

John Garner

From: "Jennifer Burrell" <jburrell@ncable.net.au>
To: "John Garner" <jfgarner@tpg.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 4 June 2010 12:25 PM
Attach: STODDART_1884_statues.doc
Subject: Re: Stoddart and statues

Hello John

I am pleased that the guides will use the microphone for all tours. I asked Peter Marquand for the insurance value of the statues and he gave me a vague answer - about \$15 000 each. I guessed that was conservative. I agree that they should be valued again taking into account their present superb condition after restoration work. Now that they are back out in the gardens we need to be sure that the insurance cover is adequate.

"Criticism was remarkable for its absence, but the comparisons that prevailed were in some instances highly amusing. Upon this subject we cannot forbear to quote an ingenious comparison drawn by an old lady, who had pondered deeply for a few seconds upon the proportions of "Winter," represented by the sculptured figure of an old man shivering in his mantle. The elderly lady remarked, "That's not much unlike Mr Stoddart himself." A few intimate acquaintances of Mr Stoddart had a quiet grin over the striking comparison, and even the living subject indulged in some hearty laughter." (What a good natured man - he was only 57!)

I am tired of reading that the Governor of Victoria unveiled the statues. This is an error in the latest gardens brochure and on the city's website. He did not. And the crowd was not that large, est 1000 by the Courier. There were problems with the declaration of a public holiday for the Queen's Birthday so many workers were deprived of the opportunity to join in the celebrations. (See attached document which also has the story for each statue.)

I have given up on Miles Pigdon sending his images which were used for the calendar. I will photograph every statue myself.

Regards
Jenny

Thomas Stoddart owned a yacht Pinafore, 4 tons. (p257 Withers 1887)

UNVEILING OF STATUES AT BALLARAT. [BY TELEGRAPH.] (FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.) BALLARAT, SATURDAY.

The Argus (Melbourne, Monday 26 May 1884, page 5. News 360 words SATURDAY. The public unveiling of the marble statues presented to

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the City Council by Mr. Thomas Stoddart, sharebroker, of Ballarat, took place this afternoon, in the presence of a large number of spectators. At 2 o'clock a procession, marshalled by Mr Bechervaise, was formed off View Point, as follows: Steamers, conveying the City Council and party; yachts Ballarat (Commodore Morey), Reporter (Vice-Commodore W. Bailey), Flying Scud (Mr Nash), Darlie Bay (Mr Millard), Pinafore (Mr T. Bailey), Grand Flaneur (Mr M. Griffiths); City and Ballarat eights and fours, steamers conveying passengers, and a fleet of all descriptions of boats bringing up the rear. Arrived at the lawn, the party awaited the arrival of the militia, which, headed by their new band, had marched the road from the city close to the main entrance to the gardens. A fence had been erected round one of the statues, into which enclosure a large number of spectators was admitted. Mr. STODDART, who was enthusiastically cheered, mounted a platform, and said that during his recent tour through Europe he was struck by the beauty of the Continental gardens, and had then determined to purchase the present statuary for the purpose of lending an additional attraction to the gardens of Ballarat. He requested the mayor to accept the gift on behalf of the City Council. A gun was then fired, and the band played the National Anthem, during which the whole of the statues were simultaneously unveiled. Mayor Hickman, on behalf of the citizens of Ballarat, accepted the munificent gift of Mr Stoddart. Major Smith, in addressing the assemblage, said he hoped the example would be followed by others who had made their fortunes in Ballarat. The statuary, which cost close upon £2000, is of the best Carrara marble, and is mounted upon pedestals of Sicilian marble. The figures, which are distributed through the gardens, represent Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter, Hercules, and Mercury, by Bertozzi; Flora, by G. Marchetti; and Bacchante and Flora Farnese, by Giovanni Udney; Hebe, Leda and Pomona, by Braggie.

Here's another interesting story:

Ballarat Historic Landscapes (1983) p87 The mullock heap (from the Park Company Mine) was named Mount Holled-Smith in honour of Major General Sir Charles Holled-Smith who supervised the 1898 Easter encampment in Victoria Park of the Colony's defence forces. The Battle of Ballarat began at 4 am on Sunday 11 April, 1898. The military exercise involved almost all the defence forces throughout the State with 10 000 participants encamped on the Ballarat Common. The Northern Force, with the Militia Infantry Brigade, Senior Cadets, nearly all the Mounted Rifles and two batteries, defended the mullock heap in Victoria Park, while the Southern Force with Rangers, one company of Mounted Rifles, the Field Company of Engineers and a battery, attacked to save it.

The Argus of 12 April 1898 reported Comic-opera soldiering - Today was an eventful day for Ballarat. From an early hour the roads leading to the camp were thronged with vehicles, bicycles and stray cows, all apparently intent on securing a good position at the theatre of war. 10 800 passengers were booked at the Western Railway Station.

On 03/06/2010, at 3:46 PM, John Garner wrote:

> Dear Jenny. Thank you for the photos which i will transmit to Helen
> later. Also the comprehensive letter to Noel Trengove which

> hopefully will be more than adequate. I note you mention a brochure
> about the Stoddart statue collection. Certainly Spring and Summer
> are easy, Autumn according to Jack Chisholm should have a dog which
> appears to have absconded! whilst Winter was said to have resembled
> Stoddart himself according to the remarks overheard from 2 elderly
> ladies after it was unveiled!. It is very difficult to provide a
> simple comprehensive background for Mercury and Hercules, Mercury has
> wings on the helmet and a little drawstring purse but is missing his
> winged sandals, caduceus, rooster and goat. Hercules looks O.K. with
> his Lion skin and club but Leda's swan doesn't look strong enough
> for the job on hand! Pomona should have a pruning knife but I don't
> recollect seeing it. Hebe is interesting as she became Hercules' wife
> when his immortal side ascended to Olympus and they had a few kids
> which fortunately as a god he refrained from killing. Flora is O.K.
> but it is a pity we also have a Flora Farnese as well. Bacchante
> does not look as wild as one would expect. Anyway, I intend to try
> and put together a potted version of the mythology of
> Bacchante, Hebe, Leda, Flora and Pomona (not too difficult) but
> Mercury and Hercules will be a different story. The Guides have
> decided to use the portable microphone on all guiding occasions, the
> difference it made on a recent trial tour was remarkable,
> particularly for holding the attention of the group. Regarding the
> Thomson statues, Jane Monro has put together a very interesting
> biblical background to the Ruth, Rebekah and Susanna statues. I am
> sending a resume of the valuation of the various statues made by
> John Jones, Historian Consultant, valuer in Australian Art for Ian
> Rossiter in 1994. The interest is mainly in the quality of the
> Thomson compared with the Stoddart statues rather than attempting
> to assess their current value. Best wishes, John. <STODDART
> STATUES.doc><1994 STATUE VALUATIONS.doc>