



**AUG**

**Microfilm of *Occasional Papers 1853-1935* of St. Augustine's  
Missionary College, Canterbury, 1996-7**

**5 items, 1996-7**

**Purchased c.1997-2000 (Acc.19/4)**

**Catalogued by Jane Gregory June 2000**

**Revised by Philip Saunders, Archivist, November 2015**

St Augustine's College was an Anglican college for training missionaries for service overseas established on the site of the former St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury, in 1848. It trained hundreds of young men, usually from humble backgrounds, who attained good levels of education, not just in biblical studies and pastoral theology appropriate for their intended work but in medicine and foreign (including oriental) languages, living in a collegiate, almost monastic, environment. The daily life of the college is described in the first issue of the *Occasional Papers* within this microfilm. The numbers of students declined in the twentieth century and after substantial damage by enemy action in 1942 they moved elsewhere. In 1947 the missionary college closed. From 1952 the buildings were occupied by a new Central College of the Anglican Communion until forced to close on financial grounds in 1967, and from 1969 to 1976 it was used for ordinands from King's College London. In 1976 the buildings were leased to The King's School Canterbury, which purchased them in 1994. [based on *Wikipedia* article; see also the useful leaflet *St Augustine's Foundation* (1998), is in CCCW Library ].

Although the missionary college is long gone, the St Augustine's Foundation continues its work in supporting education within the Anglican Communion. The finest of its book collections from the Colleges' library were transferred to Pusey House Oxford. Other books and the College's Archive were deposited in Canterbury Cathedral Library and Archive respectively. Those books can be searched within the University of Kent at Canterbury Library Catalogue, and the Archive at

<http://archives.canterbury-cathedral.org/CalmView/Advanced.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog>

Additionally, some theological books have been loaned to Canterbury Christ Church University which had previously for some years until 2011 managed the library. In 2015 the substantial holdings on mission history, etc., were passed to this Centre and have been incorporated into the Centre's library collection.

The microfilm catalogued here, produced by Academic Microforms (firm dissolved 2015) for the Cathedral Archives in 1996-7, augmenting the brief description on *iDiscover*, is of the *Occasional Papers* of St Augustine's College, which contain published copies of letters, or reports, to the college from missionaries abroad. An 'Introductory Chapter' to the first issue explains that the idea of publishing them arose from the custom at the college

of reading aloud at convivial meetings on alternate Sunday evenings letters from missionaries and others which were supposed would be of wider interest. The extracts of letters are preceded by 'Home Intelligence' and 'Foreign Intelligence', giving news and context for the letters extracted. The letters themselves, three or four per issue, have a separate serial numeration, at least in the early years and are presumed to survive among the college archives. The earliest letter from a missionary, from 1851, is said to have been lost but other accounts of its writer are included. The earliest letter published is that of 15 September 1852 (misprinted 1352) from Revd. J. Griffiths at Halifax [[Nova Scotia]. Although the microfilm was published in 1997 by Academic Microforms through the Canterbury Cathedral Archivist the volumes themselves are now in the Cathedral Library.

Compilations of the letters for Australia 1853-78 and for New Zealand & the Pacific 1861-1881 were published in 1993 from a series in the archives of St Mark's National Theological Centre, Canberra, by RMS Withycombe (1993) and copies these publications are in the CCCW Library (classmarks 283.94 WIT and 284.93 WIT respectively). Other than these CCCW holds no list of contents or index nor is Canterbury Cathedral Library aware of any.

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**1/1** Reel 1 – *Occasional Papers* Nos. 1 – 134 May 1853 - December 16 1870

**1/2** Reel 2 – Ditto Nos. 135 – 248 February 1870 (?1871) - August 1889

**1/3** Reel 3 – Ditto Nos. 249 – 300 January 1891 - 24 September 1905

**1/4** Reel 4 – Ditto Nos. 301 – 350 30 December 1905 - 19 December 1923

**1/5** Reel 5 – Ditto Nos. 351 – 386 4 April 1924 - 18 December 1935

By this time the news content of the *Papers* has increased and the publication has very much the character of a quarterly report or newsletter. Obituaries take up a substantial part.