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Papers of Philippa Guillebaud (1918-2000), teacher in Sudan and Rosemary Guillebaud (1915-2002), Bible translator in Uganda and Burundi, daughters of Revd. Harold and Margaret Guillebaud, missionaries in Ruanda-Urundi 1925-56

1 box, 1953-2002

Presented by Philippa and Rosemary Guillebaud February 1997 (Acc.19/15 and Acc.19/16 respectively).

Catalogued by Sue Sutton, Archivist, June 1997-January 2006. Introduction expanded, formatting and several entries revised (including renumbering GUI 4-5 and incorporation of ancillary material not previously catalogued) by Philip Saunders, CCCW Archivist, March 2018

The Guillebaud family have played a remarkable part in the history of Christian missions to central and eastern Africa, especially Burundi and Rwanda (until independence in 1962 constituting the single country of Ruanda-Urundi). Their contributions can be traced in several books, notably Lindesay Guillebaud's *A Grain of Mustard Seed. The Growth of The Ruanda Mission of C.M.S.* (Ruanda Mission 1959; CCCW Library: 266.11 GUI), Herbert Osborn's *Fire in the Hills* (CCCW Library: 269 OSB), J.E. Church's *Quest for the Highest* (CCCW Library: 276.76 CHU), and Margaret (Meg) Guillebaud's *Rwanda. The Land God Forgot* (2002; CCCW Library: 276.757 GUI), the last being the most biographical and usefully including a family tree.

The family originated in Bath, where Harold and Margaret Guillebaud met at a Church Missionary Society meeting. Harold studied Greek at Cambridge, where he had been a scholar at Pembroke College, and became an accomplished linguist. He was ordained in 1916-17 and was quickly active in missionary activity, by 1921 serving on the Executive Committee of the Church Missionary Society where he was instrumental in winning the society's support for Dr Leonard Sharp's and Dr Algernon Stanley Smith's (contemporaries of his at Cambridge) proposal for a specific mission, the Ruanda Mission [now Mid-African Ministry], to Ruanda-Urundi, the former German colony that had since 1919 been in Belgian control, a prize of the Great War accepted by the colonial power of the neighbouring Congo but with a strip through it for the projected Cairo-Cape Town Railway briefly under British control. In 1925 he offered himself and wife as missionaries to the organisation and departed for Africa. Their older

three daughters, Philippa, Rosemary and Lindesay, all under 10, went with them, but their son, Peter, already at boarding school, and twins, Mary and Veronica, born only in 1921, remained in England. Philippa, Rosemary and Lindesay were tutored at home in Africa but often accompanied their father on baptismal tours of his parish which was in the Kabale region of South-west Uganda, extending into Ruanda. It was remote and vast. The parish covered an area the size of Cambridgeshire and could take three days to reach by car from Kampala. Their mother Margaret is remembered by Philippa and Rosemary was a great evangelist and teacher but no good at languages. They had some local helpers - catechists who held services but were not ordained so could not baptise or give communion. Harold immediately began the translation of the bible into the local languages, which became his life's work.

In 1932 the whole family returned to England for their children's education. Harold became vicar of St. Paul's, Cambridge, Peter being admitted a student of St John's College in that year, where he would shine academically, graduating a wrangler (like Henry Martyn before him) in the Mathematical tripos in 1935 and elected a Scholar. They lived at Parkside and later at Toll Bar, Barton Road. After boarding school Philippa went to Homerton Teachers' Training College (not yet a college of the university) and Rosemary to Newnham College. In 1937, despite indifferent health, Harold was persuaded to return to Africa as Archdeacon of Ruanda-Urundi in succession to Arthur Pitts-Pitts, living at Ibuye. Meanwhile, following missionary training Peter also went to Africa, separately from Elisabeth Sutherland, former chairman of CWICCU, whom he would soon marry, and in 1940 Rosemary, Lindesay and their mother Margaret also returned. Sadly Margaret's first work was to nurse her sick husband, who died of a heart attack precipitated by lung disease in 1941.

Rosemary took on the mantle of her father's theological and translation interests, contributing a chapter on 'The Doctrine of God in Ruanda-Urundi' to Edwin Smith's *African Idea of God* in 1950 (CCCW Library: 231 SMI) and completing in conjunction with Revd. Hans Emming of the Danish Baptist Mission a translation of the New Testament into Kirundi, the language of Urundi in 1951, twenty years' after her father's translation into Kinyarwanda, the language of Ruanda. She continued thereafter to be involved in the translation of the Old Testament into Kirundi, completing this work in 1961. The present collection of her papers (GUI/3) relates mainly to this work.

Philippa had stayed in England to teach, whilst Mary and Veronica did war work (nursing and the WAAFS), but as soon as the war ended Philippa went to Yei near Juba in Southern Sudan as a CMS teacher. She taught at a girls' boarding school with around 100 boarders and 100 day girls and the life of the school is well captured in an edition of letters she wrote to a missionary friend in India, published as *School Belts* (CMS 1949, copy in CCCW Library: 266.62 GUI). It was a full life with the girls helping with housework and cooking as well as sometimes acting as pupil teachers for the younger girls. Philippa also ran clinics in basic health care and child care since there were no trained doctors or nurses nearby. She and Rosemary would meet up in Nairobi every two years or so. In 1955 civil war broke out in the Sudan after independence as the southern black Africans felt threatened with domination and even slavery by the Arab north. It led eventually to the establishment of South Sudan as a separate state in 2011, with its capital at Juba. During the war Philippa left the school and took refuge in the country but eventually returned to Yei. In 1959 she finished teaching so she could concentrate on translating the bible into Bari, the local language. Three years later she was expelled and took refuge at Jinga in northern Uganda but continued the translation, trying to find other Bari-speaking refugees to help. She went back to the Sudan between

1975 and 1979 to complete the translation which was published in 1979. 5,000 copies sold within 2 weeks and there have since been several new editions.

In 1956, Margaret was in poor health and left Africa for good with Lindesay who had been working in a girls school in Urundi. They returned to Cambridge. The principal component of the present collection are letters from Philippa to her mother dating from 1953 (some while she was still in Urundi, or home merely on furlough) until Margaret's death in 1961 (GUI/1) and those to Lindesay from 1964 until 1969 (GUI/2), all after Philippa's removal to Uganda, from 1964 to 1969. Earlier letters to Lindesay have not survived. Rosemary meanwhile was working as a translation advisor to the Bible Society, touring Kenya and Uganda and her papers catalogued here relate to that work (GUI/3). At one time she was supervising eleven separate translations. In 1979 both Philippa and Rosemary came back to Cambridge. Rosemary returned to Burundi in 1982 and 1985 and they both went to Juba in 1986 - on the last plane in as war was imminent. On their return, they went by car to Zaire and then on a MAF flight to Nairobi. That was their last visit to Africa. They returned to an active retirement living together in Holbrook Road and sharing their mission experiences, for which they were well-known among Cambridge Christians. Philippa died in 2000 and Rosemary in 2002.

The above account draws heavily on information was given to Sue Sutton by Rosemary and Philippa in February 1997. It is presumed that Philippa's letters to her mother had passed to Lindesay in 1961 and that Philippa retrieved them additionally with those to Lindesay herself after Lindesay's death in 1971. Philippa's letters when donated were subject to a closure period that has now expired. Some minor associated secondary papers were received at time of deposit or have been added to the collection since (GUI/4).

Harold Guillebaud's translation papers are deposited with the Bible Society, now in the University Library, Cambridge

CATALOGUE

GUI/1-2 Letters of Philippa Guillebaud

GUI/1 Letters (mainly aerogramme format) written to her mother, Margaret, in Rwanda, Athens and Cambridge, 1953-4, 1965-7, 1958, 1959, 1960-1.

Describe her work in the school in the Sudan, her translation work and her life in general. There are a few references to politics and much family news. She was on leave in England between December 1953 and May 1954 and from December 1957 to mid-1958. From CMS Yei, unless stated

- 1 8 March 1953
- 2 7 June 1953
- 3 14 June 1953
- 4 28 June 1953
- 5 5 July 1953
- 6 12 July 1953

7 18 July 1953
8 30 August 1953
9 9 September 1953
10 16 September 1953
11 27 September 1953
12 14 October 1953
13 18 October 1953
14 1 November 1953
15 15 November 1953
16 22 November 1953
17 29 November 1953
18 17 October 1954
19 1 August 1954
20 12 August 1956, CMS Lainga
21 21 August 1956
22 28 August 1956
23 4 September 1956
24 19 November 1956
25 25 November 1956
26 28 November 1956
27 2,4 December 1956
28 11 December 1956
29 25 December 1956
30 8 January 1957
31 14 January 1957
32 18 January 1957
33 3 February 1957, Nairobi
34 11 February 1957, Nairobi
35 18 February 1957, Nairobi
36 26 February 1957, Nairobi
37 6 Mar. 1959, CMS Namirembe
38 10 March 1957
39 19 March 1957
40 26 March 1957
41 2 April 1957
42 7 April 1957

43 15 April 1957
44 18 April 1957
45 Easter Sunday [1957]
46 28 April 1957
47 5 May 1957
48 13 May 1957
49 21 May 1959
50 28 May 1957
51 6 June 1957
52 12 June 1957
53 20 June 1957
54 28 June 1957
55 5 July 1957
56 11 July 1957
57 14 July 1957
58 18 July 1957
59 28 July 1957
60 10 August 1957
61 21 August 1957
62 29 August 1957
63 30 August 1957
64 7 September 1957
65 14 September 1957
66 16 September 1957
67 22 September 1957
68 26 September 1957
69 7 October 1957, CMS Juba
70 10 October 1957, CMS Juba
71 19 October 1957
72 26 October 1957
73 29 October 1957
74 3 November 1957
75 10 November 1957
76 16 November 1957
77 24 November 1957
78 29 November 1957

- 79 1 December 1957
- 80 7 December 1957
- 81 16 December 1957
- 82 19 September 1958
- 83 31 August 1959
- 84 8 September 1959
- 85 13 September 1959
- 86 19 September 1959
- 87 22 September 1959
- 88 2 October 1959
- 89 14 October 1959
- 90 20 October 1959
- 91 26 October 1959
- 92 30 October 1959
- 93 3 November 1959
- 94 7 November 1959
- 95 16 November 1959
- 96 7 December 1959
- 97 15 December 1959
- 98 25 December 1959
- 99 25 December 1960
- 100 1 January 1961
- 101 13 January 1961
- 102 16 January 1961
- 103 25 Jan.1961, Nile Steamer
- 104 1 Feb. 1961, American Mission, Malakal
- 105 4 February 1961
- 106 6 February 1961
- 107 12 February 1957
- 108 18 February 1961
- 109 26 February 1961
- 110 11 March 1961
- 111 14 March 1961
- 112 11 April 1961
- 113 18 April 1961
- 114 23 April 1961

115 27 April 1961
 116 6 May 1961
 117 14 May 1961
 118 16 May 1961
 119 20 May 1961
 120 23 May 1961
 121 30 May 1961
 122 14 June 1961
 123 18 June 1961

GUI/2 Letters to her sister Lindesay in Cambridge 1964-1969

From Jinga, Uganda unless stated. Mostly typed letters, evidently written for several readers, addressed either to 'My Dear Family' 'Dear [blank] with name of addressee added in pen.

1 Aerogramme format, to 'My Dear Family' with substantial addition addressed to Lindesay. Forwarded to her in London and later annotated 'Translation Committee' 30 August 1964

2 To 'My Dear Family' with additional manuscript to Lindesay 29 Dec. 1964

3 To 'My Dear Family' with additional manuscript to Lindesay 3 Jan. 1965

4 To 'My Dear Family' with additional manuscript to Lindesay 11 Oct. 1965

5 Aerogramme format, to Lindesay only 24 May 1966

6 29 May 1966

7 5 June 1966

8 Easter Day [1968] Gulu

9 28 April 1968 Gulu

10 1-13 January 1969 Gulu

11 Manuscript 2 Feb. 1969 Gulu

12 10 February 1969 Gulu

13 16 February 1969 Gulu

14 2 March 1969 Gulu

15 Easter Sunday 1969 Gulu

16 2 November 1969 Mbale

17 Easter Day [no year] Kampala

GUI/3 Miscellaneous Papers of Rosemary Guillebaud

- GUI/3/1** Journal (typed carbon copy) of visit with companion Joel, from to Bubembe [Democratic Republic of Congo], via Mkuku (Methodist Mission), commencing at Vugizo and returning to Bujumbura [Burundi] via Mulongwe, by boat on Lake Tanganyika and road, with colour photograph of the boat, Joel and other passengers. June 1970
- GUI/3/2** Copy letter (carbon copy) to [Her]Bert [Osborn, mainly in response to his '3rd questionnaire' about personal ministry, presumably for his book *Fire in the Hills* (see introduction). Cambridge, 30 May 1988
Describes her work translating the bible into Kirundi
- GUI/3/3** Amended typed draft of the translation into Kirundi of the Old Testament, prophets Isaiah-Malachi, by Rosemary c. 1958-9
[Noted in predecessor catalogue as found in the Henry Martyn Hall, but whether directly acquired by Library or through Miss Guillebaud unclear]
- GUI/3/4** Part of the page proofs of Old Testament in Kirundi: Job (Yobu) 21 – Psalms (Zaburi) 83. [c.1960]
[Noted in predecessor catalogue as found in the Henry Martyn Hall, but whether directly acquired by Library or through Miss Guillebaud unclear]

GUI 4 Secondary Material presented in 1997 or subsequently

- GUI 4/1** Helen and Richard Exley, *In Search of the Missionary*, Highway Press 1970
Magazine format in which two agnostics, journalists producing *Help* magazine, 'take a look objectively' at missionaries to produce a 'report' (in reality a series of articles on various missionaries, mainly in Africa). Includes articles on Stephen Carr (mentioned by Philippa in one of her letters to her mother) and on Roy Billington and the hospital at Mengo, Uganda.
- GUI 4/2** *CMS News Special*, November 1986
Includes an article on the Mengo Hospital in which David Milton-Thompson, Hospital Superintendent, recalls chaos of mid-1985 with many taking refuge in Hospital and civil war going on all around.
- GUI 4/3** Page printed from online edition of *Scripture Union News Spring 1997* with article reporting funeral of Peter Guillebaud within year of returning from Rwanda.
- GUI 4/4** *Mid-Africa Ministry Prayer Points* printed from online edition including reference to death of Rosemary Guillebaud, seeking prayer for her family.
5 August 2002
- GUI 4/5** Pages printed from online edition of parish news of St John's Hyde Park, including letter from Simon Guillebaud in Burundi where he had returned shortly after taking leave of his dying aunt Rosemary, and with other news of Burundi.
5 August 2002