

Livingstone Online News

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2010

Letter from the University of East Anglia Archive



The University of East Anglia Archive, www.uea.ac.uk/is/archives is situated in the UEA Library and holds several important twentieth-century collections. The subjects extend over a wide range and include design and architecture of the thirties (Pritchard Papers), air operations in WWII and post War British science policy (Zuckerman Archive), meteorology and climate change (H. H. Lamb Archive and G.S. Callendar Archive), the suffragettes (Kenney Papers), and a growing collection of literary archives including papers of Lorna Sage, Doris Lessing and most recently Roger Deakin (nature writer and wild swimmer).

The [David Livingstone letter held by the Archives](#) arrived as a complete surprise. The letter was found on the 7 May 2009 in the UEA Library Office safe by Secretariat staff. It was believed to have been placed there by Founding Librarian Willy Guttsman. An accompanying note indicated that a former student had passed the letter to him in 1967.

The letter is 4 leaves and an envelope addressed to Reverend William Brock, 12 Gower Street / Bedford Square, Bloomsbury, London. It was written by Livingstone in Kongone Harbour (on the Zambezi River), 12 November 1859.

William Brock (1807-1875) was a Baptist pastor at Bloomsbury Chapel in central London. No doubt he became known to Livingstone because Brock was involved in the London Missionary Society and was an active abolitionist. He was the author of a best-selling biography of John Bunyan. Livingstone's letter was written in the early days of the 'Zambesi Expedition', of which he was the leader, and conveys all his optimism for settlement of the area. He had recently been the first European to visit Lake Nyassa (now Lake Malawi) and had great hopes for cotton production by future British settlers in the area. He was later to discover the region was plagued by tribal rivalries and was at the centre of the African slave trade from the Congo to the East coast of Africa. The General Havelock referred to in the first sentence was Major-General Sir Henry Havelock (1795-1857) who was associated with India and noted for his recapture of Cawnpore during Indian Rebellion of 1857.

We are very grateful to Bridget Gillies, Archives and Special Collections Assistant at the Library, for bringing this letter to our attention and for her assistance in publishing it.

Photograph credit

University of East Anglia, Archives Reading Room

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Posted by [Livingstone Online](#) at [1:24 PM](#)

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About Me



[Livingstone Online](#)

Livingstone Online is an ongoing project that provides access to the manuscripts of the missionary, doctor and African explorer David Livingstone (1813-1873). We currently offer images and detailed transcriptions of many of Livingstone's letters, and we aim to make all of his manuscripts - including his diaries and journals - freely available online. We also run a transatlantic collaboration to apply spectral imaging and processing to restore a series of faded, illegible texts produced by Livingstone during his last travels (1866-1873).

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