 2 September 1901, during which time the Premier of Queensland Sir Robert Philp was called to give evidence as a witness. Premier Philp was summoned and sworn in, but before any questions were asked of him, the counsels for both parties conferred and agreed a settlement.⁵³ The Queensland State Archives contains a comprehensive collection of files relating to this case, including the case notes of Justice Cooper, various court documents and statements, and evidence that was presented to the Court. Remarkably, an example of the 1901 Queensland Federation Medalet and accompanying ribbon is preserved among the evidence, together with the 1899 Promote Federation & Prosperity Medalet that was initially tendered by Brown to the Government (Fig. 12).



Figure 12. *Promote Federation and Prosperity medalet* 1899 (Carlisle 1899/1). Proof medalet with original swatch of ribbon used as evidence in the civil case *McMahon Bros v CA Brown*. State Archives of Queensland.

Conclusion

After living and working in Brisbane for nearly 40 years, Charles Allen Brown died in 1908 of idiopathic anaemia, exhaustion and gastric catarrh. He was buried two days later in Toowong Cemetery. The family business was continued by his son Alan, while other sons Alfred, Charles Jr, and Frederick established their own jewellers' businesses.⁵⁴ The exonomia that Brown produced throughout his career are a significant contribution to Australia's colonial decorative art history, and offer an insight into life

⁵³ *The Brisbane Courier*, Sat 31 August 1901, p 14; Mon 2 September 1901, p 4; Tues 3 September 1901, p 2. No details of the settlement are recorded in the court documents.

⁵⁴ Sue Air, *op cit.* p 78.

around Queensland in the latter decades of the nineteenth century. The discovery of more works by Brown will ensure this silversmith may be appropriately recognised in the histories of Australian numismatics and decorative arts.

Author

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