

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 1

Finding Aid for

**Presbyterian Church of the Gold Coast, 1908-1942**

Die S y n o d e der Presbyterianischen Kirche der G o l d k ü s t e ,  
versammelt in Abetifi im August 1942,  
an den Staatsrat von Akyem Abuakwa, durch dessen gesetzlichen Ver-  
treter, den ehrenwerten Nana Sir Ofori Atta, K.B.E., Omanhene und  
Vorsitzenden des Staatsrates.

Memorandum from the State of Akyem-Abuakwa to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Gold Coast, August 1942.  
Credit to MRL1: Africa, box 1, folder 3, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, January 2012  
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

**Summary Information**

Creator: Presbyterian Church of the Gold Coast  
Title: Presbyterian Church of the Gold Coast Papers, 1908 – 1942  
Inclusive dates: 1908 – 1942  
Bulk dates: 1908; 1927; 1942  
Abstract: Records from the Presbyterian Church of the Gold Coast, relating to the education of Africans. Includes educational aims in Africa and memorandums to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church.  
All records are in German.  
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](mailto: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](mailto: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: Presbyterian Church of the Gold Coast, 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, was founded in 1815 and were first sent to the Gold Coast in the 1820s; however due to illness, the Missionary Society's presence was not truly felt until the 1840s. The Basel Mission's expulsion from Africa during World War One and World War Two enabled the United Free Church of Scotland to arrive and continue missionary work.

A Synod of 1918 was organized involving the Scottish missionaries, African ministers and presbyters. The Church slowly worked towards autonomy and by 1926, the Presbyterian Church of the Gold Coast was officially recognized and became fully independent from the Missionary Societies by 1950.

Now known as the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, it is still in existence and is a member of the World Council of Churches.

### Sources:

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.

Smith, Noel. *The Presbyterian Church of Ghana, 1835-1960*. Accra: Ghana Universities Press, 1966.

### Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection contains printed and typed copies of German language documents relating to the educational aims and the position of the Presbyterian Church of the Gold Coast. The

Memoranda officially address the problems of integrating the church and Christian doctrine with the customs and society of the local tribes.

### 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 MRL1: Basel Mission of the Gold Coast, 1894-1904.*

### Further Sources

Mission 21 in Switzerland offers a copy of *Die sittliche Hebung und Bewahrung unserer Christen auf der Goldküste*. In 2001, the Basel Mission merged with three other independent protestant mission societies to form mission 21. More information can be found through their website: <http://www.mission-21.org/>.

### Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Die Sittliche Hebung und Bewahrung Unserer Christen auf der Goldküste [On Raising the Moral Standards of Our Christians on the Gold Coast], by Adolf Mohr, Kirchheim-Teck, 1908
1	2	Bildungsstreben in Afrika [Educational Aims in Africa], 1927 [Typed Copy]
1	3	Two Memoranda from State of Akyem-Abuaka to Synod of Presbyterian Church of the Gold Coast, July 1941 and August 1942 [Typed Copies]