

**The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 1

Finding Aid for

David Livingstone Papers, 1856; 1957



Credit to MRL 12: Missionary Biographical Records, box 3, folder 15,
The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, December 2011
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: David Livingstone, 1813 – 1873
Title: David Livingstone Papers
Inclusive dates: 1856; 1957
Abstract: David Livingstone was a Congregationalist medical missionary assigned to Africa by London Missionary Society, continued exploration with Royal Geographical Society. Collection contains single letter and poster of postcards from Scottish National Memorial to Livingstone in Blantyre, Scotland.
Size: 1 box, 0.25 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance:** Originally part of the independent Missionary Research Library, these records were moved with the MRL to the Brown Memorial Tower of Union Theological Seminary in 1929. In 1976 the records were accessioned to the Burke Library archives with the closure of the MRL.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkearchives@library.columbia.edu, or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible. Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, MRL 1: David Livingstone Papers, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

David Livingstone was born in 1813 to Agnes and Neil Livingstone in Scotland. From an early age, Livingstone endeavored to be a medical missionary, and after completing his training and education he arrived in Cape Town in 1840 representing the London Missionary Society. One of his best known adventures occurred in February 1844 when he was attacked by a lion. Livingstone married Mary Moffat, daughter of missionary Robert Moffat, in 1845. Together they had six children. For a stretch of sixteen years, Livingstone traveled and performed medical missionary duties throughout Africa, returning to England in 1856.

In 1857, Livingstone resigned from the London Missionary Society to focus on exploring as opposed to missionary work. Livingstone was appointed Consul in the District of Quilimane on the Eastern Coast of Africa. His expeditions were funded by the Royal Geographical Society of England from 1858 to 1864. It was during this time that his book, *Missionary Travels* was published. Livingstone again returned in Africa in 1866 for further exploration.

Livingstone died of malaria and dysentery in Africa in 1873. His body was transported across hundreds of miles to be buried in England, although it is believed his heart was buried in Africa.

Sources:

- Helly, Dorothy O. *Livingstone's Legacy: Horace Waller and Victorian Mythmaking*. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1987.
- Livingstone, David. *Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa*. London: Ward, Lock & Co., 1899.
- Ransford, Oliver. *David Livingstone: The Dark Interior*. London: John Murray Ltd., 1978.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection contains two individual items. The first is an original letter from Livingstone to the YMCA in London. The second is a poster depicting reproductions on postcards of the Livingstone Memorial in Scotland.

Related Material

Please see the folder on David Livingstone in [MRL12: Missionary Biographical Records](#), Box 3, Folders 15 and 16.

Processing

Folded items were flattened and placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Letter, David Livingstone to the Young Men's Christian Association at the Mission House in London, 1856
1	2	Poster, Postcard Reproductions of the Groups of Colored Statuary in the Gallery at the Scottish National Memorial to Livingstone at his Birthplace in Blantyre, 1957