

Documents relating to the Archives of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa

From the Archives of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, "A" Series

The early history of the UMCA reflected in the correspondence and material contained in this series, gives a vivid account of the hardships the missionaries suffered and their courage, determination and hope in the face of adversity. An Anglo-Catholic society, the UMCA was founded in response to Livingstone's stirring appeal to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge and found its leader in Archdeacon C.F. Mackenzie.

The UMCA was started in 1858 following Livingstone's appeal to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge in 1857: "I go back to Africa to try to make an open path for commerce and Christianity. Do you carry out the work, which I have begun? I leave it with you." The Cambridge committee was formed in 1858 and its Oxford counterpart in 1859, and Archdeacon Charles Frederick Mackenzie, a Cambridge mathematician with five years' missionary experience in Africa, was chosen as leader of the Anglo-Catholic mission. Dublin and Durham Universities later joined Oxford and Cambridge in supporting the mission.

The work carried out by the mission began in the region of Lake Nyasa (now Malawi) and River Shire and eventually extended to cover much of present-day Tanzania, Zambia and parts of Mozambique. The original mission almost collapsed during 1962-63 following the death of the Bishop and most of the workers, but Bishop Tozer (consecrated 1863) moved the mission to the island of Zanzibar, the very centre of the East Africa Slave trade and the material relating to this period reflects the mission's work here in combating slavery.

In 1965 the UMCA amalgamated with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and the work of the two societies is now conducted jointly by the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. The material filmed in this collection is concerned with the correspondence, and documents relating to founder members and succeeding bishops who courageously directed the early mission.

Reel contents:

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| Reel 1 | Letters and Journal of Bishop Mackenzie 1861-62
Letters of Bishop Tozer 1863-73
Letters of Dr. Steere 1863-67
Letters of Bishop Tozer and others 1863-71 |
| Reel 2 | The Ware Collection
Various newspaper cuttings |
| Reel 3 | Letters, journals and material relating to Bishop Mackenzie |
| Reel 4 | Letters of Rev. Scudmore
3 volumes of Bishop Steere's diary 1863-68 |
| Reel 5 | Rev. Procter's Zambezi Journal 1861-64 |
| Reels 6-11 | Letters and material relating to Dr. Steere |
| Reel 12 | Miscellaneous letters and material relating to Rev. H.A.B. Wilson and H.W. Woodward |
| Reel 13 | New Testament and Book of Common Prayer in Swahili |

- Reels 14-16 Correspondence and papers relating to Bishop Smythies
- Reels 17-19 Central African Mission Diary 1863-88
Miscellaneous letters written during Bishop Smythies' episcopate
- Reel 20 Correspondence and papers of Archdeacon W.P. Johnson 1881-1909
- Reel 21 Correspondence of Bishop Richardson
- Reel 22 Correspondence of Rev. H.W. Woodward and others 1888-1923
- Reel 23 Correspondence and papers of Rev. Chauncy Maples 1877-96
- Reel 24 Correspondence and papers of Bishop Hine 1892-1901
- Reel 25 Correspondence of various people including Rev. W.P. Johnson, P.E. Faulkner,
Rev. A.G. Glossop, Ernest A. Gee
- Reel 26 Letters to Mrs. Barnes mainly from her son Rev. H. Barnes in Nyasaland 1911-
1914
- Reels 27-29 Correspondence and papers of Bishop Hine 1901-1909
- Reels 30-32 Correspondence of Bishop Trower and other miscellaneous material 1881-1910
- Reels 33-34 Correspondence of Bishop Weston 1892-1925
- Reel 35 The "Dini" Book
- Reel 36 Material relating to the Kikuyu Conference 1913-15
- Reels 37-39 Miscellaneous correspondence including letters from J.P. Fixsen to his mother
1910-14 from Bishop Fisher to Mr. Travers 1910-29

There is also a separate reel of Reports on the UMCA for the period 1860-1900 (ref. R96809), with an Introduction by Dr. A.C. Ross. The reports are often largely propaganda material for the maintenance of the supply of money and men to the Society.