



FRIENDS OF THE ARCHIVES

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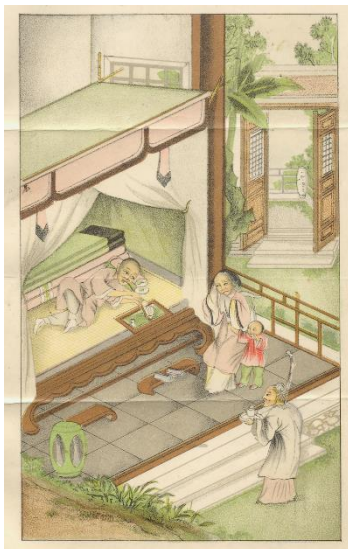
Bildung Austausch Forschung
Patrick Moser & Andrea Rhyn

Newsletter 2019

November 2019

Dear Friends of the Archives

Another year has passed and the Advent season is just around the corner. In our newsletter we give you a short annual review of the diverse activities and events in the Archives in 2019.



The digitalization leads to surprising discoveries such as a series of watercolors on the subject of opium smoking. Here: Level I of the vice, from A-1, 21 (1887)

By a generous donation of our partner church in China, the Tsun Tsing Mission in Hong Kong, it was possible this year to digitize the reports of the China missionaries from the beginnings to the end of the mission activity in 1951. The 77'000 digital copies can now be viewed by researchers on two archive computers in the reading room. In addition to the China files, the minutes of the Committee (the mission board) which were digitized last year as well as the brethren and sisters registries and the family registers are also digitally available on the PCs. The originals, some of which have been severely damaged by frequent use, will remain in the storage room for cultural heritage in the future. With the help of foundation funds, the digitisation of a further 90,000 pages of China records is to be tackled in the new year.

The second major project this year was the preparation of the indexing of the Basel trading companies. With a volume of over 80 linear metres, it uniquely documents the economic relations of an important Swiss company with Asia and Africa in the 19th and 20th century and the links and entanglement within Switzerland. With the

cataloguing, the holdings are made accessible for researchers worldwide. Thanks to reputable patrons' contributions from the Christoph Merian Foundation, the Ernst Göhner Foundation and the Basler Handelsgesellschaft, we will be able to employ a temporary project staff member next year and implement the development project.

The inventory of the KEM (Cooperation of Protestant Churches and Missions) is constantly being updated. Last year's intern Stefan Kaiser (until March 2019) as well as the two interns Sinja Clavadetscher (April to September 2019) and Yael Gsell (since October 2019) are continuously working on making the records accessible and also packaging them for archiving. The documents of the management committees and those of the former South African working group (SAM), which was intensely involved in the fight against Apartheid, have already been indexed. Yael Gsell is currently about to catalogue the files of the Communication Department. The KEM was involved in the editing of various publications (e.g. Auftrag, AJO) and had its own picture service. For this reason, these documents comprise a large part of the entire holding.

The KEM documents that have been made accessible are the first to find their place in our new, additional archive room in the basement. A lockable segment of the large room was renovated this year and equipped with shelving and even a small sliding shelving system.

In addition to these three time-consuming projects, we also received many inquiries by mail from all over the world this year and were able to welcome a large number of researchers to our archive. Apart from Switzerland and Germany, they came from China, Ghana, India, Japan, Taiwan, the USA, Denmark, England, France, Italy, Sweden and Russia. The wide range of questions for which the archive records are used fascinates us again and again.

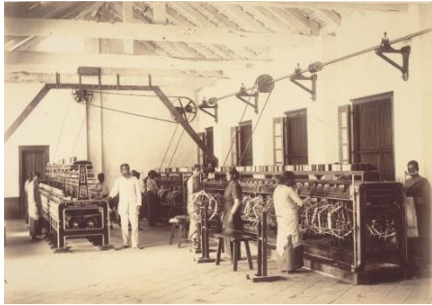
Here some examples: Prof. Parinitha Shetty from India spent several weeks researching the Brahmin girls' schools in Mangalore for a book project based on the reports of local teachers from the Basel Mission. Li Lei, a doctoral student from China, explores the cultural transfer between China and Switzerland using the example of the image of China in mission exhibitions, lantern slide series by itinerant preachers and magazines of the Basel Mission. Mrs. Kristin Rossier is writing a PhD dissertation on the attitude of the Protestant missions (Basel and Paris) to the political efforts for freedom in Cameroon between 1945 and 1960. Mr. Tobias Dietze from the University of Leipzig deals in his doctoral thesis with the South German preacher Ludwig Hofacker, who was visited by several missionary students in the 1820s and had a formative influence.

This time, instead of printed publications, we would like to draw your attention to a few unpublished works by students that were created with sources from our archive:

Christa Miranda: «Auftrag und Widerstand einer Missionshebamme. Else Herwig, die Hakka und das Basler Missionsspital in Südchina 1909-1921», translated: «Mission and resistance of a mission midwife. Else Herwig, the Hakka and the Basel Mission Hospital in South China 1909-1921» (Master thesis Zürich); Melanie Wäger: «Crypto-colonialism in the intersection of business, humanitarianism and

politics, A case study of the Swiss-Ghanaian cocoa trade» (Master thesis Geneva) und Lisa Zbinden : «Paul Schüle and the Basel Mission in North Borneo 1909-1927» (Bachelor thesis Cambridge).

For two exhibitions, we contributed loans from the archive's holdings: "Indiennes. Material for a Thousand Stories" in the National Museum in Zürich about India, Switzerland and the textile industry and "Switzerland Elsewhere" in the Forum Swiss History Schwyz about Swiss people abroad. At a matinee in Schwyz this May, Andrea Rhyn also gave an introduction to the history of the Basel Mission. The exhibition in Schwyz has come to a successful end. The exhibition in Zürich lasts until 19 January 2020 and is met with lively interest. It also boasts a beautifully designed exhibition catalogue with pictures from the Basel Mission Archives.



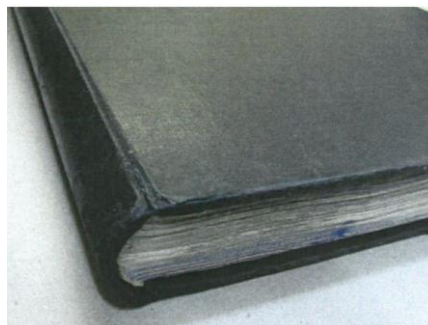
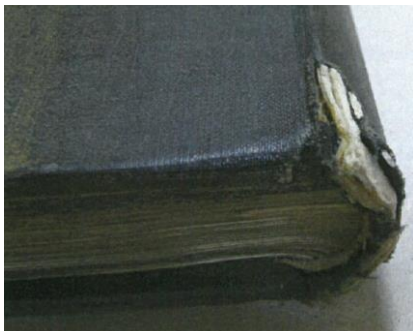
*Reeling room in the weaving factory in Calicut, without date
BMA QU-30.016.0045*

Also this year we had approximately 40 archive tours in which we were able to show our valuable documents and give people from a wide variety of contexts an understanding of the history of the Basel Mission.

Groups from our partner churches, students from various universities and disciplines, prospective pastors from Switzerland and abroad, parishes, clubs and associations as well as private groups have visited our cultural heritage stack. The questions of the participants and the resulting stimulating discussions are a great enrichment for us and always give us new food for thoughts.

Various individual documents or small collections from private origin found their way into the Archives in 2019. In particular, we have received diaries from several missionaries. These are particularly valuable to us because they often allow a different perspective on the events than the official reporting to the Mission Committee.

In 2019, with the support of the Friends of the Archives, four severely damaged archival items were restored, including Volume III of the Brothers Directory. It contains biographical information on all missionaries trained in the Mission House from around 1870 to 1900 and is one of the core documents in the history of the Basel Missionary Society.



Book spine of the brethren registry No III before and after restoration

Many thanks to you, dear Friends of the Archives, for helping to keep Mission 21's archive so manifold and alive.

We wish you a peaceful Advent season and a Happy New Year!



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Andrea Rhyn Herrmann
Archivist



Dr. Patrick Moser
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