

The Lloyd/Hart Collection

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NED KELLY, ORIGINAL PORTRAIT CIRCA 1880, pencil, charcoal and silver highlight, slightly sunned, minor stains), paper mounted on thick card, verso with faint (partly over written) inscription '...[?] Lloyd', 36 x 27.5 cm.

A HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT CONTEMPORARY PORTRAIT OF NED KELLY.

Family tradition is that the portrait was either executed or commissioned, by Tom Lloyd, who was closely related to the Kellys and was their most active sympathiser, see note to lot 174. Based on the final prison photograph of Ned Kelly, it is an 'improved and respectable' version with Kelly's hair and beard trimmed, wearing a jacket and waistcoat. It occupied a special niche in Tom Lloyd's house before descending to the present family.

\$5,000-10,000

The following 27 lots are from a collection of sepia *cartes-des-visites* (card-mounted 90 x 55 mm. photographs) preserved in a worn, leather wallet (not in sale) and passed down through a family descended from the Lloyds and Harts. As a descendant explains, "The old people didn't say much about the Kelly times. My father found me playing with these photos and got pretty angry. When I asked him who all these people were, he answered 'Ned Kelly, Dan Kelly, Joe Byrne, Steve Hart and some others'."

Through the years, members of the family have written names or initials on the backs of the *cartes*. These have often been erased or even scratched away. The following identifications have been made after Keith McMenemy and Ian Jones examined the collection with family members and discussed unnamed or mis-identified portraits. Such photos have been named from comparison with other portraits, from family resemblance and sometimes from police descriptions.

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EDWARD (NED) KELLY IN HIS RESPECTABLE YEARS, by James Bray of Beechworth, inscribed on back, "Ned Kelley".

THE ONLY KNOWN PRINT OF A PHOTOGRAPH PROBABLY TAKEN IN 1875-6 WHEN NED KELLY WAS OVERSEER OF SAUNDERS' AND RULE'S BURKES HOLE SAWMILL NEAR GRETA. THIS WAS ABOUT A YEAR BEFORE HE TOOK TO HORSE AND CATTLE THEFT AND TWO TO THREE YEARS BEFORE HIS OUTLAWRY.

In many ways, the portrait seems atypical. The characteristic impact of Ned Kelly's dark hair, eyebrows and beard is notably softened by the high-key, overhead lighting from photographer Bray's skylight. Ian Jones commented in 1967, "The impression is of a man of years - a man of substance, the father of many children. It is difficult to believe he is a lad of twenty-one, with his spade beard, his proud, rather benign face, his slightly old-fashioned but thoroughly good clothes." *Ned Kelly: man and Myth*, p. 157)

Jones was describing the only version of the photo then available - a re-touched 1930 reproduction from the Melbourne *Herald* (reproduced McMenemy, first ed., p. 57). Study of the recently discovered original betrays well-worn lightweight boots, frayed cuffs on the jacket and a narrow belt remarkably like a saddle strap - all of which could be expected from a working mill overseer on a visit to Beechworth (Ned's mill was supplying timber for the second stage of the Wangaratta-Beechworth railway).

The impact of the photo perfectly matches a description by Beechworth bookseller, James Ingram, who recalled Ned as a frequent visitor to his shop and commented: "He was in his usual manner, of a quiet, unassuming disposition - a polite and gentlemanly man."

In an intriguing detail, Ned leans against one of photographer Bray's standard studio props - an ornate table with a removable (and reversible) bureau top - which also appears in full length portraits of Joe Byrne and Aaron Sherritt, enabling comparison of the three men's heights.

Previously known only in the coarse-screened, dot-etch reproduction mentioned above, THIS IS A UNIQUE PRINT OF AN IMPORTANT KELLY PORTRAIT - the only known image from his honest, hard-working years. It was originally in the possession of Tom Lloyd, Ned's cousin and leading sympathiser during the Kelly Outbreak, its provenance established by McMenemy and Jones. It was featured in *Ned: The Exhibition* at the Old Melbourne Gaol and first published McMenemy, *Ned Kelly: The Authentic Illustrated History*, revised edition, facing title page and p. 57.

\$10,000-20,000