

**Miscellaneous Papers – Legal Documents 23 Sep 1826 to 13 May 1848**  
Archives NZ Wellington Reference AAYZ 8984 NZC 38/5/1 Item No.80

Agreement dated 12 Sep 1841 for the Purchase of the Chatham Islands.

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Memorandum of an Agreement made at Hamburg, the twelfth of September 1841 between Karl Sieveking, Syndicus of Hamburg, and Federal Envoy of the Free Cities of Germany, acting on behalf of a Colonisation Company to be formed in Germany, of the one part, and John Ward Esquire, Commissioner of Her Britannic Majesty, acting on this occasion, on behalf of the New Zealand Company of London, incorporated by Royal Charter, of the other part. The New Zealand Company agrees to sell and the German Colonisation Company to purchase the group of Islands in the South Seas, now the lawful property of the said New Zealand Company and known by the name of the Chatham Islands, consisting of the large Island called by the Natives Warrekauri, and by Europeans, Chatham Island; of a smaller Island, called by the Natives Rangihande, and by Europeans Pitt's Island; and of a third Island, called by the Natives Ranyatira, and by Europeans South East or Cornwallis Island, together with such other smaller adjacent Islets as are now in the possession of the New Zealand Company; which group of Islands, according to the annexed map, are situated in about the Latitude 44<sup>o</sup> South and Longitude 176<sup>o</sup> West from Greenwich; upon the following conditions, viz:

[1] The purchase money shall be £10,000 sterling, of which, a Deposit of £10 per cent shall be paid within two months from the date of the exchange of ratifications of the present Agreement, and the remainder within twelve months after possession shall have been actually given to the Agent of the said German Colonisation Company.

[2] The New Zealand Company undertakes to deliver lawful possession to the German Colonisation Company, and in order to receive such possession, the said German Company will despatch an Agent to the Islands, within twelve months from the date of the Exchange of the Ratifications. In the event of no such Agent appearing in the Islands, with authority to receive possession, within two years from the last mentioned date, the Purchase shall be void, and the Islands shall revert to the New Zealand Company, with a forfeiture of the Deposit.

[3] The Vendors are not aware that the Sovereignty of the British Crown has ever been proclaimed in the Chatham Islands, and they believe, therefore, that it will be competent to the German Colonisation Company to offer the sovereignty to the Hanse Towns Lübeck, Bremen and Hamburg, or to any other State of States of the German Confederation, jointly or separately. If not, the New Zealand Company will use its influence with the British Government, in order to secure to the German Colonists who may settle in the Islands, in consequence of the present Agreement, the full enjoyment of their National rights, usages, and customs, and of religious liberty, in such a way as the German Colonisation Company may suggest.

[4] The said Company to be formed will undertake to colonise the Islands from Germany, with the least possible delay. For this purpose, the New Zealand Company will, at all times give such assistance as may be in their power, the operations being, however, carried on at the expense of the German Colonisation Company.

[5] Neither the said German Company, nor the German Government exercising a Sovereign Control over the Chatham Islands, shall be at liberty to transport thither, any persons convicted of crime, or to establish there any penal settlement for the punishment of malefactors brought there from other Countries.

[6] The present agreement is subject to the Ratification of the said German Colonisation Company, and also of the Court of Directors of the New Zealand Company, under their Corporate Seal. The Ratifications shall be exchanged within six months from the date hereof.  
[Signed] K. Sieveking and John Ward.

Includes a coloured "Plan of Chatham Island, &c to the Eastward of New Zealand" published 10 Oct 1815 by Whittle and Laurie, Fleet Street, London. Engraved by A. Findlay. Includes Pitt's Island and Cornwallis Island.

This was published in *The Oriental Navigator: or, Directions for Sailing to, from, and Upon the Coasts of, the East Indies, China, and Australia* (London: James Whittle & Richard Holmes Laurie, 1816) - To face page 92 (228 x 175cm)