



New York, February 27, 2020

Dear Minister Kate Jones and To Whom It My Concern at the Queensland Museum,

It is with great admiration that we have read an ABC News article, forwarded to us by our Melbourne friend Mr. Marijn Kortekaas who shares our passion for olfaction and perfumery. The article relates to the recent Australian archeological discovery of a bottle of Victorian perfume "**Lavender Salts**" from the **1870s** at a rail station.

QUESTION

Would you be so kind as to allow your Museum to share the exact results of the perfume analysis with the world?

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

Whereas scientific laboratories will disclose the precise composition of a sarcophagus in Egypt or the paint pigments used by master painters, chemistry laboratories will not publicly disclose the exact composition of a perfume, unless instructed otherwise by the owner of the artefact.

The world of perfume history has been much slower to develop than the history of paintings and of music because of undue outdated secrecy. **The use of molecules and natural extracts from 1850s-1880s is of great academic interest to historians, botanists and chemists with many unanswered questions in this critical period. Perfume analyses of this kind are extremely rare.**

The fragrance industry uses probably the largest variety of ingredients of any other industry, whether botanical, agricultural or molecular, since the 1830's. Perfumers manage 300 to 5,000 ingredients daily in their creative and compounding studios. Perfumes are great "Polaroids" of their times.

LITTLE KNOWN SECRETS OF AUSTRALIA AND PERFUMERY

This discovery and the public scientific and artistic enrichments it can produce constitute a groundbreaking piece of news. It pushes Australia even further on the world perfumery map.

Let's name in passing a few initiatives about which the world public (including Australians outside of perfumery) know very little:

- **Michael Edwards and team of FragrancesoftheWorld**, in Sydney, maintain and update the only comprehensive world encyclopedia of perfumes.
- **Essential Oils of Tasmania Inc.** is a world class extraction facility for perfumery plants. Their ingredients deserve more presence in the largest fragrance houses worldwide.
- Melbourne is home to the world headquarters of **Australian Air Aroma Ltd.** and the ASPAC headquarters of **USA Prolitec Inc.**, two of the top three signature scent agencies in the world.
- Sydney **floral designer Saskia Havekes'** fragrance collection, under the name of Grandiflora, showcases floral scents in unique ways to the world, including unique Tasmanian products.
- **Australia**, not France, not India, not Alabama, is the origin country of **mimosa**, a very important flower in floral compositions but also in perfumery.
- Perth-based company **Quintis** has been performing game-changing work to save Indian **Sandalwood** through huge sustainable plantations in North-West Australia.
- And other significant initiatives, public or still confidential...

THE SIGNEES

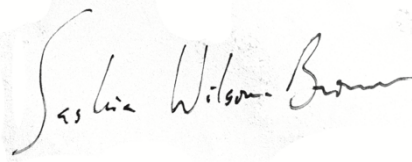
- Mrs. Patricia de Nicolaï, Master Perfumer, Senior Osmocurator and President of the Osmothèque, the International Fragrance Archives, operating out of Versailles, which academically recreate and preserve disappeared perfumes.
- Ms. Saskia Wilson-Brown, President of the Institute of Art and Olfaction located in Los Angeles, who spearheads the foundations of a wikicommon of perfume ingredients and formulas, for the world's cultural enrichment and for students in disciplines such as architecture, art or religion history.
- Christophe Laudamiel, Master Perfumer to DreamAir NYC and BÉIAir Tokyo, Osmocurator and Scent Engineer.

Thanking you and your teams in advance,

Yours sincerely,



Patricia de Nicolaï



Saskia Wilson-Brown



Christophe Laudamiel



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06/08/2020

Dear Patricia, Saskia and Christophe,

Thank you for your recent email and interest in this specific artefact from the Cross River Rail excavations.

We are aware of the scientific and social interest that research into past perfumes and scents holds for our community and have noted with interest the recent work in this area (<https://www.cafleurebon.com/150-year-old-lost-fragrance-found-in-a-shipwreck-piess-lubin-perfume-rescued-off-the-coast-of-bermuda/>).

Unfortunately, the perfume bottle we recovered was empty and the stopper, although also recovered, had been displaced from the neck of the bottle for some time. We believe that this circumstance will have caused the scientific potential of this artefact to be greatly reduced. We are not currently planning on conducting a chemical analysis on the contents. We have been advised that it is unlikely a clear chemical signature would remain on the glass inside the bottle after exposure to the soil and environment for over 100 years.

While this artefact may not have yielded the desired outcome regarding information about perfume, we are none the less pleased with the archaeological co-operation between Queensland Museum and the Cross River Rail Project and what it might yet reveal to us about the historical landscape.

Thank you again for your interest.

With kind regards,

Dr Jim Thompson
Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Museum Network