

**AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT**

**METHODIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY**

**Publications, 1816-1956**

**Reels M536-49**

**Methodist Missionary Society  
25 Marylebone Road  
London NW1 5JR**

**National Library of Australia  
State Library of New South Wales**

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## HISTORICAL NOTE

Wesleyan missions overseas began in 1786 when Thomas Coke landed at Antigua in the West Indies. Soon missions were established in every British colony in the West Indies. Under Coke's leadership, missions were also sent to Sierra Leone (1811) and Ceylon (1813). The Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society originated with the district auxiliaries that were formed from 1813 onwards to support the work of the overseas missions. The Methodist Conference formally approved the establishment of the Society in 1818. It was managed by an Executive Committee (later the General Committee), chaired by the President of the Conference, which met every month and which reported to the annual Methodist Conference.

Missions were set up in the West Indies, Canada, West Africa, South Africa, China and India. Rev. Samuel Leigh arrived in Sydney in 1818 to form a mission for the convicts in New South Wales. Missionaries were subsequently sent to Van Diemen's Land (1821), New Zealand (1822), Victoria (1838), South Australia and Queensland (1850). The Australasian Methodist Missionary Society was set up as an auxiliary in 1822 and became an independent body in 1855. The New Zealand Conference separated from Australia in 1910. Missions were also established in Tonga (1822), Fiji (1835) and Samoa (1857). They became autonomous in 1964.

In 1932 the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the United Methodist Church and the Primitive Methodist Church united to form the Methodist Church of Great Britain. The missionary societies of the three Churches merged to form the Methodist Missionary Society. The Society was dissolved in 2013.

From 1978 onwards, the records of the Methodist Missionary Society and also its library were deposited in the library of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Bloomsbury, London WC1H 0XG.

## METHODIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY

### Reel M536

#### 1 *Missionary Notices, 1816-1903*

*Missionary Notices* was a monthly journal published in London by the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society. Its full title was *Missionary Notices relating principally to the Foreign Missions, first established by the Rev. John Wesley, A.M., the Rev. Dr Coke, and others, and now under the direction of the Methodist Conference*. The title was changed to *Wesleyan Missionary Notices* in 1838.

From about 1820 to 1865, the journal contained regular reports and articles on the work of Wesleyan missions in the Australian colonies, New Zealand, Tahiti, Fiji and Tonga. They included lengthy extracts from the journals of missionaries, such as Rev. Joseph Waterhouse in Fiji and Rev. Walter Lawry in New Zealand. In the last decades of the nineteenth century there were far fewer articles on Australia and New Zealand, but reports on Fiji continued to appear, as well as occasional pieces on Tonga and Samoa. Nearly all the volumes contain an index.

#### *First Series*

Volume 1	1816-18
Volume 2	1819-20
Volume 3	1821-22
Volume 4	1823-25
Volume 5	1825-28

### Reel M537

Volume 6	1829-31
Volume 7	1832-34
Volume 8	1835-38

#### *Second Series*

Volume 1	1839-41
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### Reel M538

Volume 2 1842-44

Volumes 3-9 1845-53

### **Reel M539**

#### *Third Series*

Volumes 1-9 1854-62

### **Reel M540**

Volumes 10-15 1863-68

#### *Fourth Series*

Volumes 1-3 1869-71

### **Reel M541**

Volumes 5-9 1872-77

### **Reel M542**

#### *Fifth Series*

Volumes 1-8 1878-85

#### *Sixth Series*

Volume 1 1886

### **Reel M543**

Volumes 2-8 1887-93

### **Reel M544**

#### *Seventh Series*

Volumes 1-6                    1894-1900

*Eighth Series*

Volumes 1-3                    1900-2

**Reel M545**

Volume 4                        1903

**Reel M546**

**2                    *Wesleyan Juvenile Offering, 1844-78***

*Wesleyan Juvenile Offering* was published in London by the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society. Its full title was *Wesleyan Juvenile Offering: a miscellany of missionary information for young persons*. For most of its life it was a monthly, but from 1870 to 1878 it was published annually.

The journal contained short articles and stories about Methodist missions, chapels and missionaries in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Rarotonga and Tonga. It also contained pieces on mission schools, the mission ships John Wesley and, the customs and beliefs of Australian Aborigines, Maoris and Pacific Islanders, cultural artefacts, and the lives of individuals such as Rev. Samuel Leigh, King George of Tonga and King Thakombau of Fiji. The number of articles relating to the Australian-Pacific region diminished in the last volumes. Each volume contains an index.

*First Series*

Volumes 1-12                    1844-55

**Reel M547**

Volumes 13-23                    1856-66

*Second Series*

Volumes 1-5                        1867-71

**Reel M548**

Volumes 6-12                    1872-78

## Reel M549

### 3 Miscellaneous publications

Ladies Committee for ameliorating the conditions of women in heathen countries, *Occasional Papers*, 1859-73

Select:

Letter from Mary Polglase (Lakemba, Fiji) to Miss Camplin, 9 Sept. 1858, pp. 25-27

Letter from Elizabeth Waterhouse (Bega, Fiji) to Mrs Nash, 30 Feb. 1861, pp. 256-57

Letter from Miss Tookey (Bau, Fiji) to Mrs Hall, 11 Nov. 1861, pp. 257-59

Letter from Mrs Nettleton (Kandavu, Fiji) to Mrs Hoole, 18 March 1862, pp. 400-2

*Annual report of the state of the missions which are carried on both at home and abroad by the Society late in connexion with the Rev. John Wesley*, 1804-6, 1809, 1811-12, 1814 [title varies]

Luxton, C.T.J. *The Isles of Solomon* [biography of John Francis Goldie], Auckland, Methodist Foreign Missionary Society of New Zealand, 1955, reprinted 1956, 220pp.

Turner, J.G. *The pioneer missionary: life of the Rev. Nathaniel Turner, missionary in New Zealand, Tonga, Australia*, Melbourne, George Robertson, 1872, 335pp.

Young, Robert. *The southern world: journal of a deputation from the Wesleyan Conference to Australia and Polynesia including notices of a visit to the goldfields*, London, Hamilton, Adams & Co., 1854, 444pp.

Young, Robert. *The southern world, journal of a deputation from the Wesleyan Conference to Australia and Tasmania including notices of a visit to the goldfields*, 4<sup>th</sup> rev. ed., London, John Mason, 1858, 224pp.

Tongan Methodist College Boys' Choir. *Programme: Australian tour*, Sydney, Shepherd & Newman

Tippet, A.R. *The Christian (Fiji, 1835-67)*, 1954, 43pp. (poor legibility)

Worrall, H. *The Papal propaganda in Fiji*, Viwa, Fiji, Mission Press, 1893, 10pp.

*Appeal for the persecuted Wesleyan Church in Tonga*, Sydney, S.E. Lees, 1887, 21pp.