

**QUELQUES ARTISTES FRANCAIS EN AUSTRALIE AND
SOME AUSTRALIAN ARTISTS IN FRANCE –
THE NINETEENTH CENTURY**

JANE CLARK

Artistic contacts between France and Australia during the nineteenth century were not particularly close or strong. They came about for three main reasons -

- 1) French topographical artists visiting with early voyages of exploration
- 2) French and French-trained artists (and critics) who came to take a share of Australia's great wealth in the aftermath of the goldrush; especially in the 1880s, introducing *plein air* painting practice and paying lip service to some aspects of Impressionism. This period also saw numerous French paintings sent from Europe for exhibition and, it was hoped, for sale to wealthy colonists (e.g. *Chloe* by Lefebvre, now at Young and Jackson's).
- 3) Australians studying in France because of the reputation of Paris as "centre of the world of art"; also especially the 1890s when the Australian boom burst, seeking larger markets overseas.

The list that follows is a very brief summary including examples from all these three categories, in roughly chronological order. Further biographical information may be found for some of them in Alan McCulloch's *Encyclopaedia of Australian Art* (2 vols, Hutchinson, Melbourne 1984). In general, I would say that the nineteenth-century contacts between France and Australia had little or no significant impact on the artistic development of either nation. However, within the career of any individual artist, the experience of such contact may have been of considerable importance.

Nicolas Petit

- French portrait painter; official artist on Nicolas Baudin's voyage 1800-04, along with three others who remained at Mauritius, and Lesueur and Péron as unofficial replacements.

Charles Alexandre Lesueur (1778-1846)

- topographical and scientific draughtsman and naturalist; French-trained; helmsman on Baudin's voyage 1800-04 and artistic assistant to Petit.

François Péron (1775-1810)

- appointed as Zoologist on Baudin's voyage but later replaced official artist.

QUELQUES ARTISTES FRANCAIS EN AUSTRALIE

J. Alphonse Pellion (active c. 1817-20)

- topographical draughtsman: midshipman aboard *l'Uranie* voyaging to Western Australia.

Louis Auguste de Sainson (1801-87)

- topographical draughtsman on the *Astrolabe* under Dumont d'Urville 1826-29.

George Frederick Folingsby (1829-91)

born Ireland; trained America, Munich, six months in Paris under Thomas Couture c.1855: Director of the National Gallery of Victoria and head of Art School 1882 to 1891

Abram Louis Buvelot (1814-88)

- born Switzerland: trained at Lausanne and then Paris under Fleys. emigrated 1865

Julian Rossi Ashton (1851-1942)

born England; trained London: Paris at Académie Julian 1874. emigrated to Australia 1878

Alfred James Daplyn (1844-1926)

- born England; studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts under Gérôme and then one of Carolus-Duran's first pupils: travelled much in France: 1882 arrived in Melbourne: 1884- artist and teacher in Sydney

Arthur José de Souza Loureiro (1853-1932)

- born Portugal: trained Oporto, Lisbon, Rome, Paris: Ecole des Beaux-Arts under Cabanel 1880-2: exhibited at Salon: worked and taught in Melbourne 1885-1901

Madame Berthe Mouchette

- painter, teacher and society figure in Melbourne 1880s - founder of the Alliance Française.

Eugène Reverdy

- sculptor and carver; born France; trained in Paris under Chapu; visited Australia 1890s with his wife, Loureiro's sister-in-law, also an artist trained in Paris who became *The Age* art critic.

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John Peter Russell (1858-1930)

- born Sydney; trained London and Paris under Cormon; friend of Lautrec, Anquetin, Bernard, Guillaumin, Van Gogh, Rodin; probably the only Australian of the period to understand something of French Impressionism; lived most of his life in France; met Monet.

Tom Roberts (1856-1931)

- born England; trained Melbourne and London; briefly visited Paris 1884.

Sir Edgar Bertram Mackennal (1863-1931)

- Sculptor; born Melbourne; trained Melbourne and London; 1884 worked in Paris, met Rodin, John P. Russell etc.; briefly worked in London and Australia; exhibited at the Salon.

Rupert Charles Wulsten Bunny (1864-1947)

- born Melbourne; trained National Gallery of Victoria; 1884 to London; 1886-8 under Jean-Paul Laurens in Paris, also L. Glaize and J.-J. Constant; 1888 began exhibiting at Old Salon; 1902 married French art student; periodic visits to Melbourne.

George Walton (1855-90)

- born England; fellow student of Tom Roberts in London; 1884 in Paris with John Russell, Harry Bates, Bertram Mackennal; 1888 arrived in Melbourne.

Walter Withers (1854-1914)

- born England; trained London, briefly in Paris; 1884-7 at National Gallery of Victoria; 1887-8 back in Paris at Julian's under Bouguereau and Fleury; 1888 returned to Melbourne - painter and teacher.

Emanuel Phillips Fox (1865-1915)

- born Fitzroy; trained National Gallery of Victoria; 1887 Paris, Académie Julian, then Ecole des Beaux-Arts under Bouguereau and Gérôme; regular exhibitor at Salon; returned to Melbourne 1892-1900, painting and teaching with Tucker; married Ethel Carrick in 1905 and they travelled widely in Europe and North Africa.

Sir John Longstaff (1862-1941)

- born Clunes; trained National Gallery of Victoria; won first travelling scholarship 1887; Cormon's atelier, Paris, then worked chiefly in London; 1890 at Belle Ile with John P. Russell; 1891 Honorable Mention at Salon.

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Tudor St George Tucker (1862-1906)

- born England; trained National Gallery of Victoria; 1887-92 Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris, under Gérôme and Fleury. and Julian's under Bouguereau; 1893-1900 back in Melbourne painting and teaching with E.P. Fox.

Eleanor Ritchie Harrison (1854-?)

- born Victoria; trained Melbourne. London. Paris for two years under Feyen-Perrin; married French-trained American Lowell Birge Harrison; they came to Australia 1888-90; regular exhibitor at the Salon.

David Davies (1864-1939)

- born Ballarat, studied National Gallery of Victoria: 1890/1 to Paris; studied at Julian's under J.-P. Laurens; rest of life in England and Australia with some periods in France.

Roger Eykyn Falls (active 1880s)

- born England; self-taught and six months in France; in Melbourne 1886-90 and was one of the exhibitors in Tom Roberts' 9 x 5 Impressions Exhibition, 1889.

Aby Altson (1867-c.1948)

- born England; trained Melbourne; won second National Gallery of Victoria travelling scholarship 1890 and went to France; studied at Julian's under Courtois, Blanc and Dagnan-Bouveret, also at Colarossi's; exhibited at the Salon and awarded Gold Medal 1892; lived in England, India and America.

Isobel Rae (active c. 1880-1920)

- studied at National Gallery of Victoria with the "Heidelberg School" painters; 1888 studied in Paris; 1906 living at Etaples and again during first World War; frequent exhibitor at the Salon.

Florence Fuller (1867-1946)

- born South Africa; trained Melbourne; 1894-1904 in Europe, mainly England and France; 1904 exhibited at the Salon.

Charles Edward Conder (1868-1909)

- born England; trained Sydney and Melbourne 1885-90; returned to Europe: England and France

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Sir Arthur Streeton (1867-1943)

- born Victoria; trained National Gallery of Victoria; sent painting to Salon of 1892, Honorable Mention; 1897/8 brief visit to Paris; World War I official artist.

National Gallery of Victoria

Composed by Ginette Rivalland on the Monash University Faculty of Arts electronic composer and printed by the Department of Geography, Monash University.