

**The Burke Library Archives (Columbia University Libraries)
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 1

Finding Aid for

J. E. K. Aggrey Papers, 1920-1927

Finding Aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, September 2011
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Summary Information

Creator: Missionary Research Library
Title: J. E. K. Aggrey Papers, 1921-1927
Inclusive dates: 1920-1927
Abstract: Professor James Emman Kwegyir Aggrey, 1875-1927, was a native African from the Gold Coast, West Africa, distinguished scholar and educator. Collection contains newspaper obituary and carbon copy letters, bibliography, biographical sketch and personal recollections pertaining to Professor Aggrey. All materials are carbon copy.
Size: 1 boxes, 0.25 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-851-5612
Fax: 212-851-5613
Email: archives@uts.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance:** Originally part of the independent Missionary Research Library, these records were moved with the MRL to the Brown Memorial Tower of Union Theological Seminary in 1929. In 1976 the records were accessioned to the Burke Library archives with the closure of the MRL.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by phone, fax or email archives@uts.columbia.edu, as far in advance as possible.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, MRL 1: J. E. K. Aggrey Papers, 1920-1927, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library Archives (Columbia University Libraries) at Union Theological Seminary, New York.

Biography

James Emman Kwegyir Aggrey was born October 18, 1875 in Anamabu, part of the Gold Coast Colony of West Africa. When Aggrey was eight, he entered the Wesleyan Methodist School at Cape Coast and was mentored by missionary Reverend Dennis Kemp. Aggrey began teaching at age fifteen and taught thirty to forty boys at Abura Dunkwa. A year later, he was teaching at the Wesleyan Centenary Memorial School, where he would become headmaster.

In 1898, Aggrey travelled to the United States for his own education. In Salisbury, North Carolina he received Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Livingstone College and a Doctor of Divinity degree from Hood Theological Seminary. While teaching at Livingstone after graduation, Aggrey attended classes at Columbia University where he was also a member of the Phelps-Stokes Commission working to determine the educational needs of Africa. According to Thomas Jesse Jones, Chairman of the Commission in 1920, Aggrey was chosen because of "his African origin, his marked ability as an observer, his broad training in sociology and education, and his constructive attitude towards the perplexing problem of race relations."

Aggrey was made vice-principal of the Prince of Wales College in Achimota, Africa, in 1924 after completing examinations at Columbia University for the Doctor of Philosophy degree. In 1927, Aggrey died suddenly from pneumococcus meningitis in the United States.

References:

- Berman, Edward H. "American Influence on African Education: The Role of the Phelps-Stokes Fund's Education Commissions." *Comparative Education Review*, Vol. 15, No. 2 (June 1971), 132-145.
- Jacobs, Sylvia M. "James Emman Kwegyir Aggrey: An African Intellectual in the United States." *The Journal of Negro History*, Vol. 81, No.1/4 (Autumn 1996), 47-61.
- Kensworthy, Leonard S. "James K. Aggrey: Reconciler of Races." *The Journal of Negro Education*, Vol. 15 No. 2 (Spring 1946), 181-190.
- Yancey, Dorothy Cowser. "Professor James E. K. Aggrey's Personality." *Negro History Bulletin*, 40:4 (1977: July/Aug), 722-724.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection contains materials gathered by the Missionary Research Library documenting information on Aggrey.

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders. Acidic newspaper clippings were photocopied onto acid-free paper.

Contents list

Series	Box	Item	Contents
1	1	1	Letter to Mr. Charles H. Fahs from L. A. Roy of Phelps-Stokes Fund, Feb. 25, 1926.
1	1	2	Biographical Sketch
1	1	3	Dr. J. E. Kwegyir Aggrey in South Africa." Impression by D. D. T. Jabuvu
1	1	4	Letter to Miss Ida A. Tourtellot of Phelps-Stokes Fund from J. D. Rheinallt Jones of Council of Education, Johannesburg, May 18, 1921
1	1	5	Letter to Missionary Research Library from Victoria Richardson, Librarian of Livingstone Collection North Carolina
1	1	6	Letter to President D. C. Suggs, Livingstone College, from Phelps-Stokes Fund Chairman Thomas Jesse Jones, March 12, 1920
1	1	7	"Death of James Emman Kwegyir Aggrey, Vice-Principal of Prince of Wales College, Gold Coast, West Africa," supplied by Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones, August 5, 1927
1	1	8	Letter to Rev. Jesse H. Arnup from Charles Fahs, March 12, 1926
1	1	9	Newspaper Clipping, "Prof. J. E. Kwegyir Aggrey, Native African, Distinguished Scholar and Educator, died suddenly in Hospital," <i>New York Age</i> , August 6, 1927
1	1	10	Bibliography of Articles of Dr. J. E. K. Aggrey