

GUIDE TO THE COSME COLONY COLLECTION, 1893 - CA. 1903, 1964 - 1968

Descriptive Summary

Collection Number:	RB030
Title:	Cosme Colony Collection
Collection Dates:	1885 - 1977
Collector:	University of Sydney Library, Rare Books and Special Collections
Languages Represented:	English, Spanish
Extent:	5 boxes
Repository:	University of Sydney Library, Rare Books and Special Collections
Abstract:	The Cosme Colony Collection comprises papers relating to the New Australia Colony and Cosme Colony, socialist utopian colonies founded in Paraguay in 1893 and 1894 by William Lane and other Australian colonists. The collection contains 2 subseries. Subseries 1 contains material collected by Gavin Souter for his book, <i>A Peculiar People</i> , 1968. Subseries 2 contains corporate and family material collected by the descendents of John Lane, brother of William Lane and one of the original colonists.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The Cosme Colony Collection Papers were purchased in separate lots from Gavin Souter (subseries 1) and Hilda Lane (subseries 2), daughter of John Lane and niece of William Lane (first chairman of New Australia Colony and Cosme Colony). The papers are housed together because of their common intellectual content.

Access

The Cosme Colony Collection is available for research in the Rare Books and Special Collections reading room, Fisher Library.

Copyright Information

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Preferred Citation

Cosme Colony Collection, Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Sydney Library.

Biographical Notes

Gavin Souter (1929 -) is a Sydney author. He is a graduate of the University of Sydney and worked as a journalist for the Sydney Morning Herald 1947 - 1987. *A Peculiar People* was published in 1968. Research for the book was funded by a Commonwealth Literary Fund grant.

John Lane was the brother of William Lane, founder and first chairman of New Australia Colony and Cosme Colony. John Lane succeeded William Lane as chairman of Cosme Colony after William Lane's departure in 1898.

Scope and Content Note

The Cosme Colony Collection comprises research materials and an autograph manuscript copy of Gavin Souter's book, *A Peculiar People*, 1968. These documents span the years circa 1964 to 1968. The second series of the collection comprises corporate papers, official documents and publications from Cosme Colony; and papers of John Lane and his family relating to Cosme Colony. These documents cover the period 1893 to circa 1903.

Local Subject Headings

- Cosme Co-operative Colony (Paraguay)
- New Australia Co-operative Settlement Association.
- Australians -- Paraguay.
- Collective settlements -- Paraguay.
- Utopias.
- Lane, John, 1864-
- Souter, Gavin, 1929-
- Souter, Gavin, 1929- Peculiar people.

Description of Series

A Peculiar People, Research and Writing Series

A Peculiar People, Research and Writing, 1964 - 1968.

The first subseries of the Cosme Colony Collection consists of Gavin Souter's research notes, correspondence, articles and manuscript and photographs for his book, *A Peculiar People*. This

material has been grouped with Cosme Colony material acquired from the family of John Lane to form the Cosme Colony Collection due to their similar intellectual content. The arrangement of this material reflects the original order imposed by Gavin Souter.

Gavin Souter's Research, 1964 - ca. 1967

Box	Folder	Contents
		Bibliographies
1	1	Bibliographies of New Australia Colony and Cosme Colony holdings in Australian libraries
1	1	Dame Mary Gilmore Papers bibliography, National Library of Australia, 1966
1	1	Miscellaneous notes
		Background Research, 1964 - ca. 1967
		Strikes in Australia, 1890s
1	2	Notes on Shearers' Strike, Barcaldine, Queensland, 1891
1	2	Notes on strikes in Australia , 1890s
1	2	Letter from Jas. L. Stapleton, State Librarian, Public Library of Queensland to Gavin Souter, regarding the Shearers' Strike of 1891, February 1967
1	2	Letter from Jas. L. Stapleton, State Librarian, Public Library of Queensland to Gavin Souter, May 1967
1	2	<i>The Worker</i> , 2 newspaper cuttings (photocopies), undated
1	2	Notes on shearing, 1890s
1	3	Depression in Australia, notes, 1892 - 93
1	4	Labour Party, Unions and New Unionism, notes, 1880s - 1890s
		New Australia Cooperative Settlement Association (NACSA) Organising in Australia, Part 1
1	5	Letter from Joe Harris, Brisbane to Gavin Souter, February 1967

		NACSA Organising in Australia, Part 2: Correspondence relating to acquisition of land
1	6	Letter from Public Relations, Department of Lands, NSW to Gavin Souter, February 1967
1	6	Letter from Land Administration Commission, Department of Lands, Queensland to Gavin Souter, February 1967
1	6	Letter from Margaret Metcalfe, J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History, State Library, Perth to Gavin Souter, February 1967
1	6	Letter from Director General, Department of Lands and Survey, New Zealand to Gavin Souter, February 1967
1	6	Letter from Jas. L. Stapleton, Public Library of Queensland to Gavin Souter, March 1967
1	6	Letter from Director General, Department of Lands and Survey, New Zealand to Gavin Souter, May 1967
		NACSA Organising in Australia, Part 3: Miscellaneous notes
1	7	Notes from <i>The Bulletin</i> , <i>The Daily Observer</i> , <i>The Echo</i> , <i>New Australia</i> , <i>The Melbourne Age</i> , <i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i> , <i>The Worker</i> , undated
1	7	Biographical notes, undated
1	7	Notes on utopian communities, including 'Topolobampo', 'Freeland', 'Icaria', undated
1	7	Quotes from contemporary public figures, undated
1	7	Notes on recruitment, funds, etc, undated
		NACSA Organising in Australia, Part 4: Newspaper cuttings (copies)
1	8	<i>New Australia</i> (The Journal of the New Australia Cooperative Settlement Association), 2 cuttings, undated

1	8	<i>The Voice</i> , 8 cuttings: 27 January 1893, 10 February 1893, 24 February 1893, 3 March 1893, 2 June 1893, 9 June 1893, 14 June 1893, 14 July 1893
		William Lane
1	9	Letters to Gavin Souter regarding William Lane, undated
1	9	William Lane, biographical notes, undated
1	9	William Lane's opinions on communism and socialism, notes, undated
		Biographical Information on Colonists
1	10	List of colonists, undated
1	10	Biographical information on individual colonists, undated
		South Australian Colonists
1	11	Letters to Gavin Souter regarding Birks and Rev. Hugh Gilmore, South Australia, ca. April 1965
1	11	Notes on Birks, Gilmore, Single Tax League of South Australia, undated
		Casey v Head (New Australia Funds)
1	12	Notes, undated
1	12	Correspondence, undated
1	12	<i>The Voice</i> , copies of articles, undated
		Casey v Head
1	13	Notes written on a manilla folder
		Royal Tar Voyages
1	14	<i>The Voice</i> , copies of 5 articles, 5 May - 8 December 1893
1	14	Notes on the departure of the Royal Tar from Valparaíso, Chile, undated
1	14	Notes on the first voyage of the Royal Tar from Sydney to South America, 1893

1	14	Notes on the second voyage of the Royal Tar, undated
1	14	"Just Alarm in Ajos", <i>La Democracia</i> , 22 September 1895
1	15	Articles by John Rich, Tasmanian journalist and passenger on the Royal Tar, written for <i>North Devon Herald</i> , 1894
1	16	New Australia; notes by Gavin Souter, undated
1	17	New Australia, Split; notes by Gavin Souter, undated
1	18	New Australia, Expulsions; notes by Gavin Souter, undated
		Miscellaneous material relating to New Australia (photocopies)
1	19	Department of Foreign Affairs reports on New Australia, undated
1	19	Letters from colonists to Queensland government requesting assistance to return to Australia, undated
1	19	J. Sibbald, "A Short History of New Australia", <i>South Australian Register</i> , undated
1	19	J. Fretz, <i>Immigrant Group Settlements in Paraguay</i> , 1962, pages 28 - 31, map
1	19	"Tas", "The Story of Monkey Stew", <i>Smith's Weekly</i> , undated
1	19	Letter from William Wood to Jack Baxter, Wagga Wagga, NSW, 11 August 1913
1	19	Notes, undated
1	19	Newspaper cuttings, undated
		Cosme
1	20	4 letters from Hilda Lane to Gavin Souter regarding the foundation of Cosme Colony, 1965 - 1966

1	20	Letter from HCW (Harold Wallis?), to Gavin Souter regarding a sketch of Cosme Colony, 12 October 1966
1	20	Sketch of Cosme Colony (copy), undated
1	20	Notes: Cosme Colony; communist colonies in Australia; draft copy of article, "The Anzac Contingent from Paraguay", undated
1	20	3 newspaper cuttings on Cosme Colony and New Australia Colony, 7 November 1954, May 1964, 4 December 1966
		Recollections of Colonists
1	21	George Wiedenhofer, Recollections about the New Australia Association, circa 1958
1	21	George Molesworth, Recollections about the Royal Tar, 1965
		Colony Poems and Songs supplied by Hilda Lane
1	22	4 poems: untitled; "Lavender Bay"; "The Man from Bogantungan"; "Two Little Girls", undated
1	22	3 songs: "The Man from Bogantungan"; "Oh Happy Happy Birthplace"; "When from Playmates We Are Parted", undated
1	23	Cosme Colony Chronological History, 1893-1905 Compiled by Gavin Souter

A Peculiar People, Notes and Manuscript

Box	Folder	Contents
2	24	<i>A Peculiar People</i> , Notes for Chapter 10, Establishment of Cosme
2	25	<i>A Peculiar People</i> , Notes for Chapter 11, The Breaking Down of the Commune
2	26	<i>A Peculiar People</i> , Notes for Chapter 12, John Lane
2	27	<i>A Peculiar People</i> , Notes for Chapter 13, A State of Drift

2	28	<i>A Peculiar People</i> , Notes for Chapter 14, There is a Claw in this Country All Right
2	29	<i>A Peculiar People</i> , Notes for appendices
2	30	Outline for <i>A Peculiar People</i>
2	31	<i>A Peculiar People</i> Manuscript copy, 2 volumes

Gavin Souter's Correspondence, 1963 - 82, bulk 1963 - 1969

Box	Folder	Contents
		Correspondence: Wood family to Gavin Souter
3	32	Letters from Bill (William) Wood, Asunción to Gavin Souter, 13 December 1963 - 31 December 1967 19 letters
3	34	Letters from William Wood, Asunción to Gavin Souter, 1966 - 1975 26 letters
3	34	Letters from William Wood, Asunción to Gavin Souter, 1974 - 1982 17 letters
3	32	Letters from Peter Wood to Gavin Souter, 20 August 1966 - 20 November 1967 10 letters Peter Wood, nephew of Bill Wood, migrated from Paraguay to Australia in 1964.
3	32	Extracts from Wood Family letters, 1918 - 1964 Letters owned by Mrs Torry Hyatt, Ballarat, niece of William Wood Jnr.
3	32	Letters from various correspondents to Gavin Souter, ca. 1963 5 letters
3	32	Letter from Wallace Wood to Alex Wood, undated Brothers of William Wood Jnr
3	32	Photographs of Diana Wood, undated 2 photographs Daughter of William Wood Jnr

3	32	Newspaper cutting, undated
3	33	Correspondence: descendents of colonists to Gavin Souter, circa 1965
		Correspondence: Paraguay residents to Gavin Souter
3	34	Letters from Leon Cadogan, Asunción to Gavin Souter, 11 November 1967, 12 April 1969 2 letters
3	34	Letter from Donald Wood, Encarnación to Gavin Souter, 29 November 1967 1 letter
		Correspondence: miscellaneous
3	35	Letter from Mrs C.J. Stevenson, Guernsey to Mrs Lillian Wood, Paraguay, 8 October 1960 1 letter Clara Stevenson (née Jones) was married to Dave Stevenson.
3	35	Letter from Mrs C.J. Stevenson, Guernsey to Mrs Rose Menmuir, South Africa, 14 August 1961 1 letter Rose Menmuir was the sister of William Wood.
3	35	Letter from W.J. Wood, Guernsey to Mrs Ngaire Souter, 16 January 1977 1 letter
3	35	Letter from Helga, Epping, NSW to Mrs Ngaire Souter, 13 January 1975 1 letter Contents unrelated to Cosme Colony Collection.
3	35	Letter from Colin McLeod, Cosme Colony to Peter Wood, Griffith, NSW, 21 July 1975 1 letter
		Correspondence: libraries in Australia and England with Gavin Souter
3	36	Correspondence between Gavin Souter and libraries, 1964 - 1966 Letters regarding New Australia Colony and Cosme Colony material in libraries.

3	36	Correspondence between Gavin Souter and J.G. Hannan, 4 November 1964 Letters regarding Souter's and Hannan's research on New Australia Colony and Cosme Colony .
3	36	Newspaper cutting, undated Newspaper cutting regarding Souter's and Hannan's research on New Australia Colony and Cosme Colony.
3	36	Miscellaneous material, ca. 1964 Includes Mitchell Library guide, 1964; addresses; notes.
		Correspondence: Commonwealth Literary Fund with Gavin Souter, 1964 - 1966
3	37	Correspondence from Commonwealth Literary Fund to Gavin Souter, 1964 - 1966
3	37	Correspondence from Gavin Souter to Commonwealth Literary Fund, 1964 - 1968
3	37	Miscellaneous material, 1964 - ca. 1965 Includes Commonwealth Literary Fund Fellowship application forms; telegram; newspaper cuttings; itinerary for Gavin Souter's trip to Paraguay, 1965; list of Souter's expenses in Paraguay.

Gavin Souter's trip to Paraguay, 1965

Box	Folder	Contents
3	38	Paraguay trip; miscellaneous documents, 1963 - 1965
3	39	Correspondence

Photographs

Box	Folder	Contents
3	40	Folder 1: Bill Wood; Wallace Wood; Norman Wood; Francisco Wood Jr, Sylvia McLeod de Wood, Mabel Wood, Francisco Wood; Mabel Wood; Rod McLeod; bullock cart

		These photographs are copyright of Peter Solness, photographer, Bondi NSW, Australia.
3	41	Folder 2: Paraguay, Gavin Souter's trip, black and white prints, ca. 1965
3	42	Folder 3: Paraguay, Gavin Souter's trip, colour slides, ca. 1965
3	43	Folder 4: prints of old photographs, undated
3	44	Folder 5: maps of New Australia Colony and Cosme Colony, undated
3	45	Folder 6: songs, undated
3	46	Folder 7: negatives (Rio de Janeiro, Brasilia, Lima, USA), undated
3	47	Folder 8: <i>A Peculiar People</i> , illustrations, ca. 1965

Miscellaneous

Box	Folder	Contents
3	48	Correspondence: Peter Wood's emigration from Paraguay to Australia, 1965 - 1969
3	49	Television script: "And Their Ghosts May Be Heard", Film Australia, 1975

Cosme Colony and Lane Family Series

Cosme Colony and Lane Family, 1885 - 1973, bulk 1898 - 1915

The second subseries of the Cosme Colony Collection comprises papers acquired by the University of Sydney Library in 1973 from Hilda Lane, daughter of John Lane. The papers include Cosme Colony official documents, publications and correspondence, as well as Lane family personal correspondence, photographs and realia relating to Cosme Colony.

Cosme Colony Corporate Information, Documents and Correspondence, 1896 - 1905

Box	Folder	Contents
4	50	Price list of goods supplied and work done by Cosme. Summer, 1898 - 1899 2 pages
4	50	Joining for Mutual Trial; The Cosme Agreement. Colonia Cosme, ca. 1901 2 pages

4	50	Cosme Co-Operative Colony, General Information. 2 pages
4	50	Cosme Co-Operative Colony, The Cosme Agreement, Information About Cosme, Membership, ca. 1900 2 pages
4	50	General Information about Cosme Co-Operative Colony, Paraguay, March, 1900 2 pages
4	50	General Information about Cosme Co-Operative Colony, Paraguay, March, 1900 16 pages
4	50	Cosme Co-Operative Colony, Illustrated Handbook of General Information, 1902 15 pages
4	50	New Australia Co-Operative Settlement Association, Certificate of Membership No. 4, John Lane 4 pages
4	50	List of Cosme colonists showing age, height, parentage, occupation, etc 1 page
4	50	Document from the Paraguay Ministry of Foreign Affairs appointing John Lane as an immigration agent, 1903 2 pages
4	50	Report on the education system to be adopted in New Australia, signed by John Lane and others 5 pages
4	50	Alteration to Cosme Mutual Agreement, made a Special General Meeting, 1905
4	50	Ms by Harold Wallis 5 pages
4	50	Second Half Yearly Report of the Cosme Colony, Paraguay, 12 May 1896 4 pages

4	50	Receipt for trial membership, 22 October 1900 1 page
4	50	Cosme Colony Official Correspondence (copies) written by John Lane, 1898 - 1900
4	50	Cosme Colony Corporate Documents, 1896 - 1905

Cosme Colony Pictorial Material

Box	Folder	Contents
5		Glass negatives These glass negatives were used by John Lane in lectures while on a recruiting drive in Australia in 1901. During the trip he cycled from Adelaide, South Australia to Glen Innes, New South Wales and later through western areas of Queensland.
5		Lane Family photograph album

Newspaper Cuttings

Box	Folder	Contents
4	51	Newspaper cuttings about Cosme Colony
4	52	Newspaper cuttings about Cosme Colony from the Berckelman Collection
4	53	Duplicate newspaper cuttings

Published and Unpublished Material

Box	Folder	Contents
		Essays and articles about Cosme Colony
4	54	<i>Freedom</i> , New Zealand, May - July 1957 5 articles about William Lane and the New Australia Colony
		Publications by other co-operative groups, ca. 1897 - 1907
4	55	Rules of the State Village Association. Victoria, ca. 1897 4 pages
4	55	Concise Statements Concerning the Life and Religious Views of the Shakers. North Family,

		Mt. Lebanon, Columbia, N.Y., ca. 1897 12 pages
4	55	By-Laws of Equality Colony of the Brotherhood of the Co-Operative Commonwealth. Equality, Skagit County, Washington, 1897 2 pages
4	55	Prospectus, Equality Colony, A Collectivist Village. Equality, Skagit County, Washington, ca. 1899 2 pages
4	55	Brotherhood of the Co-Operative Commonwealth, Constitution. Edison, Washington, 1898 8 pages
		Miscellaneous Writing
4	56	<i>The Worker</i> , Brisbane, 28 Jan 1893 4 pages
4	56	Dennis Hird, <i>From Brute to Brother</i> , London, 1907 9 pages
4	56	Manuscript copy of poetry and Cosme philosophy, no date 4 items
4	56	Elizabeth M. Davis, <i>Women in Utopia</i> , no date Essay, 7 pages, typescript
4	56	"First Batch", <i>New Australia: reminiscences of a Pioneer. The Vanishing Tongues</i> , no date 9 pages, typescript
4	56	Leon Cadogan, <i>The Urgency of Research on the Guayaki and Guarani</i> , reprinted from the <i>Bulletin of the International Committee on Urgent Anthropological and Ethnological Research</i> , Number 5, 1962 4 pages
4	56	Francis J. Baylson, <i>History of the Barque Royal Tar</i> , paper read before members of the Shiplovers' Society of NSW, 18 May 1932 5 pages, typescript

4	56	<i>The Man from Bogantungan</i> , words and music by Hilda Lane, no date 1 page
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Lane Family Personal Documents relating to Cosme Colony

Box	Folder	Contents
		Correspondence
4	57	Lane Family (Buenos Aires, Argentina) to John Lane (Brisbane, Australia), 1905 81 pages These letters were written after the Lane family had left Cosme Colony and while John Lane was working in Australia to bring the family home.
		Lane Family and other colonists' letters, 1885 - 1966, bulk 1904 - 1917
4	58	Letters regarding John Lane's experience at Clapton Nursery, 1885 3 pages
4	58	Letter from A.D. Husson, Tunisia to John Lane, 1904 4 pages
4	58	Letters from John Lane's daughters to John Lane, 1904 10 letters
4	58	Letters from Cecil Gosling, British Consul of Paraguay to John Lane, 1904, 1905 5 pages
4	58	Letters from Lila and Alfred Hayes to John and Mrs Lane, 1904 - 1907 6 pages
4	58	Letter from J.D. Sullivan to John Lane, 1905 6 pages
4	58	Illustrated poem and 2 drawings by Harold Wallis sent to Hilda Lane, 1905
4	58	Letter from Annie Wallis to Mrs John Lane, 1905 3 pages

4	58	Letter from Allan McLeod, Cosme to Harold Wallis, 1906 2 pages
4	58	Letter from Jim Mooney to John Lane, 1906 2 pages
4	58	Letters written by Mrs William Lane, Auckland and letters about the Lane family, 1908 - 1918 23 pages First letter is incomplete.
4	58	Letter from John J. Pindar, via Canal San Fernando to John and Mrs Lane, ca. 1910 2 pages
4	58	Letter from Annie Wallis to Mrs John Lane, 1905 3 pages
4	58	Letters from William Lane to John Lane, 1911, 1915 5 pages
4	58	Letters from Brisbane Industrial Council and The Daily Standard to John Lane regarding William Lane's death, 1917 3 pages
4	58	Letter from M. Yewin to John Lane, 1921 1 page
4	58	Letters from John Lane to Hilda Lane and Ettie Lane, 1934 - 1945, 1946 8 pages
4	58	Letter from Mrs John Lane to her daughters Hilda and Ettie, ca. 1939 - ca. 1952 45 pages
4	58	Letter from Ettie Lane to John Lane, 1942 2 pages
4	58	Letter from Annie Wallis to Mrs John Lane, 1905 3 pages
4	58	Letters from Ernie Lane to John Lane, 1945, 1953 4 pages

4	58	Letter from W.J.P.F. to Hilda Lane, 1947 6 pages
4	58	Letter from Clara Stevenson, Guernsey to Mrs John Lane, 1949 2 pages
4	58	Letters from Harold Wallis to Hilda Lane and Mrs John Lane, 1953 - 1966
4	58	Letters from Jack Taylor to Hilda Lane, 1955 - 1957 18 pages
4	58	Letter from Jack Taylor to Harold Wallis, no date 1 page
4	58	Letters from W.J.H. (Joe) Harris to Hilda Lane, 1965 3 pages
4	58	Letter from Bill Wood, Asunción to Hilda Lane, 1965 4 pages
4	58	Letters about Gavin Souter's book 13 pages
		Other Cosme material
4	59	John Lane's notebook of songs sung at Cosme Colony 28 pages
4	60	J.M. Parish's notebook, later used for Cosme Colony accounts and address book 50 pages
4	61	Songs performed in Cosme Colony

John Lane Personal Documents unrelated to Cosme Colony

Box	Folder	Contents
		Wangeriburra Language
4	62	John Lane's notebook on the Wangeriburra language, 1915 63 pages

4	62	Notes on the English language (in the same notebook as Wangeriburra language) 31 pages
4	62	Grammar, Vocabulary and Notes of the Wangeriburra Tribe, pages 22 - 35, including map and 3 plates (appendix to a Queensland Government publication written by John Lane 18 pages
4	62	2 letters from Home Secretary's Office, Brisbane to John Lane acknowledging receipt of notes on the language of the Wangeriburra Tribe
4	62	Photograph of John Allen, Mundoolun, speaker of the Wangeriburra language
4	63	John Lane, Queensland Education Department papers, 1878 - 1930 80 pages
4	64	Papers relating to John Lane's death (including his will), 1947 18 pages
4	65	Coolangatta garden book, accounts, addresses 14 pages
4	66	Sketch for the Lane house in Coolangatta 1 page
4	66	Lane family funeral notices 5 items
4	66	William Lane's obituary, 1917 8 pages
4	66	Letter from Mrs A.M. Lane, William Lane's widow to John Lane, 1917 5 pages
4	66	Hugdah, An Out Back Tea Fight Short story, 3 pages, typescript.
4	66	The Union Men Poem, 1 page, typescript.

4	66	Cosme ... to King's Cross ... Dame Mary's Birthday, by Hilda Lane Poem, 3 pages, typescript.
4	66	Christmas Party Programme, Original Old Age and Invalid Pensioners' Association, Paddington Branch, 1962 4 pages
4	66	Card from Hilda Lane to Jennifer Alison, University of Sydney Library regarding the deposit of Lane family material in the library, 1973

Realia

Box	Folder	Contents
		Box of John Lane's personal possessions
5		Spectacles with case
5		Budding knife
5		Piece of Paraguayan Ñandutí lace
5		Lock of Hilda Lane's hair, sent to John Lane while on Australian recruiting drive, 1901
5		Royal Lifesaving Society bronze medallion, 1913
5		Purse containing notebook
5		Certificates
5		Bread board of lapacho timber carved by John Parish John Parish was born in Bradford, England and arrived at Cosme Colony in 1897. He died at Villarica in 1902.
5		Waddy (Paraguayan native timber baton)
5		Cosme Colony stamp for postage