

13 - Key dates for Marianne, her travels and family

1770 Mr Fountain North came to Hastings from Rougham Hall in Norfolk for the benefit of his daughter's health. His son was Mr Francis Frederick North and one of his grandchildren Mr Frederick North was Hastings Mayor and later MP for two separate terms. It was the latter who was Marianne's father.

1827 A new house was purchased by Frederick North together with a piece of land that included the Old Hastings Spring.

1828 A four storey extension was added to the north and following that the south side doubled its width.

1830 Frederick's daughter Marianne North is born.

Edward Lear best known for his nonsense poem "The Owl and the Pussy-cat" stayed in the gardeners cottage and encouraged Marianne to pursue her interest in painting.

1855 Marianne's mother, Janet, dies.

1867 Three greenhouses were built and a conduit water supply from the spring to feed them was added.

1869 Frederick North, Marianne's father dies and Marianne leaves the house never to return.

1870 North's seat is erected in memory of Frederick North.

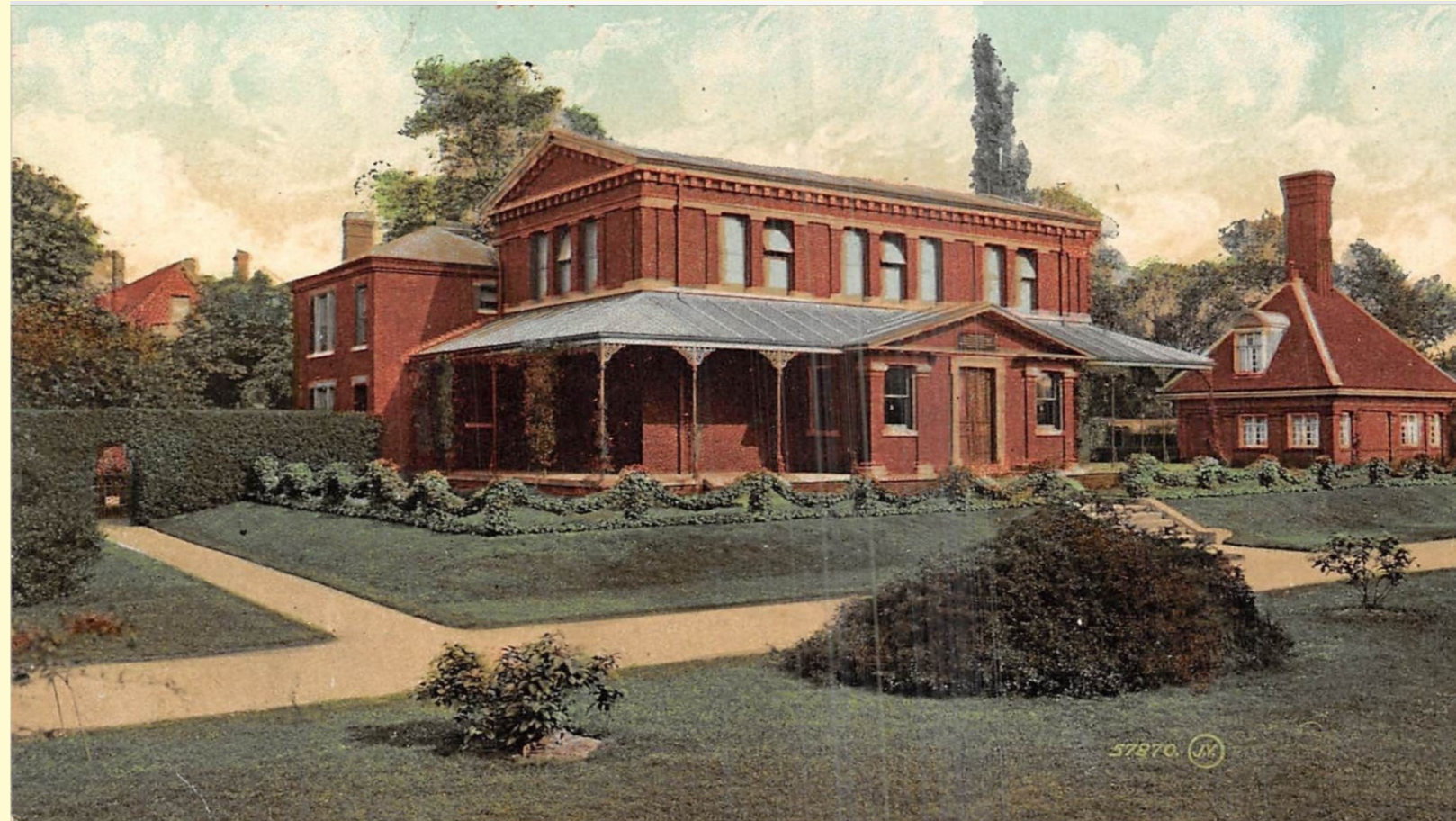
1871 Marianne begins her worldwide travels, starting with Canada and the United States of America.



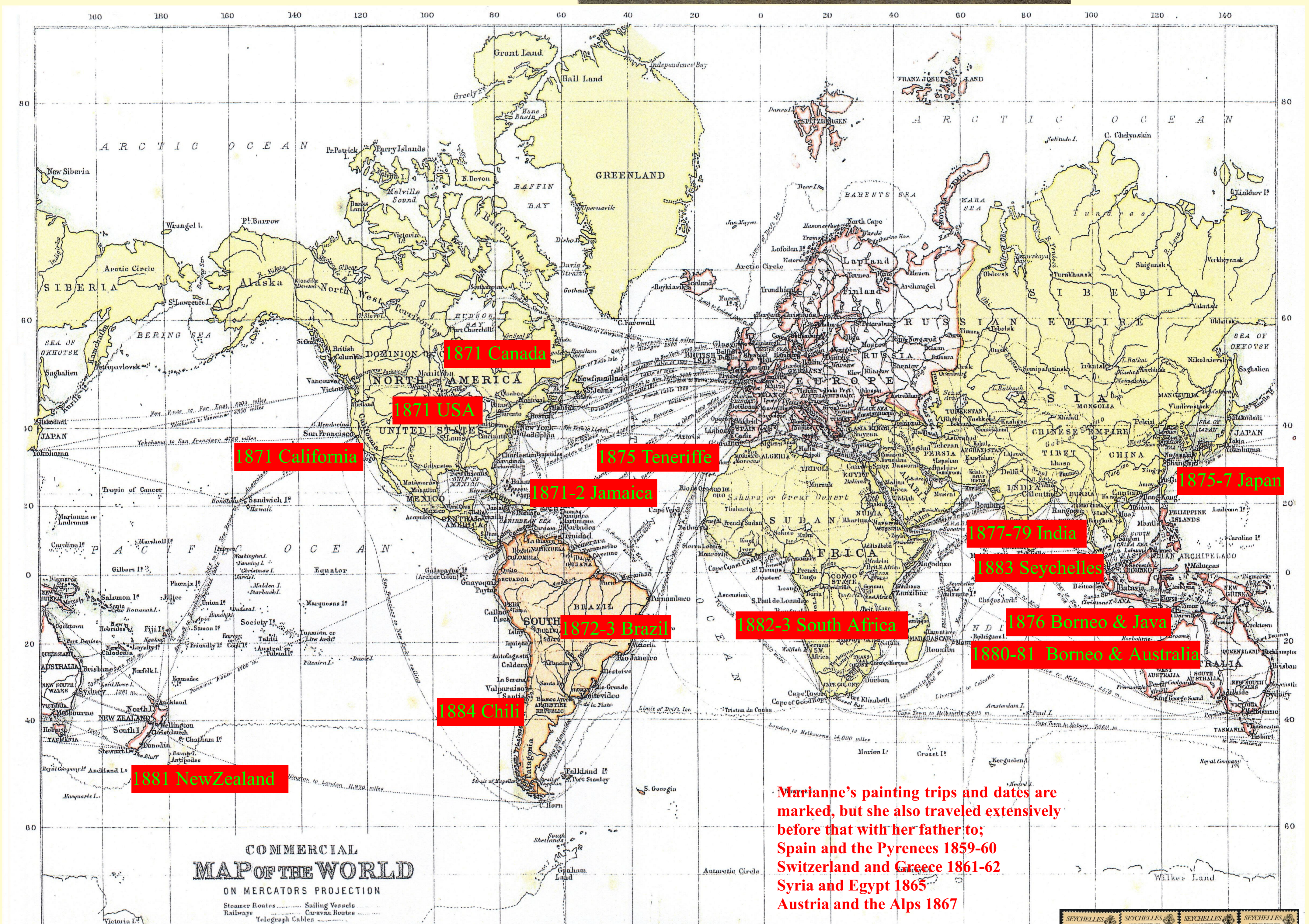
The House c 1830 with Hastings in the background



Edward Lear who encouraged her to paint was also a fine artist and illustrator; although best remembered for his nonsense poems.



The gallery at Kew was built in a mix of classical and colonial styles. It now houses 848 of her paintings displayed in geographical order, which were hung according to her wishes. She offered to build the Gallery if Joseph Hooker, Director of Kew, who she knew, would agree to display her work in it. It is thought she painted over 1000 pictures in total, often completing a picture a day.



After an exhibition in London in 1879, Marianne had the idea of showing her paintings at Kew. The gallery finally opened to the public on the 7th of June, 1882 and Marianne in her autobiography commented;

"I had much trouble but also much pleasure in the work. What need is there now to remember the former?"

When ill-health curtailed her traveling she moved to Alderley, Gloucestershire where she died on 30 August 1890.

Marianne is still remembered around the world as shown by this set of stamps. They were issued to mark the centenary of her visit to the Seychelles.



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