

HERITAGE

LINKING THE PAST WITH THE PRESENT - FOR THE FUTURE
VOLUME 32 No. 125 2008

Australia CAN beat the global financial crisis\$!

see inside back cover



...And the young will
be befuddled by drink!



Roget's Thesaurus
Essential writer's companion



The fear of leisure
Policy of "Full Employment" to be
implemented?



**Correcting the idiotic
financial system**



Dame Nellie Melba
Australia's first international Diva



A matter of history
The troubled Afghan-Pakistan border

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Flinders Ranges, Australia

HERITAGE

No. 125 2008

PUBLISHED BY THE AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Australian Heritage Society

The Australian Heritage Society was launched in Melbourne on 18th September, 1971 at an Australian League of Rights Seminar. It was clear that Australia's heritage is under increasing attack from all sides; spiritual, cultural, political and constitutional. A permanent body was required to ensure that young Australians were not cut off from their true heritage and the Heritage Society assumed that role in a number of ways.

The Australian Heritage Society welcomes people of all ages to join in its programme for the regeneration of the spirit of Australia. To value the great spiritual realities that we have come to know and respect through our heritage, the virtues of patriotism, of integrity and love of truth, pursuit of goodness and beauty, and unselfish concern for other people - to maintain a love and loyalty for those values.

Young Australians have a real challenge before them. The Australian Heritage Society, with your support, can give the required lead in building a better Australia.

"Our heritage today is the fragments gleaned from past ages; the heritage of tomorrow - good or bad - will be determined by your actions today."

SIR RAPHAEL CILENTO

First Patron of the Australian Heritage Society

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ALCOHOL is a drug accepted in many societies today. Most people tend to be low-risk drinkers and for the most of the time experience little harm from alcohol. However, when people drink above the low-risk level, the risk to their health and social well-being rises significantly. Alcohol is also a major, preventable risk factor for a wide variety of diseases and injuries, including certain cancers, cardiovascular disease, liver cirrhosis and alcohol dependence. Alcohol is also strongly linked to motor vehicle accidents, drowning, suicide, domestic violence, domestic fires, violence and educational problems especially amongst our young.

In Australia alcohol is the most widely used mood-changing recreational drug, with most adults consuming alcohol on a weekly basis.



... and the young will be befuddled by drink!

How common is risky and high-risk drinking in Australia?

About 10 per cent of people drink at a risky or high risk level that can cause harm in the long term, while about 34 per cent of people drink at a risky or high-risk level that can cause harm in the short term.

Young people aged 18-24 years have the riskiest drinking patterns. Almost two-thirds of these Australians drink at a risky or high-risk level.

Adolescents are at higher risk of harm from alcohol than adults who drink the same amount because of

their smaller physical size and their emotional and intellectual inexperience. One standard drink can have a greater effect on a 17-year-old who weighs 50kg than a 35-year-old who weighs 80kg.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are less likely to drink alcohol than other Australians. However, when they do, they do so at higher levels than other Australians. Over 50 per cent of Indigenous people drink at risky or high-levels and this percentage is increasing at an alarming rate.

continued...

A Message from the Editor

AS we move towards the year 2009, perhaps with concern and some trepidation as to what the coming year may bring not only for Australia, but for the free world. Let us not forget the world has been in this position before, and yes, there is no doubt there will be rough times ahead as the political warmongers, politicians who have lost their way, and so-called economists set out to bring us to our knees. But they have forgotten one thing, the determination and fighting spirit

We shall not stand idly by . . .

of the true Australian people when the chips are down and faced with adversity. We shall not forget how our forefathers laid down their lives and fought so bravely for the freedoms which we, our children and grandchildren enjoy today, and indeed for the future generations to come. We shall not stand idly by and allow these inherited freedoms be wrested from us. We are "Australian."

With this edition of *Heritage* comes our very best wishes to you and your loved ones

for the Festive Season and beyond, and with many, many thanks and appreciation to all those wonderful contributors of articles over the last twelve months.

My heartfelt and sincere thank you also to the wonderful people who have donated so generously, and for the beautiful cards, messages and letters that I have received during 2008.

Thank you again and may God Bless you all.

Maureen Burton (Editor)

Although it is possible to drink in a low-risk fashion, there is no such thing as zero risk when it comes to alcohol. There is always a risk, it just depends on how great the risk.

What harm does risky and high risk drinking cause?

Risky and high-risk alcohol consumption is estimated to cause about 3,000 deaths and 65,000 hospitalisations each year. The social cost of alcohol abuse in Australia was estimated to be \$7.6 billion in 1998-1999 and steadily rising.

A realistic estimate of alcohol-related injuries came from a NSW study of emergency department visits that estimated more than a third of people presenting with injuries – representing 10 per cent of all admissions – had been drinking in the six hours before admission or showed some sign of intoxication. Western Australia and Queensland respectively, have estimated about 22 per cent and 29 per cent of patients had been drinking alcohol in the prior six hours before admission.

Alcohol Abuse and Families at Risk

Almost daily we are horrified by media stories of families at risk throughout the modern world, in countries torn apart by war or civil conflict, in places where there is insufficient food and pure clean water, inadequate shelter, protective clothing, medical care, and where there is no system of education.

Here in Australia we accept food, clothing, sanitation, a roof over our heads and first class health and education systems as our right, yet we need only to step outside our own doors to encounter families at risk.

Alcohol is the largest single identified cause of marital conflict, resulting in 40% of all divorces and separations. Sixty-five per cent of physical abuse of wives or partners results from violence following alcohol misuse. Children from alcoholic families are a high-risk group with a 25%-50% chance of

becoming alcoholics, or marrying alcoholics. Fifty per cent of juvenile delinquents have a parent, or parents, with drinking problems; 70% of child abuse and 90% of incest cases occur in families where there is parental alcoholism. Despite this evidence many helping professions still tend to view alcohol misuse as secondary to some 'underlying' problem in the marriage. Offering only two choices to the family of the problem drinker – shut up or get out. Hobson's choice!

The Teenage Drinker

In NSW the Department of Education and the Health Commission carried out a survey of 2,741 adolescents and found that by the age of 11 almost half the boys and a third of the girls had been introduced to alcohol, usually by their parents; that more than 9 per cent of children between 12 and 17 years claimed that they became 'very drunk' more than once a month; 2 per cent claimed they regularly became unconscious; almost 2 per cent of all children from 12 to 17 years could be classified as 'problem users'. It seems clear that alcohol is currently being used by children in Australia, who are literally "drowning" in alcohol, and is being used increasingly by an age group which lacks the experience and maturity to understand its full implications.

There can be few parents who have not felt concern that their children may become involved with drugs. Particularly as children reach adolescence drug warnings are issued regularly, especially before parties, and many of us have a high level of suspicion about what our children may be tempted to try. How many loving, caring parents issue warnings about alcohol? Yet according to Dr. Michael Chegwidden, a Sydney psychiatrist: "Alcohol is the most dangerous and addictive substance known to mankind: it is more dangerous than pot, heroin or any drug you can name."

Children are usually introduced to alcohol in their own homes, often in families where alcohol is used responsibly and in moderation. All parents act as behavioural models for their children and by observing parental behaviour the child will develop his own attitude to alcohol and his own drinking patterns. Even in families where alcohol is not a problem, the child may see the bottle used in a variety of ways which appear to have emotional value:

- * to relieve stress
- * to relax.
- * to express aggression.
- * to kill pain.
- * to relieve fear, and
- * it will also very often appear as the centre of social activity, the touch paper which lights up the party, an integral part of relaxing, entertaining and enjoyment.

Who would offer their child a shot of heroin, or a sniff of cocaine? But, how many of us encourage our children to try a glass of wine, uncork a stubby, or sip a sherry?

Our Unborn Children- Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (F.A.S.)

An aspect of alcohol consumption which has been largely ignored until recently is the effect of a pregnant woman's drinking on her unborn child.

The harmful effects of maternal drinking were considered in the Ancient Greek civilisation, and became apparent during the 1720-1750 gin epidemic in England. Throughout history there are references to the unhappy effects of a woman's drinking during pregnancy. However, it was not until 1973 that the "Fetal Alcohol Syndrome" was identified. It is now known that birth defects due to F.A.S. are second only to those from German Measles, and the third most common neurological defect Spina Bifida, Mongolism, and now recently it is thought, some forms of Schizophrenia, with symptoms occurring in the child at the onset of puberty.

F.A.S. manifests itself in a variety of ways both mental and physical and while it is very evident in the children of alcoholics one or more symptoms are seen in the children of "heavy", even "moderate drinkers", or as a result of "binge drinking".

What is the Australian Government doing to reduce the harm caused by alcohol?

The Australian Government has a role in providing leadership, policy direction, research and national information campaigns to reduce risky and high-risk drinking. State and Territory governments are responsible for liquor licensing, policing and treatment services.

As part of the 2006 Budget, the Australian Government announced funding of \$25.2 million for a National Alcohol Campaign which would aim to:

(a) Increase awareness of the significant costs to individuals, families, communities and the Australian economy of alcohol abuse.

(b) Promote the Australian Alcohol Guidelines and standard drink labels and measures.

(c) Build effective partnerships between the health sector, police and industry to reduce alcohol-related harm.

The campaign will aim to motivate drinkers to consider their alcohol consumption and to use the Australian Alcohol Guidelines to make informed and responsible decisions about their drinking.

In 2001, the Australian Government allocated \$115 million over four years to establish the Alcohol Education Rehabilitation Foundation, with an independent board, to promote prevention, treatment, research and misuse of alcohol, as well as paint, petrol and glue sniffing. To date the foundation has committed more than \$84million and will continue to fund and manage initiatives until at least 30th June 2009.

PROVERBS 7:4 Let wisdom be your sister and make common sense your closest friend.

KNOW THE LIMITS

New draft Australian alcohol guidelines from the National Health and Medical Research Council

Men and women

Should not consume any more than two standard drinks a day to ensure a low risk of both immediate and long-term harm from drinking.



Pregnant women, women who are planning to become pregnant and those who are breast feeding
Not drinking is the safest option.



Children and teenagers under 15 years of age

Not drinking is the safest option.



Teenagers aged 15 to 17

If drinking does occur, it should be under parental supervision and within the adult guidelines for low risk drinking (ie. two standard drinks or less in any one day).



What is a standard drink? 10 grams of alcohol.
Can/stubbie of regular beer = 1.5 standard drinks
100ml of wine (9-13% alcohol) = 1 standard drink
30ml nip spirits = 1 standard drink
Can spirits (about 5% alcohol) = 1.5 to 2.5 standard drinks.

I AM THE FLAG



I am the National Flag of the Commonwealth of Australia. I belong to you and every Australian equally and freely. I evolved from an open and public competition which attracted 32,823 entries and from which the judges chose five identical entries as the winning design.

Although I was never an orphan, I was adopted on that sparkling spring day, September 3, 1901 when I flew above the Exhibition Building in Melbourne. I was hailed and celebrated by people standing on the threshold of Nationhood. They took me to their hearts.

In that official ceremony in the presence of our First Prime Minister I became the chief symbol of a new nation, embracing the ideals of self determination, national sovereignty and personal freedom under God. I have been hoisted aloft over many buildings from humble homes to the houses of Parliament.

I have listened to every Prime Minister declare his allegiance to me, to our Monarch and to our Constitution. I have witnessed the pledge of each one to protect and to defend those freedoms we all cherish, even above life itself. I am carried with pride in ceremonies and processions.

I have draped the caskets of your national heroes carried to their last resting place. The caskets of kings and queens, eminent statesmen, generals, admirals, humble privates

and the Unknown Soldier. Whenever free men gather, wherever there is justice, faith, charity and truth, there to am I.

At the tender age of 14 years I received my baptism of fire, in World War One. I flew proudly in those early days as we heard the call to do battle alongside side those of our kin. I was carried up the steep hills of Gallipoli. I was there with the men in the trenches. I watched Simpson bring out the wounded on his doughy little donkey.

I breathed the dusts of the desert and rode in glory with The Light Horse Brigades. I saw our finest sons fall and lie still in death. They had given their last full measure of devotion. The war was over for them forever but I kept my lonely vigil over their graves and stayed to watch the flowers grow between the crosses row on row in Flanders Fields

Oh Young Australia I was there with your fathers who I longed to comfort. Look at me again. Lest you forget. You know me by my distinctive emblems. The Union Jack is the tie that binds us to your ancestors and rich heritage down through the centuries. The upright cross on a white field is the cross of Saint George, Patron Saint of England. This cross was there when King John set his Royal Seal on Magna Charta in 1215, and it was there when Simon de Montfort

brought together the very first parliament in 1625 making England truly the Mother of Parliaments.

I proudly wear two other crosses, the white diagonal cross on a blue field is the cross of Saint Andrew of Scotland, the red diagonal cross on a white field is the cross of Saint Patrick of Ireland. These three crosses which perhaps you scarcely understand unite our heritage in this wonderful land and forge our future in an inseparable bond.

The blazing Southern Cross marks our way ahead whilst the seven pointed Federation Star joins our States and Territories in a single united Commonwealth, all this set in a field of blue. The blue of our southern skies under the endless ocean washing our golden sandy beaches and coral shores. We are the heirs to a culture rich and diverse. We are the offspring child of a great empire. We have a great tomorrow. We are one. Lest you forget.

I have been to many places. I have seen many things. With our explorers I have crossed the icy waters to Antarctica. I have climbed the heights of Mt Everest. I look down with pride on our mighty sportsmen and women as they win honours for their country all over the world. Every official or memorable event in this land I hold the position of Honour.

Following World War One we frolicked in our new found liberty, growth, prosperity and our Commonwealth. But far to the north in Russia a new tyranny spewed forth slaughtering the rich and the regal, the lowly and humble, usurping the sovereignty of nations not of its own. We watched from afar protected by the borders of oceans.

Then came 1939 and once again we heard the beat of the warmongers drums. Again my heart went out to our brave sailors, soldiers and airmen. I was there with them, in the Middle East, in New Guinea, Malaya, Borneo and many other places. I was trodden in the mud, reddened with the blood of those young Australians so ruthlessly murdered in the prisoner-of-war camps.

Lest you forget.

Finally in 1945, peace at last! We thought. Just a few short years rest I was again carried into battle caught up in further hostilities by those promoting war. I watched and praised the endurance and spirit of our volunteers in Korea. I too, felt the suffering of our brave sons and daughters in the forces in Vietnam. Lest you forget.

I am well-known and remembered in many places. I am flown every day in the school at Villers-Bretonneux, France, where grateful children and their teachers do not forget their debt to Australian soldiers. I am many things to many people. To some I am yesterday, today and tomorrow, an inseparable link to the chain that binds men to God and Country.

And because I am on the side of God through our great heritage, there are the godless who wish to destroy me and replace those Three Christian Crosses with plants or animals. But they dare not. Why? Because today I am everywhere. In the homes of the humble, in the mansions of millionaires. I

am in the cities, the suburbs and in country towns. From coast to coast right across this great nation I am raised with pride and dignity. Oh My People – you have given so much to be Australian and I am proud we are one.

Through trial and triumph – look at me and remember our heritage and realise our great future. Together we will grow and all the world will know. You must never allow those who seek to reduce diversity into dust – to grind our treasures into a melting pot, and as you consider the future of your own true identity, remember – I was there in your every hour of loss, your every moment of glory, so too I will be there in all your tomorrows.

Though proud, loyal and glorious through all my short history, there is one thing for which I need you most of all. I cannot fasten myself to the flagstaff. **LEST YOU FORGET.**

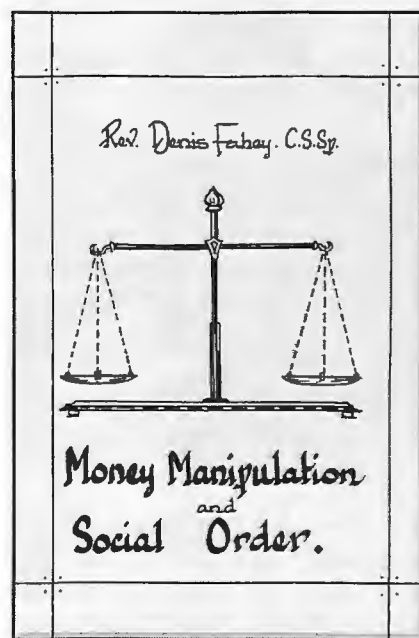
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Money Manipulation and Social Order

By Reverend Denis Fahey, C.S.Sp.

“No servant can serve two masters ... You cannot serve God and mammon. Now the Pharisees, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided Him” (St. Luke, XV. 13, 14).



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Best of Enemies

Britain and Germany: Truth and Lies in Two World Wars

By Richard Milton

BEST of Enemies reveals the surprising secrets of 20th-century Europe's most passionate love-hate relationship.



For many decades before the First World War, Britain and Germany shared everything. Germany was Britain's biggest export market, and vice versa. Germans adopted English dress, customs and manners. German thinking on race, national identity, eugenics and racial supremacy had its roots in British thinkers like Darwin, Huxley and Galton.

Then in August 1914, all that changed overnight into a vicious war of propaganda. Berlin's cricket league quickly became unpopular. In Britain, Daschshunds were suddenly out of fashion. John Buchan's classic *The Thirty-Nine Steps* was written at the behest of the British government specifically to counter German propaganda – and Conan Doyle brought Sherlock

Holmes out of retirement for the same reason.

But Germans remained loyal to their fantasies of Britishness. Hitler's favourite film was *The Lives of a Bengal Lancer*; he was a subscriber to *Tattler* and yearned to be an English gentleman. Others, like Hess and Goering remained passionate Anglophiles.

Richard Milton's expertly written popular history gives a fresh perspective on this tumultuous – and painful – national rivalry, and is also a brilliant study of propaganda itself, now more than ever a vital weapon of war.

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– John Carey

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By Wickcliffe B. Vennard, Sr.

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Simply command Congress to exercise its legal option to purchase the Federal Reserve System for the present capital stock or repeal the Federal Reserve Act. The billion dollars of assets acquired will pay off the majority of the National Debt. We would consequently change only "Two Words" on our currency – replacing "FEDERAL RESERVE" note, with "UNITED STATES" note.

By means of simple change, all of our Un-American Activities will wither like leaves on a vine. The chapters that follow in this book will support this proposition in full. – The Author

Essential Reading for all: A must for those who wish to understand the tumultuous times the world is currently experiencing, as we slide into a Recession that could ultimately be even worse than the 1929 'Great Depression.'

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RESERVE
HOAX



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OBAMA

The Postmodern Coup

By Webster Griffin Tarpley

The Making of a Manchurian Candidate!

Barack Obama is a deeply troubled personality, the megalomaniac front man for a postmodern coup by the intelligence agencies using fake polls, mobs of swarming adolescents, super-rich contributors, and orchestrated media hysteria to short-circuit normal politics and seize power.

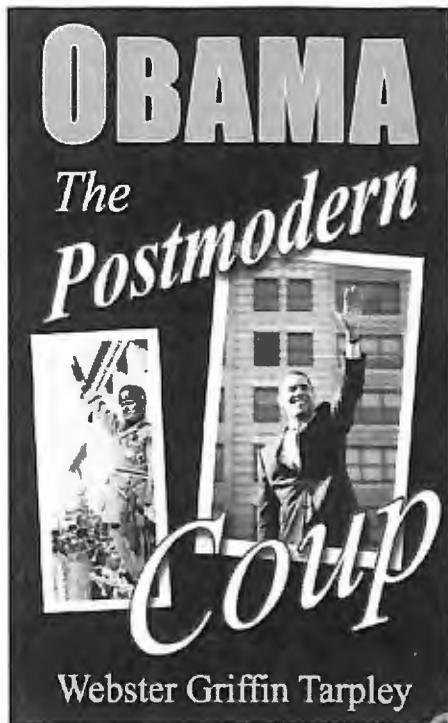


Wall Street elitist financiers who own him. Obama's lemming legions and Kool-Aid cult candidacy hearken back to Italy in 1919-1922, and raise the spectre of postmodern fascism in the United States today. Obama is a recipe for world tragedy.

Softcover: 320 pages
Price - \$45.00 posted.

Note: Webster Griffin Tarpley (Massachusetts 1946) is an intelligence expert and historian who has been researching and exposing covert operations for over thirty years. He is the author of: *George Bush: the Unauthorised Biography* (1992), and, *9/11 Synthetic Terror* (2005).

These two titles are also available from The Australian Heritage Society or your State Bookshop/Mailing Services. See addresses inside front cover.



Obama comes from the orbit of the Ford Foundation, and has never won an election in a real contest. His guru and controller Zbigniew Brzezinski, the deranged revanchist and Russia-hater who dominated the catastrophic Carter presidency 30 years ago. All indications are that Brzezinski recruited Obama as a student at Columbia University.

Trilateral Commission co-founder Brzezinski wants a global showdown with Russia and China, far more dangerous for the United States than the Bush-Cheney Iraq adventure. Obama's economics are pure Skull & Bones / Chicago school austerity and sacrifice for American working families, all designed to bail out the bankrupt

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOMED



ARTICLES and other contributions, together with suggestions for suitable Heritage material, will be welcomed.

However, those requiring used or unused material to be returned should enclose a stamp and addressed envelope.

THE DROVER'S LAMENT

ANON

THERE'S THE
RED KANGAROO AND
THE MAD COCKATOO,
THAT NESTS IN THE
OLD GUMTREE,
AND THERE'S ALL
THOSE RABBITS WITH
ENGAGING HABITS,
AND THEY'VE ALL GOT
A MATE BUT ME!
THE EMU ON THE FLAT,
THE LITTLE BUSH RAT,
THE WEDGETAIL FLYING FREE,
GOANNA LYING STILL,
WALLABY ON THE HILL —
THEY'VE ALL GOT
A MATE BUT ME!



Roget's Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases

By Oliver Coleman

This is the story of a doctor, scientist and inventor, who despite all his achievements in these fields, became famous for a book he published at the grand old age of 73. Because of this one, monumental piece of work, his name will live forever.

JUST over 150 years ago a book was published that has enriched our language more than almost any other. In its various editions, Dr. Peter Mark Roget's *Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases* has sold over 30 million copies, inspired hundreds of similar manuscripts, and has become an essential companion for writers of all generations.

This great lexicographical achievement, one of the finest in the history of the English language, was first printed and released in 1852, although it was actually written in note form in 1805.

Dr. Roget, however, decided to keep it to himself and it became a personal secret of linguistic treasure for almost 50 years.

Not until he reached the grand old age of 73 did he decide to reveal his masterpiece to the public and have it published. Since then, Roget's *Thesaurus* has gone through numerous updates and reprints.

The 15,000 words of the original edition have increased to well over a quarter of a million and the *Thesaurus* is now regarded by many people as one of those books that every home should have.

Dr. Peter Mark Roget was born in London in 1779, the son of a Genevan pastor and a French mother who brought him up in the city's Protestant community. It is ironic that a man with barely any English blood in his veins was to make such a lasting contribution to the English language!

Roget himself was more of a scholar than a writer, but throughout his life he was always eager to communicate information to as wide an audience as possible. He

was educated at a private school in London, where he made considerable progress in mathematics and science, before the family moved to Edinburgh so that he could pursue these interests at the university.

He graduated in 1798 with a degree in medicine, and it was science that remained his passion throughout his life.

Like his mother he had a systematic, logical brain, and much of his career was spent marshalling masses of facts and observations into a meaningful form. It was these qualities of mind, the ability to order and the desire to communicate, that enabled him eventually to produce his remarkable book.

After graduating from Edinburgh University, Roget went on to have an interesting, varied and highly distinguished career in medicine and science. His initial time was spent in Bristol at the Pneumatic Institute observing Dr. Thomas Beddoe's experiment with laughing gas and working as personal physician to the philosopher and writer, Jeremy Bentham, before becoming the personal travelling tutor to two young sons of a wealthy Manchester merchant. To indulge them in the wider world, Roget, only 23 years of age himself, took them on a grand tour of Europe. All was going well until the fragile peace between Britain and France was suddenly broken and they found themselves trapped in Geneva. Using his ingenuity Roget claimed citizenship through his father, sneaked the party into Germany dressed as peasants, and then escorted them safely back to Britain, much to the gratitude of their parents.



PETER ROGET (1779 – 1869)

His famous Thesaurus, which was first published 150 years ago, has become an essential companion for every writer.

Once back in England, with the support of the two boys' father Roget decided to set up a medical practice in Manchester. He started as a physician to the local infirmary and soon became one of the founders of the Manchester Medical School and a regular lecturer on animal physiology at the Manchester Philosophical and Literary Society.

In due course he returned to London where he pursued a career of unparalleled activity for half a century, engaging with astonishing energy in medical and scientific lecturing, research and societies. His lively mind, eagerness to indulge in scientific life and his hard-working ethic quickly allowed him to make his mark in intellectual circles.

Only after five years after arriving in London, Roget was elected a Fellow of the prestigious Royal Society. He was later made the Society's secretary.

continued...

At the same time as making a name for himself in London as a doctor and scientist, Roget was also instrumental in setting up the Northern Dispensary, for which he acted as its physician, free of charge, for 18 years. As well as this charity work, he was also keen to use his knowledge to educate and inform those around him. This he did through a number of lectures and articles. In the preface to the first edition of his *Thesaurus*, Roget's modesty and desire for progress are reflected when he says:

"Notwithstanding all the pains I have bestowed on its execution. I am fully aware of its numerous deficiencies and imperfections... But I have thought it best to limit my ambition to that moderate share of merit which it may claim in its present form; trusting to the indulgence of those for whose benefit it is intended".

By the early 1820's, Roget had firmly established himself as one of the finest doctors in London. He was appointed physician to the Spanish Embassy and then in 1823 was one of the doctors called in to investigate the Millbank Prison dysentery epidemic. In 1827 he was appointed by the government to head a commission into the study of London's water supply. He produced a comprehensive report, and one of his recommendations, the idea of sand filtration, is still in use today.

This was an era of remarkable discoveries and inventions and numerous societies were continually springing up to cover the various strands of science. Roget made it his business to belong to as many of them as possible, writing academic papers on every conceivable subject.

He subsequently earned a reputation for his ideas and discoveries which was as highly regarded as his reputation as a doctor.

Roget was responsible for a number of observations and designs that were front-runners for some well-known, modern day inventions. His "log-log" scale became today's slide rule, and after observing a carriage wheel rotating through the blinds of a window, he concluded that an image appeared to be retained on the retina of the eye after the object had gone from view. This discovery was taken up by other scientists and eventually led to the making of the moving pictures and the cinema industry.

Roget married in 1824 and had two children. He set chess problems for the *Illustrated London News* and indulged in his desire to communicate knowledge through 30 years of lecturing and contributing scholarly articles to the sixth and seventh editions of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. He was also one of the founders of the University of London. Such was his personality, it was typical of the man that he also became a founder of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge.

By 1840, a new, younger group of scientists had gradually eased Roget out of his secretaryship of the Royal Society and he decided to retire. But leisure time did not sit well with him. Still fond of chess, he continued to set problems and solutions and used this ingenuity to create the first ever pocket chessboard in 1845. Once he had completed this, he decided to concentrate on the project he had nursed since his early lecturing days, his *Thesaurus*.

The *Thesaurus* had started as a notebook of related words and phrases to help him express himself, and he now wanted to compile it properly and systematically in as useful a way as he could. He wanted to assist with the expression of ideas so that people could communicate more effectively with each other. Over the next four years Roget used

all his organizational skills to put these lists of words into a coherent system.

Due to his reputation, the success of the book was never in doubt, but even he could not have foreseen the popularity it would continue to enjoy. Roget himself presided over 25 editions of the *Thesaurus* before his death in 1869 at the age of 90. It was then taken over by his son and grandson before the rights were sold to the publisher, Longman, in 1952.

For writers of novels, short stories and articles, crossword enthusiasts, or anyone who desires to express himself as clearly and colourfully as possible, Roget's masterpiece has been indispensable.

He is one of Britain's great unsung heroes, and his wonderful *Thesaurus* is a remarkable and monumental achievement.

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

*God rest ye merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our saviour
Was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from
Satan's power
When we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and Joy.
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

Mentioned in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol (1843), this popular favourite was old even then and is thought to date from the 16th century. Two other traditional favourites whose origins are shrouded in mystery are

"The First Noel" and "I Saw Three Ships".

The Party is Over

By Patrick J. Buchanan

THE Crash of 2008, which is now wiping out trillions of dollars of our people's wealth, is, like the Crash of 1929, likely to mark the end of one era and the onset of another.

The new era will see a more sober and much diminished America. The "omnipower" and "Indispensable Nation" we heard about in all the hubris and braggadocio following our Cold War victory in history. Seizing on the crisis, the left says we are witnessing the failure of market economics, a failure of conservatism.

This is nonsense. What we are witnessing is the collapse of Gordon Gecko ("Greed Is Good!") capitalism. What we are witnessing is what happens to a prodigal nation that ignores history, and forgets and abandons the philosophy and principles that made it great.

A true conservative cherishes prudence and believes in fiscal responsibility, balanced budgets and a self-reliant republic. He believes in saving for retirement and a rainy day, in deferred gratification, in not buying on credit what you cannot afford, in living within your means. Is that really what got Wall Street and us into this mess – that we followed too religiously the gospel of Robert Taft and Russell Kirk?

"Government must save us!" cries the left, as ever. Yet, who got us into this mess if not the government – the Fed with its easy money, Bush with his profligate spending, and Congress and the SEC by liberating Wall Street and failing to step in and stop the drunken orgy?

For years, we Americans have spent more than we earned. We save nothing.

Credit Card debt, consumer debt, auto debt, mortgage debt, corporate debt – all are at record levels. And with pensions and savings being wiped out, much of that debt will never be repaid.

We are going to have to learn to live again without means.

Our standard of living is inevitably going to fall. For foreigners will not forever buy our bonds or lend us more money if they rightly fear that they will be paid back, if at all, in cheaper dollars. We are going to have to learn to live again without means.

The Party's Over

Up through World War 11, we followed the Hamilton idea that America must remain economically

Economy, where we all depend on one another. American companies morphed into "global companies" and moved plants and factories to Mexico, Asia, China and India, and we began buying more cheaply from abroad what we used to make at home: shoes, clothes, bikes, cars, radios, TV's, planes, computers.

As the trade-deficits began inexorably to rise 6 percent of GDP, we began vast borrowing from abroad to continue buying from abroad. At home, propelled by tax cuts, war in Iraq and an explosion in social spending, surpluses vanished and deficits reappeared and began to rise. The dollar began to sink, and gold began to soar.

Yet, still, the promises of the politicians come. Barack Obama (President elect) will give us national health insurance and tax cuts for all but that 2 percent of the nation that already carries 50 percent of the federal income tax load.



independent of the world in order to remain politically independent. But this generation decided that was yesterday's bromide and we must march bravely forward into a Global

John McCain was going to cut taxes, expand the military, move NATO into Georgia and Ukraine, confront Russia and force Iran to stop enriching uranium or "bomb,

bomb, bomb,” with Joe Lieberman as wartime consigliere.

Who are we kidding?

What we are witnessing today is how empires end.

The last superpower is unable to defend its borders, protect its currency, win its wars or balance its budget. Medicare and Social Security are headed for the cliff with unfunded liabilities in the tens of trillion dollars.

What we are witnessing today is nothing less than a Katrina-like failure of government, of our political class, and of democracy itself, casting a cloud

over the viability and longevity of the system.

Notice who is managing the crisis. Not our elected leaders. Nancy Pelosi says she had nothing to do with it.

Congress is paralysed and heading home. President Bush is nowhere to be seen. Hank Paulson of Goldman Sachs and Ben Bernanke of the Fed chose to bail out Bear Sterns but let Lehman go under. They decided to nationalize Fannie and Freddie at a cost to taxpayers of hundreds of billions, putting the U.S. government behind \$5 trillion in mortgages. They decided to buy

AIG with \$85 billion rather than see the insurance giant sink beneath the waves.

An unelected financial elite is now entrusted with the assignment of getting us out of a disaster into which an unelected financial elite plunged the nation. We are now only spectators.

What the Greatest Generation handed down to us – the richest, most powerful, most self-sufficient republic in history, with the highest standard of living any nation had ever achieved – the baby boomers, oblivious and self-indulgent to the end, have frittered away.

HALLMARK'S GAY WEDDING CARDS

Most of the Western world does not accept same-sex “marriage” – but now Hallmark does.

America’s largest greeting card company is rolling out same-sex “wedding cards”, featuring two tuxedos overlapping hearts or intertwined flowers, with best wishes inside. “Two hearts. One promise,” one reads.

Hallmark added the cards after California joined Massachusetts as the only U.S. States with legal same-sex “marriage.” A handful of other states have recognised same-sex civil “unions.”

The language inside the card is neutral, with no mention of wedding or marriage, supposedly making them “suitable” for a “commitment” ceremony.

Hallmark’s largest competitor, American Greetings Corporation has no plans to enter the market, saying the current offerings are general enough to speak to many different relationships.

The Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law estimates that more than 85,000 same-sex couples in the United States have entered into “legal” relationships since

1997, when Hawaii started offering some legal benefits to same-sex partners. Hallmark, pulled a controversial card that featured the word “queer” in the punch line after it was criticized by some customers and a “gay” magazine. At any given time, Hallmark has 200 different wedding cards on the market, including some catering to interracial or inter-religious marriage and blended families.

The Greeting Card Association, a trade group, says it does not track how many companies provide same-sex cards, but believes the number is growing.

www.sgate.com.



Our Own Flag

A. B. PATERSON ('THE BANJO')

They mustered us up with a royal din,
In wearisome weeks of drought.
Ere ever the half of the crops were in,
Or the half of the sheds cut out.

'Twas down with saddle and spurs
and whip
The swagman dropped his swag.
And we hurried us off to an
outbound ship
To fight for the English flag.

The English flag – it is ours in sooth
We stand by it wrong or right.
But deep in our hearts is the honest truth
We fought for the sake of a fight.

And the English flag may flutter
and wave
Where the World-wide Oceans toss,
But the flag the Australian dies to save
Is the flag of the Southern Cross.

If ever they want us to stand the brunt
Of a hard-fought, grim campaign,
We will carry our own flag up to the front
When we go to the wars again.

GM Cotton ban lifted for Ord



Picture: Nathan Dyer

Green light: Ord Irrigation Co-operative chief Geoff Strickland, left, with Agriculture Minister, Terry Redman.

THE barrier to WA's first commercial genetically modified crops was lifted on Friday 14th November, when the State Government said it would end a ban on GM cotton in the Ord River region.

Farming groups immediately jumped on the announcement to push for further softening of restrictions on the controversial technology while environmentalists said the unleashing of GM cotton was "a Trojan horse" which would lead to GM food crops.

In Kununurra, Agriculture Minister Terry Redman said more than a decade of trials in the Ord region showed that commercial GM cotton was viable, both economically and environmentally.

But he acknowledged broader plantings of the crop were not likely until more irrigation land was opened up in the region, given the bulk of existing land was being used for other crops.

"I'm not expecting that tomorrow there will be a whole heap of GM cotton grown," he said.

"Clearly, the farming community and the business community will now have a choice."

The former State Labor Government imposed a blanket ban on all GM crop production in 2003. Mr Redman said he would sign an exemption order under the legislation to allow commercial GM cotton in the region.

GM traits, which include resistance to insects by making the plant toxic to heliothis moths, meant the crop would operate under dramatically different techniques than they used in the region's previous disastrous experience with non-GM cotton. During its final year in the mid-70's, growers were spraying pesticides up to 40 times each season, including with the now banned DDT.

"In comparison, our GM cotton trials have only required two spray applications with insecticides that are far more environmentally friendly," Mr Redman said.

He said 90 per cent of cotton grown in Australia was genetically modified, with the Ord trial often producing 10 per cent better yields than other parts of the country.

WA Farmers chief executive Andy MacMillan applauded the decision, which he said "backed agriculture emotion".

Mr MacMillan said he hoped the move to approve GM cotton would be followed by the lifting of the moratorium on GM Canola crops.

Conservation Council director Piers Verstegen said it was a sad day when the State Government had caved into pressure from the GM lobby despite the significant concerns of the WA community.

"Once GM crops are introduced there is no going back – we will lose our reputation as a clean, green State for agricultural production," he said.

GM cotton 'will end up in the food supply'.

Environment groups continue to attack the State Government's decision to lift the moratorium on genetically modified cotton in the Ord River region, saying GM material will enter the state's food supply.

EnviroNS Kimberley spokesperson Gary Scott has backed the Conservation Council of WA and its claim that potentially harmful GM DNA could enter the food chain through cottonseed oil, which is commonly used for cooking and in margarines.

"GM cotton will end up in the food chain. The majority of cottonseed is

pressed for oil and is used as an ingredient in margarines and cooking oils," Dr Scott said.

Agriculture Minister Terry Redman said, "I wouldn't be surprised if GM cottonseed oil is being used in our fish and chips already."

GM advocate, Biotech Australia geneticist Dr Ian Edwards said it was rare for any DNA or protein to make its way into refined cooking oil. He said traces of protein or

DNA were no cause for alarm, because the genes used in GM cotton were safe.

But conservation council spokesman Professor David Harries said the council was concerned that lifting the moratorium on cotton would "open the floodgates for GM food crops."

"The council is advocating real caution in terms of GM. We are lobbying to maintain the moratorium

until the risks are better known," he said.

Farming groups have pushed for a further easing of restrictions but Mr Redman said though he supported the idea of commercial GM canola trials, the State would not rush its decision.

Source: West Australian, November 15th & 17th 2008

GREEN & GOLD MALARIA by Rupert McCall

The day would soon arrive when I could not ignore the rash. I was obviously ill and so I called Doctor Nash.

This standard consultation would adjudicate my fate.

I walked into his surgery and gave it to him straight:

'Doc, I wonder if you might explain this allergy of mine,

I get these pins and needles running up and down my spine.

From there, across my body, it will suddenly extend –

My neck will feel a shiver and the hairs will stand on end.

And then there is the symptom that a man can only fear –

It's a choking in the throat and the crying of a tear.'

Well, the doctor scratched his melon with a rather worried look.

His furrowed brow suggested that the news to come was crook.

'What is it Doc?' I motioned.

'Have I got a rare disease? I'm man enough to cop it sweet, so give it to me please.'

'Well I'm not too sure,' he answered, in a puzzled kind of way.

'It seems you've got some kind of fever, but it's hard for me to say. When is it that you feel this most peculiar condition?'

I thought for just a moment, then I gave him my position.

Doc, I get it when I'm standing in an Anzac Day parade,

And I get it when the anthem of our native land is played,

And I get it when Meninga makes a Kiwi-crunching run,

And when AB grits his teeth to score a really gutsy ton.

And I got it back in '91 when Farr-Jones held the Cup,

And I got it when Japan was stormed by Better Loosen Up.

I get it when the Banjo takes me down the Snowy River,

And Matilda sends me waltzing with a billy-boiling shiver.

It hit me hard when Sydney was awarded with the Games,

And I get it hard when I see our farmers fighting for their names,

It flattened me when Bertrand raised the boxing kangaroo,

And when Perkins won from lane eight, well, the rashes were true blue.

'So tell me Doc,' I questioned.

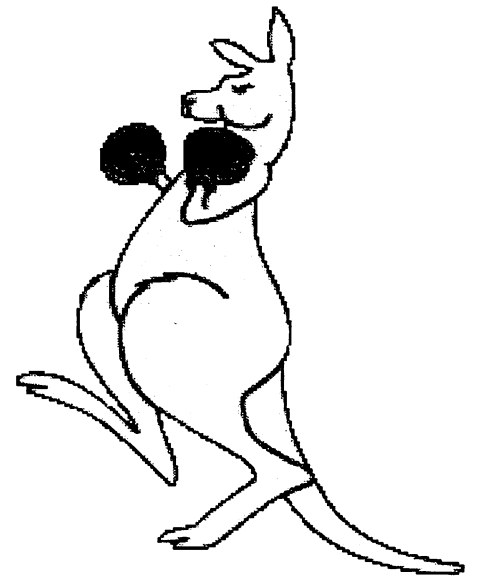
'Am I really gonna die?'

He broke into a smile before he looked me in the eye.

As he fumbled with his stethoscope and pushed it out of reach,

He wiped away a tear and then he gave this stirring speech:

From the beaches here in Queensland to the sweeping shores of Broome,



On the Harbour banks of Sydney where the waratah's in bloom, From Uluru at sunset to the mighty Tasman Sea, In the Adelaide cathedrals, at the roaring MCG, From the Great Australian Bight up to the Gulf of Carpentaria, The medical profession call it 'Green and Gold Malaria'. But forget about the textbooks son, the truth I shouldn't hide. The rash that you've contracted here is 'good old Aussie pride'. I'm afraid that you were born with it and one thing is for sure – You'll die with it, young man, because there isn't any cure.'

Shearing at Castlereagh *Banjo Paterson*



The bell is set-a-ringing, and the engine gives a toot,
There's five-and-thirty shearers here a-shearing for the loot,
So stir yourselves, you panners-up, and shove the sheep along –
The musterers are fetching them a hundred thousand strong –
And make your collie dogs speak up; what would the buyers say
In London if the wool was late this year from Castlereagh?

The man that "rung" the Tubbo shed is not the ringer here,
That stripling from the Cooma-side can teach him how to shear.
They trim away the ragged locks, and rip the cutter goes,
And leaves a track of snowy fleece from brisket to the nose;
It's lovely how they peel it off with never stop nor stay,
They're racing for the ringer's place this year at Castlereagh.

The man that keeps the cutters sharp is growling in his cage,
He's always in a hurry; and he's always in a rage –
"You clumsy-fisted mutton-heads, you'd turn a fellow sick,
You pass yourselves as shearers; you were born to swing a pick.
Another broken cutter here, that's two you've broke today,
It's lovely how they peel it off with never stop nor stay.

The youngsters picking up the fleece enjoy the merry din,
They throw the classer up the fleece, he throws it to the bin;
The pressers standing by the rack are waiting for the wool,
There's room for just a couple more, the press is nearly full;
Now jump upon the lever, lads, and heave and heave away,
Another bale of golden fleece is branded "Castlereagh".

Hark the Glad Sound!

***Hark the glad sound!
The Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long!
Let every hour prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.
He comes the prisoners to release
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.
He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His Grace,
To enrich the humble poor.
Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And Heaven's eternal arches ring
With thy beloved name.***

Philip Doddridge



*Philip Doddridge, the energetic
Non-conformist minister,
hymn writer and scholar
who was born 200 years ago.*



Wool Teams, Longreach

AN AUSTRALIAN SHEARING STORY: PERCY TAFT AND GRAZCOS

By Alan Barton

LIKE many other Australian icons the famous little firm of GRAZCOS is no longer with us.

Grazcos was small efficient, and dedicated to service, mainly around a Contract Shearing, Wool Selling and Handling Service.

With the Head office in Sydney, it had a number of branches scattered throughout Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. This compact firm was successful through its efficiency in working, and selecting the best material for its managers and overseers.

Myself, I was privileged to be with Grazcos in a small way, working as a storeman and packer at their Grant Road and Alexandria Wool Stores in Sydney.

Our floor overseer was of the finest type of person. Even though affected by Polio, he would pull down the wool bale stacks. On one occasion he was nearly buried under wool bales, but managed to get behind a post just in time to avoid what could have culminated into serious injury.

The Longreach Branch: Grazcos started their Longreach Branch around 1946, when they pur-

chased a small shearing firm owned by Bob Wedgwood.

Grazcos appointed Percy Taft as their Longreach Branch Manager, this decision was to be one of the best Grazcos could have ever made. Percy Taft was one of Queensland's best shearers having shorn some 260 sheep in one day with the old narrow gear. (The Shearers of today use wide gear).

Percy had a good gift of judgement, and was a man who always tried to do what was right and fair. His management of Grazcos covered at least 30 years.

Grazcos handled the bulk of the sheep shearing for the district's local stations, all under Percy's leadership, covering an area bounded by Muttaborra, Jundah and Tangorin. Many Grazcos sheds would be shearing at the same time over this large area, and Percy would travel from shed to shed supervising, checking diligently that all was well with the station owner, the shearers and sheep.

As an example, when he came upon a shed where the Wool-presser was ill and could not carry on, and with wool clogging up the floor,

Percy would take on the task of pressing the wool until a replacement presser was found. This could be for many hours at a time.

While Longreach is now mainly cattle today, in that era it was still a wool town. Over this period wool provided the town's prosperity and much of the credit for this we owed to Grazcos under Percy Taft's management.

The shearing industry can be volatile and there have been a number of famous strikes in Australian history.

Banjo Paterson wrote our famous Australian song "*Waltzing Matilda*", about the time of the 1890 strikes, one of the most famous being the pitched battle at Dagworth Station.

Percy went through and weathered the 1950's strikes. Like "*Saltbush Bill*" he was quite prepared to fight if he had to. Under a lesser man the situation may have gotten out of hand at Longreach.

Percy Taft was a diplomat and looked after his shearing teams, constantly working with the shearers to see they were the best possible.

On one memorable occasion, a Shearing Team went to start work on a distant station. On arrival, the manager or owner refused to accept this particular team. This of course created a very big problem and much consternation for the men of the shearing team, not to mention the wasted time and travelling. Percy always alert for any problems soon arrived at the station. He quietly told the team to go back down the road for several miles, and wait there for several hours and then return to the station.

Percy, knowing this was the best shearing team available, went on to the homestead and met with the grazier and informed him that he had sent for another team, but meanwhile he said "best that we sit down together and have a few rums". When the original team arrived as they had been instructed, several hours later, the Grazier did not recognise them for the original team, and the shearing began without a hitch. The problem solved.

In 1975, when Grazcos had many teams shearing around the Longreach area, Percy Taft suffered a heart attack. He had no choice but to retire after 30 years



Percy Taft with grandchildren.

from a very crucial and demanding job. This had a big impact upon not only the staff in his office, but on the capable Mrs Betty Pollard who was the office overseer. This crisis sorely tested the mettle of the staff at the time.

With the "key" man no longer at the helm, and for other reasons the district wool industry slowly began to decline. Now the area is mostly cattle. Longreach also benefits today from Tourism rather than from wool.

Percy Taft as a citizen was a giant in the Longreach area, but his service to Longreach and the wool industry has largely gone unrewarded and unrecognised.

As the President of the Rotary Club, he spent much time and effort in helping build the infrastructure of the town. For example the building of the Longreach Kindergarten, the Pony Club, and the Caravan Park near the Airport and much more.


A submission was made to the government for Percy to be honoured with an Award from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth 11. So far the government has declined.

So it appears not even a street or a park will remember the name of this great Australian!

Percy was married to Elise Stormonth, and they produced three fine sons, a Solicitor, an Airline Pilot and one in Retail Trade.

Author's Note: My sincere thanks to Sid Stormonth and Betty Pollard for helping with recalling memories of the great "true-blue" Australian, Percy Taft.

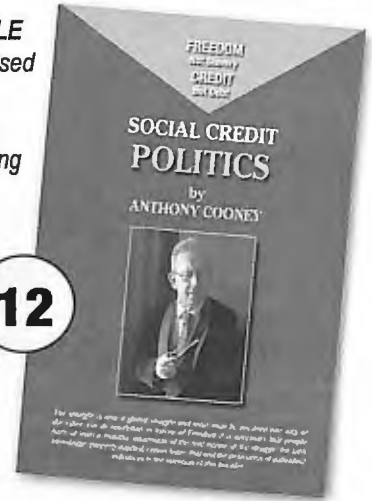
CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOMED



ARTICLES and other contributions, together with suggestions for suitable Heritage material, will be welcomed.

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SOCIAL CREDIT POLITICS

The struggle is now a global struggle and must be soon resolved one way or the other. For its resolution in favour of Freedom it is necessary that people have at least a minimal awareness of the real nature of the struggle, for with knowledge properly applied, comes hope, that and the promotion of individual initiatives is the intention of this Booklet.

Anthony Cooney – 2008.

This is a timely publication at a time of credit chaos which is presently affecting the world on a global basis. Will the world descend into absolute chaos, as the planners and money-manipulators forge towards a One World Bank, One World Currency and the ultimate goal "One World Government?"

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THE FEAR OF LEISURE

By Eric D. Butler

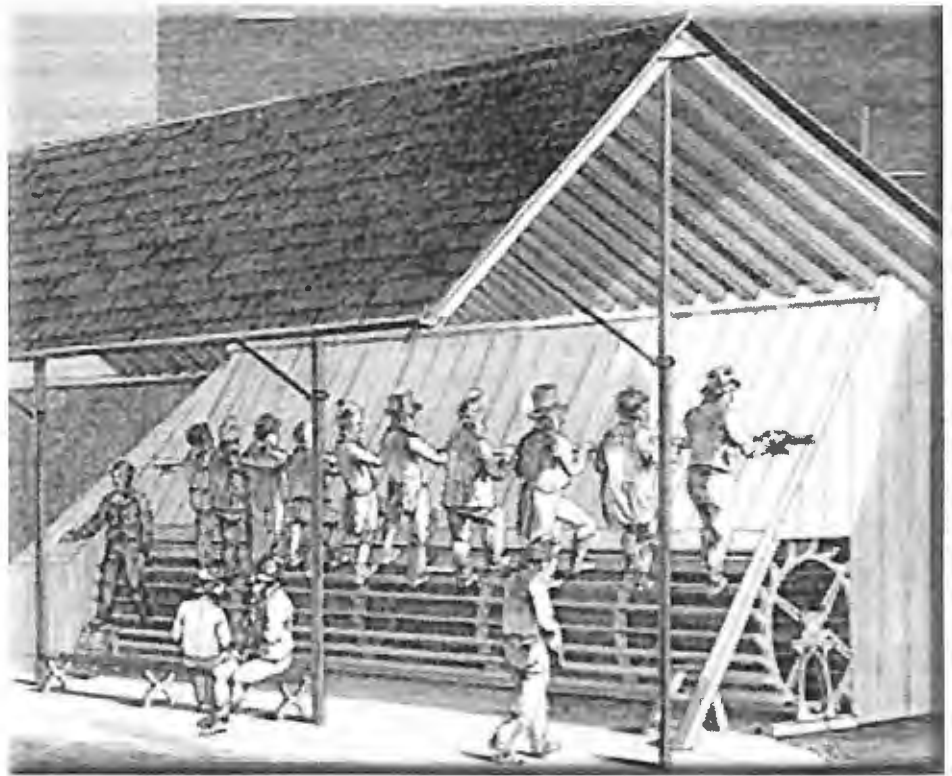
In spite of the fact that it can be easily demonstrated that it is possible for a small and decreasing number of people in a modern industrial society to produce all the physical requirements for the whole community, and that the most important potential of the semi-automatic production system is increasing leisure time for all, any suggestion of a policy which would enable the individual to obtain a financial income, however small for a start, without first being compelled to engage in economic activities, or in filling in forms of some description in the growing Government bureaucracies, meets with widespread opposition.

Both Communist and non-Communist (Globalist - Ed.) Governments are in complete agreement on a policy of 'Full Employment' as the only means through which the individual is entitled to life.

And, as every policy must derive from a philosophy, it is clear, as a number of outstanding Western thinkers have pointed out, that although the West is referred to as the free world; it is progressively retreating from freedom. Lip service is still paid to freedom in the Western world, but in fact, the individual is being increasingly subjected to centralised direction of all aspects of life.

Many express concern at the effects of this centralised direction but at the same time endorse the policy of 'Full Employment' which makes these effects inevitable. The Anglican Archbishop of York, (England) in his book, *'The Church of England Today,'* points out that the modern, planned industrial societies takes "responsibility and incentive from individuals who soon feel that they are important in a mass-organised society which provides for their livelihood, arranges their work, and caters for their amusement . . . The result is dangerous, for the individual loves the power of independent judgement . . . We are drifting toward the formation of a mass society in which the individual becomes submerged."

Similar statements have been made by other leading churchmen, but the Christian flocks are given no guidance on policies necessary



The Treadmill

to prevent the development of the mass society. Christian Chaplains in industry may help minimise some of the effects of the mass society, but can make no basic contribution to the growing threat to individual freedom and the human personality so long as it is accepted that the economic system exists, not to provide the individual with the production he requires with the minimum of human time and energy, but to keep him at work. The unfortunate fact must be faced that Christians generally, who should be more concerned about making freedom a reality than other people, share the widespread fear of leisure. Whether or not this fear can be overcome will be one of the decisive factors in the ultimate

outcome of the clash between two philosophies: that of freedom and that of totalitarianism.

When we consider the efforts by large and increasing numbers of people to gain economic independence for life by purchasing tickets in lotteries or by guessing the number of goals football teams will kick et cetera, it does appear contradictory that there is such general fear of leisure. But it is significant that individuals are not afraid of having economic independence and leisure for *themselves*. There have been no recorded instances where any of those winning a substantial lottery or football pool have refused to take the prize because they have been afraid of having leisure time!

In fact surveys taken of those winning big lottery prizes reveal that very few have used their money foolishly. No, people do not fear leisure for themselves. It is the *other fellow* they are concerned about. The purpose of this paper is to make an examination of the basic causes of the fear of leisure and to indicate how the re-orientation of society towards a policy of increasing leisure and freedom for the individual may be obtained.

It is essential for our examination that we first clearly define our meaning of the two words 'Leisure and Work'. Words are one of the principal media through which individuals attempt to convey their ideas to one another, and even when there is no conscious attempt to pervert the meaning of words in order to distort the conception of reality; it is easy for different people to obtain different ideas from the same word. Leisure to many people conjures up a picture of passive idleness. The very fact that

many are repulsed by the thought of individuals being little more than vegetables, neither engaging in any physical activities nor in conscience thought or contemplation indicates that the normal man, no matter how much he may have been depersonalised by an environment which stifles his individual initiative, is basically creative.

We can term a man of leisure as one who possesses sufficient economic independence to enable him to choose how he shall express and develop his creative powers. A man of leisure does not have his activity, whatever form it may take, forced upon him. We can therefore define leisure as free, voluntary or unenforced activity in contrast with forced activity which we call Work or Labour.

In order to clarify still further our conception of Leisure, we do need to look a little closer at what we mean by work. C.H. Douglas pointed out that physically there is no basic difference between one

man expending energy in playing football and another man expending energy in some economic activity. But there is a tremendous psychological difference.

Compulsion To Work

The man playing football is prepared to put up with a great deal of physical discomfort, even risking injury, without any offer of material reward, simply because he is acting voluntarily. He enjoys expending his energy in this way. But the man working in a factory may be there only under the compulsion of obtaining a financial income with which to purchase the necessities of life.

It cannot be pointed out too often that the normal man is creative and, if freed to do so, will express his creativeness in accordance with his natural abilities and desires. The individual desires not so much to be employed, or 'set to work', as to be able to seek *his own employment*.

In his address entitled '*The Approach to Reality*', Douglas said: "Most people prefer to be employed – but on the things they like, rather, than on the things they do not like to be employed upon. The proposals of Social Credit are in no sense intended to produce a nation of idlers – and would not. There never was a more ridiculous piece of misrepresentation than to say that as a class the rich are idle. They may be wrongly employed, but they are not idle. The danger to the world does not come from the idle rich – it comes from the busy rich".

"No, Social Credit would not produce idlers; it would allow people to allocate themselves to those jobs to which they are suited. A job you do well is a job you like, and a job you like is a job you do well. Under Social Credit you would begin to tap the amazing efficiency inseparable from enforced labour, and the efficiency of the whole industrial system would go up".



While many will readily grasp that the man possessing free time can develop himself through physical activities of his own choosing, it is easy to overlook the important fact that a man with leisure may also develop himself through contemplation. The important aspect of the subject has been dealt with beautifully in the following extract from Thomas Robertson's great work "*Human Ecology*":

"To expand the individuality . . . is the chief end of man, but growth in reality requires proper conditions, such as are almost unattainable in Occidental society, where visible activity alone is a measure of efficiency. This is evident from the common idiom about 'doing nothing'. Thus to sit and feast the eyes on nature is 'doing nothing'. One of the most serious sources of human dissatisfaction today is the confounding of physical inactivity with inaction. Unless we are to admit the need for 'doing nothing', we dethrone the human and make man no better than a beast of burden. Life becomes futile the moment we forget the end of existence, and permit activity for any other end, or even for its own sake. This is precisely what, in ever-increasing degree, the financial mechanism imposes on us. Life becomes an empty round of doing things which are meaningless. In Upton Sinclair's description, "We go to work to earn the cash to buy the bread to get the strength to go to work to earn the cash to buy the bread", and so on".

Too Busy For Leisure

"To live properly, it is the significance of experience, even of the humblest and the most commonplace, which is of vital importance to man. This significance cannot be grasped without time and opportunity. Putting it in another way, we are so busy doing things that we have no time to utilise experience. The pace is too hot. Leisure is rightly under-



stood as free time from occupation. It is commonly used for purposes of play and sport, but there is another variety of use which assumes importance as maturity and age approach. It is contemplative leisure, which is the unique technique of browsing on events, of chewing the cud of experience, to digest out the virtue of living. It is the tragedy of European and American culture that in it there is no place for contemplative leisure, which, far from being a doing of nothing, is a doing of the one thing which pre-eminently separates man from animals. At one end it is a simple turning over of events in quiet seclusion. At the other it represents the highest activity of man in contemplation of 'reality'. It is a phase of creative quiescence, the very antithesis of inactivity, which is vital to human welfare and satisfaction. It represents the solitary aspect of development in distinction to all other phases of activity which are best carried out in fellowship with others".

In examining the fears which prevent the acceptance of increasing leisure, it may appear a waste of time and merely perverse to suggest that there is a fear of scarcity at a time when there is talk once again of 'over-production' and automation. But it is true that there is still a deep, subconscious fear in the mind of man that the threat of scarcity is never far away and still a reality.

Man's history does partly account for this fear. There has been

approximately 7000 years of recorded human history and it is only one-seventieth of that time since Faraday invented the dynamo and the industrial revolution got under way.

Insidious propaganda keeps alive the idea that life is a permanent and grim struggle, and that any widespread leisure must inevitably lead to decadence and disaster. History is perverted to attempt to show how leisured classes in the past became 'soft' and passed under the control of vigorous barbarians. No reference is made to the fact that leisured classes and the civilisations they helped to build were destroyed by policies of financial and economic centralism.

The class-war propaganda of the Communists and Socialists, which insists those enjoying a degree of economic independence only do so at the expense of the poor, also helps to create the impression that there is a limited amount of wealth and that there must be a levelling down. The idea of leisure and economic independence for the individual is repugnant to the Communist, who is dominated by the false doctrine, that 'Labour produces all wealth'. The Communist is at one with the puritan who preaches that work is 'good' for the individual. A number of competent observers of Russian society have commented upon the dominating puritan atmosphere.

The subconscious fear of scarcity is strongly reinforced by pres-

ent economic and financial policies, which foster economic sabotage on so vast a scale that most people are unaware that much of the activity in which they are engaged is unnecessary and robs them of potential leisure.

The very complexities of the system make it difficult for the individual to realise that what he thinks is most essential is in reality nothing but a waste of precious human lives and a squandering of economic resources.

Making Work

Think of the thousands engaged

whether it is a part of a never-ending programme of making work. It is undoubtedly true that many do find some satisfaction in the unnecessary activities in which they are engaged.

The transport engineer striving to solve the problem of moving an increasing number of people to and from their places of work considers that he is spending his time and using his talents creatively. And there can be no logical quarrel with this attitude so long as there are no questions asked concerning the alleged necessity for moving people

people that money itself is important. In his *'Policy of a Philosophy'*, Douglas pointed out that most policies today "have no relationship to Christianity". "Our policy", he said, "so far as it can be defined . . . is related philosophically to the adulation of money. Money is an abstraction. Money is a thing of no value whatever. Money is nothing more than an accounting system. Money is nothing worthy of our attention at all, but we base the whole of our actions, the whole of our policy, on the pursuit of money, and the consequence is, of course, that we become



in fantastic advertising, much of it designed to stimulate support for the ever-changing models in motor cars, washing machines, refrigerators, television sets, and many, many other mechanical appliances. All this feverish activity is designed to 'make work'. Even women must in increasing numbers leave their homes and family to enter the production system. Economic 'experts' now state that it is 'impractical' for women to stay at home. The production system would collapse without their services.

As Douglas pointed out, the perversion of technological development merely resulted in more work being done, not in the freeing of the individual. The appeals for still greater increases in production ignore the fundamental question of whether the increased economic activity does serve the genuine requirements of the individual or

and production around.

Enormous numbers of very competent people are harnessed up dealing with effects. Until there is sufficient clarification of the perversion of means into ends in the economic field, it will always be difficult to present to people the vision of a Leisure Society that is physically impossible.

The perversion of the money system and the misrepresentation of the true nature of money have also had such a deep psychological impact upon most people, that, even when there is some grasp of economic realities, they shrink from the prospect of receiving money without first participating in some form of economic activity.

While it is true that there has been a widespread exposure of the Money Myth over the past 50 years or so, nevertheless the belief still persists amongst large numbers of

the prey of mere abstractions. . ."

The great Francis Bacon appealed for a just relationship between the mind and things. It is because there is no such just relationship today that the worship of abstractionism, which prevents the emergence of reality, is so prevalent. One of Christ's major crimes in the eyes of the Jewish Sanhedrin was that He attacked the religious abstractionism which had been developed to the stage where it took precedence over the real needs of individuals. It is not money that is the root of all evil, but the *love* of money. The reference to the love of money is a condemnation of the worship of abstractionism, as was Christ's famous statement that it is impossible to worship both God and Mammon. So long as the worship of the abstraction money continues and its true nature is obscured, there will be a fear of any proposal to pay

individuals a financial dividend in order that they may enjoy genuine independence and leisure.

Directly linked to the worship of the abstraction money is the carefully-fostered idea that 'something for nothing' is morally bad for the individual – and of course, can only be obtained at the expense of other individuals. One of the fundamental philosophical cleavages between Christianity and Judaism concerns this very question. Judaism repudiates the Christian conception of unearned grace and criticism of 'something for nothing', so widely prevalent amongst those who call themselves Christians, demonstrates the powerful influence of the very philosophy which Christ challenged.

Douglas related how a Jewish millionaire stated the Social Credit financial proposals would save Western Civilisation, but that the Civilisation was not worth saving. It is not without significance that a number of historians have drawn attention to the fact that there are many striking similarities between Judaism and Marxism.

The Christian God is one of love Whose abundant universe offers life more abundant. The philosophy underlying the doctrine that 'Labour produces all wealth' logically elevates man into his own God and infers that he alone is responsible for the basis of life. But the truth is that, to use Douglas' words, "The laws of the universe transcend human thinking".

Truth and Freedom

If these laws are discovered and obeyed, they provide the individual with increasing freedom. The truths of the Universe are gifts to the individual; 'something for nothing'. Man is an heir to a heritage which his forefathers built up by their discovery and application of the truths of the universe. Rejection of this fundamental fact is one of the major barriers to the creation of the Lei-

sure State.

It is appropriate that we mention here that, contrary to what might be reasonably expected, the modern Trade Union Movement has both directly and indirectly opposed the leisure idea. Instead of demanding that 'the wages of the machine' be paid to the individual who can be displaced by technological advances, Trade Union leaders have consistently attacked both profits and the dividends arising out of profits. They fear the independence which an extension of the dividend system would bring.

Douglas drew attention to this matter in "*Social Credit*", in which he said: "Now it is fair to say that Labour leaders are, although they may not consciously know it, amongst the most valuable assets of the financial control of industry – are in fact, almost, indispensable to that control. And the reason for this is not far to seek. They do not speak as representatives of individuals; they speak, as they are never tired of explaining, as the representatives of Labour, and the more Labour there is, the more they represent it. It is natural that employment should be represented by them as being the chief interest of man; as the representatives of the employed, their importance is enhanced thereby".

The insistence upon forced work as the only means to a financial income makes the production system an instrument of government. High-sounding references to the alleged virtues of work cannot completely mask the fact that the economic system, dominated by financial policy, has been developed into a system through which the will-to-power of those controlling policy is expressed. Those seeking complete power over all others fear leisure and independence more than anyone else. There is adequate evidence to indicate that it is those seeking complete power who foster and encourage all the other fears which prevent the realisation of leisure.

The deliberate elevation of the production system into a system of control, and the consequent subordination of the individual to functionalism, is a manifestation of the growing dominance of the philosophy of materialism and collectivism.

The situation is a deadly challenge to Christianity and the Christian Church. The Church could and must give a lead to remove the fear of leisure by stating in unequivocal terms the true purpose of man and his systems. If it is prepared to stand passively by and allow the growing knowledge of God's gifts and truths, as demonstrated by the growth of automation, to be described as a 'problem', then the victory of the anti-Christ is certain.

If the Church believes that freedom is indispensable for the moral and spiritual growth of the individual, then it should be giving an authoritative lead by insisting that the individual be permitted full access to his heritage of leisure.

There are, of course, legitimate grounds for the view that a too sudden access to leisure and economic independence may result in some undesirable developments. We all know that the habits of some of the new-rich are not very pleasant, a fact which Social Credit recognises. But if we accept the Christian view of man, that he must express his sovereignty through *himself*, and not through *others*, then a *start* must be made towards placing him in the position where he can develop that sovereignty.

The Welfare State is undoubtedly the most insidious barrier to the creation of a society of genuinely free, independent individuals, because it guarantees the individual that a minimum of the material requirements of life in exchange for the loss of freedom of choice, the only real freedom.

The much publicised Four Freedoms are provided in any prison. Prisoners are given the best possible food, entertainment is provided,

they can earn money at some trade, and in some American prisons even sexual intercourse with their wives is permitted. The question then arises, "Well, what constitutes the punishment in these prisons?" And the answer is that work, play and breeding is all done at the behest of those who have sovereignty over the prisoners. *The real punishment is lack of freedom of choice.* Man does not live by bread alone.

It is what free time the individual possesses after providing bread and what he does with that time is important.

Increasing leisure for self-development and the spiritualising of his life is today possible for all individuals. Is fear going to be used to deny man his God-given heritage? No real Christian can ignore this issue.

How, then can fear of leisure be overcome? The brief answer is the application of the Christian teaching concerning love. The foundation of Christian teaching is love. The tremendous implications of this teaching have unfortunately been blurred by the modern mania for sex, which many people mistake as the same thing as love. The Christian teaching is that "Perfect love casteth out fear". The Social Credit policy of growing leisure and financial dividends for all is based upon this type of love. It is a policy stemming from love of, and faith in, one's fellow

human beings. It is the antithesis of policies based upon fear of what one's fellows would do if they had genuine leisure. To fear leisure for others is a manifestation of distrust; it denies the divine nature of man. A society whose members were dominated by the Christian conception of love would be transformed into one in which individuals would freely and voluntarily associate in expanding leisure for all in order that they could know God, love God, and serve Him more completely.

ERIC D. BUTLER
1916 - 2006

Mr. Butler was well-known for his dedication to the Australian League of Rights, a service movement still active today in national politics; he founded the League in 1946, was its national director to 1993, and then advisory national director until he retired in 1999.

Mr. Butler was a sincere advocate of achieving freedom for Australians from the dead hand of enforced internationalism. He 'stumped' across the country, speaking at thousands of meetings. He was famous across the nation in political circles, even though he was little known by the general public.

Eric Butler was hated and lied about by the big political parties, the banks, the Zionists, and biased journalists. He was no insignificant ideologue, but a man of sincere principles struggling against the odds. Possibly no other Australian has been so systematically vilified, over a period from the mid-1960s until the present, and - even in death - his enemies have continued to malign him.

As is the case with anyone involved in a movement that is dedicated to political-social reform, not every nationalist agreed with all of Mr Butler's ideas and viewpoints; however, his drive, determination, and loyal patriotism was never in doubt. Especially noteworthy is that, under his leadership, the League of Rights bravely campaigned against massive immigration from the Third World, against government-induced Multiculturalism, and against the creeping Asianisation of Australia.

Indeed, it must be recognised that the Australian League of Rights - and Mr. Butler personally - brought knowledge to many Australians of the great threat to the identity, independence and freedom of our country. Countless people joined the patriotic resistance thanks to the tireless work of Eric Butler.

It has been said that a true student of history could win a doctorate with a thesis - "Bush Prophet: Eric Dudley Butler and the Australian League of Rights". If someone could produce such a work, to write about him and his deeds in a neutral and independent manner, then it would be a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated his life to the Australian People.



Eric D. Butler

ESSENTIAL READING FOR "DEBT SLAVES"

The manipulation of money and credit creation affects every country in the world, in peace or conflict. It is little understood by ordinary people as well as most bankers, accountants and economists. Credit creation is not a popular topic in the world of finance. The less the average citizen knows, the easier the money trick is played out.

An informed population can take steps to end this dictatorship of finance so the power of credit can be harnessed for the common good, not for greed and power.

Order from Heritage bookshop or mailing services.

See addresses inside front cover.

\$13



Becoming positive about carbon

By Richard Bentley

While Governments fume about Kyoto Protocol obligations and bureaucrats devise carbon taxes and emissions trading schemes, the burning issue for businesses of all sorts is how to curb their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The good news for Australia and New Zealand is that there are already businesses whose activities create a very effective carbon sink, and some people have been running them successfully for years. Those people are called “farmers”, and their system is called “carbon farming”.

SOME people regard Colin Seis as the “father” of carbon farming in Australia. He started farming unconventionally in the early 80’s after a disastrous bushfire destroyed his house, crops, pastures, fences and 3,000 sheep. He nearly lost “Winona”, the 800 ha property near Mudgee, north-western NSW, which his father bought in 1932.

Colin’s father was first in the district to sow sub clovers with ryegrass and to use chemical fertilisers to increase pasture and crop production. That worked well until the 70’s when prices fell. After the fire, Colin took the management system in the opposite direction.

“I couldn’t afford fertiliser so I started looking for a more cost effective way of farming. I had a gut feeling that if I stopped using fertiliser, grasses would grow that could survive without it,” he says.

“There was no science to back it, but that is exactly what happened. All of the introduced grasses died and the native species started returning, and so I concentrated on building ground cover with them.”

Slowly he built production back up. Very little was known about low input agriculture, and so it was a steep learning curve. “Nobody else was doing it and my father said I was a lunatic, but he was an innovator in his day and he understood what I was trying to do,” says Colin.

“By the mid-80’s I had learned to manage the system better and we were surviving quite well. I also tried time-controlled grazing (Planned rotational grazing), which I was sure wouldn’t work, but it did.”

The native grasses performed well in spring and summer, but unlike the introduced grasses they became dormant in autumn. That was

when Colin ploughed up a few paddocks and planted cereal crops, using some fertiliser.

Pasture cropping

However, in 1992 he made a significant change. Over a few beers he and a close friend discussed another lunatic idea – drilling in the cereal seed without ploughing.

“We just thought it might be a cheap, easy way of growing some stockfeed and we were amazed because we got some grain in that first year, so from then on I started fine tuning the system,” says Colin. “Initially the grasslands had a lot of weeds but by alternating crop species we could use different herbicides and we gradually brought weeds under control.”

About a quarter of the farm is now pasture cropped each year – mainly cereal rye and oats sown in May when the grasses are dormant and harvested in late November when



grasses are just coming away.

Pasture composition is still evolving, with native annuals appearing and even some new perennials. Annual weeds are being stifled because of the amount of litter and dense ground cover. That, says Colin, makes the grazing and cropping system regenerative and sustainable.

The regime includes:

- * Permanent pastures with a broad mix of native species.

- * Time-controlled grazing of large mobs in small paddocks.

- * Longer pasture residuals, leaving sufficient green leaf to allow the pasture to recover quickly and maintain root depth.

- * Maintaining continuous ground cover to protect soil biology.

- * No-till pasture cropping every fourth year.

The results are surprising. Colin runs a flock of about 4,500 sheep – the same as in his father’s era – yet he uses no fertiliser on the pastures.

“Every year with the high input system we bought fertiliser worth about \$40,000 in today’s money. Now we use only small amounts on crops, and even that we are starting to reduce because my focus is on working with soil biology and feeding soil microbes,” says Colin. “A gross margin analysis by the NSW Department of Agriculture showed a 27 percent increase here compared with conventional farms of the same size and enterprise mix.”

Higher soil carbon

Another result is that over 10 years Colin has doubled the carbon content of the soil from 1.8 percent to about 4 percent. This has two important benefits. The first is a much higher water-holding capacity of the soil – a 1 percent increase in organic carbon means the soil can hold an extra 144,000 litres per hectare – meaning that more of any rain is retained rather than running off and so the soil will be productive for longer in a dry period.

The second is that it shows that soil carbon levels can be increased –



Drilling oats into a pasture of native grasses.

contrary to the opinion of some soil scientists – so there is the potential for Colin and farmers like him to be awarded carbon credits that could be sold on a carbon market.

There are about 1,500 pasture cropping farmers in Australia and a number of others who are also practising some form of farming aimed at producing a permanent increase in soil carbon. In New Zealand there are just a few, mainly members of the eCOGENT farm business system.

Unfortunately, although locking atmospheric CO₂ into soils works in practice it doesn’t seem to work in theory, and that worries many conventional soil scientists who are convinced that pastoral soils are unable to absorb any more carbon and have written off farming as an unmanageable source of GHG emissions.

Dr. Christine Jones, an internationally renowned soil ecologist, is not one of them. The founder of Carbon for Life Inc., she views soil as a renewable resource and believes that appropriately managed farmlands could effectively ‘mop up’ most of the excess carbon being emitted to the atmosphere, converting a potential hazard into an extremely productive opportunity.

She has helped establish a pilot program in which West Australian farmers can benchmark the carbon levels in their soils and be paid for any increase. “It would require only

a 1 percent increase in soil carbon on 15 million hectares of land to sequester 8 Gigatonnes of CO₂ in the soil, which is equivalent to the greenhouse emissions for the entire planet,” she says on her Amazing Carbon website.

Putting that in an Australasian context, a 0.1 percent increase in organic carbon across only 10 percent of Australia’s agricultural lands would sequester more than half of the greenhouse gas emissions.

New Zealand has about 12.7m ha of productive grasslands and a 0.2 percent annual increase in soil carbon over that area would more than offset the CO₂ production of the entire country.

It has been a battle for Dr. Jones and the Carbon Coalition of farmers to gain official acceptance of their work, but they may be winning, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced in March that as part of Australia’s Farming Future Initiative he was asking the Minister for Agriculture to investigate how better soil management could be part of the country’s response to climate change.

There is a way to go yet. Protocols for assessing carbon levels have yet to be officially sanctioned, and formal mechanisms for granting carbon credits and their sale need to be put in place. Carbon farmers like Colin Seis are not holding their breath.

“Even if we do not sell soil carbon credits, the benefits from farming this way are enormous,” says Colin.

“The farm is more resilient, we’re having fewer crop disease problems, and we are making more money. We could adapt easily to a low fuel and fertiliser regime and stop using fertiliser tomorrow if we had to. All that makes it well worth doing.”

Source: THE FURROW, ISSUE 2, 2008

More information:

www.carboncoalition.com.au/
www.amazingcarbon.com/



STONEHENGE BIRTH DATE, USE REVEALED IN NEW DIG

A RCHAEOLOGISTS have discovered Stonehenge's birth date to solve one of the site's enduring mysteries.

The monument's original stones were erected in about 2300 BC 300 years later than previously thought.

Analysis indicated the original circle of bluestones were transported from the Preseli hills, 240km away in South Wales, in an extraordinary feat of engineering and manpower.

The finding came in an ambitious project involving the first dig inside the historic stone circle in 44 years.

Project leaders professors Timothy Darvill and Geoffrey Wainwright are set to disclose other early findings. The pair also have evidence that Stonehenge was a centre of healing and compared it to a "Neolithic Lourdes", to which

sick and ailing people came from far away, hoping to be healed by the stones' powers.

An "abnormal number" of remains in tombs nearby show signs of serious disease while teeth from graves prove that about half the bodies were not native to the area.

Professor Darvill said: "Stonehenge would attract not only people who were unwell, but people who were capable of healing them."

Discovering the site's birth date, done by sending 14 samples for carbon dating at Oxford University, was called a "dream come true" by Professor Wainwright. Before the project it was believed the first stone circle dated from between 2600 BC and 2400 BC.

The new testing has rounded this down to between 2400 BC and 2200 BC and the teams expect to get a more precise date.

"We told the world we were going to date Stonehenge," Professor Darvill said, "That was a risk, but I was always confident."

Experts said the new discovery was a major milestone in the history of Britain's most famous monument.

Dr. Simon Thurley, the chief executive of English Heritage – which maintains Stonehenge – described the dig as "tremendously exciting". "The bluestones hold the key to understanding the purpose and meaning of Stonehenge," he said.

"Their arrival marked a turning point in the history of Stonehenge, changing the site from a fairly standard informative henge with timber structures and used for occasional burials to the complex stone structure whose remains dominate the site."

Dr. Andrew Fitzpatrick, of Wessex Archaeology, said: "This is a great result – a very important one. "The date of Stonehenge had been blowing in the wind. But this anchors it. It helps us to be secure about the chronology of events."



Bluestones key: Archaeologists say they have identified Stonehenge as an early Lourdes, where healing took place.

A Matter of History

RARE PICTURE COMES TO LIGHT OF THE LADY WITH THE LAMP

A rare photograph of Florence Nightingale, in her bed at home shortly before she dies, is to be sold at auction.

The black and white image of the silver-haired nursing pioneer shows her in the imposing bedroom of her home just off London's Park Lane, before her death in 1910 at the age of 90.

The photograph was taken by Lizzie Caswall Smith, who was a noted studio photographer in the early 1900s. She also took portraits of well known subjects including George Bernard Shaw and J.M. Barrie who wrote Peter Pan.

The photograph is all the more remarkable because despite her fame, Nightingale disliked being photographed and shrank from publicity.

Malcolm Claridge, of auctioneers Dreweatts who will sell the photograph at their saleroom, near Newbury, Berkshire, said: "It is a wonderful historic image."

On the back of the photograph, Lizzie Caswall Smith wrote: "Taken just before she died, house near Park Lane. The only photograph I ever took out of studio. I shall never forget the experience."

The photograph has an impeccable provenance because it has come through a branch of Caswall Smith's family. The evocative photograph shows her in the grand bedroom of her home in South Street, a stone's throw from London's Hyde Park. Propped up by pillows, a silk counterpane and white linen sheets cover Nightingale's legs.

Florence Nightingale – known as the Lady with the Lamp – worked selflessly as a nurse during the Crimean War and later, as a hospital reformer, won an everlasting place in British history.

Her nursing skills and tireless campaigning to clean up filthy

Army field hospitals in the Crimea dramatically slashed the death rates of wounded soldiers from typhoid and cholera between 1854 and 1856.

After the Crimean War, she set up the Nightingale Training School and Home for Nurses based at St Thomas' Hospital in London. For much of her life, she was bedridden due to an illness she contracted in the Crimea, which prevented her from nursing.

In 1883 Queen Victoria awarded Nightingale, the Royal Red Cross for her work and, in 1907, she became the first woman to receive the Order of Merit from Edward VII.



Angel: The picture of Crimean War heroine, Florence Nightingale, taken shortly before her death at the age of 90.



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"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:38

CORRECTING THE IDIOTIC FINANCIAL SYSTEM

By Denis Ross

Government condones and supports this irrational system of money creation by issuing the notes and coin it calls “legal tender”.

A completely idiotic financial system is responsible for the economic woes plaguing the developed world. It is the system of our money based entirely on IOUs used to create more IOUs. It began with the European goldsmiths of the 16th Century.

The goldsmiths' shops became repositories for gold owned by merchants who undertook trade in far off lands. The merchants might be away for two years, more or less, obtaining goods in the Orient. The goldsmiths found that they could lend out the merchants' gold for profit and have the gold back in their vaults by the time the merchants came to claim it. This was the basis of modern banking—making loans based on depositor's finances in bank vaults.

The goldsmiths refined their lending of gold to further degrees. They found that they could lend large amounts of the gold they held and, since one lot of gold was identical with another, if a merchant unex-

pectedly came to claim his particular gold they could raid Peter's gold to pay Paul. Further, they found they did not even have to physically lend out the gold from their premises. All they had to do was issue promissory notes stating the note was worth so much gold if cashed in at the goldsmiths' shop, and they charged a sum for issuing the promissory notes collecting profit on lending the promissory notes.

The promissory notes issued by the goldsmiths often passed from one individual to another in payment of debts, circulating among the public for some time before being again deposited with the goldsmiths as a store of value “as good as gold”. This was the beginning of paper money, of what became “banknotes” when the goldsmiths' shops became banks and the banks issued their own currency notes. It also was the beginning of modern savings deposits with banks.

The goldsmiths found by trial and error they could issue promissory

notes at a volume up to 10 times the amount of gold they actually held in their vaults and get away with collecting profit on all those loans before anyone tried to return the note and exchange it for gold. And often enough the notes were not swapped for gold but were themselves deposited with the goldsmiths as a store of value “as good as gold”. That is the basis of modern banking. Banks can extend credit (make loans) up to 10 times the amount of savings they hold in deposit without fear of becoming insolvent or unstable.

But in the USA there is a banking crisis at present because banks have been lending up to 50 times the amount of savings they hold in deposit and they now cannot meet public or other creditors' demands for payments from their savings deposit base. They have to recall loans or borrow from somewhere to increase their liquidity so they can pay their debt and meet cash demands.

The whole lending situation is worsened by the fact that gold no longer is used as the savings base on which to issue or regulate loans (promissory notes). Instead a pile of promissory notes in the form of paper money represents people's savings deposited with the banks and this makes up the banks' deposit base for the issue of new promissory notes (loans or credit) based on them. This means IOUs are being issued on the basis of IOUs. There is nothing of substance backing the issue of credit, whether in the form of loan credit or paper money credit.

All money is credit (from the Latin *credo* meaning “I believe”). Money is a belief system. If people believe some item is worth accepting in return for their prized goods and labour then that item functions



Every time a bank issues a loan (extends credit) it is creating new money out of thin air

as money—cigarettes, shells, stones, salt, cowhides, feathers, gold, gems, pieces of paper marked \$1 have all functioned as money at various times and places. In the modern financial system all our money comes from banks as bank credit. Banks have a monopoly on credit issues. Every time a bank issues a loan (extends credit) it is creating new money out of thin air and expanding the total volume of money circulating in society. This expansion of the money supply is inflation and each round of inflation decreases the worth of the currency in circulation causing businesses to demand more currency for their goods to compensate for the decrease in worth of the money—so prices rise.

Banks do not lend money, they extend credit, no cash changes hands. And the new money they create is a debt to the issuing bank, an IOU based on IOUs held in their vaults. Only banks are authorised to create money; when individuals try it they call it counterfeiting. Almost the entire body of modern law and the legal system is oriented towards upholding this idiotic system of finance and enforcing the rules governing its operation. Government has been an accomplice in this fraud since at least 1694 when the Bank of England got its charter from King William III to “create money out of nothing”. The group of rich men comprising the Bank offered to lend King William 1,200,000 pounds at 8% on condition they could then issue notes to the full extent of the Bank’s capital. The Bank speculated it only would need to keep 300,000 pounds in reserve “as money lying idle” but would create almost a million pounds as fresh money brought into the nation. In practice the bank operated on a much lower reserve base than 300,000 pounds issuing as much as 1,750,000 pounds of banknotes against a cash reserve of just 36,000 pounds. Intelligent critics saw it was perfectly possible to

manufacture money without any metallic backing but it also was dangerous to allow this privilege of creating money to be in private hands. The Bank of England, a private bank until it was nationalised in the 1950s, was mythologised in Britain as the national bank and *ipso facto* thought to be under control of the government for its centuries of operation.



Banks do not lend money, they extend credit, no cash changes hands

Government condones and supports this irrational system of money creation by issuing the notes and coin it calls “legal tender”. These are government-issued IOUs representing a percentage of the total credit/IOUs issued in a given year by the banks. The amount of notes and coin issued by the government is sufficient to meet public demands for cash (as opposed to credit). In doing so government not only condones the entire system of IOUs acting as money based on IOUs but upholds the power of the commercial banks over the national economy and surrenders Parliament’s responsibility for the money supply to private profit interests. Thus “the economy” is synonymous with “the banks” since all money which underpins the economy comes from and goes to the banks.

What happens when banks get out of control, as in the USA at present, can be seen by a historical review of the activities of Scotsman John Law and the Banque Royale of France in the early 18th Century. John Law was the son of a Scottish

goldsmith and grew up in the world of goldsmith banking in England. He also was an addicted gambler with a keen mathematical mind for statistical probabilities, so actuarial sums and tables offered little mystery to him. In 1716 Law was given permission in France to open a bank, the first ever in France, to be known as the Banque Royale with a capital of 6 million *livres*. The bank accepted deposits in the form of coins and utilised a very modern cheque-book system for account holders to pay debts between themselves or businesses. But deposits and cheques were not the bank’s main business; that was the issue of paper money. The issue of such notes could relieve the French government from its financial difficulties giving it access to “cash” other than coins but based on coins. The bank’s capital of 6 million *livres* was in reality only 350,000 *livres* in coins and the rest in government promissory notes or bonds.

Law’s issues of banknotes quickly gained public acceptance since it was no longer necessary to carry weighty coins around, and easy access to credit saw a boom in business throughout France as consumer spending rose and manufacturing increased to meet the consumer demands so it gained equal or more importance in the economy than farming. The banknotes proved so popular people readily changed their government issued coins for notes through Law’s bank. Soon the coins coming into the bank were overwhelmed by the issue of banknotes. France was awash with paper money. The French government in 1717, in order to maintain confidence in the banknotes, made them legal tender for payment of taxes. But what Law needed was a big inflow of cash he could use to buy land as collateral against the bank’s debts.

Law, with the French government, established a company—the

Mississippi Company into which the French government transferred its landholdings in America, the Louisiana Territory covering almost all of the central area of what today is the USA and which France had discovered and claimed in 1682. The company issued shares for cash used to fund an expedition to mine gold in Louisiana. From 1718 when the first shares were issued the company's stock was oversubscribed as France and the French people were gripped by gold fever. Spain had enriched itself with American gold, France could do likewise. But there was no gold. Nevertheless a share market was created in the streets of Paris and shares in the company were bought and sold at ever higher prices, the *nouveau riches* created by the share market challenging the social rigidity of French society and becoming known derisively as *millionaires*. Investors came not just from France but from Holland and Britain. The Banque Royale and the Mississippi Company prospered garnering over 1,500 million *livres* in profit. The price of shares in the company exceeded 5,000 *livres*. Eventually they would peak at 12,000 *livres* for a 500 *livres* share.. Law was given the noble title of "Duc d'Arkansas". (An estimate of the profits made can be shown since 500 *livres* then equalled about US\$400 today.)

As the French share market boomed investors put their money into shares where previously they had often invested in "tax farming", a system of government outsourcing of tax collection to private enterprise. Private tax farming companies collapsed so Law went into the tax farming business as part of his banking activities and thus held the entire financial fortunes of the French government in his palm. Law's system was the forerunner of our own modern tax and financial system.

Are we condemned to have the same stupid system resurrected after every collapse for the benefit of a few private individuals?

The income from Law's share issues was all used to pay off government debts. Then the share market faltered as no gold was forthcoming from America. The bank had issued some 2.7 million *livres* of banknotes doubling the nation's money supply in just one year and prices began to rise as the excess money chased too few goods. By 1719 prices of goods had risen 75% and some essential foodstuffs in Paris rising by 300%. Law was the richest man in the world and in 1720 he took the step of restricting all individual holdings of coins to 500 *livres* but the novelty of banknotes had worn off and people now were suspect of the paper money. Investors began converting banknotes in other assets and jewellery, land and housing prices spiralled, so did shares on the London and Amsterdam stock markets as investors bought into the "South Sea Bubble". Banknotes were for spending; gold was for saving. Consumer spending increased and the economy again underwent a boom as people got rid of their banknotes.

To try and restore monetary confidence Law announced a 50% devaluation of all notes in circulation to be executed over six months with an initial devaluation of 20% and share prices in the Mississippi Company also devalued so a 9,000 *livres* share would be worth 5,000 *livres*. The share devaluation was less than that of the paper currency so people began again investing in the Company's shares. By fixing the price of shares Law had turned them into money so the money supply, instead of shrinking, expanded. The devaluation, the first any public had ever experienced,

caused a run on Law's bank as people tried to exchange their notes for gold or coin. Armed soldiers were turned out to keep order as the long queues of thousands of people punched and fought each other even with knives to get into the bank and get their money changed. Voltaire stated: "Paper money has now been restored to its intrinsic value." (See "*Dr Strangelove's Game*" by Paul Strathern, Penguin Books, UK.)

Law's bank and the entire French financial system collapsed in 1720 causing the French government to sell the Louisiana Territory for a song to the government of the United States of America in an effort to recoup losses. The same system as Law's constitutes the entire Western world of finance and now is threatened with collapse in the USA or even globally. Are we condemned to have the same stupid system resurrected after every collapse for the benefit of a few private individuals?

To obtain a rational system of money and therefore a rational economic system requires analysis of what happens to the money (credit) issued by the banks. Some of the total credit (money) is converted through labour into real wealth, into farms, factories, steel mills, coal mines, etc—enterprises which produce goods and convert raw materials into products people consume or store, real wealth. These enterprises, whether agricultural and primary industries, or secondary manufacturing industries, together with their skilled labour and supporting public infrastructure, in aggregate constitute what Adam Smith called "The Wealth of Nations" and what Scotsman Major C.H. Douglas called "The Social Credit"--society's accumulated bank of transformed money into real wealth, skills, knowledge and productive capacity.

In a rational money system it is not gold but The Social Credit, society's store of productive elements given a

nominal monetary book value that should serve as the basis for any expansion of the money supply, for the issue of credit (creation of new money). Any expansion of the money supply (issue of credit) then would equate with a parallel expansion of output of goods, infrastructure, skilled employment, etc. An increase in The Social Credit would accompany the increase in new money; one would be synonymous with the other. (For a discussion on money systems see *"The Grip Of Death: A study of modern money, debt slavery, and destructive economics"* by Michael Rowbotham, 1998, Jon Carpenter Publishers, UK.)

Social credit theory seems largely centred on the relationship between credit and productive enterprise without answering who should be responsible for regulating the money supply credit and what place does consumer credit, as opposed to productive credit, have in the scheme of things. However, Major Douglas indicated that if a Social Credit monetary system were introduced the need for consumer credit probably would vanish and the present usurious activities of the banks would diminish.

Consumer credit demands would vanish because inflation and rising

prices would disappear. The value of money instead of declining with each expansion of credit as at present, would increase as new factories, farms, mines etc came onstream and produced more goods for society in line with the increase in money supply. The amount of money and the quantity of goods would be in step.

Control over the money supply must be removed from private hands and restored to the Crown or Parliament, the people's elected representatives.

Currently inflation occurs because there is a lag between production of the new money and production of new goods and services so too much money temporarily is chasing too few goods. The inflation halts or diminishes when the output of goods catches up with the increase in the money supply. Under a Social Credit system the two would be in step, any increase in the money supply would accompany an increase in production and prices would fall not rise. As prices fell the value of each individual's money would increase allowing him to save the needed cash to buy the objects of his desire or to go into business without

resorting to a bank loan. Thus under a Social Credit system the need for consumer credit theoretically would vanish.

Control over the money supply must be removed from private hands and restored to the Crown or Parliament, the people's elected representatives. That means nationalisation of the banking system and government control over the money supply which could be no more undesirable than the present system of making oneself acceptable to private banks to be awarded a loan. At least the public would know exactly who is responsible for the economic fortunes or misfortunes – the government – whereas under the present sleight-of-hand the banks are responsible but government gets the blame, let the power lie with the responsibility, with the government.

Instead we have an idiotic system of IOUs serving as the basis on which to issue more IOUs that swell the base of our paper money, *ad infinitum* as a disguised tax on the public for massive profit by the commercial banks at the expense of every individual in the nation. Only a Social Credit monetary system can correct that idiocy.

Discovery of the Century for Nellie Melba fans

Opera fans are eagerly awaiting the release of long-lost recordings by Australia's first international diva Dame Nellie Melba.

Records made from the original metal masters of Melba's first recordings in 1904 have been recently released, after lying unrecognised for a century in a record company's archives until their discovery in 2007.

The tracks include Melba's greatest operatic roles, including Gilda in *Rigoletto* and Mimi in *La Boheme*.

Classical music critic for The West Australian Neville Cohn called the find the musical equivalent of the discovery of a pharaoh's tomb. "The chance of listening to hitherto unknown Melba recordings when she was at her zenith

must have opera and recording enthusiasts salivating," Cohn said.

"The hype that will inevitably surround a find of this nature may well bring this magnificent voice of Australia's very first operatic superstar to the attention of a new generation of listeners."

British music historian Roger Neill said the find was of extraordinary historical importance and the metal masters sounded far superior to that based on old shellac records.

"For the first time in a century we can hear with extraordinary immediacy the impact and fullness of her sound," Dr. Neill said.

Recorded at Melba's home in London, the Melba metal masters were lost when the German manufacturing division of the British-

based Gramophone Company cut ties with its parent company in World War 1. Archived and forgotten, the masters were recognised by British recording engineer Roger Beardsley from an old handwritten list of numbers.

The signing of Melba by the Gramophone Company in March 1904 was the catalyst for the global growth of the infant recording industry. Recorded when she was 43, each single-sided, three-to-four minute record was sold for one guinea in 1904, equivalent to about \$200 today.

The recordings will be released by Historic Masters on a 78 vinyl record and CD in Melbourne, with a booklet written by Dr. Neill.

Melbourne, 2008

The Story of Dame Nellie Melba 1861 - 1931

Australia's first International Diva and most famous Soprano of our time

Early in the second half of the nineteenth century a young woman, Mrs. David Mitchell, recorded in the family Bible the birth of her daughter.

"Helen Porter" – ran the entry, written in the mother's flowing Victorian hand, born 19th May, 1861."

She closed the book when she had finished and let her glance wander round the comfortable parlour of the large roomy house at Richmond, a suburb of Melbourne.

Doubtless she wondered how the little girl would develop, what the future would hold in store for her. Both she and her husband, David Mitchell, a well-known builder, contractor, squatter and wine-grower, were musical, and she determined that the child would learn young to appreciate all that was best in music.

At the age of three Helen, or Nellie as her family called her, began lessons on the piano with her mother as teacher. These were pure joy to her, and she later recalled happy memories of her early days of music.

"When I was quite a baby," she told a friend, "it was my great joy to sit on my father's knee on Sunday afternoons when he used to amuse himself at the harmonium. He would blow the bellows and sing a bass accompaniment to the hymn which I picked out on the keyboard with one finger."

Nellie spent much of her childhood in the country at Lilydale, and it was here that she sang her first song in public at the age of six. The number was "Shells of Ocean," and it was rendered at a concert arranged by her aunts. After the performance she received what she described as the most devastating criticism of her life, when a playmate, asked how she enjoyed the song, replied in disgust, "Nellie Mitchell, I could see your drawers showing."

At the Presbyterian Church in Lilydale, Nellie played the organ on more than one occasion for the service while she was still only a child. She loved being in the country where she felt entirely free, where she could go out into the bush and sing to her heart's content.

Nellie's father was not kindly disposed to his daughter's aspiring to become a professional singer when she confided in him the dreams which had been taking shape in her mind. He was willing to spend money on her music generously, but only so that she could develop for her own and her friends' enjoyment the talent with which she was blessed. It was not that he had anything against singing as a career but rather that he had little faith in Nellie's real ability.

Between the years of ten and fourteen Nellie was placed under two teachers of singing, and sub-



sequently received lessons on the piano and organ. Her voice now gave indications of the purity and flexibility which were to make her famous, but it was not until she was well into her teens that her father was at last convinced that his daughter really was exceptional.

While at school Nellie became an expert in the art of whistling, an accomplishment which in later life she found to be of use in relieving her voice when studying operatic roles. As this particular accomplishment was supposed to be peculiarly shocking in the sentiments of the teachers of the Presbyterian Ladies' College, it was in a corresponding degree particularly admired by the pupils.

When she had finished a tune, they would say, "And now, Nellie, make that funny noise in your throat." This referred to the trill which was subsequently to serve her admirably.

The opinion had been put forward that her juvenile feats as a whistler may have helped in the development of her unrivalled breathing control.

When she left school Nellie was the possessor of nothing more than

a promising soprano voice and a flair for the pianoforte. All who heard her sing acknowledged that she was good, but few if any predicted operatic honours for her. At the time of her marriage, therefore, at the age of twenty-one, she was comparatively unknown as a singer.

It was in December of 1882 that she became Mrs Charles Armstrong in the city of Brisbane, and the event caused a considerable break in her musical studies.

But the couple were unsuited and the marriage proved a failure. A year later, in 1883, when her only child, a boy, George, was two months old, Nellie returned to her father's house in Melbourne. She never lived with her husband again.

In 1886, David Mitchell was appointed Victorian Commissioner to the Indian and Colonial Exhibition in London, and, so that his daughter should at any rate have a chance to study abroad, he decided to take her and his grandson with him.

The party sailed for England in March, and there she was given an audition by Sir Arthur Sullivan and Sir Hubert Parry, neither of whom were at all impressed.

Disappointed by her reception in London, Nellie decided to go to Paris. Before she left Melbourne the musical wife of the Austrian Consul, Madame Weidemann Pinschot, had given her a letter of introduction to Mathilde Marchesi in Paris, one of the most famous teachers of singing of all time.

When Nellie finally gained her purpose and managed to arrange an interview with the woman she sought, she found Madame Mathilde was loath to waste her time hearing a young unknown sing. But the young Australian had her way. After her first song Madame turned away without speaking and hurried off through the door of the apartment.

But Madame barely passed through the door and then stopped

to call along the passage to her husband.

Nellie's reaction can be imagined when she heard the words, "Salvatore, Salvatore, at last I have found a star!"

Marchesi's only fear seemed to be that the newcomer would not take her art seriously and on this score she questioned her closely. Taking both the young Australian's hands in hers she said, "Mrs. Armstrong are you in earnest?"

"Yes," answered the other simply.

"Then," added Madame Marchesi with great emphasis, "if you are in earnest and can study with me for one year I will definitely make something extraordinary of you."



Her distinguished student was launched by Madame at a musical matinee at her residence in the Rue Jouffrey, Paris, in December, 1886, when the soprano sang the "Mad Scene" from Ambrose Thomas's *Hamlet*. This was the first time that she had sung under the name of Madame Melba, a name which she derived from her native city, Melbourne.

After nine months of preparation in Marchesi's school, Madame Melba made her first appearance on the operatic stage at the Theatre de la Monnaie, Brussels, on October 30th, 1887, as Gilda in Verdi's *Rigoletto*. And even from her first appearance she was nominated a star. The Belgians acclaimed her rapturously and other connoisseurs hurried to Brussels to hear her sing. In November she followed her success as Gilda with *Traviata*, and in 1888 with a terrific performance in Delibe's opera *Lakme*.

Sir August Harris engaged Melba for Covent Gardens, but in her initial appearance in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, on May 24th, she was somewhat disappointing. The Press critics paid tribute to her commanding presence and histrionic capacity, but were not enthusiastic about her singing ability.

But on the Continent she was firmly entrenched, and there Melba decided to return, where she made her debut as Ophelia in *Hamlet* in Paris on May 8th, 1889. It was in this role Melba reached undreamed of heights. Even in the earlier portions of her very best performance she was credited with being a great success, but the "Mad Scene" was a veritable triumph and moved the audience to frenzy. Afterwards the French composer, Massenet, named her "Madame Stradivarius."

But Melba had not forgotten London and her failure to break through the conservatism of the English. She returned there again in June, and with her interpretation of the title role of Gounod's *Romeo and Juliet*, followed by an equally forcible and brilliant role in *Rigoletto*, she at last made her conquest and had the British audiences at her feet.

Back in Paris, where she had now established her home, Melba improved her dramatic art under the watchful eye of the brilliant Bernhardt. But her fame was already won.

As soon as arrangements could be made Melba appeared in St. Petersburg at the special invitation of Emperor Alexander III. She then toured the remainder of Europe and Scandinavia, receiving marks of special distinctions from sovereigns and important personages in many countries.

But it was her reception in Milan that was always Melba's foremost memory. It was a tradition of the famous Opera House of La Scala to accept without reluctance as a pre-eminent artist any whose talent had not been developed in Italy, even though such talent had been acclaimed the world over. A plot was hatched against Melba and everything possible was done to place her in the possible light before the audience, and at the same time break her nerve before the performance. She was warned that her food would be poisoned, that there would be fire in the building, that the lifts in the hotel would be tampered with. She stayed on in spite of it all.

When the performance began (it was *Lucia di Lammermoor*), the audience partly turned its back on the stage, but at the close of the first recitative found the house sitting forward and taking notice; and on the termination of the "Mad Scene," in which Melba was incomparable, she was greeted with a truly remarkable ovation.

It was impossible for Melba to leave Italy until she had starred in Florence, Turin, and Genoa, such was the enthusiasm with which the Italian Press proclaimed her artistry. Italy, the home of singers, was at her feet.

The same year, 1893, Melba visited America for the first time to sing in the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. Subsequently she made many trips to the States, for she always felt at her best whilst there.

Melba, now thirty-three, returned to Convent Garden in 1894 to be hailed as the Queen of the Lyric Stage. The singer whom England had been so reluctant to receive was now the most sought after of all the operatic stars, and a Melba night at the Royal Opera marked the height of the operatic season. Queen Victoria, King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, King George V and Queen Mary, were all great admirers of the Australian singer.

In 1902, after an absence of fifteen years, Melba made a triumphant return to Australia, and in 1903, having toured New Zealand as well as the Commonwealth, she went back to London still reigning as the world's leading soprano.

After 1907 Melba spent much more time in Australia than at any period since she left her native land in search of fame and fortune. There she achieved her ambition when she brought her own grand opera company to Australia and played to crowded houses in all the capital cities.

During the war of 1914-18, Melba gave herself wholeheartedly to assisting patriotic causes, giving concerts in Australia, Canada and the United States, which raised over 100,000 pounds for the Red Cross. Because of this great service King George V created her a Dame of the British Empire in 1918.

At San Francisco in 1916 she was asked by a party of Australians to accompany them to a Buddhist Temple in a valley twenty miles (32km) from the city. Melba regretted that she could not accept the invitation as she was in the hands of her hosts. But as she was singing in San Francisco that night she put a box at the disposal of the party. As soon as Melba came on to the

stage an uproar of "cooees" greeted her from the box. Melba smiled and inclined her head toward the greeting and then, with a very melodious "cooe", she pushed her accompanist aside and sang *Home Sweet Home* to her own accompaniment. Soon the stage was covered with gum boughs from Australian trees which flourished in California. They had to be cleared away before the diva could find standing room sufficient for her performance.



It was also in the United States that an amusing incident occurred which showed that there was none of the hysterical tendencies in Melba usually associated with a prima donna. During a performance of *Lucia di Lammermoor* the theatre caught fire. Amid screams and panic Melba stopped in the middle of the song to assure the audience that there was no danger, although in reality there was great danger in one part of the theatre. Her listeners became quiet and remained so, until the conductor lost his nerve and climbed excitedly on to the stage shouting at the top of his voice. Melba leaned forward and gave him a resounding crack on the head, causing him to fall to the stage senseless. After that there was no more panic.

In 1924 the diva brought a second opera company to Australia

which had been formed in Italy and in which Melba and Toti del Monte were the chief attractions. At the end of this tour, with a performance of *La Boheme* in Melbourne on October 13th, Melba bade her official farewell to the Australian operatic stage, although in 1928 she associated herself with the visit of the J.C. Williamson Italian Opera Company and sang in one or two of the operas.

To English audiences she played her last role before the King and Queen at Convent Garden on June 8th, 1926, when she sang opposite Charles Hackett in the balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet*, then *Salce* and *Ave Maria* from *Othello*, and finally *La Boheme*. The last named was especially significant that night for as Mimi breathed her last notes it was Melba singing her swan song as well.

At the conclusion of the performance the audience rose to their feet and cheered and cheered again and again. The stage was massed with flowers; Lord Stanley made a speech of appreciation, and then Melba, with a bouquet from the King to which was attached an appreciative message he had written

himself, said her goodbye. Her last farewell was almost a sob, and then the dark red curtains closed for the last time on the greatest coloratura soprano of all time.

Melba had been very reluctant to allow her farewell concert to be broadcast, but its success was more than she could have hoped. Although she was now sixty-five, her voice had gone over the air with a purity and simplicity of tone, revealing the fineness of its texture.

The next year the King again honoured her, this time with the G.B.E.

Melba retired to beautiful Coombe Cottage at Coldstream, Victoria, the home to which she had always gone to rest when she visited Australia. She spent much of that time at her piano, and assisted financially many youthful aspirants at the Albert Street Conservatorium of Music. It was to this College that she left 8000 pounds in her will to provide three years' free tuition to young singers who obtained a scholarship.

Early in 1931 Dame Melba became ill with blood-poisoning and entered St. Vincent's Hospital at

Darlinghurst, Sydney. She seemed no longer to want to live, the fight had gone out of her and she was tired. When one of her visitors to the hospital made an encouraging remark about her health, she said, "Don't tell me lies. I am dying, and you know it."

Melba's farewell song to the world was not really at Convent Garden in 1926, but on her death-bed when she sang faintly several bars from Gounod's *Ave Maria* before she lapsed into unconsciousness.

So Melba, the nightingale whose music had filled the melancholy hearts of kings with happiness, whose notes brought tears to the eyes of the distinguished teacher who was reputed to be so hard-hearted that she had only wept twice in fifteen years, Melba, possessor of the "most glorious voice God ever put into the throat of a woman," passed from intermittent coma to complete rest on February 23rd, 1931, in her seventieth year.

Mourned by the whole world, she was laid to rest next to her father in the little cemetery at Lilydale, Victoria.

At the memorial service in Scots Church, Melbourne, where as a child she had worshipped, the Rev. Dr. Borland paid tribute to her.

"There is sorrow in many hearts today," he said, "and deep sympathy for those nearest and dearest to the great lady for whom we mourn. But there is more of gratitude even than sorrow, even than of personal human sympathy. That gratitude is shared by millions of fellow mortals in every land throughout the world. No one in these two generations which most of us have known has been so wonderfully gifted as she whose voice thrilled the hearts of millions."

Compiled By Eve Bennetts



Diva: Melba sings at the opening of Parliament House in Canberra in 1927.

A Matter Of History

One record of past and present foreign interests, infiltration, interference in Afghanistan and Pakistan affairs.

The Troubled Afghan-Pakistan Border

Jayshree Bajoria Nov. 20 2007, Staff Writer Council on Foreign Relations:

Introduction: Afghanistan shares borders with six countries but the approximately 1500 mile (2414.016 km) long Durand Line along Pakistan remains the most dangerous. Kabul has never recognised the line as an international border, instead claiming the Pashtun territories in Pakistan that comprise the Federally Administered Tribal Lands (FATA) and parts of the North West Frontier Province along the border.

Incidents of violence have increased on both sides of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in the last year. Various reports in late 2007 showed militants gaining ground in Pakistan and their influence has spread to areas beyond the FATA. Similarly, in Afghanistan, violence has peaked since the ouster of the Taliban six years ago with a worrisome increase in suicide attacks.

Historical Conflict: the region that is today known as Afghanistan was long torn by ethnic and tribal rivalries. It started evolving as a modern state in the early nineteenth century when the British East India Company began expanding in the northwest of British held India. This was also the time of the "great game" – the geopolitical struggle between the British and Russian empires.

The British held the Indian sub-continent while the Russians held the Central Asian lands in the north. Their spheres of influence overlapped in Afghanistan. Britain, concerned about Russian expansion, invaded Afghanistan in 1839 and fought the 1st Anglo-Afghan war. This led to a decade of machinations between the British and the Russians and two more bloody wars, at the end of which, in 1919, Afghanistan won its independence.

Durand Line: The Durand Line is named after foreign secretary of the co-

lonial government of India, Sir Henry Mortimer Durand, who demarcated the frontier between British India and Afghanistan in 1893. The line was drawn after negotiations between the British Government and the founder of modern Afghanistan, King (Amir) Abdur Rahman Khan. This line brought the tribal lands (now a part of Pakistan) under British control. Barnett R. Rubin, director of studies at New York University's Centre on International Co-operation, writes in *Foreign Affairs* that the British established a three-tiered border to separate their empire from Russia.

The first frontier separated the areas of the Indian sub-continent under direct British administration, from those areas under Pashtun control (today this line divides those areas administered by the Pakistani state from the FATA). The second frontier, the Durand Line, divided the Pashtun tribal areas from the territories under Afghan administration. This now forms the international border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The outer frontier, Afghanistan's border with Russia, Iran and China demarcated the British sphere of influence.

The Pakistan side of the Durand Line border includes provinces of Balochistan, the North West Frontier Province (NWFP), and the seven tribal agencies of the FATA. On the Afghanistan side, the frontier stretches from Nuristan province in the north-east to Nimruz in the South-west.

The British devised a special legal structure called the Frontier Crimes Regulations (FCR) to rule the tribal lands and this continues to be the legal regime in FATA today.

Tribal Connections: The ongoing border frictions are due in large part to tribal allegiances that have never recognised the century-old frontier. Forty percent of Afghanistan's population is made up of Pashtuns; in Pakistan, Pashtuns represent 15-20 per cent of



Hamid Karzai
President of Afghanistan

the countries population. Ethnic Balochis also live on both sides of the Afghan-Pakistan border as well as in neighbouring Iran. "People on both sides of the Durand Line consider it a soft border" says Hussein Haqqani, director of Boston University's Centre for International Relations. He adds "Pashtuns consider it their own land even though there is also a loyalty to the respective states along with a desire to freely move back and forth".

Frederick Grare of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace writes that the Pashtun question (PDF) is "an ethnic, political and geopolitical problem". At the time of India's partition, Pashtuns were only given the choice of either becoming a part of India or Pakistan. Many Pashtun nationalists on both sides of the Durand Line continue to demand an independent state of Pashtunistan. In Balochistan too, several organisations demand an independent state.

Neighbour's Interference: A report to the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) co-authored by Rubin Abubakkar Siddique points out: "The

long history of each state offering sanctuary to the other's opponents has built bitterness and mistrust between the two neighbours". Afghanistan sheltered Baloch nationalists in the 1970's while Pakistan extended refuge and training to the mujahadeen in the 1980's and then later supported the Afghani Taliban.

Following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, Pakistan's then military ruler Zia ul-Haq promoted the jihad in Afghanistan, funded thousands of Islamic madrassas, armed domestic Islamist organisations, and in the process 'militarised and radicalised the border region' says the USIP report.

Experts say that, underlying Pakistani actions in the region, is concern about bolstering security against India. The USIP report notes Pakistan sought to support a 'client regime in Afghanistan' that would be hostile to India, 'giving the Pakistan military a secure border and strategic depth'. By supporting Islamist militias among the Pashtun, Pakistan's government has tried to neutralise Baloch and Pashtun nationalism within its borders.

The International Crisis Group in October 2007 reported that Pakistan still supports Pashtun Islamist parties in a bid to counter Baloch and Pashtun forces, 'using Balochistan as a base of operation and sanctuary' and recruiting from its extensive madrassa network, the report says 'the Taliban and its Pakistani allies are undermining the state-building effort in Afghanistan'.

Pakistan's (former) President Pervez Musharraf repeatedly denied this.

Porous Borders: Both the Pashtuns and Balochis gain much of their income from cross-border smuggling says the USIP paper. Thanks to the largely porous border and people from similar ethnic groups straddling both its sides, "the borderlands already have become a land bridge for the criminals (drugs) and criminalized (transit trade) economies of the region". The trans-border political and military networks between the two countries are reinforced as well as funded and armed by

criminal activities such as trafficking in drugs, arms and even people.

Afghanistan is the world's largest cultivator and supplier of opium (93% of the global opiates markets). According to the Afghanistan Opium Survey 2007 by the UN office on Drugs and Crime, opium cultivation in the country is no longer associated with poverty. The report says opium is now closely linked to the insurgency and the Taliban are again using it to get 'resources for arms, logistics and militia pay', despite a large foreign military presence.

The War on Terror: Since 9/11 'there is a large asymmetry of interests between Afghanistan and Pakistan', according to Carnegie's Grare. For Islamabad, Afghanistan is only one element in a larger game involving its policy towards India as well as its local standing, writes Grare. The relationship is mainly a bilateral issue for Afghanistan.

After 9/11, Pakistan allied itself with the United States in its war on terror. This created a dilemma for Pakistan, as it now had to hunt down the Taliban and the Islamic organisations it reportedly helped to create in the first place. It also had to send its troops into the tribal lands where the Pakistani military has never been welcome. Incidents of Pakistani soldiers surrendering without a fight to militant organisations became common during 2007.

Before 9/11, especially during the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, Pakistan and US policies in the border region converged, a friendly government in Afghanistan gave Islamabad strategic depth against India as well as a land bridge across Central Asia, and an open border ensured easy access to Kabul. This fit well into Washington's strategic objective, which looked to Pakistan as a vantage ground to prevent Soviet hegemony in the region. But post 9/11, the United States wants greater controls on the border. Pakistan's national interest now conflicts with its foreign policy and the most powerful state institution, the Pakistan

military, is caught in the middle of these militant groups to counter what it perceives as the security threat from India and its continued claim to Kashmir, it now has to appease the United States for strategic, military and foreign aid. Hassan Abbas, a research fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government writes (PDF) that extremism has been rising in Pakistan's border areas and they continue to provide sanctuary to militants who spread insurgency in Afghanistan.

The Pakistani army has shown it is not sufficiently equipped to fight insurgency in these areas. Former CFR Adjunct Senior Fellow Mahnas Ispahani says there is some validity to the argument that the Pakistani army cannot entirely control or close the border with Afghanistan. Islamabad and the FATA regions have long followed a policy of 'live and let live', with minimal interference in one another's affairs, but Ispahani says the United States would like to see this changed.

Looking Ahead: A classified US proposal disclosed by the New York Times outlines an intensified effort to enlist tribal leaders in the border areas of Pakistan in the fight against al-Qaeda and the Taliban. If adopted, the proposal would "directly finance a separate tribal paramilitary force" the newspaper says. The United States has also started a five year \$750 million assistance program in the FATA. The State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs assists the Frontier Corps, a Pakistani federal paramilitary force stationed in the NWFP and Balochistan, with financing for counter-narcotics work.

To restructure the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan, a Council Special Report, authored by Rubin, recommends recognition of an international border by the two countries and co-operative development of the tribal areas on either side. It also suggests transforming the status of the tribal areas in Pakistan and empowering the people by allowing the people to participate in elections.

Ispahani says besides security and military co-operation, the two countries must focus more on economic issues. Being a landlocked country and sharing one of the longest borders with Pakistan, Afghanistan's economy is "incredibly dependent on Pakistan" "and this has moderated Afghan's policy with its neighbour", she says.

Marvin G. Weinbaum, a former Pakistan and Afghanistan analyst at

the US State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, writes (PDF) that Pakistan's wide ranging exports to Afghanistan amounts to roughly \$1.2 billion per year and it imports more than \$700 million worth of goods.

Experts say that tensions might ease with the new Pakistani army chief solely focused on military matters and securing the border. From 1999

to 2007, Pervez Musharraf was busy running the country in his dual role as president and leader of the military. A change in army leadership, however, by no means solves the bigger problems of limitations or the will of the army itself. Ispahani suggests in both countries, especially in Pakistan, there needs to be a greater recognition that the war against militancy is in the country's own interest.



Picture: Associated Press

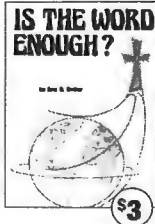

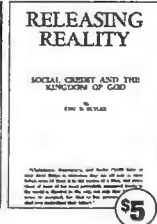


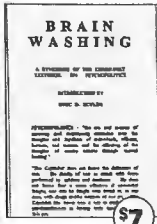

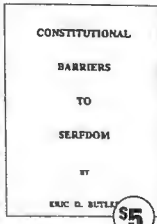



Angry: Pakistanis chant slogans during a rally in Lahore on Sunday to condemn US missile strikes on the country's tribal areas.



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NOAH'S ARK – TODAY

The Lord spoke to Noah and said, "Noah in six months I am going to make it rain until the whole world is covered with water and all the evil things are destroyed. But I want to save a few good people and two of every living thing on the planet. So I am ordering you to build an Ark."

And in a flash of lightning, the Lord delivered the specifications for the Ark.

"OK," Noah said, trembling with fear and fumbling with the blueprints. "I'm your man."

"Six months and it starts to rain," warned the Lord. "You better have my Ark completed - or learn to swim for a long, long time!"

Six months passed, the sky began to cloud up, and the rain began to fall in torrents. The Lord looked down and saw Noah sitting in his yard, weeping. There was no Ark.

"Noah!" shouted the Lord, "where is MY Ark?"

A lightning bolt crashed into the ground right beside Noah.

"Lord please forgive me!" begged Noah. "I did my best, but there were some big problems. First, I had to get a building permit for the Ark's construction, but your plans did not meet their code. So, I had to hire an engineer to redo the plans, only to get into a long



argument with him about whether to include a fire-sprinkler system.

"My neighbours objected, claiming that I was violating zoning ordinances by building the Ark in my front yard, so I spent months trying to get a variance from the city planning board.

"After all that, I had a big problem getting enough wood for the Ark, because there was a ban on cutting trees, to save the spotted owl. I tried to convince the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that I needed the wood to "save" the owls, but they would not listen. And they would not let me catch any owls, either - so no Owls on the Ark.

"Then the Carpenter's Union started picketing my home because I was not using union carpenters. I had to halt construction and begin negotiating with the National Labor Relations Board.

"Next, I started gathering up the animals - but got sued by an animal rights group that objected to me taking along two of each kind. Just when that suit got dismissed, the EPA notified me that I could not complete the Ark without filing an environmental impact statement on your proposed flood. They did not take kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of a Supreme Being.

"Then the Corps of Engineers wanted a map of the proposed flood plan. I sent them a globe, and they went ballistic!

"The IRS has seized all my assets, claiming that I am trying to leave the country, and I just got a notice from the state that I owe some kind of use tax.

"Lord, I'm sorry, but I do not think there is any way I can finish the Ark in less than five years. If ever!"

With that, the sky cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow arched across the sky. Noah looked up and smiled. "You mean you are not going to destroy the world?" he asked hopefully.

"Wrong!" thundered the Lord. "But I'm going to do it with something far worse than a mere flood.

Something far more destructive. Something that man himself created."

"What is that?" Noah asked.

"Government" said the Lord.

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Sir Wallace Kyle, former Governor of WA writing in 1977 *Heritage*

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Sir Raphael Cilento; First patron of the Australian Heritage Society

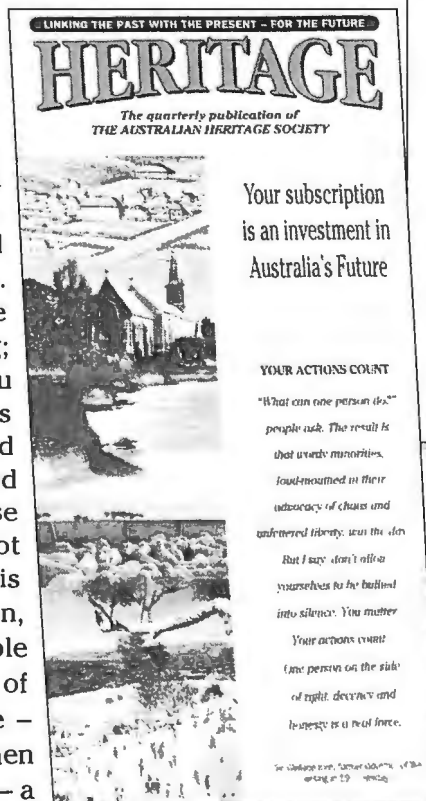
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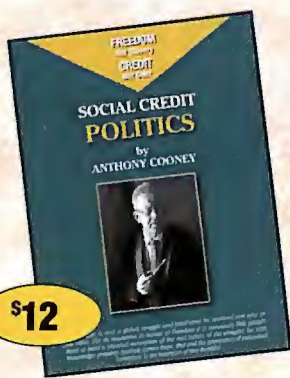
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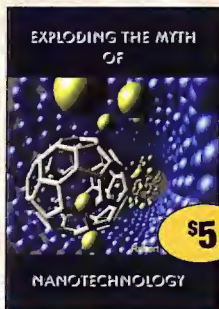
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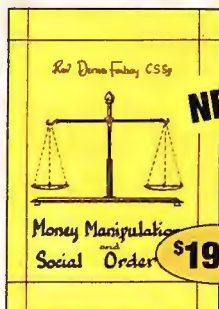


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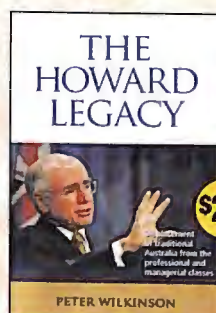
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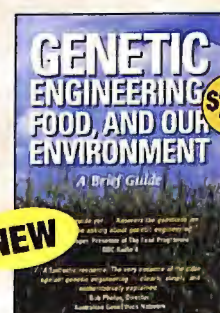


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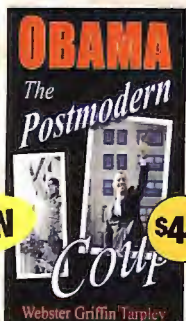
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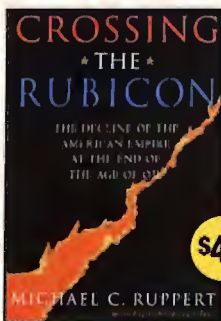
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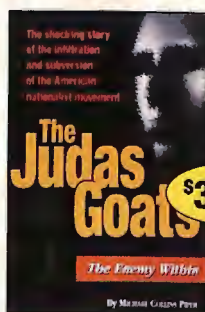


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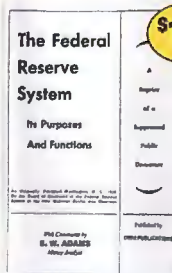
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