British Resident

Collection | Ref # BR | Held by Archives New Zealand, Head Office, Wellington

What is it?

Title:
British Resident

Creator:
British Resident

Held at:
Archives New Zealand, Head Office, Wellington

Level of description:
Collection

Extent:
.5 linear metres

Reference number:
BR

Former NRAM reference number:
X1764

Description:
The British Resident's Archives consist of Inwards Letters written between 12 October 1832 and 28 October 1834, and addressed to James Busby, New Zealand's first and only British Resident. Appointed by the Colonial Office in 1832, Busby took up residence at Waitangi in the Bay of Islands in 1833. The principle task of the British Resident, outlined in instructions from Governor Richard Bourke in New South Wales, was to protect settlers and traders, prevent outrages by Europeans against
Correspondence

Letters for the period 1832-1834 only. Secretary and later held by the Department of Internal Affairs, National Archives holds these letters. With the demise of the British Resident it was assumed the papers were taken over by the Colonial Office.

In 1849, the role of British Resident officially came to an end. The incumbent Correspondence covers all manner of requests directed to the Resident from individuals and the British Government. It is evident these requests were to provide a British presence. However, the Resident had no legal powers, and was not entitled to troops. This role, in essence, was that of being a representative of the Government, as well as a diplomatic representative to other nations. The British Government's chief aim was to provide a presence, and to appease any potential conflicts. In short, he was to provide a diplomatic function.