

## ADOLPH E GRELLERT

Frame Maker and Mount Cutter, King William's Town

The author knows nothing about this gentleman other than that which is presented here. The purpose of the note is to memorialise his various skills.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Adolph E Grellert worked as an architect, civil engineer and surveyor in King William's Town. Some of his activities are reflected in the archival records listed below.

In 1878, when he won the competition for the design of the Feather Market at Port Elizabeth, in partnership. He was then in partnership with an architect Edward Gwinnett Bompas (\* – † 1915) . The new market buildings were to have included a feather market, a restaurant and offices for the Chamber of Commerce. The blunder-filled story of this venture is recounted in detail by Dean McClelland. Suffice to say the building was not built to Grellert's winning design.

In August/September 1880, he designed the Public Library in Kimberley and Messrs Nolan & Longmead were appointed contractors in October 1880. By April 1881 puzzlingly the building contractors are listed as Messrs C T Campbell & Co and there is no further mention of Grellert. The library was opened on 11 October 1881 by the Mayor, Mr M Cornwall, and Mr. Justice Buchanan delivered the inaugural address.

Following several court actions against him in 1884, he was declared an insolvent in 1886.

Subsequently, Grellert ran a "Frame Maker and Mount Cutter" workshop producing meticulously made solid oak frames a number of which the author owns and values to this day. One presumed that this post-dated his insolvency and certainly continued at least until 1917.

The lack of estate papers openly registered with the Cape Archives suggests that he died an unrehabilitated insolvent, and that his estate papers would be found elsewhere in the archives.

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**DEPOT**      **KAB**  
VOLUME\_NO 4163  
REFERENCE L61

DESCRIPTION MEMORIAL. L LIPPERT AND CO. REGARDING A GRELLERT'S PATENT OF A  
DIAMOND SIFTING MACHINE. 1870

**DEPOT**      **KAB**  
TYPE          Bound Map  
REFERENCE SG1/1/3/57

DESCRIPTION Street plan of King William's Town regarding relinquishment of  
land by the Bishop of Grahamstown for railway purposes. A list  
of owners' names and erven sold to them in Buffalo Road and  
Victoria Street are also given. 1875

REMARKS      Drawing. Surveyor: A Grellert. Enclosure to letter dated  
8/2/1875.

**DEPOT**      **Kimberley Africana Library**  
REFERENCE P3256

DESCRIPTION Kimberley Public Library and Institute Co. Ltd. Building in New  
Main Street. 1881

REMARKS      Architect: A Grellert.

**DEPOT**      **KAB**

SOURCE      MOIB

VOLUME\_NO 2/1904

REFERENCE 467

DESCRIPTION GRELLERT, ADOLPH. INSOLVENT LIQUIDATION AND DISTRIBUTION  
ACCOUNT. 1884 - 1886

**DEPOT**      **KAB**

SOURCE      3/KWT

VOLUME\_NO 4/1/159

REFERENCE L1/22

DESCRIPTION TOWN HALL: APPLICATION FOR PORTION OF PREMISES TO BE CEILED -  
**GRELLERT**, AE. 1913 - 1917

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#### References:

1. Looking Back Mar 1993:38; Yuill 1984:57 cited in ArteFacts.co.za
2. Port Elizabeth of Yore: The Feathermarket Hall. McClelland D Publ: Port Elizabeth of Yore Blogs on Port Elizabeth
3. The History of the Kimberley Public Library van Niekerk, F Thesis: Magister Bibliothecologiae, University of the Orange Free State (throughout Grellert is spelled Grellet)  
<http://scholar.ufs.ac.za:8080/bitstream/handle/11660/10330/VanNiekerkF.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

#### Images:

1. Art fragment: Edward Charles Moore (\* 1883 – † 1946) in a Grellert frame
2. Detail of the solid oak Grellert frame
3. Grellert "Frame Maker and Mount Cutter, King William's Town" business label



