
TEPPER, JOHANN GOTTLIEB OTTO

PRG 313
Box List

For the knowledge of the plant and insect life of South Australia in the last quarter of the nineteenth century we are much indebted to J G O Tepper.

Born in Prussia, Tepper arrived in South Australia with his parents in 1847. The family settled at Lyndoch Valley. He qualified as a teacher, married Jane Brock in 1867 and taught at numerous schools between 1867 and 1883, all the while pursuing natural history and publishing a wealth of articles in journals and newspapers.

In 1883 he was appointed Natural History Collector to the Museum and in 1888 Entomologist, Numismatist and Librarian. He was titled Museum Entomologist in 1890 and also served as consulting Entomologist to the Department of Agriculture. He retired, officially, in 1911.

As a conservationist, Tepper lobbied the government for flora and fauna protection, ensured the preservation of the plot of trees marking the site of first settlement at Lyndoch and endorsed native plantings in parks and gardens.

Between 1878 and 1912 Tepper was actively involved in a number of natural history societies, serving as vice president of the South Australian Gardeners' Society from 1896 to 1909, chairing most of its meetings. He contributed over 70 articles and reports to the *Garden and field* and 60 papers to the Royal Society of South Australia's *Transactions*, most describing newly discovered insects which he often exhibited at meetings. He was a foundation member and subsequent chairman of the Field Naturalists Section and led more than 50 excursions between 1884 and 1901.

In 1879 he was made a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London and in 1898 a Life Member of the Society of Science Letters and Art (London), being awarded the Society's Medal the same year. A number of his valuable scientific papers were published in English and German journals.

Unfortunately Tepper's small work on South Australian orchids and his more ambitious *Flora of South Australia*, illustrated by Rosa Fiveash, were never published. Tepper himself was a competent artist.

Tepper's extensive herbarium eventually passed to the State Herbarium while in Melbourne's National Herbarium his collections probably number more than all the other nineteenth century South Australian contributions combined, with the exception of those of von Mueller with whom he was a regular correspondent.

The insect specimens he collected for the Museum can be counted in the thousands and he described 164 new species. Various insects and plants were named after him (e.g. *Telephorus tepperi* and *Dodonaea tepperi*).

Tepper's last surviving daughter, Isabella Cowan, an excellent painter of flowers, died in 1966 aged 95.

SOURCE: KRAEHENBUEHL, D. N. *The life and works of J.G.O. Tepper.....South Australian naturalist*, volume 44, 1969.

Box 1

1. Photographs and stereoscope cards of South Australian scenes 1889-1915. 6 small volumes, two packets and one box.

Album 1: Tepper in his office at the Adelaide Public Library (now the top floor east side of the Mortlock building) 1911, Aboriginal relics discovered at Fulham 1911, Port Lincoln and Eyre Peninsula 1908, three botanical photos.

Album 'III' (1908): Adelaide buildings 1908 including the Ebenezer Chapel in course of demolition, scenes in Rundle Street, Marshall's new building, construction of 'Register' offices Grenfell Street, Norwood scenes, demolition of Penna's smithy in Union Street, **views of Prince Alfred College, laying tram lines in North Terrace 1908, East Parklands view, Rundle Street views, Kent Town views.**

Album 'IV' (1908): Scaffolding for building of SA Museum 1908, fossil tree outside Museum, Exhibition Building, Victoria Square, laying tram lines in Victoria Square, laying tram lines Norwood Parade and North Terrace and associated machinery, laying electric tram cabling in East Terrace, Old Fountain Inn Hackney, 'Bell's Cottage' (Bella?) Bower Street Norwood, site of the Ebenezer Chapel now the new East Terrace market.

Album 'VI' (1909): 'Hope Cottage' – Otto Tepper's home at Norwood, 'Vintage Shades Hotel' Norwood, old Kentish Arms Hotel Norwood. The rest of this album has had the original photographs replaced with later snaps of children including various overseas photographs.

Album 'IX' (1910): Photographs taken during an 'excursion' to Lyndoch including photographs of the North Para River, Dutschke's Crossing, site of the Lyndoch Volunteers Rifle Range of which Tepper was a member 1858-1862, building in Lyndoch, Lyndoch Lutheran Cemetery, home of his friend William Rushall, Lyndoch Valley, the original Tepper property at Hoffnungsthal, Wesleyan Chapel Clarendon and other scenes at Clarendon, Kangarilla, Happy Valley Reservoir conduit at Clarendon, Turner's' Gully.

Album 'XI': Photographs of the erection of the SA Museum 1907-1909 – most of these have been removed from the album, 'Vacuum dust exhaustor at work' in front of the SA Institute 1911, interior of the Public Library (Mortlock building) showing upper galleries 1911.

Packet containing loose pages from other albums, portions of 'II' are marked: Anglican Church Glen Osmond 1908, Glen Osmond quarry and engineer's house, Ebenezer Chapel (William Charlick Ltd) 1908, steam train at Outer Harbour 1908, horses 'ploughing' North Terrace prior to laying of electric tram lines, newspaper cutting re Ebenezer Chapel 1908, Old Colonist Hotel, Norwood having extra floor built, Black Forest from Glenelg train line 1913, Education Department building being erected in Flinders Street 1914, old Norwood brick works and kiln in Osmond Terrace

1914, Old Colonist Hotel, Norwood after completion of upper floor 1914, Payneham Town Hall, almost completed Adelaide Electric Supply building corner of East Terrace and Grenfell S, tram conductors in Victoria Square 1914, South Australian Company's new building on North Terrace 1914, Bell's Cottage Norwood, steam roller after collision with 'electric line pole' Dequetteville Terrace 1914, tram outside Norwood Town Hall, Norwood Town Hall extensions 1914, new residence of Mr B.H. Lehmann Rose Pak 1915, building formerly college of Nesbit and Caterer Edward Street Norwood 1915, new 'Hall's Avenue Hotel' Payneham Road 1915, 'giant crane' used in early stages of construction of new Education Department building in Flinders Street 1913, Osmond Terrace extension 1913, Buck's Head Hotel Payneham 1913.

Packet of stereoscope views including home-made ones of Adelaide scenes: Ruthven Mansions, Military parade on North Terrace including early ambulance circa 1914, Jacob's Creek and North Para River near Moorooroo, garden of F.S. Crawford Norwood 1889, grass trees at Port Lincoln.

Box of Matheson's Australian Stereoscope views of south eastern South Australia c. 1906, also notes by Otto Tepper about his collection of stereoscope cards. Views are of natural features at Mount Gambier, Naracoorte and Robe.

Box 2

1. Reminiscences of J.G.O. (Otto) Tepper 1815-1926. Bound copy of typescript 'Authentic records and autobiography of JGO Tepper, compiled by K.W. Tepper, Hamilton, Victoria.
2. 'The forest and its aspects' 1913. Pencil draft of article by Tepper, 11 pages.
3. 'Manuscript volume IV 1880 -'. Drafts of scientific papers, talks and lists by Otto Tepper, e.g. "'Bay of Biscay' soil and its formation", "List of seeds received from Botanical Gardens, Berlin", "The destructive potato moth", "Catalogue of foreign coins in my collection" etc.
4. Portion of a recipe book, pages 226-332 only, rebound in five sections, containing unusual hand-written recipes such as manufacture of aerated water.
5. Native South Australian Orchid drawings. Photographic copies of drawings and descriptions of South Australian archives. 1 volume.