

## E. A. GLOVER

A "refined and entertaining mimic and humorist, whose his specialties included 'Panel Photographs' and 'Impersonations of Peculiar People,'" Edward A. Glover also wrote comedy songs and sketches for himself and other performers. He is known to have been engaged by the US Minstrels around 1876 and was associated with several of F.M. Clark's companies during – the late 1870s and 1880s – notably the Silk Stockings Company and Clark's New All Star Combination. One of the works attributed to him was *Boozed*, a burlesque on Charles Reade's social drama *Drink*. Glover's last known whereabouts was as George Barr's manager at the Haymarket Music Hall (Sydney) in the late 1880s.

Little information is known about the life and career of comic specialty artist and occasional writer of musical burlesques, Edward A. Glover (often billed simply as E. A. Glover). As a "refined and entertaining mimic and humorist," his specialties included "Panel Photographs" and "Impersonations of Peculiar People" (SMH: 23 June 1888, 2). He is also believed to have written comedy songs for both himself and other performer.

It is possible that Glover had a stable or regular connection with Melbourne during his early career in Australia as his name appears several times in advertising in that city over the period 1876 to 1888. His first known appearance was during the US Minstrels season at Melbourne's Apollo Hall (beginning 15 Apr. 1876). Advertising for this "special engagement" saw him billed as "the celebrated London Comique, "and also indicates that his act included new and original comic songs. His name is next identified with a People's Concerts entertainment staged on 28 October 1878 at the Fitzroy Town Hall.<sup>1</sup> Eight years later he appeared as Augustus Mountcashel, a broker and merchant, in a production of *A Ruined Life*, which was produced at the Alexandra Theatre (Melb) by Goodrich and Crawford beginning 30 October 1886.

Glover began his association with Frank M. Clark in late 1887 or early 1888, appearing with the variety entrepreneur's Silk Stockings Company at Melbourne's Victoria Hall and later at the Academy of Music (Syd) with Clark's New All Star Combination. Glover's employment with the latter troupe began sometime around June and lasted through until at least December that same year. According to the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 2 January 1888, his panel photographs (accompanied by jokes, witticisms and songs) included "The Masher," "The Spinster" and "The After-Dinner Speech Maker" (2). Glover is also believed to have written several farces and musical burlesques for Clark. Because the authorship of second part burlesques and farces of the period were frequently unacknowledged, it is unclear as to how many works Glover contributed to the companies he was employed with. One piece known to have been written by him, however, was the burlesque *Boozed*, first staged at the Victoria Hall in February 1888. A satire on Charles Reade's social drama *Drink*, which was then being staged by Williamson, Garner and Musgrove at the Theatre Royal, *Boozed* loosely follows the incidents of the original while including songs and dance for added satirical effect. Another work likely to have been written or arranged by Glover was the farce, *The Bushrangers*, which Clark's New All Star Combination presented at the Academy of Music from 22 December 1888.

E. A. Glover's last known whereabouts are as manager for George Barr at the Haymarket Music Hall in Sydney around the late 1880s. Advertising in 1889 indicates that he was also involved in performance (see for example SMH 26 Jan. 1889, 2).

### MUSIC THEATRE WORKS

**1888:** **Boozed** [burlesque]

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<sup>1</sup> Staged under the management of the Total Abstinence Society, Melbourne's People's Concerts were temporarily relocated to the Fitzroy Town Hall around October 1878 while alterations were being carried out to Temperance Hall, Russell Street.