

GROSVENOR BUNSTER

Born on 29 May, 1837 in Hobart (Tasmania), Grosvenor Bunster was journalist whose career unfolded in Sydney and Melbourne. He contributed numerous short stories to the *Australian Journal* among other periodicals. His first known published work, "Nobody's Child: How it was Found in a Cable," (prose) appeared in the *Australian Journal* in 1867 as part of a series called "Vagabond Sketches." The other two related works were: "Nobody's Child: How it Grew Up" and "Nobody's Child: How it Found its Mother." A novel, *Henstone's Revenge*, was published in 1896. His stories ranged from adventure and travel to romance.

In addition to his articles and fiction Bunster also wrote at least three theatrical productions which were staged in Australia. One of these was *The Belle of Woolloomooloo; Or, The Wooer, the Waitress and the Willian* [sic], a musical burlesque of H.T. Arnold's play *The Belle of the Barley Mow* (1867). Containing an operatic-style score arranged by G. B. Allen, it was staged at Sydney's Masonic Hall in 1872. The other two works were a sketch, *Quarantine* (1872) and a three act comedy drama titled *Class* (1878), described by Margaret Williams as "certainly the most sophisticated Australian comedy of its period" (96).

Bunster died in 1904 in Prahan, Victoria.

MUSIC THEATRE

1872: **The Belle of Woolloomooloo** [burlesque] (with G.B. Allan).

FURTHER REFERENCE

Djubal, Clay. "[Bunster, Grosvenor](#)." *AustLit* (2007).

Williams, Margaret. *Australia on the Popular Stage*. (1983), 94-6.

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