In other words, authorities predominantly assess 1870 as a year of failure and fantasy for Livingstone, and this assessment falls into line with what Livingstone himself seemed to think in retrospect.

Oddly, however, the line of critical thought between Livingstone and subsequent scholars is not necessarily direct.

In creating the posthumously published *Last Journals* (1874), Livingstone’s friend and editor Horace Waller relied on a combination of the 1870 Field Diary and Unyanyembe Journal to create a hybrid record of the period, one that would be most complete as it combined the longest parts of each text.

From that starting point, the original text(s) underwent a massive process of revision and editing to become the published book (Helly 1987).

In discussing this period of Livingstone’s life and, as relevant, the broader Central African history it encompasses, literary critics, biographers, historians, and others have for the most part worked with the *Last Journals* as their primary text, with the occasional reference to published versions of letters or other archival sources (e.g., Coupland 1945, Seaver 1957, Jeal 1973, Ross 2002, Bayly 2014).

In other words, these scholars have not worked with the 1870 Field Diary or, for the most part, its siblings: Field Diary XIII (28 June 1869-25 Feb. 1871) and the Unyanyembe Journal (respectively, Livingstone 1869 and 1866-72).