## **FRANKS, Harry**

Henry Franks (usually known as Harry Franks) was born at Richmond, Victoria, in 1854, the son of Henry & Emma Jane (nee Elden).

He served his printing apprenticeship with Messrs. Sands and McDougall, printers, of Melbourne. He afterwards spent some time in London gaining further experience, and on returning to Victoria joined the firm of Messrs. F. T. Wimble and Co., with whom he remained some years. Visiting the Chicago Exhibition, held in 1893, he was struck with the practicability of the linotype composing machine and returned to Australia as the agent for the Linotype Company, a position which he held at the time of his death. Mr. Franks was very popular amongst his fellow-craftsmen, and was regarded as an authority upon every branch of the printing trade. He was instrumental in founding the Master Printers' Association, and also was a promoter in connection with the Printers' Cup Cricket Competition.**1**

In 1895 Harry Franks, well known in printing circles throughout the Australasian colonies, left by the R.M.S. *Miowera* for Canada and the United States, and would extend his visit to England and the Continent, looking out for still later improvements in the newspaper and printing world.**2**

In 1896, at the monthly general meeting of the Engineering Association of New South Wales, Mr. Franks read an interesting paper on “The Linotype Machine.”**3**

In December 1898 Mr. Harry Franks recently returned to Sydney from a tour to London and America. The chief object of his trip was to make arrangements with the English Linotype Company, who supplied the Australasian market with linotype machines. The company have purchased the foreign and colonial patent rights from the American company, and they made arrangements with Mr. Franks and Messrs. Alex. Cowan and Sons, Limited, to represent them in Australasia. Mr. Franks says he has seen many improvements in the printing machinery world, more particularly emanating from America. Much of this improved class of machinery was now being introduced and used in London and the provincial cities by the newspaper proprietors and printers. Outside of this trade Mr. Franks took a keen interest in the butter-making machine, " The Radiator," manufactured in Stockholm. Dairymen can make milk into butter at the rate of 250 to 400 gallons an hour. Mr. Franks had also taken up the representation in Australasia of the "Dey" Time Recorder, a little machine for use in a workshop or warehouse, to record the time employees come and go.**4**

In October 1899 Harry Franks moved to Beecroft.**5**

On 24th January 1900, at the Parramatta Registry Office, Harry Franks, of Sydney, married Emily Ellen Westlake, of Simla, India. Emily’s parents were George Henry & Ellen Teresa Westlake.**6**

In May 1900 Mr. Franks was supplying machinery to the Government Printing Office.**7**

By April 1901 cash registers were being manufactured in Sydney, at the works of Mr. Harry Franks, in Jamieson-lane, off George-street. Over 40 hands (including skilled inventors and electrical and mechanical engineers) were engaged in the operations, which include the manufacture of every single piece of mechanism used in the registers. The machine now being offered to the public of Australasia was appropriately known as "the Federal Cash Register," with the frontispiece tastefully worked with patterns of Australian fauna and flora.**8**

On 31st March 1901, Harry Franks died at his residence “Erinvale,” Beecroft, aged 48 years, leaving a widow but no children from the marriage.

For many years he was well known to the printing trade of Australia. His occupation was generally referred to, in later years, as merchant.

The well-attended funeral left “Kamilaroi,” Carrington-road, Waverley, (the residence of Mr. Robert Sands, his brother-in-law), for burial at Waverley cemetery.**9**

Emily Ellen Franks, widow of Harry Franks, died in December 1940, at Parramatta.**10**

**Bibliography**

1 Victoria Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages; Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 2 Apr 1901

2 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Thu 20 Jun 1895

3 Evening News (Sydney, NSW), Fri 11 Sep 1896

4 Macleay Argus (Kempsey, NSW), Sat 31 Dec 1898

5 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 28 Oct 1899

6 Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 27 Jan 1900; NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages

7 Evening News (Sydney, NSW), Wed 2 May 1900

8 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Mon 1 Apr 1901

9 Sydney Morning Herald, Mon 1 Apr 1901; Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 2 Apr 1901; Evening News (Sydney, NSW), Tue 2 Apr 1901; Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 3 Apr 1901; Government Gazette of the State of NSW, Fri 31 May 1901

10 NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages; Sydney Morning Herald (NSW), Mon 16 Dec 1940