

BON VOYAGE TO

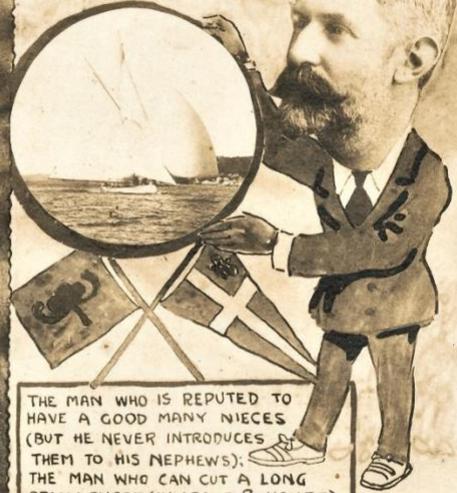


THE CHIEF OF THE "WEATHER BUREAU", OFTEN TO BE FOUND IN THE ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT IF NOT AT THE TILLER OF THE "THELMA", A QUIET, DECENT, INOFFENSIVE CHAP.



OUR HERO FROM A WELL KNOWN PAINTING

SANDY



THE MAN WHO IS REPUTED TO HAVE A GOOD MANY NIECES (BUT HE NEVER INTRODUCES THEM TO HIS NEPHEWS). THE MAN WHO CAN CUT A LONG STORY SHORT (IN ABOUT 2 HOURS)



A POPULAR MAN AT MOSMAN, FORMERLY WALTER MOORE BUT NOW THAT HE HAS SHAVED HIS MOUSTACHE WE DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS — "Oo! Ooh!!"

OUR GUEST, OUR FRIEND, THE MAN WHO ALWAYS WEARS A "WESKIT" AND NEVER REFUSES A DRINK, AN IDEAL YACHTSMAN.

THE ONE MEMBER OF THE CREW WHO DOES MORE THAN ALL THE OTHERS TO STOP THE "... YAPPING ABOARD THIS SHIP." HE IS SEEN HERE IN THE ACT OF GOING BELOW TO HELP SANDY STOP UP THE SPINNAKER; HE ALWAYS WAS A SPORT.



THE TOAST ON THIS OCCASION BEING MR SANDY SOR WE CAN'T SAY TOO MUCH ABOUT OTTO BUT HE IS A REMARKABLE MAN AND IS MOST ENTERTAINING AFTER DINNER

Mr Sandy Sor

This little Memento is given you by way of wishing you Bon Voyage, God speed and all things that are good for you and Madam, and a happy and speedy return. This brief and modest preface is from the hand of our noble, unselfish, but too modest skipper and would not be complete without a full acknowledgement to "Mr Henty Sor," for it is owing to the brilliant scintillations that emit from this marvellous brain that we are indebted for many of the little shafts of humour, satires, call them what you will, that appear under the portraits of the crew.

THE SHIP'S JEWELLERY, REPOSE IN A CASKET BY THEMSELVES, ALWAYS THERE WHEN YOU WANT THEM, SILENT, HELPFUL, RESOURCEFUL, THEY ARE PRICELESS JEWELS AND REQUIRE NO POOR PEN TO MAKE THEIR BRILLIANCE BRIGHTER



In March 1913, Mr. James Albert Ross and Mrs. Ross took a world tour and it was newsworthy.

Tuesday, 11th March, 1913 - Evening News

Yachting - The Sport in Port Jackson

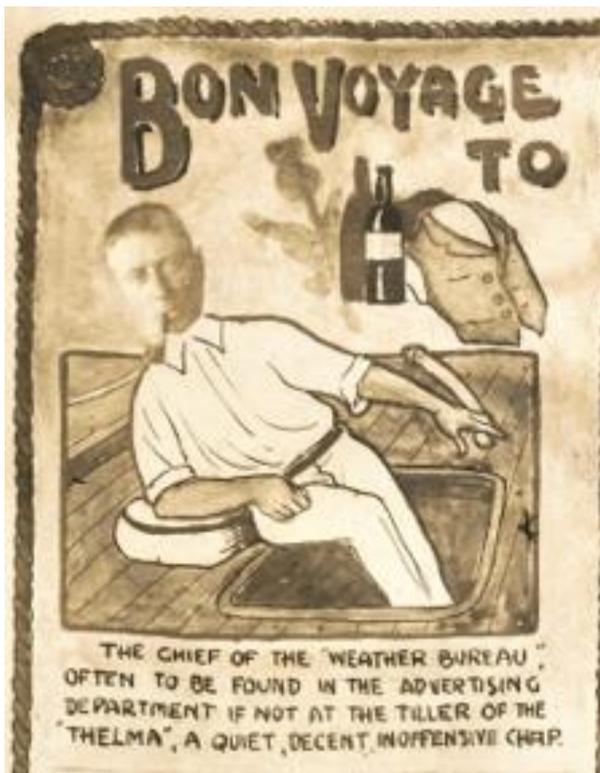
"Bob Backstay's" notes

*Fleet Paymaster **James A. Ross**. R.A.N.R., committeeman and one of the handicappers at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, is going to England, via Japan, with Mrs. Ross. He is an ancient yachtsman — racing or cruising— a thorough sport, as well as a well-known bank manager. He originated in the Highlands of Scotland, acquired a 'little' knowledge of boat sailing on the Clyde, and then came to Balmain to compete. He has been given the chance of seeing the land of his birth again — though he came near to losing it on Saturday last — and is going off by the steamer *Nikko Maru* tomorrow. During the last ten days he has been farewelled in many places. Yachtsmen honored him, the citizens of Newtown banqueted him, while private parties have been numerous. Mrs. Ross has shared in the festive season, for she is a keen follower of yacht races, and in social circles is a prominent figure. Her genial personality will be missed equally with that of 'Jas. A.,' who for so many years has been so affectionately known as 'Sandy.'*

The farewell testimonial displayed above has lots of clues to its origin and I have worked my way through each image and caption to unlock the story.

First of all, the top centre cartoon is titled "Our Hero' from a well-known painting." It clearly matches the Beecroft painting of J. A Ross, dated 1908. In the cartoon, Mr. Ross is holding a handkerchief in his right hand and his distinctive hat in his left. He is shedding a tear. Note in the cartoon the shoes he is wearing, 1913 version of docksiders.





The top left image has Mr. Ross at the helm of "Thelma" at the time owned by Charles Lloyd Jones.

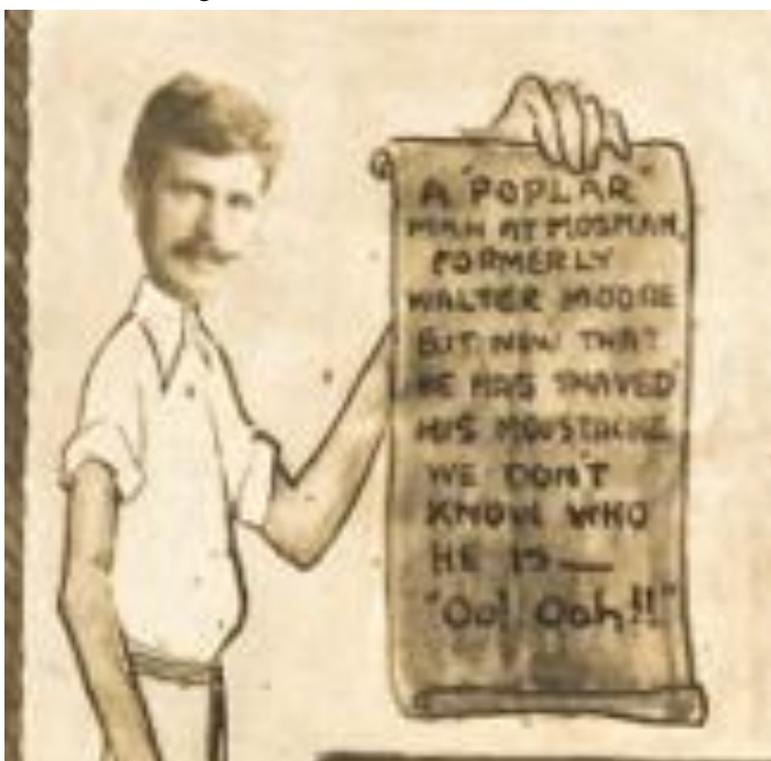
On the top right, he is holding carefully a photo of "Thelma".

His friends are clearly teasing him about his family, his ability to spin out a yarn, and his general demeanour – clearly not a shrinking violet.



The next image is of Walter Moore. There is a tragedy here for Walter Moore drowned when "Thelma" was wrecked on the Bombora off Dobroyd on the 8th of March, 1913.

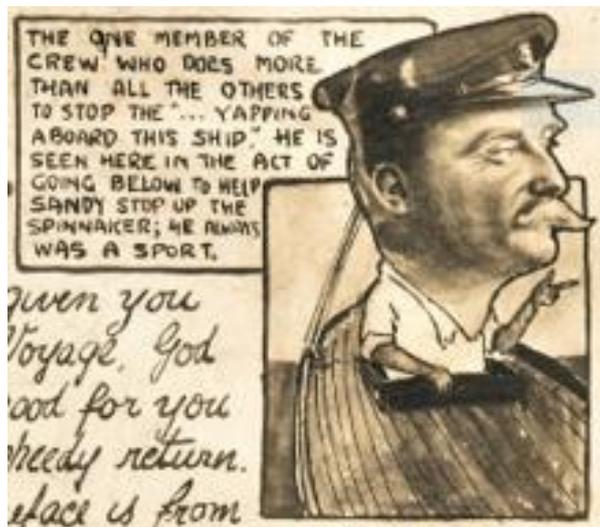
This implies that the testimonial was written before that date so that by the time Mr. Ross departed for Europe on the 12th of March, he would have been mourning the loss of his mate. In fact, all the gents mentioned here would have been in mourning.



The next image and caption refers to Otto Meyers.

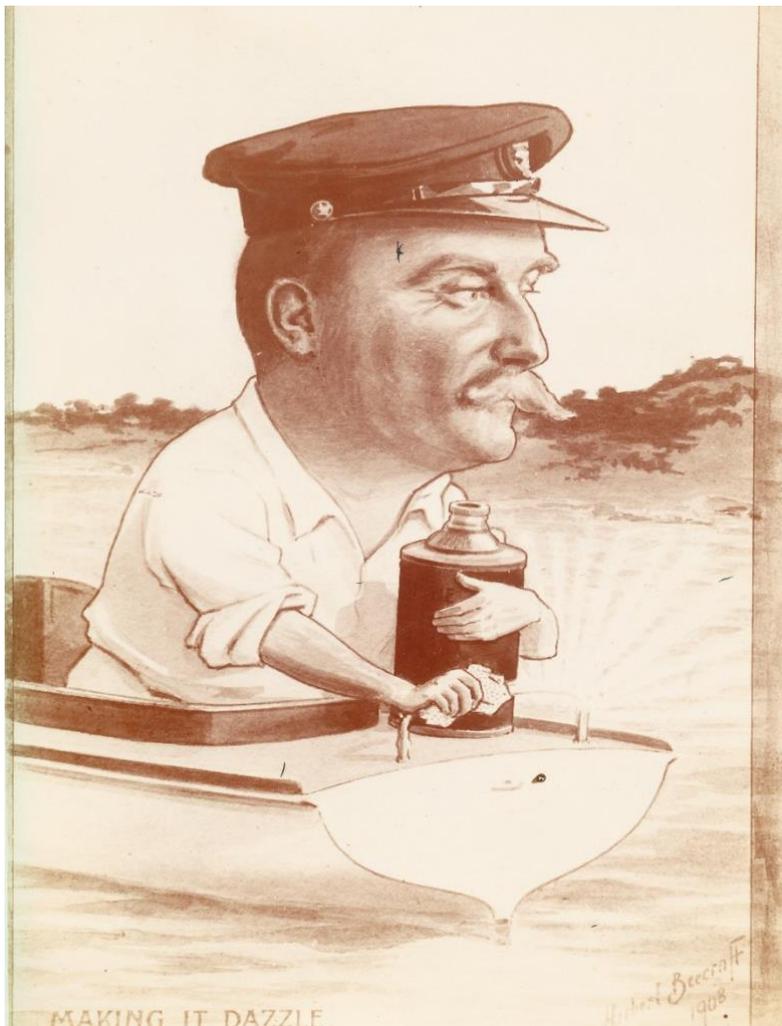
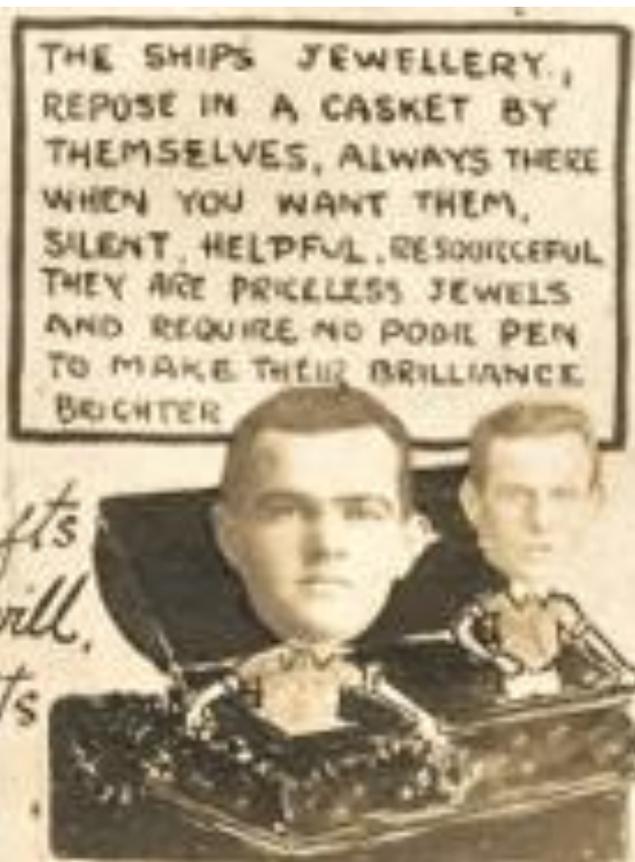


The next image is of G. W. Henty. On the right, I have scanned a photo of a Becroft watercolour of G. W. Henty dating to 1908 but not among those displayed at the RSYS. Another painting of G.W. Henty, dated also to 1908, is on display.



It is clear that the painting of the head of Mr. Henty has been superimposed on to the cartoon in the testimonial.

The last cartoon shows two heads poking out of a jewellery box. These are T. Diamond and his brother, clearly the "Ship's Jewellery" referred to in the caption. They were aboard "Thelma" when she was wrecked.



Finally, at the bottom of the testimonial, the crew are sitting, holding handkerchiefs and crying as they mourn the departure of Sandy with the steam ship disappearing into the distance. A bottle of scotch, a discarded waist coat and a pamphlet titled "Sandy's dinner" are on the right.



John Maclurcan
May, 2022