

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

WILLIAM BLANDOWSKI

Photographs of Australian Aborigines, 1862

Reel M853

**Haddon Library
Department of Archaeology and Anthropology
University of Cambridge
Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3DZ**

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Filmed: 1979

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William Blandowski (1822-1878), the son of a Prussian military officer, was born in Gliwice, Upper Silesia. He served briefly in the Royal Prussian Cadets. He arrived in Australia in 1849 and travelled widely in New South Wales and South Australia. He took part in the early gold rushes and made a small fortune at the goldfields near Castlemaine. He was one of the founders of the Geological Society of Victoria in 1852 and in the following year he was attached to the field party of the government geologist. In 1854 he was the first officer appointed to the Museum of Natural History in Melbourne. As government zoologist, he made several excursions into rural areas and began compiling a checklist of the animals and birds of Victoria. In 1856-57 he led an expedition to investigate the natural history of the region at the junction of the Darling and Murray Rivers. Following his return to Melbourne, he submitted a report to the Philosophical Society of Victoria but never reported back for duty at the Museum. Accused of retaining specimens, drawings and journals for his own use, he left Australia in 1859 and sailed to Hamburg. He returned to Silesia and published some scientific papers on Australia.

The authorship of *Australien in 142 Photographischen Abbildungen*, published in 1862, is discussed by Harry Allen in an article in *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, vol. 24, 2006, pp 31-37. The cover page of the work identifies Blandowski as the author and the images are attributed either to Blandowski or Gustav Mützel. Blandowski was a competent artist and photographer, but the majority of sketches of Aboriginal life and natural history in the album were almost certainly the work of Gerard Krefft, who was his deputy on the 1857-57 expedition. Blandowski arranged the illustrations into groups, providing a narrative structure to the publication.

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Album entitled *Australien in 142 photographischen Abbildungen nach zehnjährigen Erfahrungen zusammengestellt von Wilhelm v. Blandowski Gleiwitz 1862*. (24pp)

The album contains 142 miniature albumen prints, which are numbered and have captions in miniscule handwriting. Many of the illustrations are signed 'GM60' or 'GM61', referring to Gustav Mützel (1813-1893), a German artist who in 1860-61 reworked sketches that Blandowski brought back from Australia. Many also have plate numbers, which seem to refer to an encyclopaedia of Australian natural history, which Blandowski planned but did not complete. A few are signed 'Redaway', referring to the Melbourne printer James Redaway who produced etchings and engravings of Blandowski's drawings.

Most of the photographs in the album in the Haddon Library have brief manuscript captions, but some are indecipherable or incomplete. The only other surviving copy, in the Stadtsbibliothek in Berlin, is bound with a printed pamphlet containing much lengthier captions and also a postscript written in German. An English translation of the captions and the postscript can be found in Harry Allen, ed. *William Blandowski's illustrated encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia*, Canberra, Aboriginal Studies Press, 2010.

Photograph

- 1 Title device.
- 2 Origin of wind systems with the sun crossing the equator, by Blandowski.
- 3 Map: conjecture of vegetabilic, zoological and ethnographical zones in Australia. (Redaway)
- 4 Geological views in Victoria: Diogenes Monument looking south towards Mount Macedon. (Plate 1a)
- 5 Geological views of Victoria: foot of Diogenes Monument 4 miles N from Mount Macedon.
- 6 Geological views in Victoria: waterfall over basalt columns, 'Noer', 30 miles NNW from Melbourne. (Redaway).
- 7 Photograph of basalt columns, Mount Macedon.
8. Geological views in South Australia: crater of Mt Gambier. (Redaway)
- 9 Geological views in Victoria: 'Yuan' granite boulders 45 miles N by W of Melbourne. (Redaway)
- 10 Geological views of Victoria: 'Pattowatto' granite boulders (Perrys Haystack) looking NW 47 miles N by W of Melbourne.
- 11 Geology of Victoria: Granite Pattowatto. (plate 10)
- 12 Geological scenery of Australia: Dr Banton's Telamiguling. (plate 11) (GM 60)

- 13 Geological views in South Australia: compressed strata near Morphett Valley.
- 14 Geological views in South Australia: west point of Section 478 16 miles S from Adelaide.
- 15 Geological scenes of Australia: Glen Osmond waterfall near Adelaide. (plate 17)
- 16 Vegetation of Victoria: high fern trees. (Redaway)
- 17 Eucalyptus robusta.
- 18 Baobab tree.
- 19 Scenery of Australia: Eucalyptus piperita.
- 20 Blandowski's party on the march. (GM 61)
- 21 Scenery of Australia: Mondellimin near the junction of the Darling and Murray Rivers. (plate 161)
- 22 Aborigines of Australia: Blandowski's camp. [GM 61]
- 23 Aborigines of Australia: a campfire at night. (plate 137) (GM 61)
- 24 Aborigines of Australia: natives visiting Europeans. (plate 130)
- 25 Aborigines of Australia: Hinanamyn and Tinmayn.
- 26 Aborigines of Australia: figures of the Australian natives. (plate 129)
- 27 Aborigines of Australia: an old woman of the Compaspe (sic) and Murray R. junction. (GM 61)
- 28 Aborigines of Australia: married woman, age about 30, from Lake Albert, South Australia.
- 29 Aborigines of Australia: indecipherable. (plate 201) (GM 61)
- 30 Aborigines of Australia: fire making. (plate 183)
- 31 Aborigines of Australia: water collected in the desert. (plate 102) (GM 60)
- 32 Aborigines of Australia: domestic life in the summer season in the lower Murray River. (plate 127) (GM 60)
- 33 Aborigines of Australia: seed of panicum preparing for food. (plate 181) (GM 60)
- 34 Aborigines of Australia: natives making a canoe on the Murray River. (GM 60)
- 35 Fishes living in the Murray River and its tributaries in Victoria. (figures 11-19)
- 36 Fishes living in the Murray River and its tributaries in Victoria. (figures 1-10)
- 37 Aborigines of Australia: fishermen at night. (GM 60)
- 38 Aborigines of Australia: fishing in the sea. (GM 61)
- 39 Aborigines of Australia: women fishing in a lagoon. (plate 134)
- 40 Aborigines of Australia: fishing. (plate 198) (GM 61)

- 41 Aborigines of Australia: domestic occupations in the summer season on the Lower Murray R. (plate 133)
- 42 Aborigines of Australia: the natives shifting their encampment.
- 43 Birds of Australia: untitled. (plate 19)
- 44 Birds of Australia: untitled. (plate 100)
- 45 Aborigines of Australia; natives digging for Leipoa eggs. (plate 152) (GM 1860)
- 46 Birds of Australia: untitled. (GM 61)
- 47 Birds of Australia: bird eggs of Victoria. (plate 110)
- 48 Birds of Victoria: cockatoos
- 49 Birds of Australia: untitled. (plate 102)
- 50 Birds of Australia: untitled. (plate 104) (GM 61)
- 51 Aborigines of Australia: emu hunt. (plate 195) (GM 61)
- 52 Box trees.
- 53 Birds of Australia: untitled. (plate 105)
- 54 Birds of Australia: untitled. (plate 106)
- 55 Aborigines of Australia: natives netting ducks, lower Murray River. (plate 148) (GM 60)
- 56 Aborigines of Australia: natives netting ducks, lower Murray River. (plate 154)
- 57 Birds of Australia: untitled. (plate 107)
- 58 Birds of Australia: untitled. (plate 109)
- 59 Birds of Australia: untitled. (plate 108) (GM 1861)
- 60 Mammalia of Australia: seal. (plate 161) (GM 60)
- 61 Mammalia of Australia: non-marsupial animals in Australia. (plate 117) (GM 60)
- 62 Mammalia of Australia: marsupial animal life of the mountains. (plate 114) (GM 60)
- 63 Aborigines of Australia: wombat digging. (plate 132) (GM 60)
- 64 Aborigines of Australia: domestic life of the natives. (plate 131)
- 65 Mammalia of Australia: marsupia rapacia. (plate 112)
- 66 Mammalia of Australia: kangaroos. (plate 115) (GM 60)
- 67 Mammalia of Australia: kangaroo hunt. (plate 139) (GM 60)
- 68 Aborigines of Australia: roasting a kangaroo. (plate 182)
- 69 Mammalia of Australia: Bettongiae. (GM 61)
- 70 Mammalia of Australia: untitled.

- 71 Mammalia of Australia: Syndactilina, Perameles. (plate 113)
- 72 Aborigines of Australia: natives catching the Building Hapalotis. (plate 159)
- 73 Aborigines of Australia : untitled. (plate 113) (Redaway)
- 74 Aborigines of Australia: tatoos of men. (plate 158)
- 75 Aborigines of Australia: the different tatoos of the Australian women. (plate 150)
- 76 Aborigines of Australia: the different tatoos of the Australian women.
- 77 Aborigines of Australia: the different tatooning of the Australian men. (plate 149)
- 78 Aborigines of Australia: the different tatoos of the Australian men. (GM 60)
- 79 Untitled.
- 80 Untitled.
- 81 Aborigines of Australia: native doctor. (Redaway)
- 82 Aborigines of Australia: dentition. (GM 60)
- 83 Aborigines of Australia: armed circle. (plate 215)
- 84 Aborigines of Australia: public ceremony removing a bone out of his body. (plate 184)
- 85 Aborigines of Australia: public ceremony of manhood.
- 86 Aborigines of Australia: public ceremony of manhood. (plate 166)
- 87 Aborigines of Australia: demonstration of the kangaroo hunt. (plate 214) (GM 61)
- 88 Aborigines of Australia: public ceremony of manhood, the hunt of the kangaroo. (GM 60)
- 89 Aborigines of Australia: public ceremony of the boys caught. (plate 172)
- 90 Aborigines of Australia: public ceremony of the boys ... of the spears. (GM 60)
- 91 Aborigines of Australia: public ceremony of the manhood. (GM 60)
- 92 Aborigines of Australia: natives performing the ceremony of knocking the front tooth out. (plate 151) (GM 60)
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- 94 Aborigines of Australia: the young men exercising their privileges. (plate 216) (GM 61)
- 95 Aborigines of Australia: smoking out. (Plate 122)
- 96 Aborigines of Australia: ... to the boy on the Bogan in 147° L31°. (plate 180)
- 97 Aborigines of Australia: athletic exercises. (plate 187) (GM 60)
- 98 Aborigines of Australia: wrestling for emu feathers. (GM 61)
- 99 Aborigines of Australia: natives wrestling. (plate 192) (GM 61)
- 100 Untitled.

- 101 Aborigines of Australia: native adorned for festivity.
- 102 Untitled.
- 103 Aborigines of Australia: native women dance.
- 104 Aborigines of Australia: native women using scurrilous language.
- 105 Aborigines of Australia: native women quarrel. (plate 163)
- 106 Aborigines of Australia: a native dance with hand weapons. (plate 202)
- 107 Aborigines of Australia: native warrior.
- 108 Aborigines of Australia: indecipherable. (GM 61)
- 109 Aborigines of Australia: single combat in southeast Australia. (GM 60)
- 110 Aborigines of Australia: ... natives contest warriors with weapons.
- 111 Aborigines of Australia: the wounded young warrior. (plate 136) (GM 61)
- 112 Aborigines of Australia: natives crossing a river. (plate 204) (GM 61)
- 113 Aborigines of Australia: to drive away the spirit of the water. (plate 223) (GM 61)
- 114 Aborigines of Australia: indecipherable. (plate 199) (GM 61)
- 115 Aborigines of Australia: a council of natives hold consultation. (plate 168) (GM 60)
- 116 Aborigines of Australia: sickness removing.
- 117 Aborigines of Australia: ventriloquism. (plate 197) (GM 61)
- 118 Aborigines of Australia: indecipherable. (plate 224) (GM 61)
- 119 Aborigines of Australia: funeral to the brother... women acknowledging ... the property of the brother of their deceased husband. (plate 267) (GM 61)
- 120 Aborigines of Australia: widows mourning for their husband in the Lower Murray River. (plate 141) (GM 60)
- 121 Aborigines of Australia: a man smoked to a mummy .Coorong natives in 139° & 36°. (plate 167)
- 122 Aborigines of Australia: natives approaching their dead. (GM 61)
- 123 Aborigines of Australia: natives smoking a daed (sic) to a mummy on Lake Alexandrina. (plate 146) (GM 60)
- 124 Aborigines of Australia: burning of a dead. (plate 219) (GM 61)
- 125 Aborigines of Australia: the natives burning a dead, N.S.W. (GM 60)
- 126 Aborigines of Australia: native grave, Murray River. (Redaway)
- 127 Aborigines of Australia: a native preaching on the grave. (Plate 135) (GM 60)
- 128 Aborigines of Australia: funeral ceremony. (plate 185) (GM 60)

- 129 Aborigines of Australia: native tomb on the L. Loddon River, Victoria. (plate 145) (GM 60)
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- 137 Aborigines of Australia: burial places near Budda in longitude 148° latitude 32° from a sketch by Capt. Sturt.
- 138 Aborigines of Australia: tombs of the Darling River. (plate 162)
- 139 Indecipherable.
- 140 Aborigines of Australia: native tomb on the Lachlan River in longitude 143° latitude 33° after Oxley.
- 141 Aborigines of Australia: a grave of the Endeavour Strait. (plate 217) (GM 61)
- 142 Photograph of Gleiwitz, by Blandowski.