

JOSEPH BOOTH PAPERS

MSS 2501-2504

The papers relating to Joseph Booth (1851-1932), English missionary in Africa, were presented to the Library in 1990 by Professor Emeritus George Shepperson, University of Edinburgh, and by Professor Harry W. Langworthy, Professor of History at Cleveland State University, Ohio and great-grandson of Joseph Booth. The collection consists of four boxes of material containing original Booth correspondence and other items kept by Booth's family and material collected by Professor Shepperson in the course of his research into Booth.

Papers presented by Professor George Shepperson

MSS 2501

- /1 Early letters from the Booth family, including: letters from Joseph Booth to his sister while sailing to New Zealand (1879); letters from Mary Booth, Joseph Booth's first wife, in New Zealand and Australia, to her sister Anne (1880, 1890); and letters (1891-1894) from Joseph Edward Booth to his father Joseph and sister Emily with notes made by him while in London and in Africa.
1 file 1879 - 1894

- /2 Letters to Emily ('Dot') Booth Langworthy from her family, including letters from her father Joseph Booth, her step-mother, Annie Booth, her step-sister, Mary ('Babs') Booth, and her aunt, Alice Sharp. The letters describe the Booth's life and activities in some detail and often refer to Booth's beliefs, particularly regarding pacifism and observation of the Sabbath.
1 file 1904 - 1933

- /3 Letters from Esther and Edward Gilbert ('Mater and Pater') at Lavender Hill London, to Emily Booth Langworthy giving family news. Emily Booth had stayed with the Gilberts for some time in the early 1900s.
1 file 1904 - 1915

- /4 Quotations from the bible, verses and poems in the hands of members of the Booth family, also includes a lock of Joseph Booth's hair (see also MSS 2504/1 for more bible verses annotated with date and location by Booth).
1 file c 1871 - c 1913

- /5 Agreements, circulars and other material, including: copy in Booth's hand of his father John Booth's account (of 1870) of his early life; copies of an article by Joseph Booth 'The Greatest Will in the World - A Plea for Missionary Enterprise' setting out his aims for the missions in Africa (c 1891); copy in Booth's hand of a petition to the Bechuanaland Deputy Commissioner (1890) by Lobengula; circulars from the Zambesi Industrial Mission (1893-1895); editions of the Central African Planter (1895-1897); agreement between the Nyasa Industrial Mission and Booth regarding transfer of land in Nyasaland (1897); pamphlet by Booth 'Why I abandoned Sunday Keeping' (1898); letter from Bessie

MSS 2501

/5 cont.

Moir referring to Booth (1900); note to Annie Booth about supplies (1901); deed transferring land at Blantyre (1903); printed list of Britain's Native African Tribes (1903); receipt for payment by the American Sabbath Tract Society for property in Cape Town (1910); record sheets of various Church of Christ churches in Blantyre (1911); handwritten letter from a church in Nyasaland about the Seventh Day Baptist investigation into Booth (1912); advertisement for lectures by Booth (1912); issues of the African Sabbath Recorder (1912); circular and appeal from the British Christian Union (1913); printed letter by Peter Nyambo, 'Peter's Complaint', regarding Booth (1913); 'Native Petition to the King' (1914); assignment of land at Blantyre to Booth (1914); copy of an agreement between Booth and Chief Molapo, Basutholand concerning the transfer of land (1915); The Fellowship Songbook (c 1915); circulars and appeals regarding the British African Congress (1915-1916); receipt for money paid for land at Llandudno, South Africa (1923); and a note by Booth on baptism (n.d)

1 file c 1891 - 1923

/6 Correspondence between George Shepperson and Emily Booth Langworthy, her daughter Esther and her son Harry, concerning Joseph Booth and letters and other items kept by the Langworthys. Most original Booth items were removed by Shepperson and filed separately, but the material includes a copy of a 1913 letter commending Booth and the British Christian Union.

1 file (1913) 1950 - 1971

/7 Material relating to Mary Booth (Mrs Douglas Sales), includes Shepperson's correspondence with Mary about her father.

1 file 1954 - 1955

/8 Material relating to Lillian Booth, the third wife of Joseph Booth, mainly letters from Mrs Casey to Shepperson about the Booth's last years.

1 file 1951 - 1954

/9 Letters from and to Shepperson about Booth and sources relating to Booth and Chilembwe, includes correspondence with: Walter Main of the Zambesi Mission in London; Walter Cockerill a Seventh Day Baptist missionary about Booth and Baptist records with transcriptions of Booth letters and other material; Mary Moore, wife of N.O. Moore who was sent by the Seventh Day Baptists to investigate Booth, with copies of some items held at the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society in Plainfield, America including a letter from Chilembwe to Booth; A.A. Carscallen a Seventh-day Adventist; D.D.T. Jabavu, a contemporary of Booth and leading African political figure; W.H. Chard who worked at the Zambesi Industrial Mission; Francis Hadfield, a church of Christ missionary in Southern Rhodesia; and about sources in England America and South Africa and the connection between Booth and F.Z. Peregrino.

1 file 1937; 1950 - 1982

/10 Correspondence about and copies of material relating to Booth in the Anti-Slavery papers at Rhodes House Library, Bodleian, Oxford, comprising papers written towards the end of or shortly after the First World War. The file includes Shepperson's notes on the items.

1 file (c 1915-1919) 1949 - 1957

MSS 2502

- /1 Correspondence about and copies of material relating to Booth in the Lesotho government archives, the material on Booth refers to his activities in then Basutholand, his previous activities in Nyasaland, his potential connection to the Chilembwe rising and his expulsion from Southern Africa.
1 file (1914-1915) 1970 - 1971

- /2 Copies of material in the Public Record Office regarding Booth in Basutholand, the material is similar to that in the Lesotho archives. Correspondence about items in the PRO is in Shepperson's correspondence.
1 file (1915) 1972

- /3 Material relating to Africa for the African published by Booth in 1897, includes copies of two editions of the work, Shepperson's notes, and correspondence about existing copies and reprinting the work.
1 file (1897) 1953 - 1969

- /4
(1-2) Copies of articles on Booth, including articles by Emily Booth Langworthy 'The Early Days of the Zambesi Industrial Mission' printed in The Polished Shaft the organ of the Zambesi Mission.
**2 files 1929, 1948 - 1969
1970 - 1983**

- /5
(1-2) Notes made by Shepperson on sources, including bibliographic material on Booth, chronologies, some transcripts or copies of documents, and some contemporary articles.
2 files c 1950 - c 1986

MSS 2503

- /1 Material relating to the presentation of the Booth material to the Library
1 file 1990

- /2
(1-2) Manuscript and typescript of Into Africa With Father Emily Booth Langworthy's account of her experiences, published as This Africa was Mine (1952)
1 vol. 1 file 1939 - 1952

- /3
(1-3) Photographs of the Booth and Langworthy families and some of Booth's missions in Africa, also includes a roll of negatives, a leaf from David Livingstone's grave and a New Year's card from the Auckland Baptist Church.
2 files 1 box c 1873 - 1926

MSS 2504

- /1 'Mizpah' of Joseph Booth, notepad with bible verses for each day annotated by Booth and his wife Annie, often with the year and their location.
1 file c 1912 - 1924
- /2 Diary of Joseph Edward Booth describing his mother's death and his studies in England, the diary was continued by Emily Booth.
1 vol. 1891-1892; 1899-1901
- /3 'A Year Book of Gifts and Graces' given to Mary Booth by her family and annotated later by Joseph Booth, Harry Langworthy (?) and Emily Booth.
1 vol. 1891 - 1904
- /4 'Daily Self Examination' book of bible verses given to (Joseph) Edward Booth by his mother.
1 vol. 1879
- /5 New Testament belonging to (Joseph) Edward Booth.
1 vol. c 1879
- /6 Book of Common Prayer given to Emily Booth.
1 vol. 1896
- /7 New Testament belonging to Emily Booth given to her in 1889.
1 vol. 1887
- /8 Hymn book in the Nyanga (?) language printed at Blantyre.
1 vol. 1896
- /9 Journal of Wayland D. Wilcox of Alfred, New York, Seventh Day Baptist sent with N.O. Moore to investigate Booth and the Seventh Day Baptist churches in Southern Africa.
1 vol. 1912
- /10 Photograph album belonging to Wayland W. Wilcox with photographs taken in and en route to Africa while investigating Booth.
1 vol. 1912
- /11 The Nyasaland Journal which includes a reference to one of Booth's industrial missions.
1 vol. 1949
- /12 Joseph Booth and the Africanist Diaspora, printed paper presented by George Shepperson at the tenth Melville J. Herskovits Memorial Lecture.
1 vol. 1972

Papers present by Professor Harry W. Langworthy

MSS 2505

- /1 Letters from Joseph Booth, Annie Booth, Lillian Booth and Emily Booth Langworthy to Mary ('Babs') Booth (later Sales), the letters describe the Booths' deportation from Basutholand, their struggle to find work in England during the war and Booth's illness during the 1920s. The final letters in the group are addressed to Dot (Emily).
2 files 1914 - 1927
- /2 Agreements, circulars and other Booth items, includes: agreements to transfer land (originals and copies); letter to Booth from the Commissioner's Office Nairobi refusing a grant of land; circular to Yorkshire Baptists appealing for assistance; and a notebook belonging to Booth.
1 file 1895 - 1916
- /3 Copies of letters and other material about Booth held by the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society, Janesville, Wisconsin.
1 file 1910 - 1915