

Basedow the man

Herbert Basedow was born on 27 October 1881, the youngest of 13 children, at Kent Town, an inner suburb of Adelaide. Although he travelled widely, he maintained a home in Kent Town all of his life. His parents, Martin and his second wife Anna, were both born in Germany and met after immigrating to Australia. Like many immigrants, Martin forged his new life in Australia with great energy, becoming a well-respected and successful member of the community, and he clearly imparted some of his attitudes and enthusiasm for new experiences to his youngest child. Martin opened a Lutheran school at Tanunda, about 70 kilometres north-east of Adelaide, in 1850. He was also a newspaper proprietor and politician, representing Barossa in the House of Assembly and, later, the North Eastern District in the Legislative Council. For three months in 1881 he was Minister for Education. Martin was a liberal thinker with progressive ideas, particularly in regard to education, which he believed should be 'free, compulsory, broad, humane and moral'.¹

The young Herbert's schooling was in both Adelaide and Germany. Gifted academically and artistically, he was consistently at the top of his classes. He won the Cotton Medal in 1897, his final year at exclusive Prince Alfred College, for academic achievement in agricultural chemistry. Basedow completed a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Adelaide between 1898 and 1902. Again he was a top performer in his subjects, which included mathematics, physics, chemistry, surveying, mechanical drawing, assaying and



Herbert Basedow
about 1920

unknown photographer
reproduced from original print

geology.² He also excelled at many sports, including Australian football, shot-put, rowing (he was once described as a 'gigantic oarsman and a powerful rower of rather good form'³), social tennis and cricket.

Another influential figure in Basedow's life was his science professor, Ralph Tate. Before he had even completed his university degree, Tate had him leading his field classes and, in 1901, Basedow was appointed to supervise end-of-year examinations.⁴ He was also presenting scientific papers at the Royal Society of South Australia and publishing them in the Society's

journal. Basedow was elected an associate member of the Royal Society in 1901 and a fellow in 1904.

Basedow developed a passion for the natural world at a young age. On an excursion in the Adelaide area with three school mates in 1895, the 13-year-old Basedow and a friend 'went off in search of ferns and wild-flowers', and when he accidentally fell into a creek he received a 'good ducking' for his troubles.⁵ As an adult he kept Australian birds, 'including a stately emu, handsomely [p]lumed, Cape Barron geese, laughing jacks, plovers, curlews, seagulls, magpies, cockatoos, parrots, doves, finches, quail, and so on'.⁶ He also collected plants, including orchids, while he was in the Northern Territory in 1911, and central Australian lilies probably collected in 1923. His lifelong interest in the natural sciences served him well on his expeditions to remote areas of central and northern Australia. He was able to identify and interpret the geology, flora and fauna of diverse environments and had the necessary expertise to recognise new species when he came across them, with several of his discoveries taking his name.⁷

Basedow was a fluent German speaker and published a number of articles in German. While little is known of Basedow's involvement with South Australia's German community, in 1933 he played a key role in Adelaide's hosting of the visit of the German warship the *Köln*, as part of a world tour. A reception committee of German South Australians was formed to coordinate the visit and Basedow was the committee's chairman.⁸

As well as being fluent in German, Basedow also developed some competency in at least two central Australian Aboriginal languages, Luritja and Arrernte. Following an expedition in 1926, explorer Donald Mackay reflected on Basedow's proficiency in Luritja:

I cannot conclude without expressing my hearty appreciation of the important and valuable assistance rendered to the expedition by Dr. Basedow, not only from a scientific point of view but also in enabling the expedition to establish more or less friendly relations with some of the notoriously hostile tribes. Being able to speak the Aluridja [Luritja] dialect he not only gained the confidence of many of the natives, but also obtained from them their names for mountains and other features which now appear on the [expedition] map.⁹

Expeditions

Basedow's capabilities in geology led to his appointment as one of four prospectors on the South Australian Government prospecting expedition to the far north-west of the state in 1903, the year after he graduated. This was Basedow's first major expedition, and he spent five and a half months living and working in a remote corner of the state and beyond, far from the comforts of his Adelaide existence.

Early on in the expedition he had a lesson in the language of the bush:

After lunch Jim [one of the expedition's prospectors and the cook] was in the act of neatly arranging the provisions and utensils in the pack-boxes of the 'kitchen camel' when the animal, seeing the rest of the 'string' led to water, unexpectedly rose and upset the lot. This evoked a flow of language and vocabulary previously unknown to me. The language, though far from classical, certainly seemed convincing, for the camel

immediately responded to the variously qualified appellations and the Arabian 'husht' and fell upon the ground with a grunt.¹⁰

From 1903 onwards, his working life was characterised by major geological, exploratory and medical relief expeditions into remote areas of central and northern Australia. In between these major trips he often undertook smaller expeditions as a consultant geologist.

Many strings to his bow

Basedow travelled to Germany to undertake postgraduate studies in April 1907. He took with him a letter of introduction from Government Geologist HYL Brown and an honorary commission from the state government to investigate various geological matters, including researching materials that 'ought to prove profitable and a source of industry' to South Australia.¹¹

By the time he returned to Australia in July 1910, after three and a half years overseas, he was able to list qualifications or academic training from five prestigious European centres, including a PhD in geology and two other postgraduate qualifications in medicine. To obtain these in three and a half years was an astonishing achievement, although some of Basedow's contemporaries openly questioned the validity of these qualifications.¹² Somewhat bizarrely, his work on the craniometric measurements of skulls of Australian (Tasmanian) Aborigines, combined with his practical medical work, was regarded as sufficient for a Doctorate of Medicine, enabling his later registration as a medical practitioner in Australia.

The validity of Basedow's qualifications is still questioned by some commentators today. Certainly, obtaining three postgraduate degrees in such a short time seems unbelievable. A letter in his papers suggests he could have been entitled to some credit for the work he had produced to date, for by the time he left for Europe he had already published 12 individual and three joint papers on geological and anthropological topics.

Basedow had a fondness for self-promotion, and at times this may also have rubbed people up the wrong way. His continued use of titles long after they ceased to apply is one example. On the title page to *The Australian Aboriginal*, he listed under his name two positions he had held some years earlier — 'Sometime Medical Inspector and Chief Protector of Aborigines' and 'Special Aborigines' Commissioner for the Federal and State Governments', positions which he held in 1911 and 1919–20.¹³ At other times Basedow embellished facts about himself and this can make assessment of his work challenging for twenty-first-century scholars.

Nonetheless, his doctorate was accepted by the state government when he was appointed Assistant Government Geologist shortly after his return from Europe. In fact, four of his degrees (BSc, MD, ChD and PhD) were listed in the official notice of his appointment.¹⁴ Similarly, when Basedow was registered as a medical practitioner on 8 September 1910, his MD from the University of Göttingen was listed as his qualification.¹⁵ His medical qualifications were also accepted by the Commonwealth Government the following year, when he was appointed Chief Medical Inspector and Chief Protector of Aborigines in the Northern Territory.



**Herbert Basedow shaving,
Humbert River station,
Mararoa geological
expedition, Northern
Territory 1922**

photograph by Frank Feast
reproduced from film negative

Basedow and Australian Aboriginal people

Basedow's interest in Australian Aboriginal people not only informed his research, but also influenced other areas of his personal and political life. He was one of the few men of his time actively involved in recording traditional Aboriginal life. By 1910 Basedow's involvement in anthropology was well and truly entrenched — he had published several papers and delivered many lectures, and hoped to continue in this line of research:

Dr. Basedow's intention is to give the benefit of his studies to the furtherance of his favourite research, the anthropology of the

Australians, which he hopes to be able to combine with his geological profession. His practical medical training will be devoted chiefly to expedition work, which he has great hopes of continuing.¹⁶

In 'Herbert Basedow and the removal of Aboriginal children of mixed descent from their families' Heidi Zogbaum presents a politically sensitive and critical analysis of Basedow in his capacity as Chief Protector of the Aborigines and expert anthropologist. She claims that Basedow 'twice played a decisive, if unwitting, role in the development of policies for the removal of part-Aboriginal children from their families'.¹⁷ She points out that in July 1911,

while Chief Protector of Aborigines in the Northern Territory, Basedow proposed to the Territory's acting Administrator that an institution be established to provide 'adequate housing, settlement, and supervision of half-castes in the northern portion of the Northern Territory'.

But it was Basedow's European research, suggests Zogbaum, in which he stipulates a close relationship between Aboriginal people and Europeans, that gave AO Neville, Chief Protector of Aborigines in Western Australia between 1915 and 1940, the scientific basis for his proposal to deal with the 'half caste problem' by selective breeding.¹⁸

In her assessment of Basedow's historical role in the removal of Aboriginal children, Zogbaum points out that his 'name occurs frequently but always briefly and he remains a somewhat shadowy figure in Australian historiography despite recognition of his important contributions to anthropology'.¹⁹ Certainly, viewed today, the policy of removal is reprehensible. However, taken in the context of Basedow's overall agenda for protection, it is comprehensible. And Basedow was a product of his times. Later, Basedow was to argue against separation, particularly as a member of the Aborigines Protection League.

There is no doubt that, at a more humanitarian level, Basedow tried to get a better deal for Aboriginal people. He introduced policy changes during his short-lived time as Chief Protector of Aborigines in the Northern Territory, and he lobbied government, especially through the Aborigines Protection League, and provided medical services on expeditions. Basedow's involvement with Aboriginal people went beyond his interest in anthropology — he was also concerned about their welfare.

Particularly significant was Basedow's involvement in lobbying the South Australian Government for a reserve in the north-western corner of the state to protect the Aboriginal people living there. Basedow indicated the area for the reserve 'should include a group of ranges (known as the Musgrave, Mann, and Tomkinson Ranges), together with the outlying hills south of this main axis of elevation'.²⁰ He also wanted adjacent areas in Western Australia and the Northern Territory included — that area of the three states now covered by the Pitjantjatjara lands.

Basedow's message was that Aboriginal people living away from civilisation should be left alone to continue living in their old ways and that Europeans should be prevented from having contact with them. Basedow's intentions could be seen as not completely altruistic, however. Preserving 'traditional' ways of life would also preserve Aboriginal cultures for future anthropological research.

Basedow also campaigned energetically about the state of Aboriginal health.²¹ In a letter published in both of Adelaide's major newspapers, the *Advertiser* and the *Register*, on 16 April 1919, Basedow called attention to Australia's responsibilities to its Indigenous population. Now that the First World War was over, he reminded readers, it was time to redress entrenched health and social problems. He concluded, passionately:

I appeal to all Australians who have a conscience to lend a sympathetic ear to the pleading voice of the weak and ill-used aborigines. Let us not at this moment, when the nobler destinies of all the world are looming through the lifting clouds of war, forget our obligations to a one-time happy people, whom we have dispossessed.

A public meeting, instigated by Basedow and presided over by the Premier, AH Peake, was held at the Town Hall, on 6 May, to discuss the 'question of the better protection of the aborigines of the State'.²² Basedow highlighted the state's neglect of Aboriginal people and the need for 'medical supervision' and reserves. Such was the interest and support for the matter at hand that there was insufficient seating for all of those who attended.²³

The immediate material result of the meeting was the instigation of a series of medical relief expeditions, to be led by Basedow and jointly funded by a group of pastoralists and the state government. Before he left on the first of these expeditions, Basedow married Olive Nell Noyes on 4 June 1919. Nell, as she was known, accompanied her husband on all three expeditions, officiating as nurse.²⁴ On these expeditions Basedow examined Aboriginal people's health, carried out what treatments he could and dispensed medicines. He also treated non-Aboriginal people at times. He compiled four separate reports, three for the state government and one for the Commonwealth.²⁵ Each report was illustrated with photographs of cases encountered and some of the places visited. In summing up his observations, Basedow called for improved conditions for Aboriginal people, appealing, in terms that are not unfamiliar today:

to the Authorities and to the citizens of South Australia to assist in the campaign for betterment of the awful conditions prevailing amongst the tribes which have been ravaged by the foulest diseases of the European.

I only ask for the introduction, into the existing system of management of our aborigines, of a thorough medical control of their health and living affairs. There is nothing new in my suggestion, and if the aboriginal had been able to plead for himself his case would in all probability have received consideration long ere this.²⁶

Basedow's dealings with Aboriginal people show that he was equally interested in them on a personal and individual level. On a trip to Kangaroo Island Basedow met Mary Seymour, a descendant of a Tasmanian Aboriginal woman and a whaler. Seymour died on 9 September 1913, and the following year Basedow published her obituary in a British anthropological journal.²⁷ Although the obituary finishes with a description of Seymour's racial characteristics as befitting a physical anthropologist, it largely tells a human story. A surviving letter shows Basedow also sent medicine and a photograph album to one of Seymour's relatives.

During the third medical relief expedition in 1920, two Aboriginal girls, Tjikanna and Unndela, both about nine years of age, returned to Adelaide with the Basedows to live with them. An unreferenced newspaper article, published in the week of Basedow's death in June 1933, suggests that Herbert and Nell were motivated partly by their own childlessness:

Dr. and Mrs. Basedow 'adopted' them, not so much for scientific study, as for friendship. They had no children of their own, and the plight of the two appealed to them.²⁸



**Tjikanna (left) and Unndela,
probably Adelaide, South
Australia 1920s**

reproduced from glass plate negative

The nature of the girls' 'plight' is not explained. Basedow's fostering of the girls was the subject of an agreement between Herbert and Robert Stott, Protector of Aborigines in Alice Springs.²⁹ The agreement states that Basedow was to adopt and be responsible for teaching both girls 'domestic duties and general helps', and provide them with 'food, wearing apparel, Bed clothes, proper accomodation and all Medical attention they may require from time to time'.³⁰

Conservation

Not only was Basedow an active anthropologist and geologist who was well-versed in all aspects of the natural sciences, he was also a conservationist.

Following his visit to Kangaroo Island, he went to the press to protest the hunting of native species in reserves on the west of the island. His comments attracted attention both on the island and the mainland, with questions being asked in state parliament. Two government inspectors were sent to investigate, presumably as a direct result of Basedow's claims.³¹

He was also interested in the preservation of historic sites. Basedow had a very good grasp of matters pertaining to Australian history, particularly early Australian exploration. In 1926, at Ernabella in the Musgrave Ranges of South Australia's far north-west, he photographed a number of trees blazed by exploration parties. The following year he wrote to

the Premier requesting that a barrier be placed around a tree north of Oodnadatta which he identified as one John Forrest had camped under in 1874. Now that the railway line was to be extended north of Oodnadatta, this tree lay in the general path that the line was to take and Basedow was concerned it could be felled. Within a month of writing to the Premier, Basedow was informed by the Secretary for Lands that the erection of a fence around the tree had been approved.³²

A disastrous appointment

In April 1911, after only nine months as Assistant Government Geologist, Basedow secured the new position of Chief Medical Inspector and Protector of Aborigines in the Northern Territory, which had just been taken over by the Commonwealth Government. Government Geologist HYL Brown expressed his disappointment on hearing that Basedow had applied for the position:

I regret extremely that there is a prospect of your retiring from your position as Assistant Government Geologist on this Survey. I had hoped that you would have been able to remain here to carry on the work we had planned out, and eventually to succeed me as Government Geologist.

However Brown acknowledged that it was a significant role and one that would enable Basedow to continue his scientific pursuits in the Territory:

As however the post you are applying for is a very important one, in which besides your necessary duties, you will have a good opportunity of continuing the study of the geology, natural history etc of Northern Australia, in which

work we have previously been engaged & for which I know you to be well qualified, I will not offer any opposition, although against my own interests and the hopes I have entertained.³³

The Commonwealth Minister for External Affairs had made medical qualifications a prerequisite for the position. The minister must have been pleased that an application from someone with Basedow's qualifications and experience, in both anthropology and medicine, was received. Basedow arrived in Darwin on 17 July 1911, full of enthusiasm and with big plans. However, he remained in Darwin for only 45 days before resigning. He was dissatisfied with his working conditions and he claimed the legislation under which he was operating was unworkable. In addition, the administration found him abrasive and difficult to work with. His four staff members, on the other hand, did not, and jointly wrote a letter in support of Basedow, asking him to reconsider:

We all feel keenly that we have lost a very capable and sympathetic leader, under whom we have always worked in harmony, and we were all looking forward with pleasure and enthusiasm to a long term of work under your leadership. We hope sincerely that matters may yet be adjusted so that you may be induced to take up your work again as Head of this Department, and we can assure you that you will, as in the past, receive our loyal support in every way.³⁴

Basedow would certainly not have enjoyed the bureaucratic aspects of the position. As head of the department he was expected to spend most of his time in the Darwin office. He was a man who certainly preferred to be outdoors, travelling and investigating the natural world and Aboriginal cultures. The only

trip of note he took during his Darwin appointment was to Bathurst and Melville islands.

While it is difficult to judge the impact the Darwin fiasco had on the rest of his career, there is no doubt that he returned to Adelaide with, for the first time, questions over his abilities. He was no longer the 'golden boy'. Basedow entered private medical and geological practice in Adelaide and continued to publish on anthropology in learned journals.

His life's work

For many years, Basedow had been gathering together his anthropological work. Originally he had intended 'to write a progressive series of treatises on the Australian aboriginal, embodying observations as they were being made'.³⁵ By 1924 he had amassed sufficient information for a book, and in 1925, he published his major work, *The Australian Aboriginal*. More than 400 pages long, and richly illustrated with his own photographs, Basedow pitched his writing to a general readership: 'In the present volume I have endeavoured to sift my subject matter in such a way as to keep the text in a suitable sequence and to make it of general interest'.³⁶ This was a welcome contribution at a time that little detailed information on Aboriginal people was available to the wider public.

The Australian Aboriginal received many good reviews around the world, and at home. A review in Adelaide's *Advertiser* claimed that the book would become:

a standard work on the Australian aboriginal because the disappearing race, even to-day, offers few facilities for obtaining anything like the comprehensive data which Dr. Basedow has accumulated during more than

a quarter of a century of diligent and well-directed research in far remote regions rich in primitive history.³⁷

British academic Sir Arthur Keith particularly appreciated the photographs, commenting that they 'are uncommonly good. It is a treat to get away from the time-honoured oft published figures'.³⁸ Basedow was criticised, however, for the absence of acknowledgement of other workers in the field and, by at least one reviewer, for over-generalising and failing to touch on several important topics:

On some important topics, such as tribal organization, his account is extremely meager and unsatisfactory, adding little or nothing to our knowledge and being quite inadequate to convey to the uninitiated reader an idea of the variety and complexity of the facts. No attempt is made to describe and explain the classificatory system of relationship, though that is one of the most characteristic and important features of aboriginal Australian society.³⁹

Publishing the book certainly enhanced Basedow's already considerable reputation,⁴⁰ and he later received at least two offers from British publishers to publish subsequent books.⁴¹ Basedow's second book, *Knights of the Boomerang*, was published posthumously, by Sydney's Endeavour Press, in 1935.

Herbert Basedow, MP

The last two major expeditions that Basedow took part in were in 1926, to central Australia, and 1928, to Arnhem Land. He joined the Arnhem Land expedition as Herbert Basedow, MP, after being



Herbert Basedow on the plains east of Lyndhurst, South Australia 1907

unknown photographer
reproduced from lantern slide

Nell Basedow in a rickshaw, Colombo, Ceylon (Sri Lanka)

1931 or 1932

reproduced from glass plate
negative

successful in his second attempt to represent Barossa in the state parliament.⁴² He had joined the Country Party 'knowing it to be a party which would do most for the development of the country'.⁴³ Defeated in the 1930 elections, his ultimate 'failure to shine in parliament was seen as due to an "inability to work with others". Easily riled, he was impatient of those who did not share his vision'.⁴⁴

Basedow's chief cause was Aboriginal welfare, but in parliament Basedow took part in a wide range of debates on topics such as religious instruction in schools, extending the railway line north from Oodnadatta and oil exploration. One less serious debate, on the increased use of slang, resulted in an amusing ditty by 'Seebee':

The worthy Doctor Basedow
Now set mid Parliamentary scenes,
Has mentioned that he doesn't know
Just what the dickens 'bonzer' means,

There's no more useless word, he thinks,
And from its daily usage shrinks,
But some old cynic only winks,
And notes it's heard by many.⁴⁵

After returning to Adelaide in 1928, his parliamentary duties occupied much of his time and he published only a few brief articles in addition to parliamentary speeches.

In late 1931 Herbert and Nell travelled to England on the *Port Auckland* with Basedow serving as the ship's surgeon.⁴⁶ He also acted as surgeon on the return voyage, this time on the *Hobson's Bay*.⁴⁷ Basedow carried with him letters of introduction from Australia's Prime Minister JH Scullin and Robert Richards, South Australia's acting Premier.

The main purpose of the visit was to raise capital for the Central Australia Silver, Lead and Copper Mining Company, of which Basedow was a director. While in England and Europe Basedow lectured on Aboriginal



Members of the vice-regal expedition to central Australia, with Herbert Basedow at far left 1923

unknown photographer using Basedow's camera reproduced from glass plate negative

cultures and his travels in remote Australia. He was also interviewed for at least one radio program and was entertained at the Houses of Parliament, and by some of London's elite. His business purpose was 'entirely successful', according to an unreferenced newspaper item.⁴⁸

Basedow was again elected to state parliament in 1933, this time as an independent, but only served a matter of months. He died of thrombosis, at 51 years of age, on 4 June 1933, his 15th wedding anniversary.

A notice published in the *Angaston Leader* following his death gives a good indication of the esteem with which Basedow was held:

The death of Dr. Herbert Basedow, at only 52 years, staggered the whole district on Monday, for it means a loss of more than one of its members of Parliament, more than an eminent physician and scholar; more than a commercial giant who was slowly pointing a path to prosperity — it means the loss of a beloved personality who was so loved that he was able to stand alone and win a seat in Parliament; a man of such wide acquaintance.⁴⁹

Notes

Introduction

- 1 Nell Basedow to Colin MacKenzie, 22 July 1933, National Archives of Australia, Series A2645 50/2/1. Presumably it was MacKenzie who underlined the section in this passage.
- 2 For example, different photographs of the same Aboriginal man were published in *The Australian Aboriginal*, Basedow's first book, and *Knights of the Boomerang*. In the former he is said to be a Wardaman man, which we can assume to be correct given that Basedow was involved in its publication. In *Knights of the Boomerang* he is said to be a Warramunga man. In 'Manipulation of photographs: A case study', *COMA: Bulletin of the Conference of Museum Anthropologists*, vol. 14, 1984, 2–20, I corrected many of these errors (corrections in *COMA*, vol. 15, 1984, 25).

Basedow the man

- 1 Ian Harmstorf, 'Basedow, Martin Peter Friedrich (1829–1902)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A070205b.htm.
- 2 Some of his studies were undertaken at the South Australian School of Mines and Industries (now the Institute of Technology), where his brother Erwin (1875–1939) also studied.
- 3 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 May 1900.
- 4 *Register*, 19 September 1911; Robert Lucas to Basedow, 15 November 1901; SLSA, PRG 324, vol 1.
- 5 *Prince Alfred College Chronicle*, 8 March 1895.
- 6 *Journal*, 19 April 1919. His Cape Barren geese bred 'regularly' and by 1921 he had reared 36 birds.
- 7 See 'Basedow the scientist', p. 18.
- 8 This was a high-level visit that involved Basedow in a lot of organisational matters for a period of about two months. An extensive program was organised for the nine-day visit, including receptions, on-board tours, balls, dinners and excursions for the sailors.
- 9 Donald Mackay, 'The Mackay Exploring Expedition, Central Australia, 1926', *Geographical Journal*, 1929, 258–64.
- 10 Herbert Basedow, 'Journal of the Government North-West Expedition', *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, South Australian Branch*, vol. XV, 1915, 57–242 (p. 66). Basedow also recounted another tale of

his early unease with his strange surroundings. On the night of 13 June 1903, the party had been so full of apprehension regarding the natives in the neighbourhood that they had extinguished their fire and loosed a volley of shots at a tree stump they mistook for an Aboriginal scout (ibid., p. 139).

- 11 He particularly looked at stones suitable for building materials as well as certain minerals like clays, gypsum and lignite. Herbert Basedow, *Report on Recent Development in Economic Geology*, Special Intelligence Bulletin No. 17, Government Printer, Adelaide, 1910 [p. 5].
- 12 Baldwin Spencer regarded Basedow's qualifications with 'contempt' (DJ Mulvaney & JH Calaby, *'So Much That Is New': Baldwin Spencer 1860–1929 A Biography*, University of Melbourne Press, Carlton, 1985, p. 276), while South Australian anatomist F Wood Jones described Basedow's credentials as an 'impudent parade of degrees, real or assumed; and knowledge, borrowed, stolen or feigned' (quoted in Mulvaney & Calaby, p. 276). Spencer's disapproval of Basedow seems to have developed over time, as he and EC Stirling made 'valuable criticisms and suggestions on various points' of the first of Basedow's 'Anthropological notes' ('Anthropological notes made on the South Australian Government North-West Prospecting Expedition, 1903', *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia*, vol. XXVIII, 1904, 12–51 (p. 47)). Stirling, but not Spencer, provided 'kind assistance' three years later (Herbert Basedow, 'Anthropological notes on the western coastal tribes of the Northern Territory of South Australia', *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia*, vol. XXXI, 1907, 1–62 (p. 59). Regarding Wood Jones's charge of plagiarism, at worst, Basedow could be accused, on occasion, of not sufficiently or appropriately acknowledging the work of others when he should have, excusing himself for not doing so: 'for the simple reason that, had I started looking up all necessary references, the volume might never have been completed. My time at headquarters has been so limited during the last fifteen years that, in the absence of a library near at hand, it was impossible for me to adopt any other method than to write up my observations at first-hand and run the risk of a certain amount of trespass. Nevertheless, I trust that the authors so affected will realize that there was no slight intended and will treat my transgression in the spirit of independent corroboration' (Basedow, *The Australian Aboriginal*, FW Preece and Sons, Adelaide, 1925, p xii).
- 13 He used the same titles in 'Diseases of the Australian Aborigines' in

- 1932 (*Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, vol. XXXV, no. 12, 177–85; vol. XXXV, no. 13, 193–8; vol. XXXV no. 14, 210–13; 1 August, 229–33; 15 August, 247–50 and vol. XXXV, no. 18, 274–8).
- 14 *South Australian Government Gazette*, 11 August 1910, p. 290.
- 15 In the *South Australian Government Gazette* of 1 December, Basedow's Christian name was given as 'Hubert'. This was corrected in the following *Gazette* (8 December 1910, p. 1184).
- 16 *Express*, 25 January 1910.
- 17 Heidi Zogbaum, 'Herbert Basedow and the removal of Aboriginal children of mixed descent from their families', *Australian Historical Studies*, vol. 121, 2003, 122–38.
- 18 *ibid.* (p. 132). In Neville's view the 'full-blood' was doomed to extinction, while the 'half-castes', if cross-bred with whites, would inevitably produce whiter children, to the point where they would reach the standard of white Australians.
- 19 *ibid.* (p. 123).
- 20 Basedow met the South Australian Commissioner of Public Works on 3 June 1914 to discuss the matter and followed up the meeting with a letter the following day (SLSA, PRG 324, Item 2).
- 21 In 1929, for example, when he was president of the Aborigines' Protection League, he made a public appeal for fruit to send to Hermannsburg Mission in the Northern Territory to supplement meagre rations and, according to one newspaper, 'so that the blacks may not die of scurvy' (*Bunyip*, 30 August 1929).
- 22 *Register*, 7 May 1919.
- 23 *Critic*, 14 May 1919.
- 24 These were the only expeditions on which Nell accompanied her husband. Sometimes while her husband was away, she travelled overseas. On one trip in 1929 she visited Japan, China, Java and Singapore (see Bernard Basedow, *The Basedow Story: A German South Australian Heritage*, The Author, Adelaide, 1990, p. 125).
- 25 The reports included itineraries, a list of personnel, information on the nature of the country travelled, climate, geographical features, background information on the Aboriginal groups encountered including broad reasons for health problems, lists of individuals examined, diseases encountered and concluding remarks.
- 26 Herbert Basedow, 'Report upon the third medical relief expedition among the aborigines of South Australia', State Records of South Australia, GRG 23/1, 1921, 330, p. 30.
- 27 Herbert Basedow, 'Relic of the lost Tasmanian race: Obituary notice of Mary Seymour', *Man*, 14, 1914, 161–2.
- 28 Quoted in Bernard Basedow, *The Basedow Story*, p. 147.
- 29 Facsimile in *ibid.*, p. 146.
- 30 *ibid.* Bernard Basedow says the girls were treated 'extremely well, despite the fact that some people felt they were only servants'. A photograph in Adelaide's *Register* newspaper (8 January 1929) shows them serving Basedow with refreshments; the caption is headed 'Aboriginal girls as servants in Adelaide'. Other photographs in Basedow's collection show Tjikanna and Unndela with Nell at the zoo and with family pets and an unknown toddler. When Basedow died in 1933 both Tjikanna and

- Unndela 'deeply mourned the untimely death of Dr. Basedow' (*ibid.*, p. 147). Nell wanted to return the girls to the Northern Territory but Herbert's three sisters 'took them over and befriended them, in deference to their brother', creating a rift that led to Nell moving overseas for about 20 years (*ibid.*, p. 145).
- 31 *Register*, 12 August 1914.
- 32 Basedow to Richard L Butler, 26 August 1927, SLSA, PRG 324, Item 4; Secretary for Lands to Basedow, 16 September 1927, SLSA, PRG 324, Item 4.
- 33 Brown to Basedow, 28 March 1911, SLSA, PRG 324, Item 2.
- 34 S Roy Burston, Mervyn J Holmes, JT Beckett & JH Kelly to Basedow, 24 August 1911, NAA: Series A1 1912/2149.
- 35 Basedow, *Australian Aboriginal*, p. vii.
- 36 *ibid.*, p. ix.
- 37 *Advertiser*, 28 February 1925.
- 38 Sir Arthur Keith to Basedow, 6 April 1925, SLSA, 572.994b.
- 39 *The Times*, literary supplement, 17 September 1925. This review strongly reads as having been written by an anthropologist familiar with Aboriginal cultures and the literature that had been written on the subject. Nevertheless, the reviewer goes on to acknowledge that the book 'has given us much, and we must be grateful to him for it; it is a compliment rather than a reproach to him that we wish he had given us much more'.
- 40 This reputation was acknowledged when Basedow was asked to write the contribution 'How should the visiting scientist approach the primitive Australian Aboriginal?' for a series entitled *Practical Hints to Scientific Travellers*, published in The Hague, 1926.
- 41 Both T Werner Laurie Ltd, and Thornton Butterworth Ltd, London-based publishers, approached Basedow.
- 42 Harmstorf, 'Basedow, Herbert (1881–1933)', www.adb.online.cdu.au/biogs/A070204b.htm. Basedow had stood unsuccessfully in 1924.
- 43 Unreferenced newspaper item, SLSA, PRG 324, Item 4.
- 44 Harmstorf, 'Basedow, Herbert'.
- 45 *Mail*, 13 August 1927.
- 46 'Certificate of discharge', SLSA, PRG 324, vol. 6.
- 47 Unreferenced newspaper article, SLSA, PRG 324, vol. 6.
- 48 Unreferenced newspaper article, SLSA, PRG 324, vol. 6.
- 49 *Leader*, 8 June 1933.

Basedow the scientist

- 1 Although he did not publish in botany, he produced published work in geology and zoology.
- 2 Herbert Basedow, 'On the occurrence of Miocene limestones at Edithburgh, and their stratigraphical relationship to the Eocene of Wool Bay, with description of a new species by Professor R. Tate', *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia*, vol. XXV, 1901, 145–8.
- 3 *ibid.*, (p. 148).
- 4 *ibid.*
- 5 Herbert Basedow, 'Descriptions of new species of fossil mollusca

- from the Miocene limestone near Edithburgh (including notes by the late Professor Ralph Tate)', *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia*, vol. XXVI, 1902, 130–2.
- 6 Herbert Basedow, 'On Naticoid genera Lamellaria and Caledoniella from South Australia', *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia*, vol. XXIX, 1905, 181–6; Herbert Basedow & Charles Hedley, 'South Australian Nudibranchs, and an enumeration of the known Australian species', *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia*, vol. XXIX, 1905, 134–60.
 - 7 These papers described, for example, 'new species of Orthoptera' (JGO Tepper, 'Descriptions of some new species of Orthoptera from north-western South Australia — No. 1', *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia*, vol. XXVIII, 1904, 162–7); 'the Mollusca' (Charles Hedley, 'Report on the Mollusca collected by Mr. Herbert Basedow on the South Australian Government North-West Expedition, 1903', *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia*, vol. XXIX, 1905, 161–5); and 'insects including new species of Mantidae and Phasmidae' (JGO Tepper, 'Insects collected in the north-western region of South Australia proper by H. Basedow; with descriptions of new species of Mantidae and Phasmidae — No. 2', *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia*, vol. XXIX, 1905, 237–45). In his 1904 paper, Tepper named a new species of cockroach *Periplaneta* (now *Ataxigamia*) *basedowi* after Basedow, the specimen being one of a swarm attracted by the light of the expedition campfire at Hector Pass in the Mann Ranges.
 - 8 Basedow was, however, adept at the complex science of taxonomy and, as the following excerpt from his diary of the 1928 expedition to Arnhem Land shows, he was familiar with the characteristics to look for in identifying known species and recognising new ones: 'About these exposures a species of pandanus I have not seen before. Grows on the dry surfaces of sandstone with roots like a mangrove. The whole plant is peculiarly branched and in mature specimens reminds one of araucaria. Leaves very much smaller and less jagged than other species. Fruits quite distinct. From 15–25 feet. 2 Photographs and specimens' (Diary, 5 June 1928, Mitchell Library, MSS Set 161/5, Item 19). The pandanus was indeed a new species. Basedow submitted specimens of the plant to Kew Gardens in England and it was later named *Pandanus basedowii* (see CH Wright, '*Pandanus basedowii*', *Kew Bulletin*, 1930, 158).
 - 9 See Robert Burn, 'Notes on a collection of nudibranchia (Gastropoda: Dorididae and Dendrodorididae) from South Australia with remarks on the species of Basedow and Hedley, 1905', *Memoirs of the National Museum of Victoria*, vol. 25, 1962, 149–71; Seaslugforum, www.seaslugforum.net. The other specimen mistaken for a new species by Basedow and Hedley was in fact a juvenile form of a previously described species. One retains the name they assigned it (*Halgerda graphica*). The specimen collected by Basedow remains the paratype for this species, or one of the specimens against which future scientific determinations should be made.
 - 10 As an undergraduate student at the University of Adelaide Basedow undertook research into Tertiary age deposits and fossils. In 1907 Basedow travelled to Germany to undertake postgraduate studies. His PhD thesis was an Australia-wide examination of the country's geology, submitted to the University of Breslau in 1908 with the title 'Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Geologie Australiens'. It was published with the same title the following year (*Zeitschrift der Deutschen Geologischen Gesellschaft*, vol. 2, 1909, 306–79).
 - 11 This medal was awarded for the best original work in geology and in 1904 Sir Edgeworth David, Professor of Geology at the University of Sydney, was the examiner. There were only two candidates but David judged Basedow's contribution to be the more worthy of this significant honour, commenting: 'I have no hesitation in recommending that the medal be awarded to Mr. H. Basedow. His description of his geological explorations in the Musgrave and adjacent ranges and his detailed petrological description of the rocks is an interesting and useful contribution to Geological Science, and in every way worthy of the high distinction of the award of the Tate Memorial Medal' (David to CR Hodge, Registrar, University of Adelaide, 22 July 1904, University of Adelaide Archives, Series 200, No. 579/1904).
 - 12 Bernard O'Neil, *In Search of Mineral Wealth: The South Australian Geological Survey and Department of Mines to 1944*, Department of Mines and Energy Special Publication No. 2, Government Printer, Adelaide, 1982, p. 148.
 - 13 Herbert Basedow, *Catalogue of Minerals in the Technological Museum of the South Australian School of Mines and Industries*, Government Printer, Adelaide, 1907.
 - 14 He wrote reports on these, but the only resultant geological publications were the 'Extracts of reports' that appeared in six-monthly Mines Department printed reports.
 - 15 His mentor Tate and Howchin had been involved in a feud over glacial deposits, and Basedow continued the cause after Tate's death. Howchin had been studying these deposits since the late 1800s. Basedow and a colleague, JD Iliffe, another of Tate's students, presented a paper titled 'On the formation known as Glacial Till of Cambrian Age in South Australia', at the Royal Society of South Australia meeting of 4 April 1905. They suggested that a deposit at Blackwood was in fact not a glacial deposit, as claimed by Howchin, but was created by metamorphic forces. At the Society's meeting the following month, Howchin, supported by eminent geologist and Antarctic explorer Douglas Mawson, stridently criticised Basedow and Iliffe (*Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of South Australia*, vol. XXIX, 335). Basedow and Iliffe evidently were not deterred by the Royal Society's meeting for, toward the end of 1907, a brief resume of their paper was read on their behalf at a Geological Society meeting in England, again refuting Howchin's claims. Both sides had their supporters, but in the end the general consensus was that Howchin had presented a convincing case and he was later 'completely vindicated' (Jonathan Selby, 'Geo-giants of the past: Walter Howchin (1945–1937)', *Terra Nova*, vol. 3, no. 5, 1991, 568–9 (p. 569)).
 - 16 Herbert Basedow, 'The supposed oil-bearing areas of South Australia: Dr Wade's report critically reviewed', TA Leslie, Adelaide, 1915; Herbert Basedow, 'Oil (in) the south east: Comprehensive reply to Mr Ward' [Adelaide, 1917].
 - 17 A paper he published in 1916 was little more than notes 'copied straight from [his] field-book' from the 1905 government expedition to the north-west of the Northern Territory ('Physical geography and geology

- of the Western Rivers' district, Northern Territory of Australia', *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, South Australian Branch*, vol. XVI, 148–217 (p. 6)). Attached to his published journal of a 1916 expedition to the Kimberley was a précis of the geology he had recorded, supplemented with notes by Robert Etheridge jnr ('Narrative of an expedition of exploration in north-western Australia', *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, South Australian Branch*, vol. XVIII, 1918, 105–295). Basedow's other geological writings during this period were opinion pieces, particularly relating to petroleum in south-eastern South Australia, and short published notes and unpublished reports.
- 18 Undated advertisement, probably about 1923, SLSA, PRG 324, Item 3. Surviving reports demonstrate that his geological examinations after 1911 were undertaken in Western Australia, the Northern Territory and his home state.
 - 19 Herbert Basedow, *The Australian Aboriginal*, FW Preece and Sons, Adelaide, 1925, p. ix.
 - 20 Basedow, *Australian Aboriginal*, p. xii.
 - 21 The closest he came to this was in his 'Anthropological notes' and perhaps his 'Notes on the natives of Bathurst Island' ('Anthropological notes made on the South Australian Government North-West Prospecting Expedition, 1903', *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia*, vol. XXVIII, 1904, 12–51; 'Anthropological notes on the western coastal tribes of the Northern Territory of South Australia', *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia*, vol. XXXI, 1907, 1–62; 'Notes on the natives of Bathurst Island, North Australia', *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, vol. XLIII, 1913: 291–323).
 - 22 Basedow, *Australian Aboriginal*, p. xiii. Some of the 'intimate' photographs Basedow referred to are, no doubt, of secret rituals.
 - 23 Herbert Basedow, 'Vergleichende Vokabularien der Aluridja- und Arrundta- Dialekte Zentral-Australiens', *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie*, vol. 40, 1908, 207–28.
 - 24 Bullroarers are, among central Australian peoples, secret ceremonial objects, which women and children are not permitted to see.
 - 25 Herbert Basedow, 'Aboriginal rock carvings of great antiquity in South Australia', *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, vol. XLIV, 1914, 195–210 (pp. 198–203). In the absence of direct dating techniques he suggested the silica film covering the entire rock surface and geological forces that had caused rocks to split through engravings or break away from the bedrock, meant the engravings were of some antiquity (a theory since confirmed).
 - 26 Herbert Basedow, 'Diseases of the Australian Aborigines', *Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, vol. XXXV, no. 12, 177–85; vol. XXXV, no. 13, 193–8; vol. XXXV no. 14, 210–13; 1 August, 229–33; 15 August, 247–50 and vol. XXXV, no. 18, 274–8.
 - 27 Herbert Basedow, 'Report upon the First Medical Relief Expedition amongst the Aborigines of South Australia', 1920, South Australian Archives, GRG 23/1 1920 144, pp. 30–1.
 - 28 Basedow probably met Klaatsch at an Adelaide meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, when Klaatsch delivered a paper based on his research and travels through Australia from 1904 to 1906. Klaatsch was determined 'to attack the difficult problem of the origin of the Australian blacks, and of their importance in relation to the whole development of mankind' (Hermann Klaatsch, 'Some notes on scientific travel amongst the black population of tropical Australia in 1904, 1905, 1906', *Report of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science*, vol. XI, 1908, 577–92, (p. 577)). At that time he inclined to the theories of AW Howitt, who had postulated a now-submerged continent as the most probable origin of the Australian Aborigines, and the Asiatic race; however this opinion was to undergo revision and further development in later years. Klaatsch referred in his paper to work undertaken by Basedow: 'Before my arrival Mr. Herbert Basedow, that gifted young scientist, made a profound study of the customs and weapons of the tribes of Palmerston and of the Daly River' (p. 584).
 - 29 *Brisbane Courier*, 22 September 1928. See 'Basedow the man', p.9, for a fuller discussion of Basedow's complex attitudes towards Aboriginal people.
 - 30 Basedow lecture quoted in the *Northern Territory Times*, 2 September 1922.
 - 31 Basedow, *Australian Aboriginal*, p. 58.
 - 32 See 'Basedow the man', p. 10 for a discussion of how recent commentators have accused Basedow's explanation of the close relationship between the two races as contributing to government policies separating part-Aboriginal children from their Aboriginal parents.
 - 33 *Bulletin*, 23 December 1926.
 - 34 Basedow's talent as an artist was evident by his early teens, as two watercolours reproduced in a family history attest (Bernard Basedow, *The Basedow Story: A German South Australian Heritage*, The Author, Adelaide, 1990, pp. 107, 108). These demonstrate an eye for balance and detail characteristic of Basedow's later drawings.
 - 35 Surviving maps from his 1903, 1905, 1916, 1919, 1920b, 1923, 1926 and 1928 expeditions demonstrate his competency in cartography and surveying.
 - 36 One was an examination of the cultural practices of circumcision and subincision ('The strange erotic ritual of Australian Aborigines', in R Burton (ed.), *Venus Oceanica*, New York, 1935, pp. 321–62). The other was his second book, *Knights of the Boomerang*, a popularised account of his travels and investigations into Aboriginal cultures (The Endeavour Press, Sydney, 1935). It has been suggested that *Knights* is 'less careful with both "facts" and interpretation' (RM Berndt & CH Berndt, *The World of the First Australians*, Lansdowne Press, Sydney, 1981, p. 539). Although loose in its interpretation the book is helpful in developing an understanding of Basedow's travels as it is quite detailed in referring to places and people.
 - 37 Basedow was a member of the Royal Society of South Australia and the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, South Australian Branch (now the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia). He was also a member of British and European Societies, including the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, sometimes by invitation. In 1910 he was 'asked by the Geographical Society of

Hamburg to accept an honorary corresponding fellowship' (unknown newspaper, 3 May 1910). In 1932, after he had lectured in Europe, the Vienna Anthropological Society made him an honorary member, 'in recognition of distinguished services rendered in the fields of anthropology and exploration' (*News*, 3 May 1932).

- 38 Ian Harmstorff, 'Basedow, Herbert (1881–1933)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A070204b.htm.

Basedow the photographer

- 1 Other negatives remained with Basedow's brothers and sisters and were acquired by the South Australian Museum after the last of his siblings, Hedwig, died in 1963. Another 28 were acquired by University of Sydney anthropologist NWG Macintosh and, after his death, were donated to the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies in Canberra by his widow.
- 2 As some form of identification existed for at least one image per roll, the order in which the rolls were exposed could be determined. Reference to Basedow's diary for the 1926 expedition, yet to be done, should enable most, if not all, of the remaining images to be documented.
- 3 Brenda L Croft, 'Laying ghosts to rest', in Judy Annear (ed.), *Portraits of Oceania*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 2000, p. 9.
- 4 Letter, Basedow to David, 13 February 1925, University of Sydney Archives, P11/32/5.
- 5 Herbert Basedow, 'Journal of the Government North-West Expedition', *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, South Australian Branch*, vol. XV, 1915, 57–242 (p. 240).
- 6 Herbert Basedow, 'Narrative of an expedition of exploration in north-western Australia', *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, South Australian Branch*, vol. XVIII, 1918, 105–295 (p. 106).
- 7 An entry in the diary of 18-year-old Richard Grenfell Thomas, one of two assistants on the first medical relief expedition in 1919, reveals that he and Basedow were watching horses being branded on Innamincka station when Basedow took 'several snaps with the Reflex' (Richard Grenfell Thomas, Diary entry for 8 September 1919, private collection). This may have been the same camera referred to by Basedow's assistant Frank Feast in an interview about the third medical relief expedition of 1920. Feast mentioned that Basedow had a 'Press Graflex for close-ups of Aborigines' (Interview with Frank Feast, sound recording, 27 February 1986, Tape 8, Side B, National Museum of Australia). This camera took glass plate negatives identical to ones used on expeditions during the period 1919 to 1924. Basedow also used it to take family photographs. When Basedow went to London on a business trip at the end of 1931, he took a camera that used the same size of glass plate negative, but it was not the same camera as it had a different method for holding the negative in place, as indicated by marks left on the negatives themselves.
- 8 In the period 1905 to 1911 Basedow seems to have only used large half-plate glass negatives, which generally provided fine-quality images.

These were the largest of the negative types employed by Basedow. Basedow was still using this type of camera until at least 1916 and possibly as late as 1924 when he was completing his major book, *The Australian Aboriginal*, published the following year.

- 9 Basedow, 'Journal of the Government North-West Expedition' (p. 77).
- 10 Donald Mackay, 'The Mackay Exploring Expedition, Central Australia', *Geographical Journal*, vol. 73, 1929, 258–64 (p. 264).
- 11 Herbert Basedow, 'Notes on the natives of Bathurst Island, North Australia', *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, vol. XLIII, 1913, 291–323.
- 12 Basedow, 'Journal of the Government North-West Expedition' (p. 113).
- 13 See Herbert Basedow, *The Australian Aboriginal*, FW Preece and Sons, Adelaide, 1925, pp. 76–77, Plate XIII/1.
- 14 Herbert Basedow, *Knights of the Boomerang*, Endeavour Press, Sydney, 1935, p. 165.
- 15 *ibid.* Perhaps Basedow was unaware that it was also common practice for the ceremonial design to be obliterated at the conclusion of festivities.
- 16 Basedow, *Australian Aboriginal*, Plate XXXII.
- 17 Basedow was not alone in this intent. His better known contemporaries Baldwin Spencer and Frank Gillen, for example, also went to lengths to ensure European materials did not appear in their photographs. See Nicolas Peterson, 'Visual knowledge: Spencer and Gillen's use of photography in *The Native Tribes of Central Australia*', *Australian Aboriginal Studies*, vol. 1, 2006, 12–22 (p. 17).
- 18 Basedow, *Australian Aboriginal*, p. 58.
- 19 Basedow, *Knights of the Boomerang*, p. 22. It was not particularly uncommon for Aboriginal people to be asked to undress, partially or completely, to be photographed. The evidence for Basedow's actions in this respect comes largely from the photographs themselves, where clothing can be seen on the ground near the subject, or where trousers or blouses have clearly been lowered or partially lowered. Basedow was motivated in some instances by his anthropological and medical interests: Basedow took three photographs of a man in the Kimberley in 1916. He is not wearing a shirt and his trousers are partly lowered, just to the top region of his buttocks. It is fairly clear that the reason for the photographs is to record all of the man's cicatrices, which Basedow also documented in a notebook.
- 20 Basedow, *Knights of the Boomerang*, p. 23.
- 21 Basedow, *Knights of the Boomerang*, pp. 184–90.
- 22 Murray Garde & Apolline Kohen-Raimondo, 'Putting Herbert Basedow back in focus: the 1928 expedition to Arnhem Land', *Australian Aboriginal Studies*, vol. 1, 2004, 26–36 (p. 35).
- 23 Peterson, 'Visual knowledge', p. 18.
- 24 Basedow, *Australian Aboriginal*, pp. ix–x.
- 25 *Adelaide Chronicle*, 30 January 1904.
- 26 This was not the only time Basedow's photographs were treated in this way; in *The Australian Aboriginal*, photographs showing a naked woman and man also had pubic covers added (Plates XVI/1 and 2). Other photographs in the book had shadows further darkened to hide detail in the genital region. For reasons unknown, similar photographs

were left unmodified. There is an even more extreme example of image manipulation in which Basedow must have been complicit. In his 'Anthropological notes' of the 1903 expedition, one photograph shows three men holding spears in tandem with spear-throwers, while another man is sitting in the foreground (Basedow, 'Anthropological notes made on the South Australian Government North-West Prospecting Expedition, 1903', *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia*, vol. XXVIII, 1904, 12–51, Plate VIII/1). In the original photograph the expedition's male Aboriginal assistant, Arrerika, can also be seen, fully clothed. This would not have sat well with Basedow's intention of depicting traditional culture and, furthermore, Arrerika was not from the same cultural group as the other people shown.

- 27 The only other album of Basedow's known to exist depicts subjects of medical interest, and comprises photographs taken by Basedow and others.
- 28 See Paul S Taylor, Howard M Levin & Katherine Northrup (eds), *Dorothea Lange: Farm Security Administration Photographs, 1935–1939*, 2 vols, The Text-Fiche Press, Glencoe, Illinois, 1980.