

# CONSULS IN QUEENSLAND

## Part 1: The Colony

[\*By Commander Norman S. Pixley, in his Presidential Address read at the Annual Meeting of the Society on 27 September 1973.]

### INTRODUCTION

Since the first Consular appointments in the earliest days of the Colony (one in fact was made before Separation), many Consuls have served in Queensland, a number of whom also figured prominently in its history.

Consular representation of the Germanic Kingdoms and Republics had ceased by 1872, as they had become part of the German Empire.

The Kingdom of Sweden and Norway, under King Oscar II, maintained a Consulate until was divided into two separate kingdoms in 1905. Oscar II occupied the throne of Sweden, while Prince Charles of Denmark was offered and accepted that of Norway, to which he came as King Haakon VII with Queen Maude, the youngest daughter of Edward VII of England. The two kingdoms then appointed separate Consuls.

The Kingdom of Hawaii first established a Consulate in 1885: after Queen Lilioukalami vacated the throne on 4 July 1894, Hawaii was annexed by the United States in 1898 and, as a republic, in 1900 still maintained the Consulate for a time.

The paper submitted here covers the period from the inception of the Colony until the close of the last century: Part II dealing with Consuls in Queensland the State, from the beginning of this century, it is hoped, will be read next year.

In 1854, during the Crimean War, the combined Colonial and War Department was divided and the Colonial Office came into being in Downing Street under Sir George Grey as Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Mr. Robert Herbert, later Sir Robert, in 1871 became the Permanent Under-Secretary and occupied this important post with distinction for twenty-one years. He had been the first Premier of Queensland, from which he had returned to England in 1868.

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\*Commander N. S. Pixley, C.M.G., M.B.E., V.R.D., Kt.O.N., F.R.Hist.S.Q., was Consul for the Netherlands for nearly 24 years, and Dean of the Queensland Consular Corps for ten years.

It was through the Colonial Office that the appointment of a Consul by a foreign country to a colony was processed with due protocol from the time the name was first submitted, and advice obtained from the Government of the Colony concerned that the proposal was agreeable to it, until the final approval of Queen Victoria, as Head of State, with the granting of the exequatur.

The name of the Consul and the country he represented were then published in the *Government Gazette* of the Colony with the date of his appointment.

### MORETON BAY: THE FIRST APPOINTMENT

After the closure of the penal settlement, the population by 1841 had been reduced to some two hundred. This included a small community of German missionaries which in 1838 had been permitted to establish itself within seven miles of Brisbane town at what is now the suburb of Nundah. In due course Georg Appel, the first to hold a Consular appointment, was to marry the daughter of Pastor J. G. Haussmann, who had been a member of this mission.

Once the hitherto restricted area was thrown open for free settlement, shipping too was free to come and go.

The earliest migrants came from the British Isles brought by ships wearing the British flag, which also carried cargo to and from Moreton Bay, but soon vessels of other nationalities joined the trade, bringing migrants from Europe, those from the German States being among the first to arrive.

Thus the foreign States concerned, interested in their nationals and the development of their trade and shipping, found it desirable to appoint Consuls to represent them in this colony.

The head of a Consular post (*Chef de Poste*) may be a career Consul (*Consul de Carriere*) who is a national of the country he represents and fully employed in its foreign service, or an honorary Consul (*Consul Honoraire*), a local resident, usually of some standing, preferably one able to provide space and facilities for his Consulate.

Throughout Queensland's history to the present day, the majority of Consular posts have been held by honorary Consuls. In this year of 1973, with between twenty and thirty posts in Queensland, only five—the Consulates-General of Britain and Japan, with the Consulates of the United States, Italy and New Zealand—are career posts.

Before the necessary protocol for a Consular appointment, briefly described earlier, is finally completed, some time must necessarily elapse, but in earlier days, when all communication was by sea mail in slow ships, the waiting period was long indeed,

as will be seen in the first Consular appointment, that of Georg Appel which was made before Separation.

Georg Appel, born at Cassel Hesse, was appointed Vice-Consul for the Free Hanseatic Republic of Hamburg at South Brisbane in the Colony of New South Wales by Letters Patent 2 November 1855, the exequatur under the Royal Sign Manual being dated 2 September 1856, and the date of the appointment in the N.S.W. *Government Gazette* was 17 February 1857.

Initially Downing Street had advised the Governor, Sir William Dennison, of the proposed appointment. He in turn informed Captain J. C. Wickham, the Resident Magistrate at Moreton Bay, who offered no objection.

Among his instructions from Hamburg, the new Vice-Consul was:— "To preserve and promote the existing trade and shipping connections between our State and the Royal Britannic Colony of New South Wales", also "To bring to the notice of and to order all ships' captains, their commanders and their crews who sail under the flag of Hamburg (as well as all citizens, natives of the city, and their families) to regard and acknowledge the afore-said Herr Georg Appel at South Brisbane as our Vice-Consul".

Mr. Appel, who remained Vice-Consul until 1871, came to Moreton Bay in 1853 at the age of thirty and became a successful merchant.

In due course he had one son, J. G. Appel, who later became a Member of the Legislative Assembly in the Queensland Parliament, and a daughter, Annie Louise, who married James Howard Gill, Crown Solicitor from 1885 until his death in 1889; Georg Appel was a forebear of our senior vice-president, Mr. Connal Gill.

### QUEENSLAND: THE COLONY

In 1862 the Hon. Johann Christian Heussler, M.L.C., became Consul for the Netherlands, the date of his exequatur being 11 September, and notice of the appointment appeared in the Queensland *Government Gazette* of 20 November in that year.

Eighteen years later the *Gazette* of 30 June 1880 advised his additional appointment as Consul for the Imperial German Empire, the exequatur being dated 28 April 1880.

His predecessor in this appointment was Armand Ranniger, an active member of the Brisbane community, who was born in the city of Altenburg, the former capital of the Duchy of Thuringia in Saxony-Anhalt, where his father had founded Germany's largest glove factory. Ranniger was formerly Consul at Brisbane for the Kingdom of Prussia and the Duchy of Oldenburg from 1863. As a Consul he experienced some annoyance in 1868 with the finan-

cial affairs of the bogus "Count von Attems" (Historical Society of Queensland Journal, October 1918. Vol. 1, No. 5. Page 295).

Ranniger became principal Consular Agent for the North German Confederation in 1870 and, on 5 January 1872 was appointed Consul for the Imperial German Empire, after Bismarck had united the Germanic States to form Imperial Germany.



J. C. HEUSSLER

He proceeded on leave in 1874, Mr. Seigmund Berens being previously appointed Acting Consul during his absence, the provisional appointment gazetted on 26 January 1874 being "subject to the approval of the Queen".

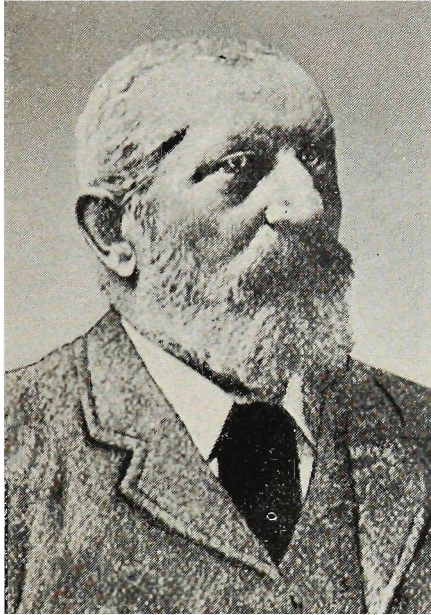
In 1886 Germany established a Vice-Consulate at the busy gold port of Cooktown, where Dr. Axel H. F. B. Kortum, M.D., was gazetted as Vice-Consul on 29 October and held the post for a lengthy period. Included in his medical activities, Dr. Kortum joined the Queensland Naval Brigade, being appointed surgeon with seniority dated 21 August 1891.

To return to Mr. Heussler: He was born at Bockenheim near Frankfurt-on-Main in 1820 and came to Brisbane in 1854 where he established a mercantile business. He became a J.P. in 1856 and, in due course, a Member of the Legislative Council.

Appointed Immigration Agent for the Queensland Government,

Mr. Heussler went to Germany for a time and was successful in establishing a steady flow of migrants from that country to Queensland, based on the principle of giving an equivalent value of land to the passage money paid by each of the adult migrants.

(Long before he became German Consul, Heussler was acting as a German immigration agent in Brisbane, as an advertisement for his firm in 1863 reads: "Heussler and Francken, wine, spirit and general merchants. German immigration office".)



ARMAND RANNIGER

On his departure for Germany to act as Queensland Government Immigration Agent, the *Government Gazette* dated 19 January 1874 advised that, during the leave of absence of Mr. J. C. Heussler, his Excellency the Governor had appointed Theodore Unmack, Esquire, provisionally as Acting Consul for the Netherlands, subject to the approval of the Queen. After a further period of leave from 1897 to 1899, during which W. von Ploennies acted in his stead as Consul for both the Netherlands and Germany, Heussler continued as Netherlands Consul until 1902, but ceased to represent Germany on 6 October 1900, the date when the *Gazette* announced the appointment of Mr. W. von Ploennies as Consul for the German Empire.

"Fernberg", built as a residence for Heussler, is now Government House.



W. von PLOENNIES

Another citizen who, like Heussler, represented more than one country simultaneously, was the Hon. George Harris, M.L.C., but, whereas Heussler had two consulates under his care, Harris at one stage had three! However, so far as can be ascertained, these appear to be the only instances where the normal practice of one *Chef de Poste* in charge of only one consulate was not adhered to.

### OCCUPANT OF NEWSTEAD HOUSE

Well-known as a merchant and social figure in Brisbane, George Harris resided with his family in Newstead House, from which his daughter in due course was married. Her son, born in Brisbane, is Lord Casey, a former Governor-General of Australia.

On 4 March 1862 the Queensland *Government Gazette* announced the appointment of Mr. Harris as Vice-Consul for Italy and, on 20 May 1864, his appointment as Consul for the Kingdom of Belgium.

On the death of Mr. J. Wallis Barnett, a commission agent in Brisbane and Consular Agent for the United States, Harris was appointed to this post in his stead on 10 October 1874, the appointment being provisional, pending arrival of the *exequatur*. In 1876 he relinquished the posts of Italy, in which he was succeeded in the same year by Barron L. Barnett on 19 December,

and Belgium by the Hon. B. D. Morehead, M.L.C., whose appointment was dated 12 September.

Boyd Dunlop Morehead was born in Sydney and, after some years on the land, came to Queensland as pastoral inspector for the Scottish Australian Investment Company, subsequently founding the firm of B. D. Morehead & Co., merchants, shipping and finance agents in 1873. He entered Parliament as M.L.A. representing the Mitchell district and became a Premier of Queensland.

Mr. Morehead was succeeded by Lieut.-Colonel E. R. Drury, C.M.G., gazetted on 12 August 1880 as Consul for Belgium. Edgar Robert Drury came to Australia in 1852 and commenced his banking career with the Bank of Australasia, in due course being appointed Brisbane manager in 1860. Then, joining the Queensland National Bank Ltd., he became its first general manager in 1872. As a Lieut.-Colonel in the Queensland Volunteer Defence Force he commanded the field artillery.

He served as Consul until the appointment of Robert Woods Thurlow on 17 October 1896. Born in Suffolk, Mr. Thurlow came to Queensland in 1867, and, in 1870 joined the firm of J. & J. Burns, merchants (in which James Burns of Burns, Philp was a partner), becoming manager in 1884. He bought the business, naming it R. W. Thurlow & Co. This firm for many years occupied large premises at the corner of Wharf and Adelaide Streets.

Mr. Thurlow remained in his Consular post until just before the turn of the century when Henry Donkin was appointed on 17 November 1900.

Spain was first represented by Charles Bernard Lyons as Vice-Consul in 1865. On 26 February of that year the *Government Gazette* advised that the Governor-in-Council had appointed him and J. C. Heussler, the Netherlands Consul, as agents for the nomination of immigrants.

Lyons continued to represent Spain until 1870, after which nearly thirty years elapsed before the vacant post was filled by the appointment of Mr. J. W. Grant, J.P., which was gazetted on 29 September 1899. Born in England, Mr. Grant came to Queensland representing various agencies mainly connected with the brewing industry. He served in the Queensland Volunteer Defence Force with the Queensland Mounted Infantry.

Daniel Weinholt entered the Consular ranks in 1865 as Consul for the Kingdom of Hanover. A son of John Birkett Weinholt, merchant of London, he emigrated to Australia in the mid-fifties and commenced business in Ipswich. He was an uncle of Captain Arnold Weinholt of Fassifern.



Weinholt's period as Consul was brief, as Hanover was annexed by Prussia in 1866. George Ludwig, the Elector of Hanover, had succeeded Anne on the English throne in 1714 as George I, and the dual rule of the two countries was maintained for 123 years. Hanover became a Kingdom in 1814 and, in 1837, on the death of William IV, the Crown passed to his nephew Ernest, Duke of Cumberland and the Crown of England to his niece, Queen Victoria. The personal union of the two countries then ended.



"Fernberg" (now Government House) under construction in 1865.

### AMERICAN REPRESENTATION

The United States, as was customary with its honorary Consular posts, made appointments as Consular Agents. The first was that of William Henry Palmer in 1867.

He was succeeded in 1874 by J. Wallis Barnett, who died in



the same year. As previously mentioned, the vacant post was then occupied by George Harris until the gazettal on 15 November 1880 of Mr. Thomas E. White, founder of the White Mercantile Agency in Brisbane, to the post.

On 2 July 1885, the Hon. William Villiers Brown, M.L.A. for Townsville, was appointed Consular Agent at Townsville. Villiers Brown, who was born in Melbourne in 1843, was manager of the Bank of New South Wales at Townsville before becoming a partner in the firm of Aplin, Brown and Co. in that city.

T. E. White was succeeded as Consular Agent at Brisbane by Mr. G. H. Turner, whose appointment, gazetted on 9 March 1891, lasted for little over a year, when W. J. Wetherill took his place on 30 July 1892. An accountant by profession, Wetherill held the rank of Commander in the Naval Brigade, the volunteer section which formed the greater part of the Queensland Marine Defence Force. During the first decade of this century he was keenly interested in the Institute of Social Service at Fortitude Valley. This was a youth centre, and Wetherill formed a Junior Naval Cadet Unit among the boys. With the Bowen House School junior naval cadets, formed about the same time (of which the writer of this paper was an original member) there was keen rivalry between the two groups of miniature sailors at the annual naval encampments held at Cleveland each Easter.

At Townsville, Villiers Brown was relieved on 24 September 1897 as Consular Agent for the United States by John Hervey Rogers.

France first became represented when the Hon. Edward Barrow Forrest, M.L.C., was gazetted as Consular Agent at Brisbane on 20 February 1873. Forrest was born in England in 1838 and came to New South Wales in 1852, being educated at the King's School, Parramatta. He was managing partner of Parbury, Lamb and Raff Ltd. in Brisbane, where he became Commodore of the Royal Queensland Yacht Club and also a vice-president of the Brisbane Musical Union.

Julius Brabant, who founded the firm of Brabant & Co., general merchants, became Consul for the Hanseatic Republic of Bremen, Germany's oldest republic, on 28 August 1864.

Denmark opened a Consulate in Brisbane in 1875 with the appointment of Mr. E. H. Webb as Consul. Mr. Albert R. H. Pietzcker succeeded him fifteen years later on 31 January 1890 and was followed in turn by Mr. Poul C. Poulsen, for many years one of Brisbane's leading photographers. The date of his appointment was 5 February 1898.

As Consul for the Kingdom of Sweden and Norway, Mr. Oscar Netzler occupied the post on 25 April 1883 until he relinquished it to Mr. Charles Warde who relieved him on 30 November 1885.

Carl A. Falstedt, Consul in Sydney, was gazetted Consul at Brisbane on 30 April 1898 until the Hon. A. J. Carter, M.L.C., was appointed provisionally Vice-Consul for Sweden and Norway on 30 September 1898.

Born in England in 1847, he arrived in 1870. Joining the firm of J. & G. Harris merchants for a time, he subsequently became manager of the Atlas Insurance Company and was at one time president of the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce.

The Kingdom of Hawaii opened a Consulate in Brisbane when Alexander Brand Webster became Consul on 27 June 1885. Founder of Webster & Co., merchants of Mary Street, Brisbane, Mr. Webster's home "Whinstanes" was for years the scene of many social gatherings. These included a ball which the Prince of Wales attended during his visit to Brisbane in 1920.

Robert Lee-Bryce, J.P., followed A. B. Webster as Hawaiian Consul when appointed on 30 December 1898. Born in Scotland, Lee-Bryce followed a career in life assurance. He was the first Queensland manager for the Independent Order of Foresters of which he subsequently became assistant general manager for Australia. He was an alderman of the Brisbane City Council and also held a commission in the Queensland Naval Brigade, becoming a lieutenant with seniority dated 1 January 1892.

Switzerland's first Consul was Jacques Leutenegger whose appointment appeared in the *Gazette* on 19 December 1889. Born in 1865 at Frauenfeld, the capital of the Province of Thurgau, he went to Paris, being employed by a French firm Scoch, Bruggman and Co., which sent him to its Melbourne branch as accountant. He then came to Brisbane and founded the firm of J. Leutenegger Pty. Ltd., now situated in Charlotte Street.

The Swiss population in Queensland during Mr. Leutenegger's term as Consul was approximately 1300 and he remarked that the Consulate was a busy one, as the Swiss had three languages, French, German and Italian, and this complicated the work of translations among other problems.

In 1891 the Hon. Frederick Hamilton Hart, M.L.C., was appointed Consul for Portugal. He was born in Madras in 1836, coming to Sydney with his father William Hamilton Hart, superintendent of the Bank of Australasia who, after taking his family to England in 1843, returned in 1853 and established the firm of Bright Brothers. Frederick joined the firm and in 1862 came to open a branch of Bright Bros., which became Gibbs Bright & Co. in 1882.

Frederick Hamilton Hart became a director of the Queensland National Bank and was the first chairman of its board of directors.

The first Japanese Consulate in Australia was opened at Townsville on 7 March 1896 in charge of a career consul Mr. Tsumijiro

Nakagawa (gazettal 9 March of that year). It was located in a house called "Kardinia" on Stanton Hill, which was later bought by Mr. David Green of the *Townsville Bulletin* and is still owned by the Green family.

The decision to open the Consulate appears to have been due to the result of an agreement, initiated by the C.S.R. Company with the Yoshisa Company in Japan, to indent Japanese farm labourers for work in the sugar cane industry. In 1888 there were 100 employed in the Ingham area and, by 1892, this number had increased to over 500.

The Consulate remained open until 1908. After Mr. Nakagawa went to Sydney as Consul and opened a consulate there on 12 June 1897, other career Consuls followed: Kametiro Tijima, 26 October 1899; Rizaburo Tayai, 22 March 1902 and Goro Narita on 30 June 1906.

After the turn of the century, when the coming of Federation marked the end of the Colony and the beginning of Queensland the State, four of the early consuls were still serving. These were J. C. Heussler, Netherlands Consul since 1862; Edward Barrow Forrest, France from 1873; Barron L. Barnett, Italy from 1876; and Dr. A. H. F. R. Kortum, German Vice-Consul at Cooktown, from 1886.

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#### CONSULS IN QUEENSLAND 1857 TO 1900

Date of Gazette	
17.2.57	Hanseatic Republic of Hamburg: Vice-Consul Georg Appel. Date of Exequatur 2.9.56.
30.11.62	Netherlands—Consul: Hon. J. C. Heussler, M.L.C. till 1902. Date of Exequatur 11.9.62.
1863	Prussia and Oldenburg—Consul: Armand Ranniger.
1871	North German Confederation—Principal Consular Agent: Armand Ranniger.
5.7.72	German Empire—Consul: Armand Ranniger.
30.6.80	German Empire—Consul: Hon. J. C. Heussler, M.L.C. Date of Exequatur 28.4.80.
29.10.86	German Empire—Vice Consul, Cooktown: Dr. A. H. R. F. Kortum, M.D.
6.10.1900	German Empire—Consul: W. von Ploennies. Italy—Vice-Consuls:
4.3.62	Hon. George Harris, M.L.C.
19.12.76	Barron L. Barnett till 1902.
	Belgium—Consuls:
20.5.64	Hon. George Harris, M.L.C.
12.9.76	Hon. Boyd D. Morehead, M.L.C.
12.8.80	Edgar R. Drury, C.M.G.
17.11.1900	Henry Donkin.
1865	Hanover—Consul: Daniel Weinholt.
	United States—Consular Agents:
1867	Wm. Henry Palmer.

- 16.10.68 J. Wallis Barnett (decd. 1874).  
 10.10.74 Hon. George Harris, M.L.C.  
 15.11.80 Thomas E. White  
 2.7.85 Hon. Wm. Villiers Brown, M.L.A. at Townsville.  
 7.3.91 C. H. Turner.  
 30.7.92 W. J. Wetherill.  
 24.9.97 John Henry Rogers at Townsville.
- Spain—Consuls:  
 26.2.65 Charles Bernard Lyons.  
 Vacant  
 1870 until  
 12.7.99 J. W. H. Grout.
- France—Consul: Hon. Edward Barrow Forrest, M.L.C.  
 Bremen—Consul: Julius Brabant.  
 Denmark—Consuls:  
 22.10.67 Ernest Harvey Webb. Date of Exequatur 5.8.62.  
 31.8.90 Albert R. H. Pietzcker.  
 5.2.98 Poul C. Poulsen.
- Sweden and Norway—Consuls:  
 25.4.83 Oscar Netzler.  
 30.11.85 Charles Warde.
- Sweden and Norway—Vice-Consul: Hon. A. J. Carter, M.L.C.  
 Hawaii—Consuls:  
 27.6.85 Alexander Brand Webster.  
 30.12.98 Robert Lee-Bryce, J.P.
- Switzerland—Consul: Jacob Leutenegger.  
 Portugal—Consul: Hon. Frederick Hamilton Hart, M.L.C.  
 1891  
 7.3.96 Japan—Consul: Tsunijiro Nakagawa at Townsville.