



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	Herman Zumstein
ACCESSION NO	1965.0024
CATEGORY	Business, individuals
ACTIVITY	Importers
DATE RANGE	1858-1903
SIZE OF COLLECTION	30 cm. (5 archives boxes)
HISTORICAL NOTE	Migrating from Switzerland in 1862, Zumstein became Melbourne agent for the Gutta Percha and Rubber Manufacturing Company and an importer of drapery and furnishings.
DATE OF TRANSFER	1965
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Access: Open
DESCRIPTION	Correspondence; diaries (including his ship-board diary 1862); accounts; photographs; legal documents; power of attorney 1859-1903. Skinner Family (in-laws): Correspondence (including letters from Emily's brother on the Otago goldfields in New Zealand) 1858-1864.
NOTE ON COLLECTIONS	Box 5 contains collection of textile samples. Gloves may be required when used.
LISTED BY	Ann Smith
DATE	November, 1965

RECORDS RECEIVED INTO CUSTODY:

NAME: ZUMSTEIN, Herman

ADDRESS: Deceased

MAIN ACTIVITY: Import Merchant

NAME OF TRANSFEROR:

DATE OF TRANSFER: 1965

GENERAL NOTE: Herman Zumstein, born in St. Gall, Switzerland, is referred to in the Australian Handbook for 1890 as a Victorian General Importer. In 1893 he himself wrote of his "business in high class drapery and the furnishing line"; from 1902 onwards (and maybe earlier) he was the agent for the Gutta Percha & Rubber Manufacturing Co. of New York. He married Emily Skinner who apparently emigrated from England with her mother and brothers and sisters in 1858.

A sub-group in this collection deals with the Skinner family and is mainly composed of letters from E.W. Skinner, on the Otago gold fields of New Zealand, to his sister Bec., and other members of his family.

The records have been classified into four groups as follows:

- GROUP 1: Correspondence.
1. Letters from E.W. Skinner to Bec. Skinner.
 2. Other letters from E.W. Skinner.
 3. Letters from E.S. Gray to Mrs. and Miss Skinner.
 4. Other letters to Mrs. Skinner.
 5. Letter from H. Zumstein to the Editor of The Argus.
 6. Letters from H. Zumstein to Mrs. Findlay.
 7. Letters to H. Zumstein.
- GROUP 2: Other MS. ^{and printed} Material belonging to H. Zumstein. (Business)
1. Powers of Attorney.
 2. Legal Documents.
 3. Accounts.
 - 4-20. Miscellaneous.
- GROUP 3: Other MS. Material belonging to H. Zumstein. (Personal)
- GROUP 4: Printed Matter.

LIST OF RECORDSGROUP 1:CORRESPONDENCE

- Box 2 1. Letters from E.W. Skinner to his sister Bec. [?Rebecca] Skinner.
- 1/1/1. Snowy Creek.
Birthday wishes. Description of Snowy Creek. Storm. Not doing well.
Insect and animal life.
4pp., all crossed (1 sheet) ms.
Nov. 5, 1859.
- 1/1/2. Glenore, [Otago, N.Z.]
Unreliability of the post. "Only just making a living" on the diggings.
Kindness of his mates.
4pp., all crossed (1 sheet) ms.
Jan. 17, 1862.
- 1/1/3. Woolshed, [via Dunedin, N.Z.]
High price of food. Expects to make a few pounds. Miserable country.
Description of passage over and countryside.
4pp., 3 crossed (1 sheet) ms.
Oct. 3, [1862]
- 1/1/4. Millers Flat, Woolshed, [Otago, N.Z.]
Life on diggings. Birthday wishes.
4pp., all crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
Oct. 29, [1862]
- 1/1/5. Woolshed, [Otago, N.Z.]
Has not received any letters. Diggings, weather. Asks after family.
4pp., 2 crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
Dec. 14, 1862.
- 1/1/6. Millers Flat, Glenore, [Otago, N.Z.]
Has received no letters since October. Life on the diggings.
3pp. (1 sheet) ms.
Dec. 21, 1862.
- 1/1/7. Glenore [Otago, N.Z.]
Bad postal communications. Gives reason for delay in receiving letters.
Has made enough money for clothes. Weather. Will not leave the diggings
until he has given them a fair trial.
4pp., all crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
Feb. 8, 1863.
- 1/1/8. address as above.
Thanks Bec. for the papers. Increase in numbers on the gold fields. Cases
of success pertain to men of capital. Food. News of Mamma. His mate Brad
fears his relatives lost in the snow.
4pp., all crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
Feb. 16, 1863.

- 1/1/9. Glenore [Otago N.Z.]
Has received letter from Mamma. Mix-up over mail. Brad gone to Dunedin to look for a job.
2pp., both crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
Feb. 22, 1863.
- 1/1/10. address as above.
Re his wife Emma's demands for money. Wishes he were single again. Thanks Bec. for her kindness. News of Brad in Dunedin. Description of Wood of Maori hens. Weather. Sympathises with Bec's situation. Poverty in the goldfields.
4pp., 3 crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
March 1, 1863.
- 1/1/11. address as above.
Quieting Bec's fears as to his safety.
2pp., both crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
March 20, [1863]
- 1/1/12. address as above.
Brad employed. News of friends. Gales.
4pp., 1 crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
March 22, [1863]
- 1/1/13. address as above.
Brad's job - driving the engine of a threshing machine. Intends trying his luck in the river when the water falls. Troops moving all people from the outskirts of the Lake district, with the onset of winter. Murder on Millers Flat. Went fishing on Good Friday. Description of Lake Clarindon.
4pp., all crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
April 13, 1863.
- 1/1/14. address as above.
Account of letters received. Brad has returned. Thanks Bec. for her kindness. Thinks Bec. and Emmy should go out more often.
4pp., 3 crossed. (1 sheet) ms.
May 4, 1863.
- 1/1/15. address as above.
Thanks Bec. for the needles. "... Dunedin River has turned out a duffer". Cold weather. Thinks it a disgraceful thing if his mother were to have a school.
4pp., all crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
May 29, 1863.
- 1/1/16. address as above.
Bec. not to send any more money to Emma. Feels he is under no obligation to support her.
4pp., 1 crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
May 31, 1863.
- 1/1/17. address as above.
Thanks Bec. for the map. Life on goldfield. Family troubles. Loss of Brad's son.
4pp., all crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
June 16, 1863. E:\COLLECTION MANAGEMENT\Inventories\UMArchives\Lists(T-Z)

- 1/1/18. Glenore, [Otago, N.Z.]
Weather. Bec's poverty. News of friends. Mary "a rum fish".
4pp., 5 crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
July 3, 1863.
- 1/1/19. address as above.
Thanks Bec. for the presents. Mamma will not leave Ellen until Mary goes to her.
4pp., 2 crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
July 24, [1863]
- 1/1/20. address as above.
Birthday letters. Delay in receiving letters. Weather. Many deaths on the mountain from starvation. Mother's hardships. News of friends.
4pp., all crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
Oct. 17, 1863.
- 1/1/21. address as above.
New rush at the West Taieri. Brad going there to see what the prospects are. Family affairs. News of friends. Birthday wishes.
4pp., 3 crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
Nov. 8, 1863.
- 1/1/22. Tuapeka.
Glad Bec. is "having a visit". Would gladly give up digging if he could get anything else to do. Diggers all complaining. Acquaintances, weather.
4pp., all crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
March 3, 1864.
- 1/1/23. Tuapeka.
Makes the same living as he did at Glenore. Prices higher. Cold weather. Brad not going to return yet. Dunedin warming with unemployed.
2pp., both crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
March 21, 1864.
- 1/1/24. P.O. Wetherstones.
Faring worse than ever. "... it is as much as I can do to get tucker ..."
Has moved from Tuapeka to Bung Town. Plans to return at the first opportunity.
4pp., all crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
May 1, 1864.

Box 1

- 1/2. Other letters from E.W. Skinner.
- 1/2/1. Otago, [N.Z.] to his mother.
Passage to N.Z. Intends to start for diggings (180 miles away) on the next day. Climate beautiful.
4pp. (1 sheet) ms.
Sept. 23, [1862]
- 1/2/2. Woolshed, [Otago, N.Z.] to his mother.
Description of countryside. Working in open air far better than underground.
4pp., all crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
Oct. 29, 1862.
- 1/2/3. Glenore, [Otago, N.Z.] to his mother.
Postal arrangements poor. Expects a mild winter. Diggings. News of Brad. Disapproves ~~for~~ of the rejoicings for the Prince's wedding.
8pp., 4 crossed, (2 sheets) ms.
June 16, 1863.
- 1/2/4. address as above. to Polly [Mary Skinner]
Glad to hear Polly going to Tasmania. Diggings disappointing. Snow. Forty buried in an avalanche. Fears Brad's brother and friend dead.
4pp., all crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
Sept. 19, 1863.
- 1/2/5. address as above. to "little Emmy" [Emily Skinner]
Long time since he received a letter. Brad's misfortunes.
4pp., 2 crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
Oct. 1863.

Box 1

- 1/3. Letters from F.S. Gray, Australian & American Emigration Offices, 54 King William Street, London, E.C. to Mrs. and Miss Skinner, London.
- 1/3/1. to Miss Skinner.
Has heard from his friends and "can take you for the amount named and fit up the Cabin as you please". Suggests she take a trip to Liverpool to see the ship, the Sarah Dixon. Will be happy to give her mother particulars about the voyage and Australia.
2pp. (1 sheet) ms.
August 3, 1858.
- 1/3/2. to Mrs. Skinner.
Re various Lines of Packets.
3pp. (1 sheet) ms.
August 5, 1858.
- 1/3/3. to Mrs. Skinner.
Acknowledges the note, and news of her having seen Mr. Skinner. Will be pleased to lend any assistance.
2pp. (1 sheet) ms.
August 6, 1858.

- 1/3/4. to Mrs. Skinner, "Hendon", [London]
 Acknowledges receipt of half a £50 note. Asks for Christian names of Mrs. Skinner and daughters, also daughter's ages and professions. Contract ticket will be available on payment of the other portion of the note.
 2pp. (1 sheet) ms.
 August 31, 1858.
- 1/3/5. to Mrs. Skinner.
 Will do all in his power to lessen her expenses from Liverpool to Melbourne. Details of travelling arrangements.
 3pp. (1 sheet) ms.
 August 31, 1858.
- 1/3/6. to Miss Skinner.
 Re mistake in price of railway tickets.
 2pp. (1 sheet) ms.
 Sept. 2, 1858.
- Box 1 1/4. Other letters to Mrs. Skinner. (See Group 1/2 for E.W. Skinner's letters)
- 1/4/1. from H.T. Wilson & Chambers, 21 Water Street, Liverpool (to Mrs. Skinner, "Hendon", London)
 Re passage to Australia.
 1p. ms.
 August 12, 1858.
- 1/4/2. as above.
 Re berths on boat.
 1p. ms.
 Sept. 1, 1858.
- 1/4/3. from Charlie [Skinner], Alma Road, St. Kilda (to his mother in Tasmania)
 Not like home without their mother. Men being dismissed from the job. Worries about cost of running the house.
 4pp., 3 crossed, (1 sheet) ms.
 Jan. 17, 1865.
- Box 1 1/5. Letter from H. Zumstein, [Melbourne] to the Editor of The Argus.
 In defence of Switzerland.
 10pp. (10 sheets) press copy. Badly faded in parts.
 undated.
Appended: Note to Editor apologising for length of letter. Badly faded.
 Sept. 21, 1859.

Box 1

- 1/6. Press copies of letters from H. Zumstein, Melbourne, to Mrs. J.R. Findlay, 19 India Street, Glasgow.
- 1/6/1. Explaining delay in forwarding mail. Sends supposed letter from Mr. Findlay which he hopes will bring "comfort for your poor troubled mind".
1p. August 28, 1866.
- 1/6/2. Will give all the help he can in matter of dishonoured Bill. News of Mr. Findlay in Bombay. Importance of exercise during such a period of trial. Business.
8pp. (4 sheets) badly faded.
August 28, 1866.
- 1/6/3. Importance of good health. Mr. Findlay.
6pp. (4 sheets) badly faded.
Oct. 1, 1866.
- 1/6/4. Postscript to above.
Necessary to state everything to Mr. Findlay's family.
3pp. (2 sheets)
Oct. 4, 1866.
- 1/6/5. Mr. Findlay's arrival by mail steamer. No change or improvement in his state. Encloses flowers from Mrs. Findlay's baby's grave.
2pp. (1 sheet)
Oct. 13, 1866.
- 1/6/6. Mr. Findlay has been "advised to go through the court". "He will never do any good for himself here."
2pp. (1 sheet)
Oct. 29, 1866.
- 1/6/7. Extract. Explains his reluctance to write sooner. Business "as bad as it can be". Mr. Findlay's job.
3pp. (2 sheets) badly faded.
Dec. 27, 1866.
- 1/6/8. Has delivered Mrs. Findlay's letters. Holidays. New Year wishes.
2pp. (1 sheet) badly faded.
Jan. 4, 1867.
- 1/6/9. News of friends.
5pp. (3 sheets) First 2pp. and last p. illegible.
date illegible.
- 1/6/10. Hopes something permanent will turn up for Mr. Findlay. Business bad. Believes it Mr. Findlay's duty to do him "all the good he can in the way of business" as reparation for losses he has caused. News of friends.
4pp. (2 sheets) faded.
March 21, 1867.
- 1/6/11. Wrong to be angry with Mr. Findlay when he was hardly his own master, but was carried away by the peculiar condition of the brain. Business - degeneration in most kinds of property. Enormous over-importation of such goods as drapery. Details of drapery trade. Depression generally.
10pp. (5 sheets) faded.
July 18, 1867.

1/6/12. Planned visit of Duke of Edinburgh to Melbourne. Not paying court to any young lady. News of friends. Business. Prices of food.

1Opp. (5 sheets) faded.

Nov. 21, 1867.

1/6/13. Description of Prince's visit. Business.

1Opp. (5 sheets) badly faded and moth-eaten.

March 25, 1868.

Box 1. 1/7. Letters to Herman Zumstein.

1/7/1. from W.J. Ecroyd, [1 Flinders Lane West]

Re his withdrawal of promise to pay 50/- towards passage money.

lp. ms.

[1863]

1/7/2. from Robert Purss

Receipt for £5, which money he engages to pay back on arrival at Liverpool.

lp. ms.

April 30, 1863.

1/7/3. Note re payment of 50/- by Ecroyd.

lp. ms.

[1863]

1/7/4. from William Fawcett, Melbourne.

Requesting Zumstein to attend a meeting to consider Fawcett's proposition to meet all his liabilities.

lp. ms.

March 7, 1863.

1/7/5. from John Langland, Melbourne.

Re sale of Mr. Fawcett's property to Zumstein.

lp. ms.

March 16, 1863.

Appended: More particulars about the sale

Enclosure: Sheet of rough calculations.

1/7/6. from J.W. Randell, "The Hall", [Collingwood]

Will give his services in aid of Zumstein's intended purchase in consideration of 1%.

2pp. (1 sheet) ms.

March 18, 1863.

1/7/7. from his brother-in-law Charles Skinner, [Boston]

Furniture manufacture in Boston. Business poor. English market etc. News of his wife and their dog. Asks after Zumstein's family.

8pp. (2 sheets) ms.

Sept. 22, 1893.

Enclosure: 2 photos of the dog.

- 1/7/8. from his son Herbert, "Rosslyne".
 Enjoying himself. Details of shearing, sale of ewes and lambs, and other station matters.
 4pp. (1 sheet) ms.
 Oct. 27, 1902.
- 1/7/9. from Ellen W., 46 LaTrobe Street West.
 Asks Zumstein to forward "the enclosed" to Mr. Packten.
 1p. ms.
 undated.
- 1/7/10. Untranslated note in German.
 1882, 1p. ms.
- 1/7/11. 1 bundle of letters, statements etc. from Gutta Percha & Rubber Company, New York.
 Addressed to H. Zumstein, H.C. Zumstein, W. Zumstein, or Mrs. Zumstein.
 1899-1905.
- 1/7/12. 1 bundle of letters from Michigan Steel Boat Co.
 Addressed to H. Zumstein, H.C. Zumstein, or W. Zumstein.
 1902-5.

GROUP 2:

and printed
OTHER MS. MATERIAL BELONGING TO H. ZUMSTEIN (BUSINESS)

- Box 1 2/1. Powers of Attorney. Zellweger
- 2/1/1. Document giving A. King and Herman Zumstein Power of Attorney for Christian Holderegger and Gaspard Felleveger of St. Gall in Switzerland. (pencilled over in places to make changes in text)
 4pp. (1 sheet)
 1857.
- 2/1/2. Document giving Charles Lempriere, St. Kilda, Power of Attorney for Joseph Rennie Findlay, Melbourne.
 2pp. (2 sheets)
 April 24, 1866.
- 2/1/3. Document giving Johannes Jacob, St. Gall, Power of Attorney for H. Zumstein(?)
 3pp. (1 sheet) German.
 Nov. 1883.
- Box 1 2/2. Legal Documents from envelope labelled "Old Law Matters Settled".
- 2/2/1. Writ of Summons.
 Pavey V. Zumstein and Another.
 April 1872.
- 2/2/2. Writ of Summons.
 Lawrence and Adam V. Zumstein.
 August 1873.

- 2/2/3. Writ of Summons.
Altson V. Zumstein.
Sept. 1873.
- 2/2/4. Memorandum of Agreement.
Re Zumstein's lease from Blogg Bros. of premises in St. James Street, Melb.
May 1889.
- 2/2/5. Memorandum of Agreement.
Re Zumstein's lease from Messrs. Palmer & Scott of an office at 486 Collins Street, Melbourne.
July 1890.
- 2/2/6. Memorandum of Agreement.
Re Zumstein's lease from Melbourne Steamship Co. Ltd. of premises at 25 King Street, Melbourne.
Dec. 1897.
- 2/2/7. Summons of a Witness.
Zumstein to give evidence re leather goods.
May 1899.
- 2/2/8. Memorandum of Agreement.
Re Zumstein's lease from the Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society of premises at 18 Baring Chambers, Market Street, Melbourne.
March 1902.
Enclosures: Receipts from Royal Insurance Company April 11, 1899; June 15, 1900.
Receipt from Australian Alliance Assurance Company, Aug. 21, 1900
Advertisement for H. Zumstein, Importer & Indentor.
- 2/2/9. 3 receipted accounts re Customs Duty, 1902.
- Box 1 2/3. Accounts.
- 2/3/1. Extract of Account current between C. Holderegger of St. Gall and the late firm of Achilles King and Company of Melbourne.
June 30, 1860.
- 2/3/2. Account between William Fawcett & Co. and H. Zumstein.
July 19, 1862.
- 2/3/3. Account between H. Zumstein and Dr. Charles Lempriere.
Jan. 24, 1870.
- 2/3/4. Account between H. Zumstein and ? of San Francisco.
1900
- 2/3/5. 2 Accounts between Australian Customs and H. Zumstein.
1902.
- 2/3/6. Account between H. Zumstein and Messrs. Graham and Styles, Auctioneers, and account between H. Zumstein and Rob. Bodington, from envelope marked "Goods on appro. left to collect".
1902. 1903.

- 2/3/7. Account between H. Zumstein and ? Cushions
undated.
- 2/3/8. Account re Provident Institute Mortgage - headed Zumstein and Fawcett.
undated.
- Box 1 2/4. Invoice of five cases forwarded from London through the medium of Mr.
W. Heyerstein in London to Mr. H. Zumstein in Melbourne.
3pp. (1 sheet) copy.
St. Gall, April 7, 1855.
- 2/5. Will of Henri Louis Pernet.
2pp. (1 sheet)
May 20, 1863.
- 2/6. Memorandum of Stock for Insurance.
1p. June 30, 1864.
- 2/7. 1 Pawn Office ticket made out to Mr. Reiley.
August 14, 1873.
- 2/8. H. Zumstein's Elector's Right (Legislative Council)
Sept. 1, 1878.
- 2/9. H. Zumstein's Insurance Policy with Royal Fire & Life Insurance Company.
June 13, 1879.
- 2/10. H. Zumstein's Elector's Right (Legislative Assembly)
Nov. 28, 1879.
- 2/11. Receipt from Fred. Pürsch in his capacity as Attorney for Messrs. Egg,
Fiezter, Greuter and Co., Switzerland.
April 30, 1880.
- 2/12. Tender for the supply of stores to Victorian Railways. Schedule 27,
Subschedule 2.
1p. June 20, 1902.
- 2/13. Note re claim of Provident Institute.
undated.
- 2/14. 2 unidentified memos.
- 2/15. 1 unused cheque book.
- 2/16. 1 bundle Bills of Exchange .
1883, 1885, 1887.
- 2/17. 1 bundle IOUs.
- 2/18. 1 bundle cheques.
1866-77.
- 2/19. 1 bundle cheque butts.
- 2/20. 1 wallet.

GROUP 3: OTHER MS. MATERIAL BELONGING TO H. ZUMSTEIN (PERSONAL)

- Box 2 3/1. Phrenological report on ?Zumstein by Schier.
4pp. (1 sheet)
May 29, 1856.
Enclosure: 2 photographs of Zumstein.
- Box 2 3/2. Diary
Contains entries for 1858, 1859; account of voyage to England and back 1863;
few entries 1867; jottings on phonography; shorthand practice.
- Box 2 3/3. Sketch book.

GROUP 4: PRINTED MATTER

- 4/1. Advertisement for H. Zumstein, Importer & Indentor. (2 copies)
- Box 2 4/2. List of prices of Swiss Silk.
- Box 2 4/3. Hymn Sheet from Albert Street Baptist Church, June 27, 1869.
- Box 2 4/4. 3 St. Valetine cards.
- Box 2 4/5. Invitation from Mrs. James Finlay to Zumstein, to attend an Evening Party,
March 4, 1864.
- Box 2 4/6. 3 extracts from a St. Gallen Newspaper.
- Box 2 4/7. The Home News - extract, pp. 345-376. April 27, 1860.
- Box 2 4/8. $\frac{1}{2}$ page extract from unidentified newspaper. undated.
- Box 2 4/9. Brochure on the establishment of the Victorian Phonetic Society.
4pp. (1 sheet)
Jan. 1860.
- Box 2 4/10. Benedicte or the Song of the Three Children, by G.C. Child Chaplin, (Eighth
edition, London, 1875)
book, 364pp.
- Box 2 4/11. Vere Forster's Drawing Copy Book (Ships)
- Box 2 4/12. Vere Forster's Drawing Copy Book (Dogs)
- Box 2 4/13. The Gutta Percha & Rubber M'F'G Co.
book of advertisements.
- Box 2 4/14. Our Native England, or the Historieal House that Jack Built ..., by J.G.
Cuckow, (Ninth edition, London 1854)
booklet, 6Opp.
- Box 2 4/15. Earthly Care a Heavenly Discipline, by the author of "What Should We Do
Without the Bible?"
booklet, 16pp.

- Box 2 4/16. The Queen. A Memorial of the Coronation, (London 1838)
booklet, 123pp.
- Box 2 4/17. Album of Views of Brisbane and Neighbourhood.
- Box 2 4/18. Testimonial presented to Mrs. Testar by the Managers of the Alfred Hospital,
Nov. 1871.
- Box 3 4/19. 3 photos of Zumstein (one with friend) (2½ x 4)
- Box 3 & 4 4/20. 3 large albums of postcards.
- Box 5 Collection of textile samples used by Zumstein.

Ann Smith
November, 1965.