



Emil Mauermann c.1915 (courtesy Elizabeth Cox)

**August Edward Emil Mauermann** (1851-1937) was born 6 June 1851 at Hainewalde, to the south-east of Berlin in Saxony, Germany. In an 1892 notice, Emil Mauermann is noted as a graduate of the 'Royal Building Academy of Design, Dresden, Saxony'. Emil practiced as an architect and civil engineer at Bendigo, Victoria from 1887 to 1894. Voyaging from Hamburg, he had arrived in Adelaide aboard the *SS Taormina* in June 1885, and travelled on by sea to Victoria shortly thereafter. Mauermann was said to have been brought to Bendigo by another German architect William Charles Vahland, and was clerk-of-works for Vahland's National Bank in Pall Mall in 1886. By October 1887 he had established his own practice and designed the Sandhurst Coffee Palace. He was responsible for the design of St Stephen's Church of England in Emu Creek, which was constructed in 1888. He designed several important buildings in Bendigo, including the residence 'Edelweiss' in Hamlet Street for Dr John Quick, and submitted fine competition drawings for the Bendigo Art Gallery and Stock Exchange in Melbourne.

After bringing his family from Germany to Bendigo in 1889, the east coast bank crash was a contributor to his insolvency in the early 1890s. In March 1893, a warrant was issued in Victoria for Mauermann's arrest for obtaining goods 'by means of a valueless cheque'. With depressed economic conditions in Victoria and the disappointment of financial embarrassment at Bendigo, he sold his Bendigo practice in 1894 to his draftsman, F.W. Lehmann. Mauermann practiced briefly at 359 George Street in Sydney, before joining an exodus of architects (and many others) seeking work in the gold boom conditions of Western Australia. He and was appointed as a draftsman with the Public Works

Department (PWD) of WA in March 1895. It appears Emil's family again followed at a later date, after he had established work, with his wife and children arriving at Fremantle on the *SS Wallowra* in November 1895.

From 1898-1907 Emil and his family were living at 'Hainawalda' on the north-west corner of Brown Street and the Perth Road [Stirling Highway] Claremont. Descendants suggest that whilst at the PWD, he worked on the design of the Mundaring Weir. His signature is on 1895 and 1896 PWD drawings for Upper Preston Agricultural Hall and the Esperance Customs Office. His signature appears on the full set of original drawings of the Geraldton Public Buildings, as the person who examined the drawings, and also on the original floor plans of the Perth Royal Mint. These buildings were designed by the Architectural Division of the PWD in 1897 and 1898. After retrenchment, he again entered into private practice during late 1901, advertising 1902-1905 in *Wises' Western Australian Directory* as an architect and engineer. From 1905 his only son Emil Alfred Mauermann (1878-1906) was at Princess Road, Claremont – local heritage inventory notes have E.A. Mauermann as the original owner of 49 Princess Road, which is almost certainly of Mauermann senior's design.

Emil Alfred Mauermann married Eva Howson at Christchurch in Claremont on 10 July 1901. At this time Emil Jnr was living at 'Mount Leonora'. An engineer who had worked on the Sons of Gwalia mine, the 28 year old Emil was drowned when the *SS Charterhouse* was wrecked in a typhoon near Hainan, south of China, in 1906. He had only recently joined the vessel as second engineer. The couple had children Alfred (1902) and Dorothy (1904). Eva Mauermann remarried, to Walter Bennett at Claremont in 1909, and her son Alf adopted the Bennett name, thus the surname Mauermann is no longer found in WA.

In 1906, a newspaper notice noted Emil Mauermann was the engineer on the Great Boulder Mine, adjacent to Kalgoorlie. In 1907 his competition design for a new Kalgoorlie Town Hall was controversially 'lost' before being recovered, and Mauermann attempted to sue the Kalgoorlie Council. The building was eventually built to the design of architect Tom Roberts. After the loss of his son, Emil and family appear to have moved away from Claremont. In 1908 he notes an address of 'Edelweiss' at Walcott Street Perth, in 1909-1910 he is listed as residing at 17 Gerald Street, Highgate Hill.

Tender notices confirm some of his designs in WA: in September 1901 for a two-storey residence in Ellen Street Fremantle; in May 1902 for the Collie Field Hotel for T. Carrigg (91 Throssell St Collie); in January 1903 for the Royal George Hotel at 'Plympton' [East Fremantle]; and in June 1904 for a residence at Melville Street Claremont for J.H. Carswell. Another ex-PWD architect, William Haughton Bell (1863-1936) worked for Mauermann in 1902-1903, but the two men ended up in dispute with Bell claiming a percentage of the works in addition to his wages, a court finding in favour of Mauermann. Descendants are unaware of Mauermann's working circumstances from 1907 until retirement, which given his age, may have been during the First World War.

Emil Mauermann died aged 86 years on 5 August 1937 at Perth and was buried in the Lutheran section of Karrakatta Cemetery. He was noted as the 'loving father of Marie, Margaretha and Christina'. His wife Minna Anna Mauermann died 31 August 1945 at Subiaco aged 93 years. Whilst in Germany, the Mauermann's had lost at least two children in their infancy. Their eldest daughter Marie Theresa (1875-1960) married James Birtwistle (1857-1939), another PWD architect who had worked for Vahland and Getzschmann at Sandhurst (Bendigo). Second daughter Dorothea Margaretha (1880-1961) married Gustav Schmidt at Claremont in 1902. Their third and Australian-born daughter Christina Katerina (1890-1969) was engaged to Jack Cadden in October 1914, however Cadden died in late 1918 while on service in the First World War, and Christina married Wyborn Parker at West Perth in 1925.

#### References:

National Archives of Australia; Mauermann, August Eduard Emil - Memorial of Naturalisation, 1885, control symbol 2341, item barcode 3183236; Memorial for letters of Naturalisation 1893, cs 1893/V1026, ib 1786299; Naturalisation 1908, cs 1908/2375, ib 3103870.

'Mr E. Mauermann', *Bendigo Advertiser*, 8 October 1887, p.6 (opens office, advert FSA).

'The Bendigo Coffee Palace', *Bendigo Advertiser*, 30 August 1888, p.3 (Sandhurst).

'St Stephens Church Emu Creek', *Bendigo Advertiser*, 13 September 1888, p.3 (description).

'City Improvements', *Bendigo Advertiser*, 8 November 1890, p.6 (Edelweiss for Dr Quick).

'The New Art Gallery Designs', *Bendigo Advertiser*, 11 June 1892, p.5 (competition, 43 entries).

'New Insolvent', *Bendigo Advertiser*, 29 March 1893, p.2 (EM with deficiency of over £540).

'Bendigo Art Gallery', *Bendigo Advertiser*, 5 December 1893, p.2 (perspective donated).

'Architectural', *Bendigo Advertiser*, 23 June 1894, p.4 (William Lehmann purchase of business).

'Disputed Accounts', *Bendigo Advertiser*, 26 June 1894, p.4 (case in Police Court).

'Marriage', *Western Mail*, 27 July 1901, p.75 (marriage of son Emil Alfred, Hainawalda).  
'Mr E. Mauermann', *The West Australian*, 21 September 1901, p.9 (commence private practice).  
'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 28 September 1901, p.11 (2-storey res Ellen St Fremantle).  
'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 6 May 1902, p.1 (Collie Field Hotel for T. Carrigg).  
'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 10 January 1903, p.3 (Royal George Hotel at Plympton).  
'Local Court', *The West Australian*, 2 July 1903, p.5 (WH Bell work in dispute).  
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'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 11 June 1904, p.2 (res Melville St Claremont for J.H. Carswell).  
'Wreck of the Charterhouse', *The West Australian*, 29 October 1906, p.6 (death of son).  
'Mr Mauermann', *Kalgoorlie Miner*, 7 November 1906, p.4 (death of son, employment).  
'Those Town Hall Plans', *Kalgoorlie Western Argus*, 9 July 1907, p.17 (lost plans of Town Hall).  
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*Edelweiss* at 19 Hamlet Street, Bendigo of 1890 for Dr John Quick (Google 2015)



Mauermann's winning design in an 1892 competition for a new Art Gallery at Bendigo – following depressed economic conditions in Victoria, it was not built. (Published in the *Building and Engineering Journal of Australia and New Zealand* 25 November 1893, Mauermann donated this drawing to the Bendigo Art Gallery in December 1893 - it remains in the collection).



Collie Fields Hotel, Throssell Street Collie of 1902, c.1929 (SLWA 024891PD)



Royal George Hotel, George Street, East Fremantle of 1903, in 2010  
([www.flickr.com/photos/geoff-inoz/5431805761/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/geoff-inoz/5431805761/))



1 Walter Street, s-w corner Melville Street, Claremont (Google 2015). The Town of Claremont heritage inventory lists J.H. Carswell as the original owner of 1 Walter Street, which may be the residence designed by Mauermann in 1904, although Wisers Directory of 1905 and 1907 indicates that the Carswell house may in fact have been further west in Melville Street.