

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 1

Finding Aid for

Basel Mission (Gold Coast) Papers, 1894-1904

Finding Aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, August 2011
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Summary Information

Creator: Basel Mission
Title: Basel Mission (Gold Coast) Papers, 1894-1904
Inclusive dates: 1894-1904
Abstract: Records from the Basel Mission relating to the education of Africans on the Gold Coast. Includes standards of teaching for primary and middle schools and a pamphlet on education.
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, MRL1: Basel Mission (Gold Coast) Papers, 1894-1904, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

History

The Basel Mission, a protestant missionary society named for the Swiss city, was founded in 1815. Wurttemberg, Germany was also important to its history: all the Directors and most of the lecturers in the Mission college were recruited from here, as was more than half of the overseas staff. Missionaries were first sent to the Gold Coast in the 1820s; however due to illness, their presence was not truly felt until the 1840s. Other locations for the Mission were India, China, Cameroon and Kalimantan.

The two main goals of the Basel Mission for its first century were to build a Christian village culture among farmers, and to concentrate on building church life and education in the vernacular languages. In the 19th Century, the Mission ran Ghana's first organized school system, from the village primary school to the Teachers' Training College.

The Basel Mission reached its peak just before 1914 when more than 300 people were in their service abroad. Expelled during the period of World War I and World War II, the Basel Mission never regained its same presence from before the wars. In 2001, the Basel Mission merged with three other independent protestant mission societies to form mission 21.

References:

- Jenkins, Paul. *A Short History of the Basel Mission*. Basel : P. Jenkins, 1985.
- Quartey, Seth. *Missionary Practices on the Gold Coast, 1832-1895: Discourse, Gaze and Gender in the Basel Mission in Pre-Colonial West Africa*. Youngstown, N.Y.: Cambria Press, c2007.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of practical manuals given to missionaries as a standard for teaching Africans from Ghana (Gold Coast). The standards in the collection are for the primary and middle school levels. Also included is a pamphlet printed internally by the mission.

Processing

Metal staples were removed from materials. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed.

Note – The collection is housed in the same box as MRL 1: Presbyterian Church of the Gold Coast, 1908-1942.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Standard for Teaching for the Primary-School of the Basel Mission on the Gold Coast, 1894
1	2	Pamphlet: The Educational Work of the Basel Mission of the Gold Coast: Its Method in Combining Industrial and Manual Training with other Influences Indispensible to the Formation of the Character of the Native Race, July 5, 1902
1	3	Standard of Teaching for the Primary Schools of the Basel Mission of the Gold Coast, West Africa, 1902 [2 copies]
1	4	Standard of Teaching for the Middle-Schools of the Basel Mission on the Gold-Coast, W. Africa, 1904