

# Click go the cameras – at Jenolan Caves

Elery Hamilton-Smith, AM

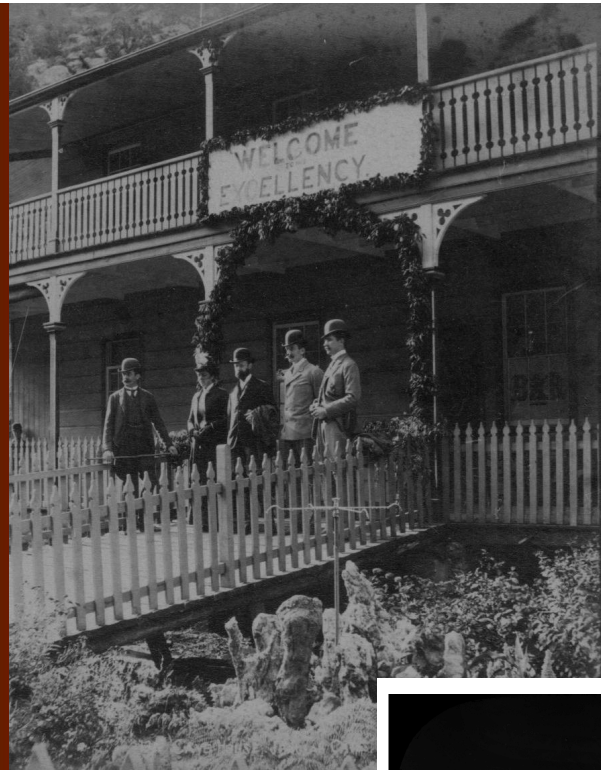
- During the period 1860-1914, Jenolan Caves probably provided the greatest number of photographic images of any Australian Locality.
- These included stereographs, lantern slides, cabinet prints, postcards, brochures porcelain and china souvenirs, and almost all other modes of presentation



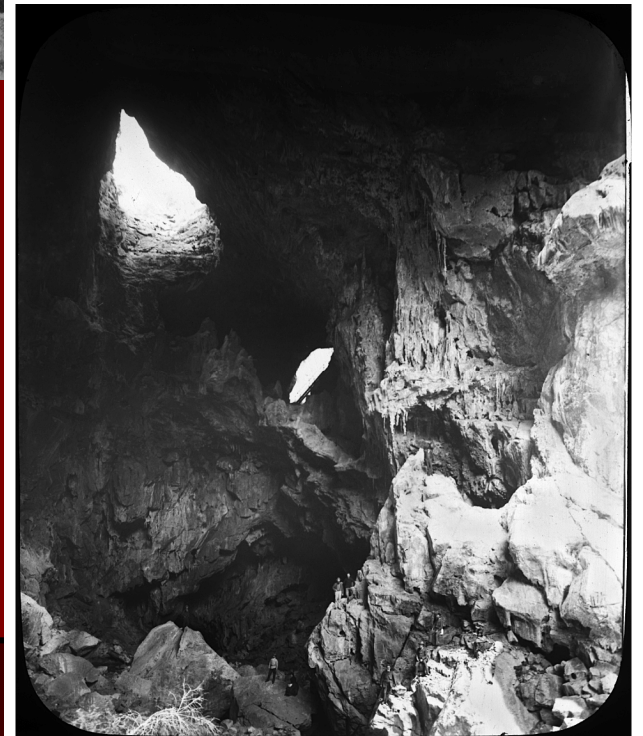
# The Earliest Photos

- There does not seem to be any good record of the first photographs, but they were probably taken in the late 60s or early 70s.
- Wilkinson referred to early photographs by a Mr Hart (possibly Elijah) but these were not published.
- I am sure there are some early photographs about – but I will focus mainly on the professionals who did so much to tell the public about Jenolan (and other caves)

- The oldest in my own collection are probably some of the stereographs and lantern slides by Henry King.



- They are at least as early as the late 1860s, although most are from 1880-1900.



# A diversion to the technology

- Stereographs were normally viewed one-by-one with a hand-held viewer



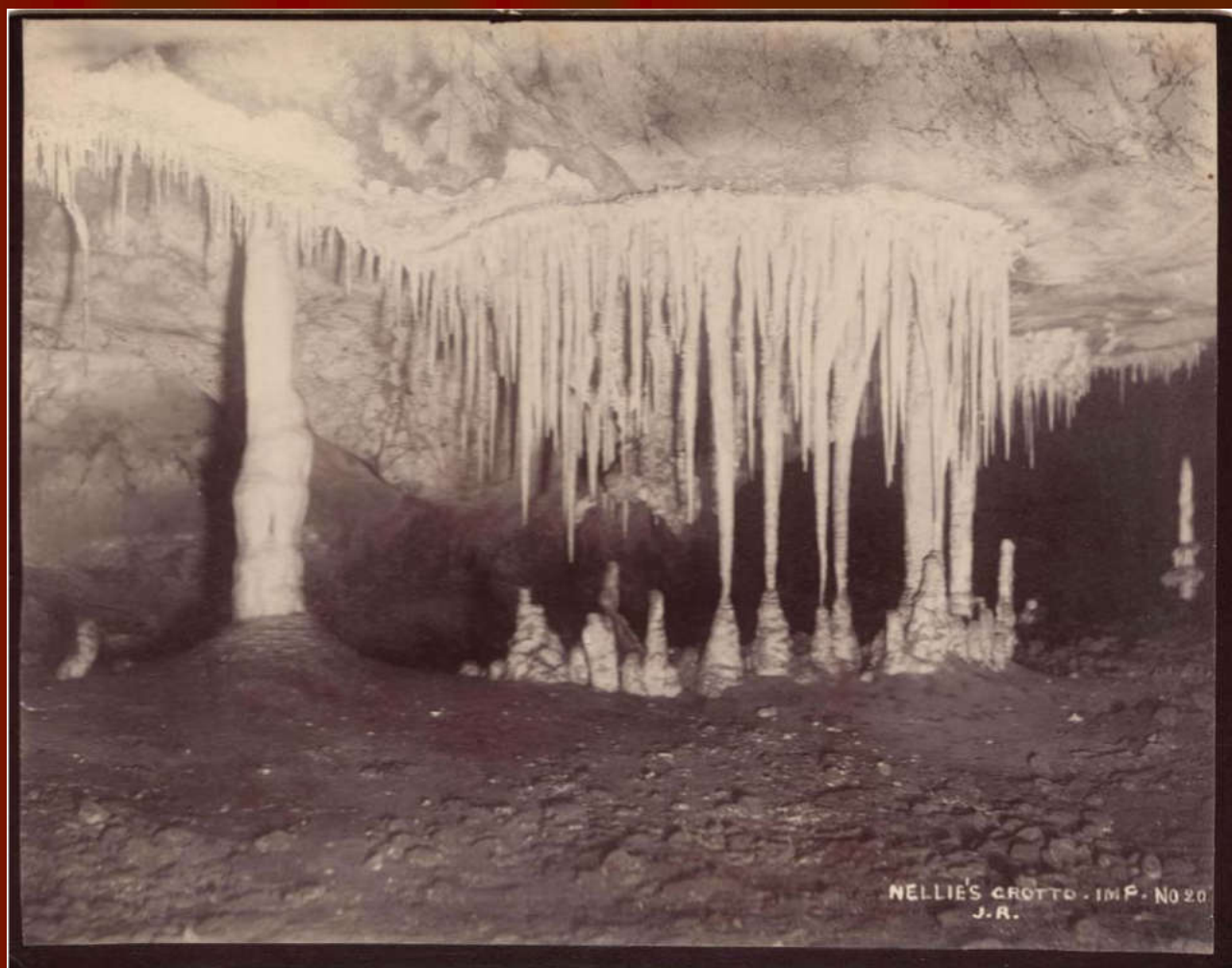


- Lantern slides were shown by a projector which meant that many people could share in seeing them



One of the great early photographers was Joseph Rowe who was a Jenolan resident and produced both stereographs and top quality prints

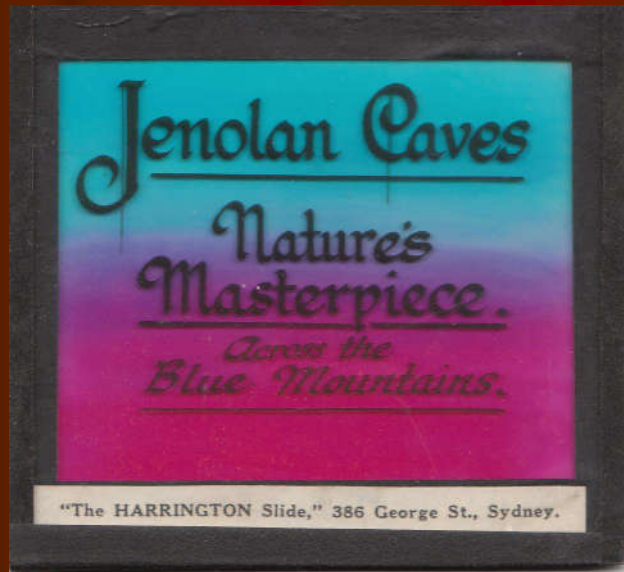






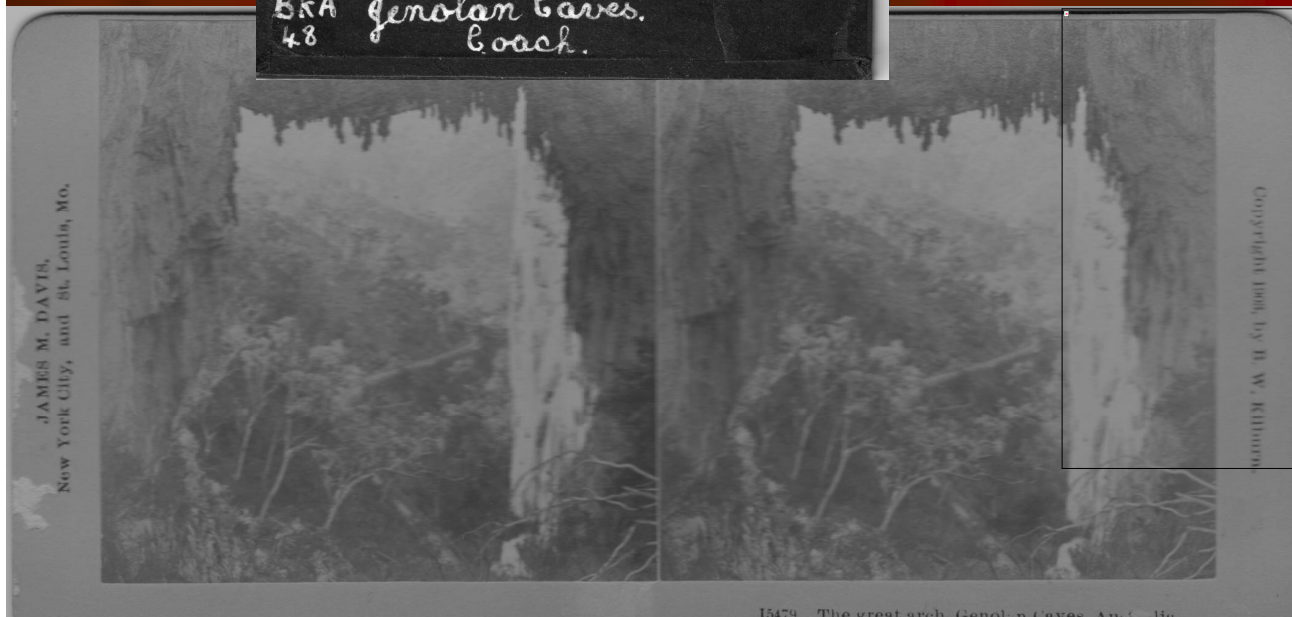
- Before proceeding to other photographers, let us look at the specialised publishers, who were responsible for many of lantern slides and stereographs
- In Australia, they included the Barkworth Supply Co. and, in particular, Harrington's.

# Harrington Series



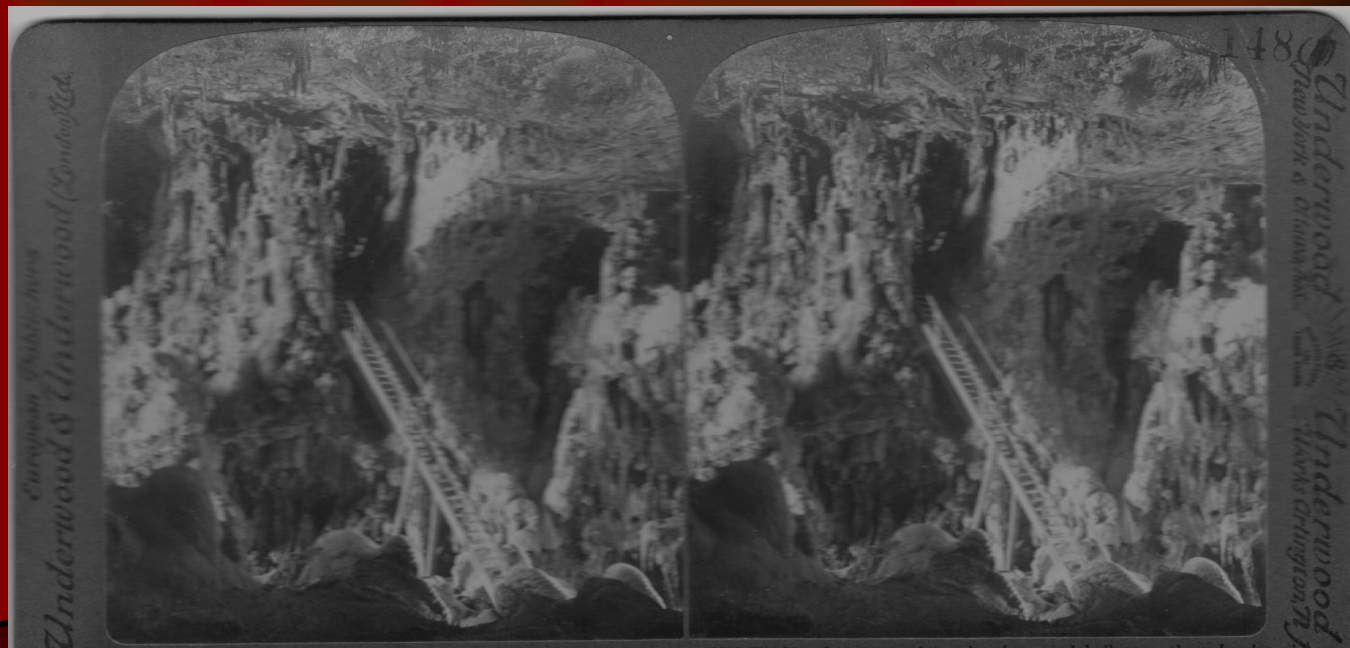


From overseas, they included Newton & Co of London, Keystone from Pennsylvania, International Stereographs Co of New York and Kilburn from New Hampshire

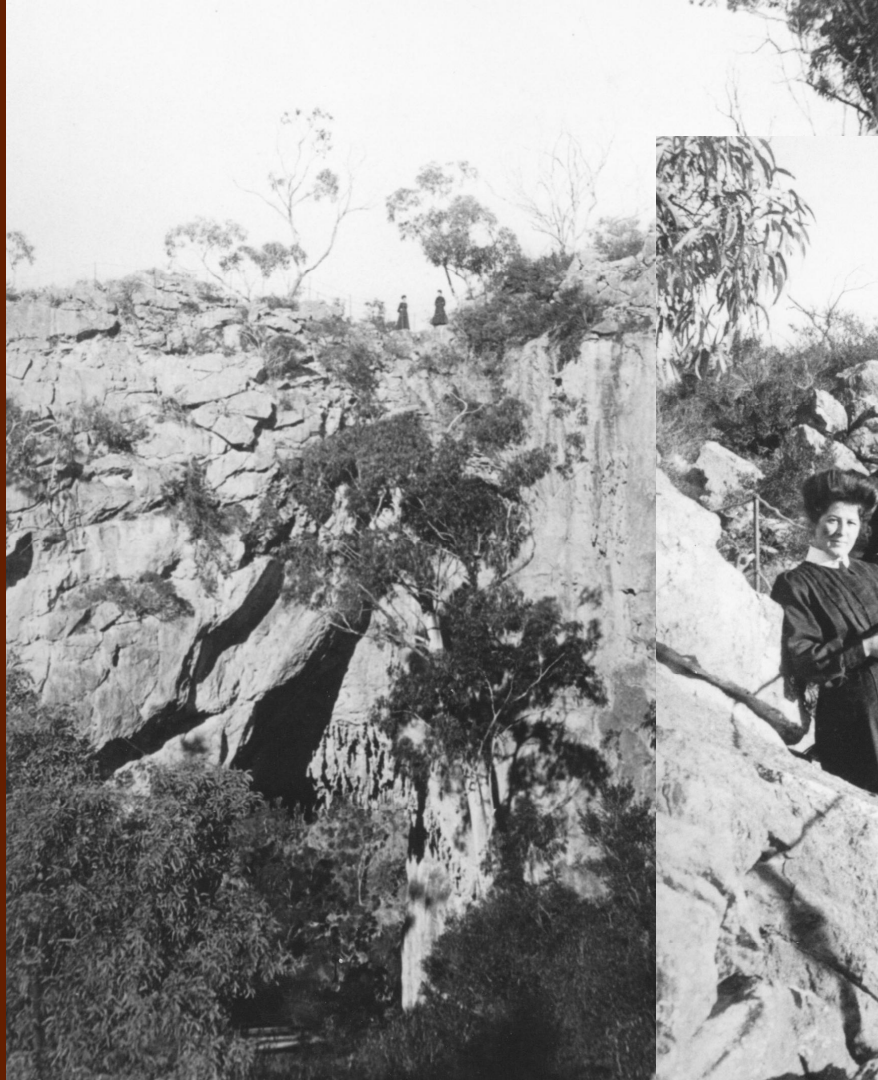


But probably the international leaders in Jenolan photography were Underwood and Underwood

- They brought a team to Australia with a special focus on Jenolan. They produced hundreds of outstanding stereos and a range of prints
- A minor sidelight is that the great poet Carl Sandberg was one of their sales representative in the early 1920s



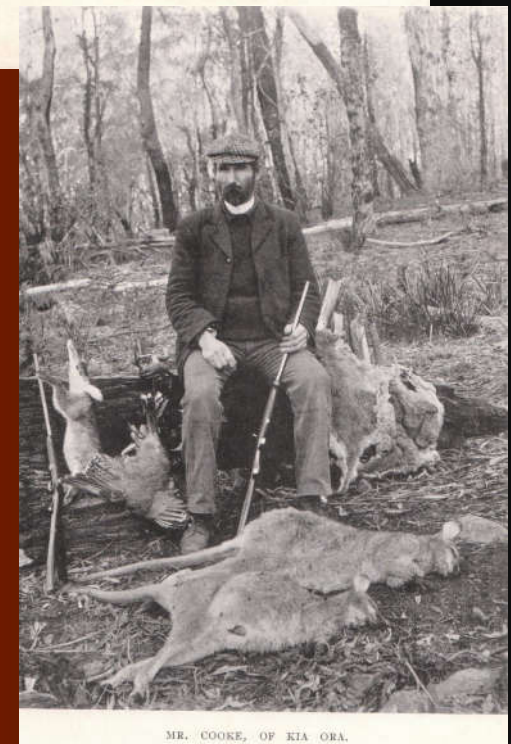




## But the greatest innovation was the rise of Postcards (from 1904)

- They were posted in millions, commencing with the new and more flexible regulations in 1904, and only diminishing with the coming of World War 1.
- Part of their popularity was based on same-day delivery in the big cities.
- The most prevalent scenic views were those of caves and waterfalls

- An important Pioneer . . .
- Edward J. Cooke was the proprietor of the Kia-Ora Guest house at the top of the five-mile hill.
- He was a pioneer of Australian postcards, being one of the very few to register his cards under the 1901 regulations
- Kia-Ora catered in particular for the “sportsmen” visitors who enjoyed hunting the animals of the area



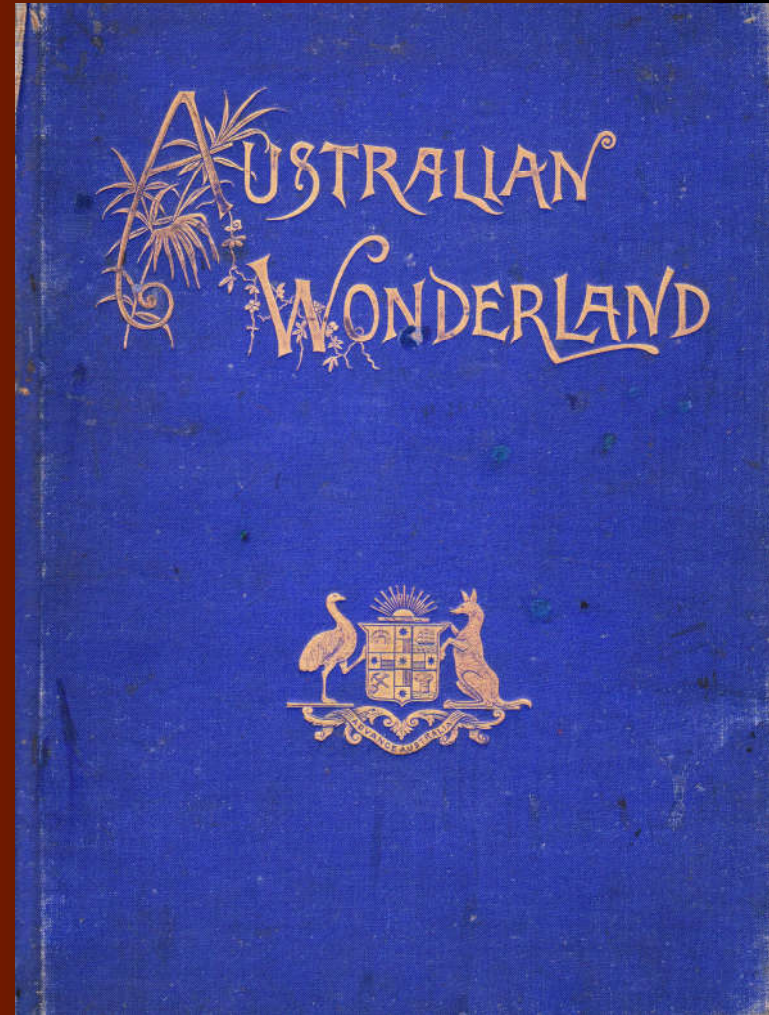


- The most prolific photographer , of course, was Charles Kerry
- He worked with every medium of publishing and distribution.
- He experimented with and improved upon the use of magnesium tape and powder for lighting
- He wrote one of the first ever journal papers on cave photography

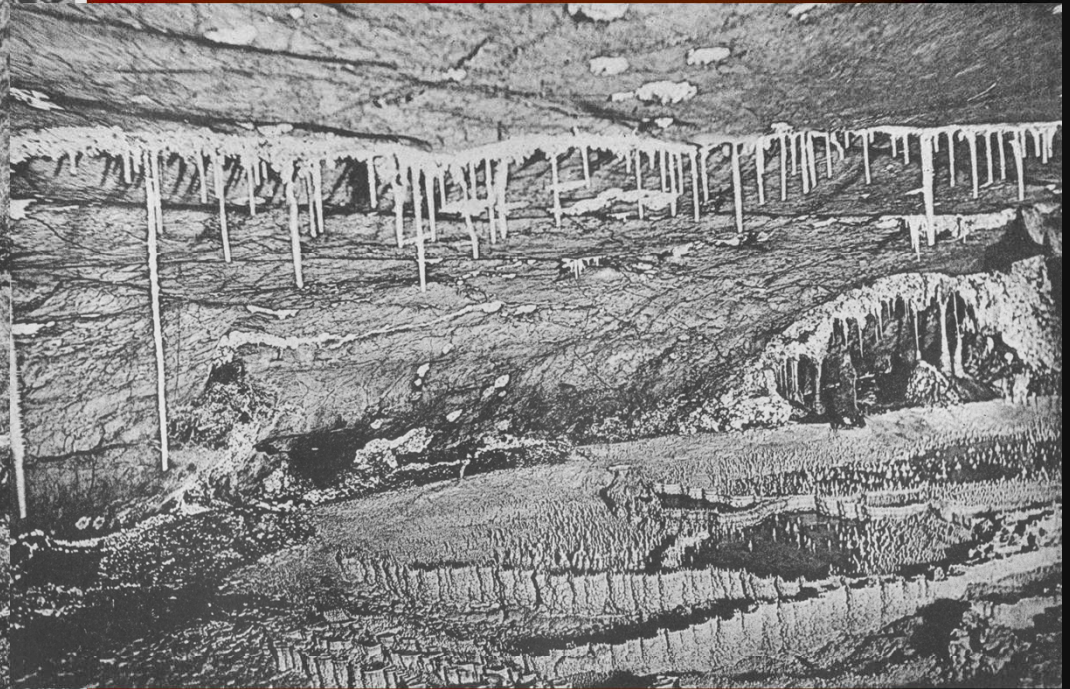
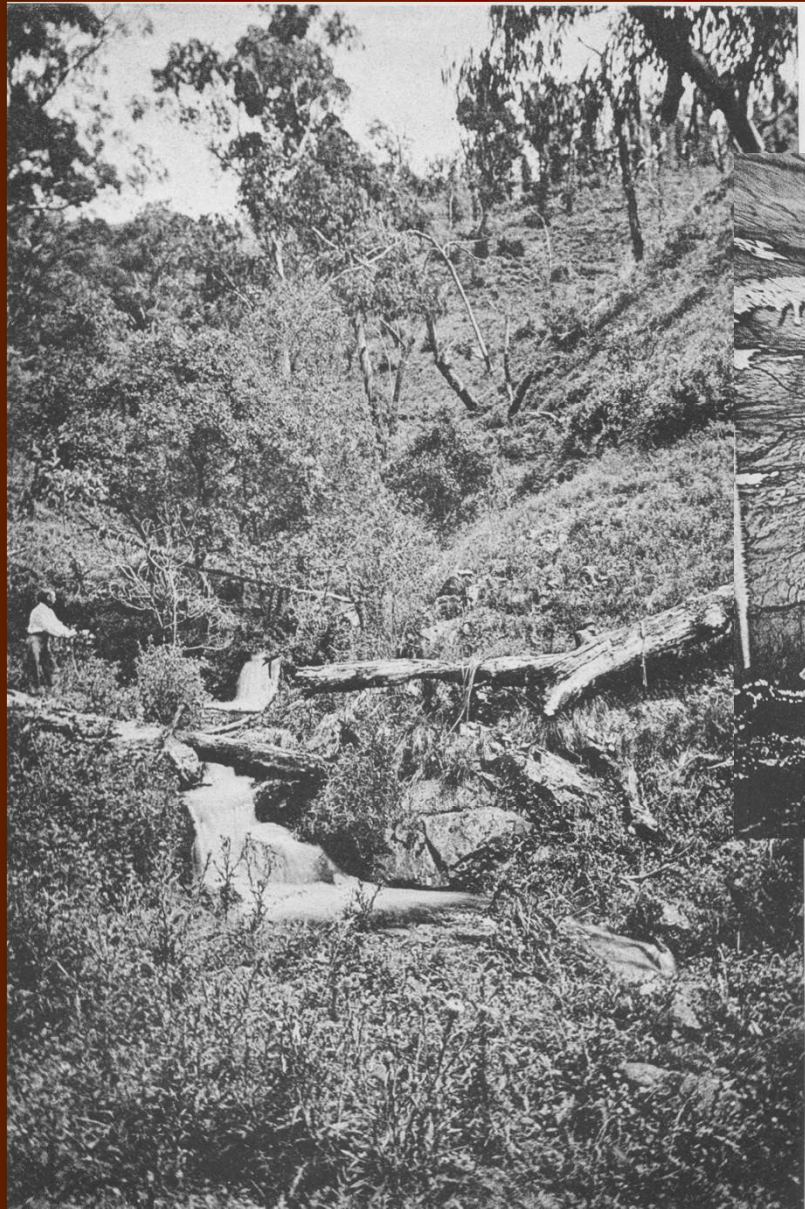


# His first cave production

- The Photography in Samuel Cook's 1889 *Jenolan Caves – An Excursion in Australian Wonderland* - one of the first ever “coffee-table” books

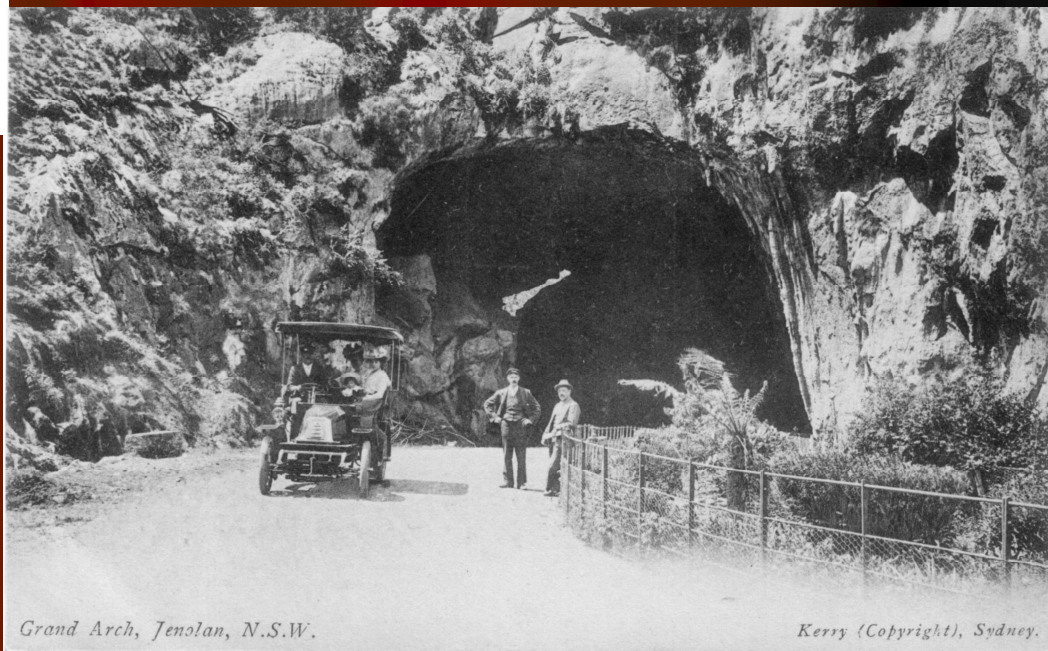
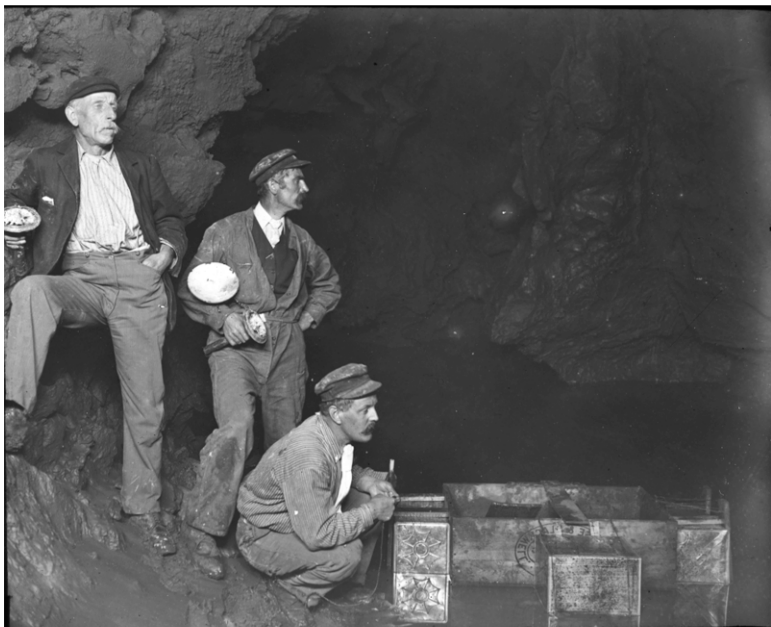






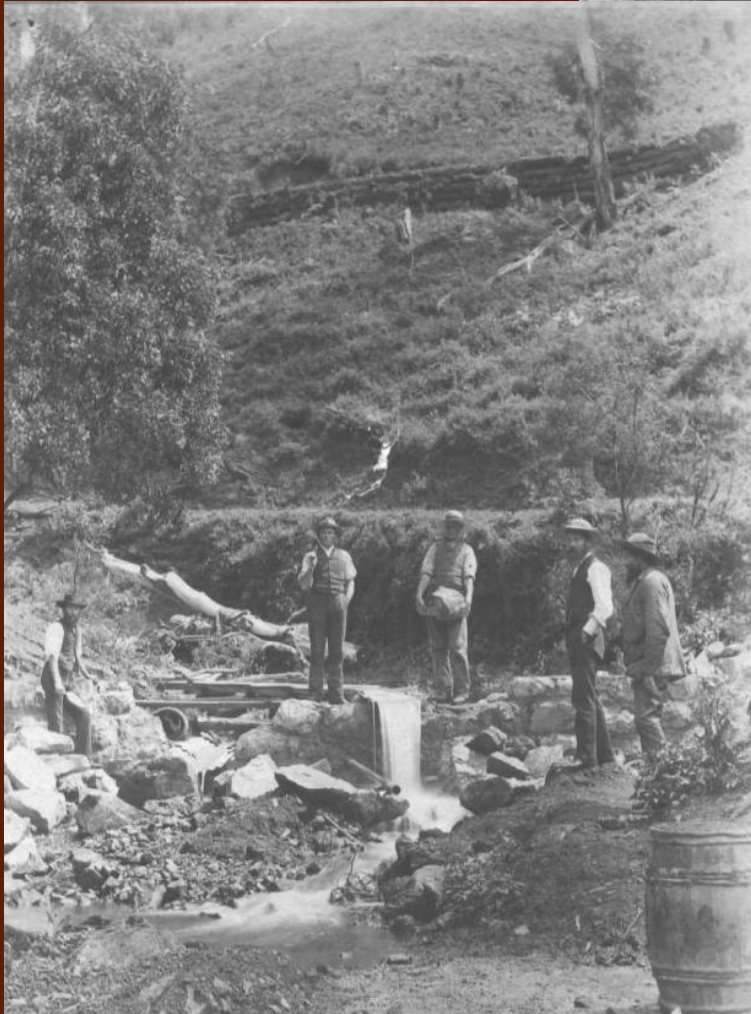


- Kerry soon became well known to the Jenolan people and in particular to Oliver Trickett,
- So he was often on hand to record key events, in some cases well before any formal announcement



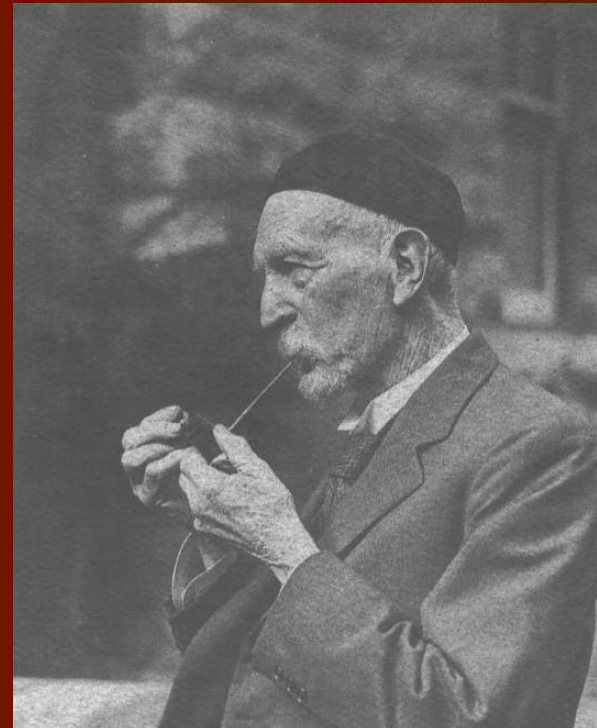
*Grand Arch, Jenolan, N.S.W.*

*Kerry (Copyright), Sydney.*

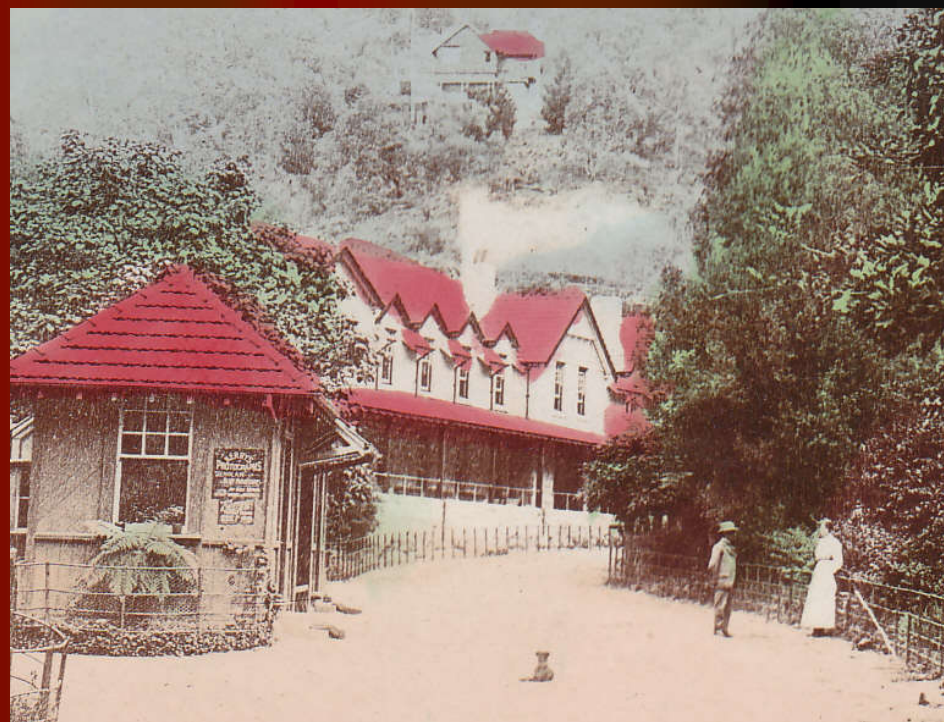




- Kerry worked closely with Oliver Trickett, Cave Surveyor and also an excellent photographer. When both photographed the same scene, Trickett often showed more sensitivity in lighting.



- He had his own sales kiosk at the caves
- If we take different formats and printing styles into account, he probably published over a thousand postcards of Jenolan landscapes and caves alone.



- One person who visited on a number of occasions was J.H. Harvey of Melbourne who was one of Australia's leading amateur photographers.
- He had accompanied geologist James Stirling on the first scientific examination of the Buchan Caves ( 1889) and became a leading advocate for the development of Buchan as a tourist destination.
- He used his photographs of Jenolan in arguing for this, and enlisted the support of both Wilson and Wiburd to support his efforts.



- J.A. Sears operated as a self-employed commercial photographer but undertook a great deal of work on behalf of the Victorian Railways Tourist Bureau, including the Buchan caves. His few Jenolan images were probably an outcome of his friendship with Harvey.



Certainly, Sears and Harvey together produced a magnificent book of panoramic views of Victoria, including this picture of Fred Wilson in the Buchan Caves.





Sears was also responsible for at least many of the Victorian railway carriage photographs



- One of the most prolific postcard (and stereograph) publishers was Melbourne's George Rose

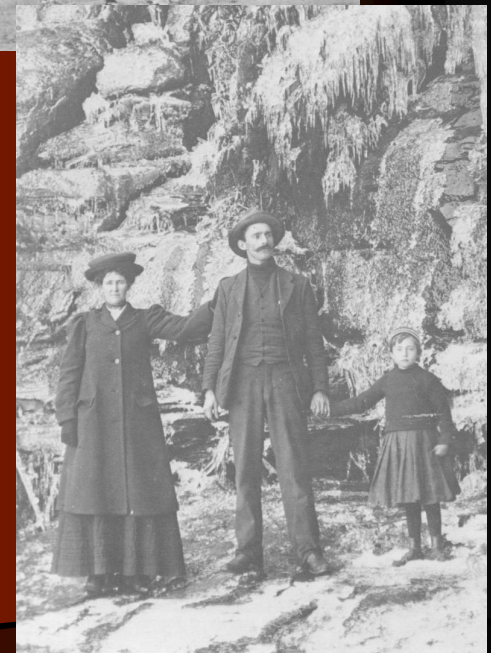


THE ROSE SERIES P. 6053  
Copyright

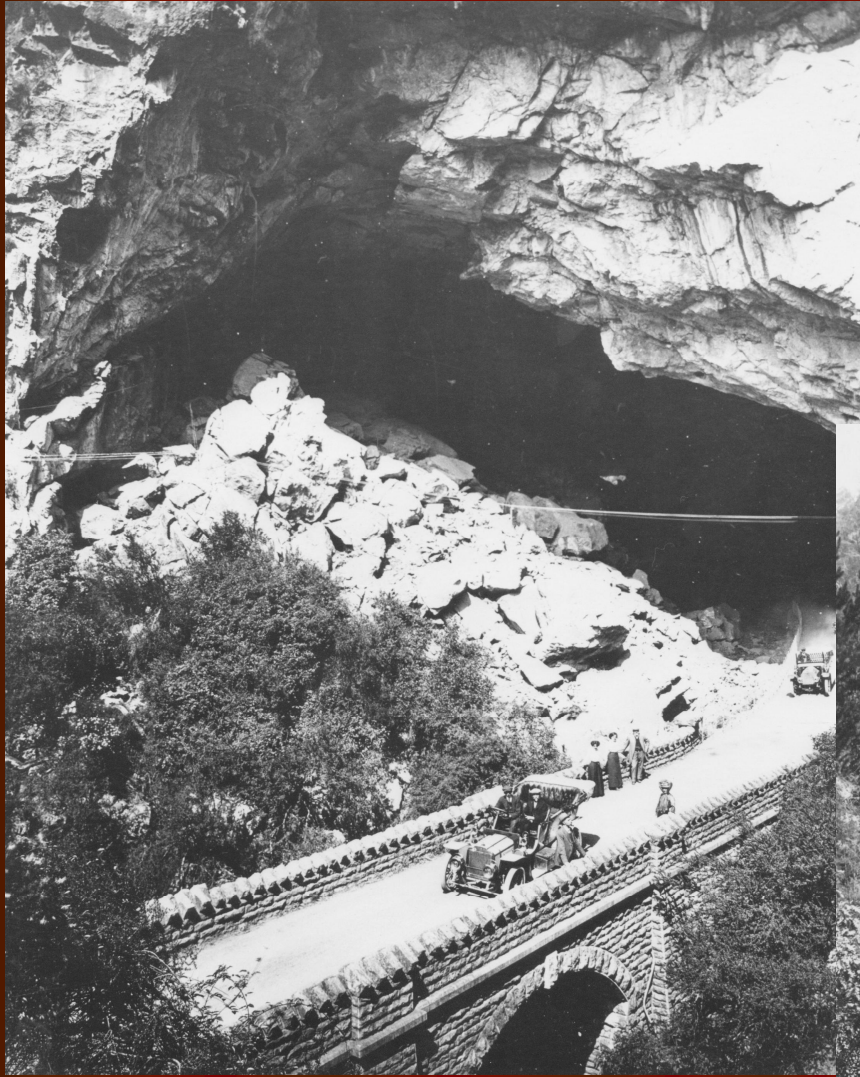
THE GRAND ARCH, JENOLAN CAVES, N.S.W.



- Harry Phillips was another very active photographer who was also an enthusiastic advocate for Blue Mountains Tourism
- He published postcards and many souvenir booklets, including many “long” books which provided for panoramic photographs





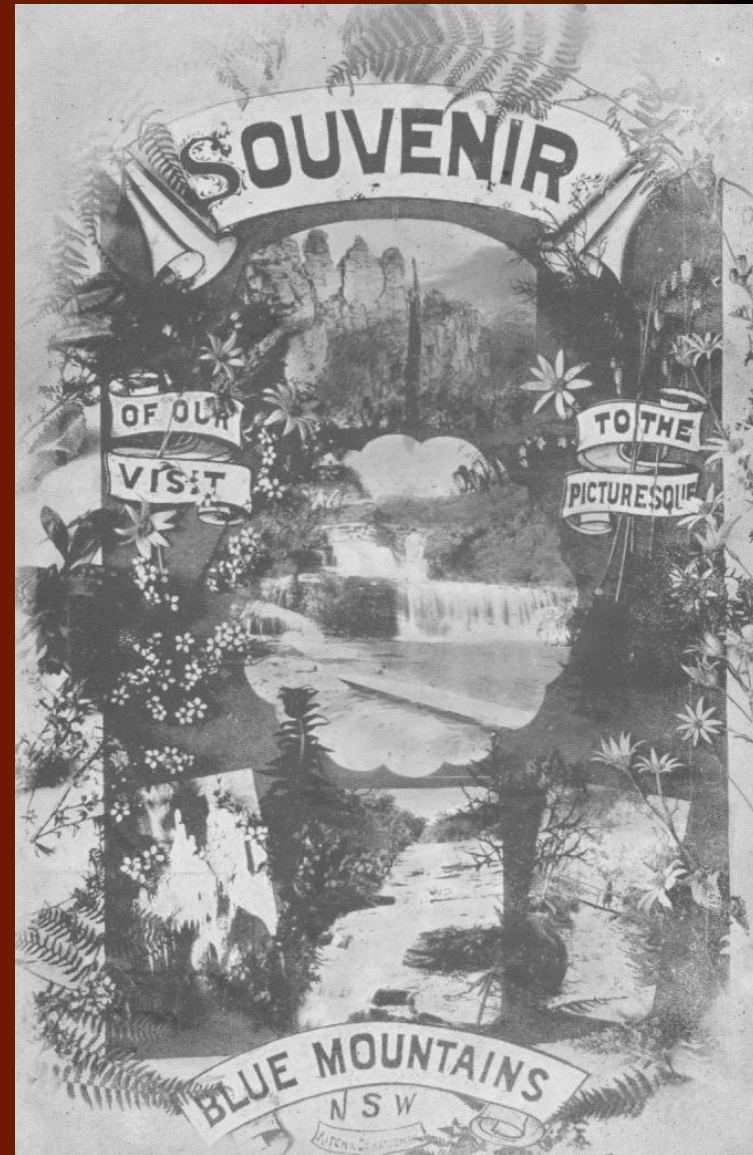


One of his many panoramic souvenir books

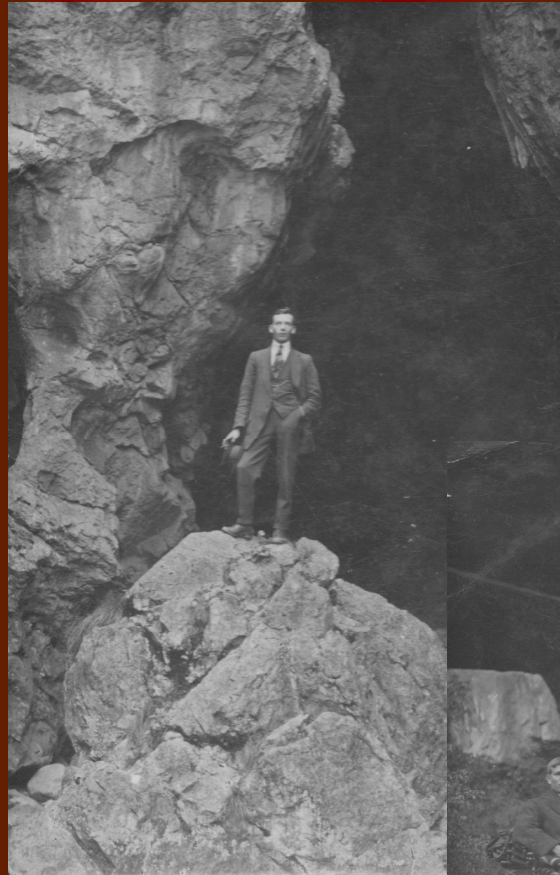




- Another postcard photographer and supporter of both conservation and tourism development in the Blue Mountains was George Kitch who was Mayor of Katoomba



- When Kerry closed his on-site postcard kiosk, J.J. McCarthy was appointed as resident photographer. It is apparent that he mainly photographed visitors to the caves as a commercial venture



But the Guides had their day!





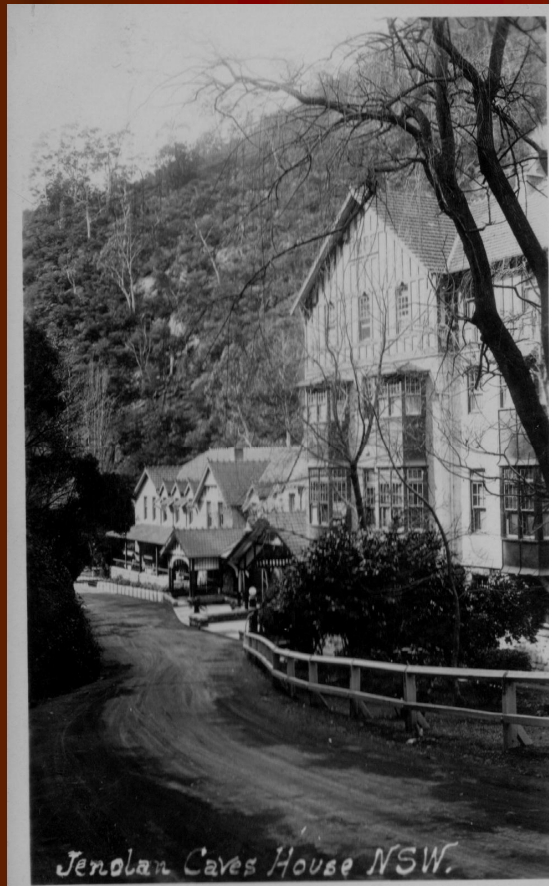
## A multitude of Early Photographers . . .

- There was a whole host of photographers, many of whom produced relatively few Jenolan pictures and whose work is rarely seen today
- They include Caney & Co (Mt Victoria), W.F. Hall, Mitchell & Co., H.C. Beavis, & J. Keys.
- And of course, Anon not only photographed lots of unlabelled items, but was hidden behind the output of governmental and commercial corporate publishers

- But the 1930s brought both easier-to-use cameras, flashbulbs, and a new professionalism.
- It also saw some great amateur photographers. For instance, Karl Otto Swann was engaged as electrical engineer at both Jenolan and Yarrangobilly. But, he left behind with his family a very beautiful photo album of the caves.

- Tant Bradley was chief guide and then manager from 1932 to 1946
- He took many fine postcard photographs, using glass plates
- His postcards found favor with visitors as most of his pictures were taken from the point where a visitor would stand to see the view if the decoration





*Jenolan Caves House NSW.*



THE MYSTERIOUS  
TEMPLE OF BAAL  
JENOLAN CAVES  
N.S.W.

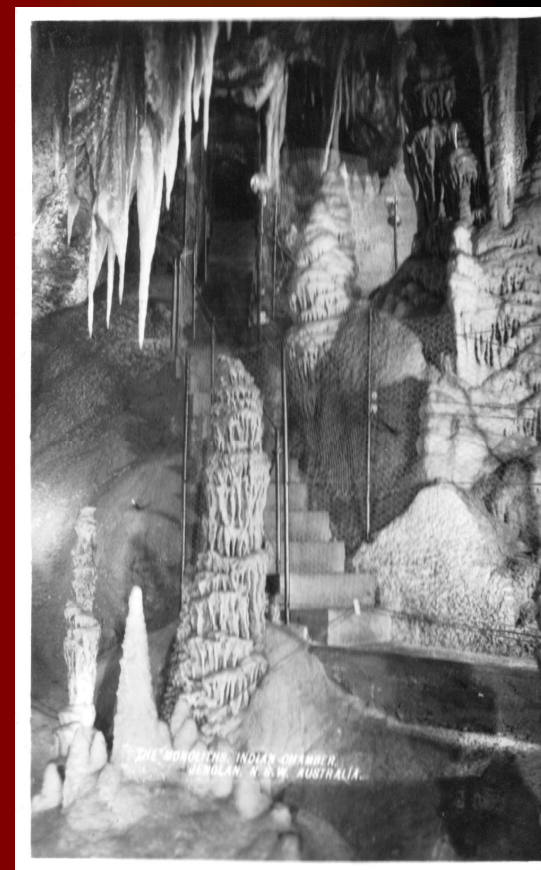
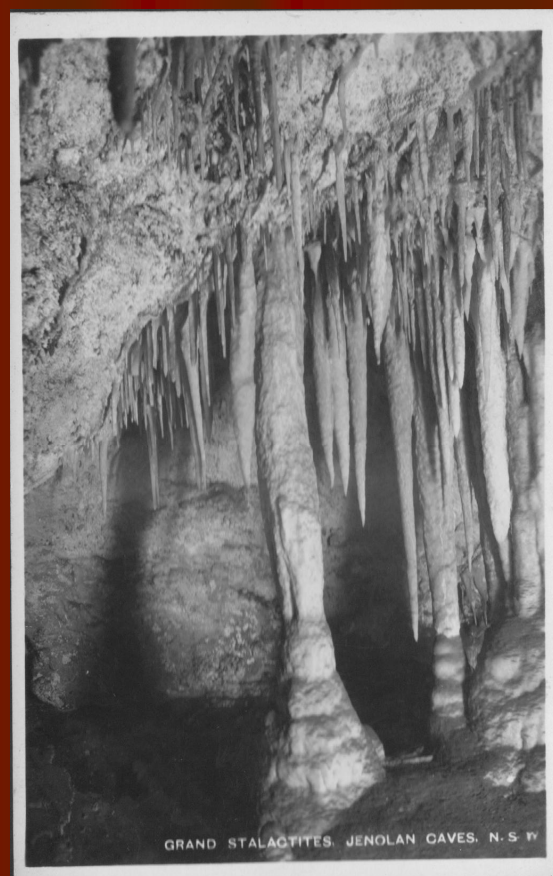


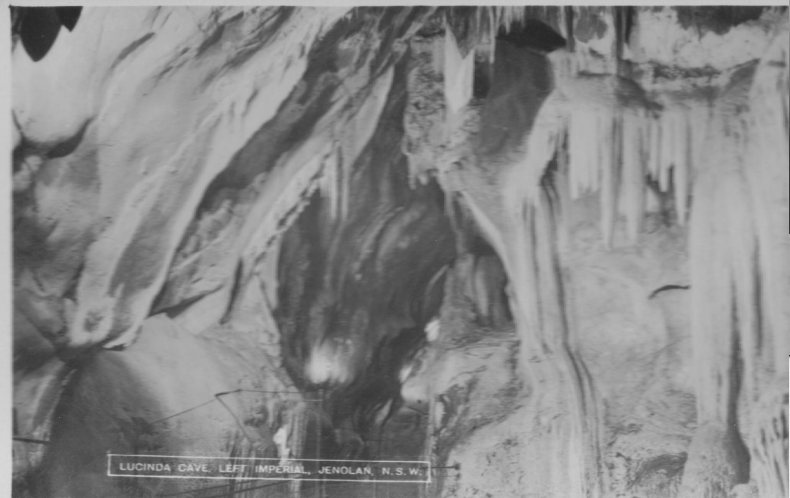
WALLABY  
AT JENOLAN CAVES  
N.S.W.



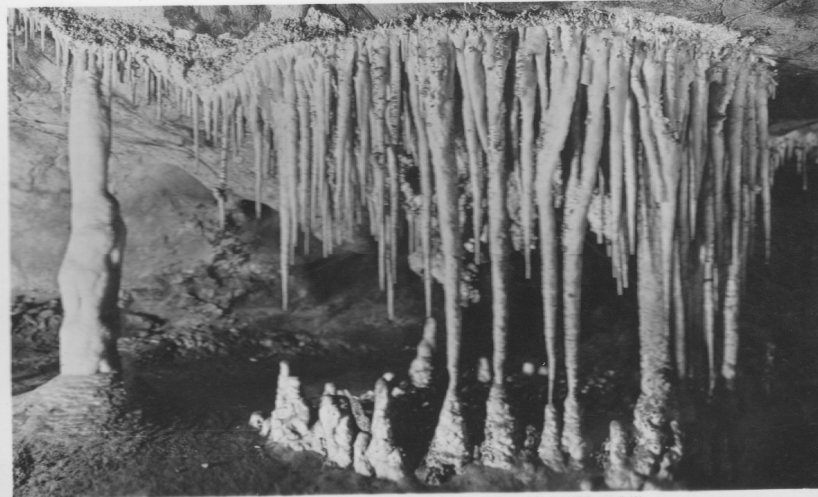
- Frank Hurley was a friend of Harry Phillips and published his first Jenolan photographs in the 1919 *Gems of Jenolan*. In that year, he became even more enthralled by Jenolan when he joined Ross and Keith Smith on the final stage of their historic flight from Britain to Australia
- He paid over 30 visits to Jenolan, published many postcards pamphlets and a pictorial book







LUCINDA CAVE, LEFT IMPERIAL, JENOLAN, N.S.W.



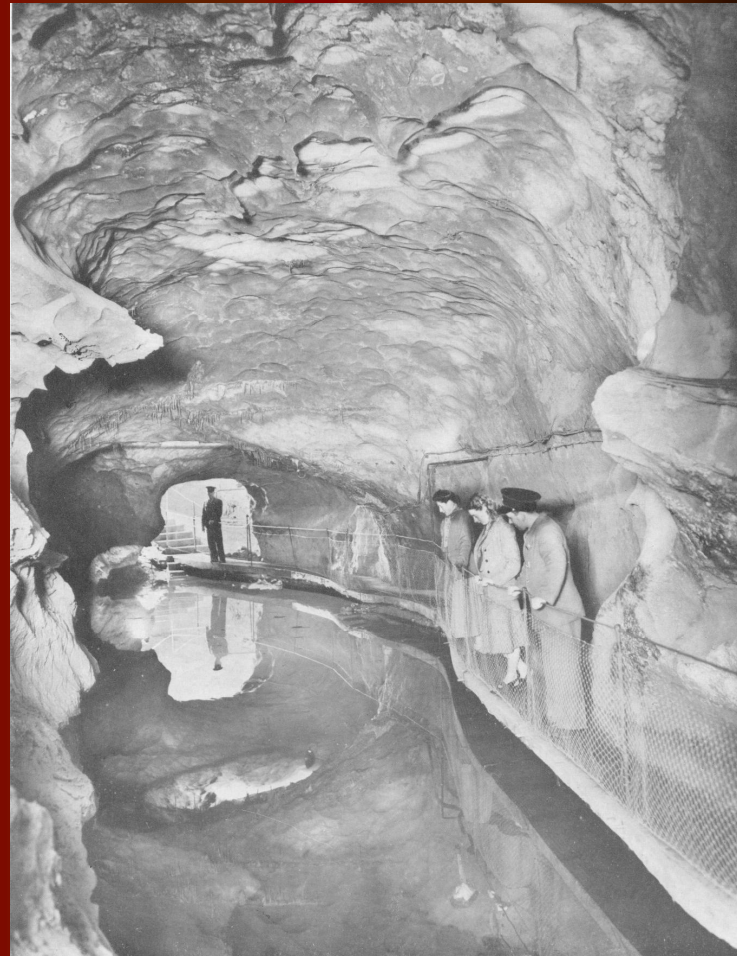
9. NELLIE'S GROTTTO, RIGHT IMPERIAL CAVE, JENOLAN CAVES, N.S.W.



THE CRYSTAL CITIES, JENOLAN CAVES, N.S.W.



- Hurley also recognised the value of including people in many of his scenic photos



- There was a horde of others, far too numerous to deal with here.
- The 1950s also ushered in the new colour photography and in turn digital cameras have been the contemporary revolution in technology.

Thank you all. I trust you have enjoyed listening as much as I enjoy talking about favorite subjects, like Jenolan.