

# HORDERN HOUSE

RARE BOOKS . MANUSCRIPTS . PAINTINGS

LEVEL 2, 255 RILEY STREET . SURRY HILLS . SYDNEY NSW 2010 . AUSTRALIA

+61 2 9356 4411 . [www.hordern.com](http://www.hordern.com) . [rare@hordern.com](mailto:rare@hordern.com)



SE<sup>R</sup> DURCHLAUCHT DEM FÜRSTEN  
OTTO VON BISMARCK SCHÖNHAUSEN.  
VARZIN, POMMERN.

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## [BISMARCK] LANG, Ludwig.

Illuminated presentation address from the German citizens of Sandhurst (present-day Bendigo) to Prince Otto von Bismarck.

*Large folio-sized presentation volume framing a hand-painted manuscript address, 514 x 397 mm, in watercolour, ink and gouache, with highly coloured design incorporating ten vignettes (six of them illustrative scenes of Sandhurst life, a larger scenic depiction of a Bendigo mine, an emblematic figure, and two coats-of-arms); in a superb binding by W. Detmold of Melbourne: dark blue-black grained morocco, complex multiple gilt borders to both sides with an inscription in gilt on the front cover, internal gilt borders framing on one side a doublure of beige moirésilk and on the other side the illuminated address itself. Melbourne, Entw. u. ausgeführt v. Ludwig Lang [Designed and executed by Ludwig Lang], 18 April 1873.*

### THE GERMAN CITIZENRY OF SANDHURST SALUTE THE IRON CHANCELLOR

This highly decorative and splendid illuminated address was commissioned by the Bendigo Deutscher Verein und Lesehalle on behalf of the German population of Sandhurst, the centre of the Bendigo goldfields and consequently later renamed Bendigo, to pay homage to the "Iron Chancellor", Prince Otto von Bismarck. It was to be taken by hand to Germany and personally delivered to Bismarck: the successful presentation was reported in the Melbourne press at the time. The work of two significant Victorian talents, the dramatic illumination is by the artist and lithographer Ludwig Lang and the binding is by William Detmold, both men German immigrants.

### The Bendigo Deutscher Verein und Lesehalle

The Deutscher Verein und Lesehalle, or German Association and Reading Room, was a significant and prosperous body in 1870s Sandhurst/Bendigo. The Association commissioned the presentation address "[translation:] on behalf of the German residents in our adopted home in Australia, to send to Your Excellency our warmest greetings, to be conveyed by our Pomeranian countryman and co-citizen Mr. F.C. Klemm"; a long calligraphic inscription to Bismarck is signed by five officers of the Verein (including the librarian) and four members. The presence of the librarian as an officer of the association was no politeness: the Deutscher Verein had a serious library. Unique copies of its catalogue printed in 1874 and 1886 are held respectively by the Victorian and New South Wales state libraries. Wallace Kirsop has studied the holdings of the library (more than 2000 volumes in the earlier catalogue and more than 3500 in the later one) and recorded his findings in an illuminating article for the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand.

### The artist Ludwig Lang

Ludwig Lang (1834-1919) studied lithography in Hamburg and established his own business there, before emigrating to Melbourne in 1860 where he worked for several different companies as a lithographic artist, between periods when he ran his own studio and taught painting and drawing. The present memorial dates from a period during which he established his 'Academy of Drawing and Music' in Richmond in about 1870, subsequently at Prahran until 1877.

Later he worked for Sands & McDougall, ran another studio of his own, and finished by





working for the Government Printing Office, again as a lithographic artist. He served as foundation president of the Victorian Lithographic Artists and Engravers Club from 1889 to at least 1891. He would have been a natural choice for the Deutscher Verein to commission for this piece, since in 1868 he was one of the founder members of a sister institution, the Melbourne Deutsche Liedertafel, in which he was actively involved.

His work, often unsigned, is not well known, apart from a number of lithographic printings dating from this period such as the sheet music for *Victoria March* (1872; decorated title-page), *Illustrated Australian Family Almanac* for the 1873 (illustrated cover) and 1874 (four lithographic portraits) issues. More of his printed work is known from the 1880s.

#### Illuminated addresses

Lang combined with his fellow German immigrant the master-binder William Detmold to create a number of illuminated addresses, for which there was a considerable fashion in the second half of the nineteenth century, most particularly in the 1880s and 1890s. The present, earlier, example is one of their first as well as finest such creations. Wendy Pryor has written about a similar, considerably later, piece acquired by the State Library of Victoria in 1984: “a large, framed illuminated address painted by Ludwig Lang and presented in 1891 to Francis Walter Binns, first Mayor of Oakleigh. This important purchase added to an already impressive collection of similar items including two significant groups presented to two early Governors of Victoria, Sir Henry Brougham Loch and the Earl of Hopetoun...”.

Four other illuminated addresses created by Lang in the late 1880s are also held by the State Library of Victoria, and Wendy Pryor speculates that ‘it is possible that Lang was responsible for some other addresses produced by Sands and McDougall, where he was employed between 1877 and 1885... Although they constitute but a small body of work, these five signed watercolours by Lang nevertheless add to our knowledge of his *oeuvre*.’ This earlier and previously unrecorded piece now adds further to his known work.

#### Prince Otto von Bismarck

In 1873 Bismarck was at the height of his powers as chancellor and effective ruler of the newly unified Germany that followed the 1871 victory in the Franco-Prussian war. Patriotic feelings among the German immigrant population were easily directed towards him after his great successes in the unification. In addition, his Pomeranian connections would have been warmly appreciated by the predominantly Pomeranian population on the Bendigo goldfields.

The title in large gold capitals on the front cover reads “Sr. Durchlaucht dem Fürsten Otto von Bismarck Schönhausen. Varzin, Pommern” (His Excellency the Prince Otto von Bismarck Schönhausen. Warcino, Pomerania). Warcino, Bismarck’s Pomeranian country estate, had been given to him by the state for his services during the Austro-Prussian War. It was then in Prussia, though as a result of boundary changes in shifting European politics and war it is in the far north of modern Poland.

#### Delivery of the Memorial to Bismarck

The splendid address was to be delivered to the Iron Chancellor by hand, as anticipated in the text of the address itself (see above) by F.C. Klemm, a German businessman who prospered first in Melbourne and subsequently in Sandhurst where he grew vines and speculated in mining ventures.

The Melbourne *Argus* for 2 December 1873 quoted the President of the Deutscher Verein: “In April last Mr. F.C. Klemm, a well-known merchant, left Melbourne for a visit to Europe on matters of business. This Verein, which numbers 210 members, availed itself of the opportunity to forward a congratulatory address to Prince Bismarck.

“According to advices to hand by last mail this address has been presented by Mr. Klemm as our representative, and most condescendingly [i.e. graciously] received by the prince...”.

Despite the successful delivery of the address to Bismarck, things went badly for Klemm thereafter (see appendix).

#### The vignettes

Six charming and skilfully painted vignettes by Ludwig Lang depict life and activity in the Sandhurst/Bendigo area, as follows (clockwise from top right):

A rural scene of hay-carting in front of a small farm with cattle and stables

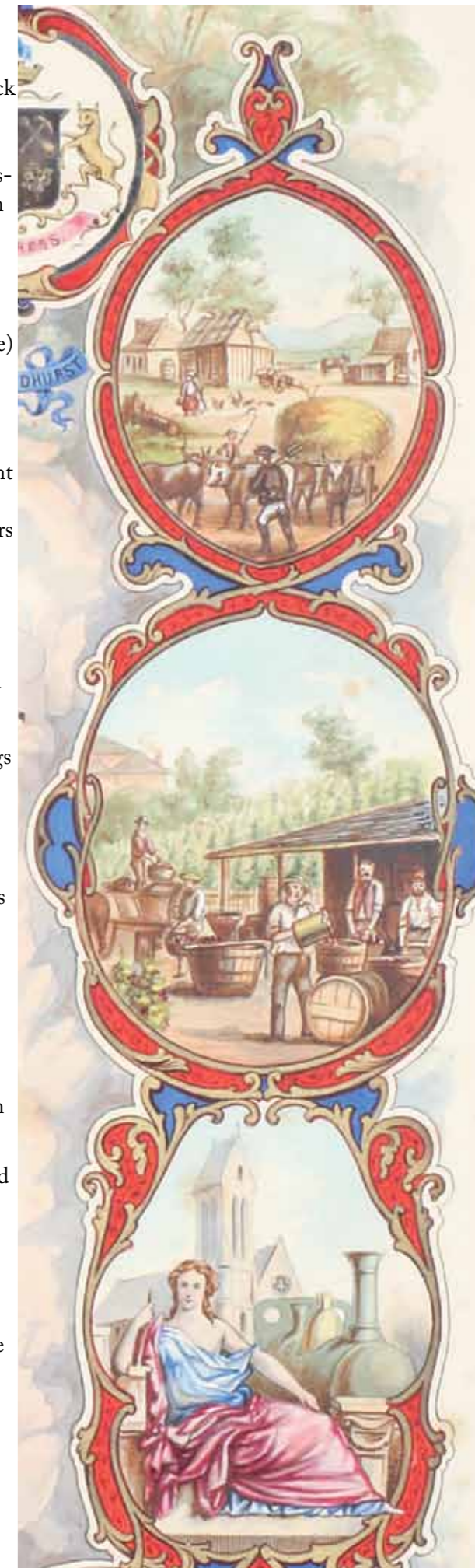
Winemaking activity, picking and pressing, wooden barrels, in front of neat vineyard

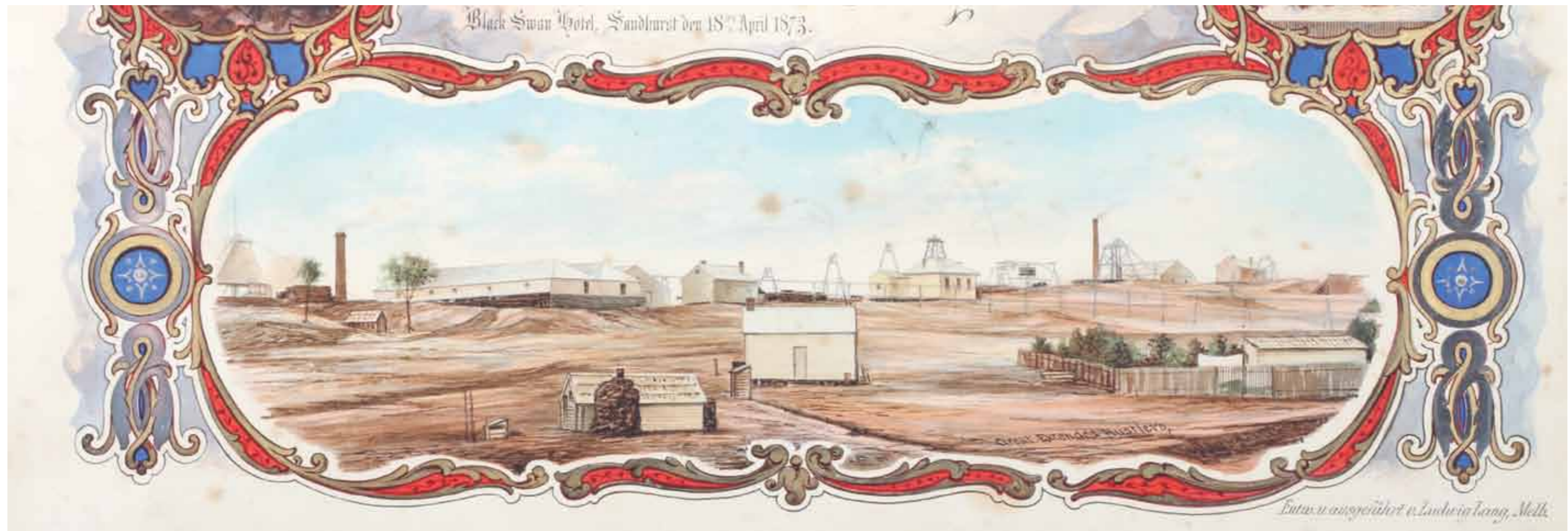
Art, Technology and Religion: classical figure of a muse, a steam engine, and a church

Mining scene showing activity both above and below the ground in a long mine shaft: winches, men with picks, cart on rails

Sheep-rearing: farmer with ox-cart and sheep, large flock of sheep behind him rounded up by horsemen and sheepdogs in front of shearing shed

A group of aborigines fighting with spears below a coo-ee figure standing above them on a rock escarpment





A larger vignette below these shows the “Great Extended Hustlers” gold mine, [illustrated above] a substantial spread of buildings large and small including over ground mining machinery and tall chimneys, smelting sheds, flying fox and conveyor, as well as habitable buildings, one of which has a verdant garden attached (with washing hanging to dry). There is a clear intention to show a substantial and prosperous operation.

#### The Great Extended Hustlers mine

The Great Extended Hustlers was in fact the most prosperous of the mines in the area in the 1870s. As it happened Anthony Trollope visited and wrote about it in *Australia and New Zealand* (London, 1873) at almost exactly this date:

“The great glory of Sandhurst was reached, when an average of 9 oz. per ton was extracted from 264 tons of quartz, taken from “The Great Extended Hustler’s mine... Sandhurst, which now aspires to be the leading Australian gold-field, and which certainly turns out more gold than any other, boasts at present no less than 1,200 different companies. I should say that there were 1,200 in the early part of 1872...”

“The names chosen for these companies are certainly very quaint. There are not less than fourteen “New Chum” Companies, and there are three or four “Old Chum” Companies. There are the Peg Leg, the Perfect Cure, the Who can Tell, the Great Extended Who can Tell, the Sons of Freedom, the Sir Walter Scott, the Sailor Prince, the Royal Louisa, the Lord Byron, the Little Chum, the Jonadab, the Hand and Band, the Happy Day, the Happy-go Lucky, the Great Extended South Golden Pyke, the Go by Gold, the Charles

Gavan Duffy, the Gladstone...

“Among all names at Sandhurst, the greatest name, the most thriving, the best known, and the name in highest repute, is— “Hustler.” Whence came the appellation I do not distinctly know, but I believe that there once was,— perhaps still is,— a happy Hustler. If so, even the Marquis of Granby among publicans has not been a more prolific godfather than has Mr. Hustler among Sandhurst miners. What with original Hustler Companies and Tribute Hustler Companies, with simple Hustlers, and Extended Hustlers, and Great Extended Hustlers, with North Hustlers, and South Hustlers, and with Extended North and South Hustlers, the companies who claim the happy name are difficult to count. In here are at any rate two dozen of them, and all, or nearly all, are doing well...”

The Hustlers, as it became known, remained in production until 1914 when a terrible disaster – the worst on the Bendigo goldfields – killed seven miners and closed the mine.

#### German involvement in the Bendigo goldfields

A substantial number of German immigrants ended up on the Bendigo goldfields. To the 210 members of the Deutscher Verein can be added the larger number who registered claims (estimated at 870 between 1863 and 1872) and many more diggers and others. There was a strong German, and especially Pomeranian tone to the place – there was even a Prince Bismarck hotel – and as Frank Cusack has pointed out in *Bendigo – the German Chapter*, “A large number of German miners were attracted to the Bendigo goldfields. As the easily-accessible surface alluvial gold petered out, some Germans such

as the Ballerstedts pioneered the mining of the quartz reefs by sinking deep shafts. These Germans employed other Germans in their mines. Some of the Germans had trained in Germany at the Schools of Mines in Clausthal, Freiberg or Chemnitz, and became mine managers at Bendigo. Some already had experience not only in the mines of Germany's Harz Mountains, but also in the copper mines at Burra and Kapunda in South Australia.

“Using a list of mining claim-holders printed in *Bendigo - the German Chapter*, one can calculate that between 1863 and 1872 about 870 people of German-language background registered mining claims in the Bendigo district. Names of reefs and of mining partnerships (apart from those simply consisting of German surnames) show memories of the home country, for example there were: Frühling's Reef, the Hamburg Flat Reef, the Berlin Reef, the Theutonia Co., the Hoffnung Co., the Prussian Reef Co., the Holstein Co., the Hessen Cassel Co., the Bavarian Troop Co., the Lübeck Co., the Hanoverian Co., the Bismarck Co., the Black Forest Co., the Baden Baden Co. and the Albert Mining Co. (named after the German husband of Queen Victoria)”.

#### APPENDIX: The Klemm affair

The article in the Melbourne *Argus* for 2 December 1873 (MR. F. G. KLEMM AND THE GERMAN PRESS) told the story of Klemm's downfall by quoting the Deutscher Verein's memorial to the Minister of the Interior in Berlin. The President, C.F. Jacobsen, describes the presentation of the illuminated address to Bismarck as quoted above and continues:

“At the same time the surprising intelligence has reached us, that in consequence of a consular report from Melbourne your Excellency has deemed proper to publish a proclamation in which suspicion is cast on the character of our representative.

“The German Verein, in full knowledge of the love of justice which actuates the Government of the German Empire, begs leave to assure your Excellency that the aforesaid bearer of their respectful address, Mr. F.C. Klemm, is a man universally esteemed, well worthy of our confidence, and that only personal envy or malice can have caused the transmission of the before mentioned damaging report.

“In order to maintain the honour of our society amongst the numerous nationalities surrounding us, the Verein earnestly petitions your Excellency to cause a searching inquiry to be made into the allegations contained in the consular despatch...”.

A good summary of the whole affair is given at <http://www.auspostalhistory.com/articles/1832.php>. Briefly, the cause of Klemm's demise was a report from the German consul in Melbourne casting doubt on Klemm's financial reliability. Klemm's supporters reported that “Mr. Brahe, the Consul had maligned Klemm when he went home to Prussia after an absence of 20 years. He had been entrusted with the duty of floating a company on the London market to work a certain claim on the Sandhurst gold-field. After transacting his business, he went on to Germany and on arriving there was surprised to find that the papers were full of comments respecting his character and the business that had brought him home. In brief the signed gentleman wanted to right this wrong, and they blamed the German Consul”.

The consul, W.A. Brahe, declined to retract his charges saying that Klemm had wanted to raise funds in Germany to develop mines in Bendigo and he personally “considered it undesirable that German capital should be invested in the search for gold-producing mines in Australia”.

Klemm was ultimately vindicated and the *Argus* for 2 May 1874 published a translation from the *Australische Deutsche Zeitung* (as “VICTORY OF THE RIGHT”) reporting the retraction by the German Imperial Chancery.

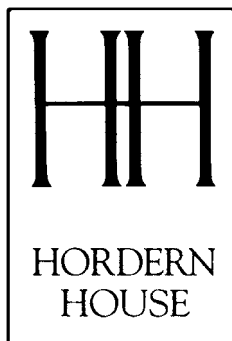
Klemm however would live only a further three years.

#### **\$32,000**

Frank Cusack, ed., *Bendigo - the German Chapter* (Bendigo, German Heritage Society, 1998; online at <http://www.germanaustralia.com>); F.C. Klemm, *Victorian Gold, German Consul, Government & Press* (Unsigned article at [www.auspostalhistory.com/articles/1832.php](http://www.auspostalhistory.com/articles/1832.php)); Wallace Kirsop, *Bendigo's Nineteenth-Century German Library* (BNSANZ Bulletin 1994, Vol 18, Nos 2-3, pp. 169-72, also online); “Ludwig Lang” (biographical article, *Biography in Design and Art Australia* ([www.daaa.org.au/bio/ludwig-lang/biography/](http://www.daaa.org.au/bio/ludwig-lang/biography/))); *Melbourne Argus*, 2 December 1873 (“MR. F. G. KLEMM AND THE GERMAN PRESS”); Wendy Pryor, *Illuminating Oakleigh* (*La Trobe Journal* No 42, Spring 1988); Anthony Trollope, *Australia and New Zealand* (London, 1873), pp. 421-2.







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Level 2, 255 Riley Street  
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PO Box 588, Darlinghurst NSW 1300 Australia

Hordern House Rare Books Pty. Ltd. ACN 050 963 669  
[www.hordern.com](http://www.hordern.com)  
[rare@hordern.com](mailto:rare@hordern.com)  
Telephone: +61 2 9356 4411