

FAL

Papers and Collections of Kathleen and Thomas Falkner relating to mainly to Anglican Church in Delhi area, India, and to Sri Lanka

About 50 items, 1930s-1992

**Presented by Mrs Belinda Parham, cousin of the Falkners, between 1997 and 2000
(Acc 19/21)**

**Apparently catalogued by Sue Sutton (metadata identifies creator as *HM Lib 3*)
August 1999. Minor amendments and new introduction added by Philip Saunders,
CCCW Archivist, May 2017**

Thomas (T.A.M.) Falkner's family had some previous connection with India. The papers he deposited at Dorset Record Office in 1998 include transcripts of 'The Nabob's Letters', his ancestor William Parsons, 'the Nabob of Bewdley' (writer in the East India Company who returned to west Midlands) [<http://www.ashbymc.org.uk/jmf/papers.htm> and personal information]. He was the son of Charles Gaskell Falkner, younger brother of the novelist and Durham Cathedral librarian John Meade Falkner. Charles (1864-1932) was a Trinity College Cambridge man (BA 1890, MA 1903), for 11 years assistant master at Weymouth College (founded by the evangelical Revd Talbot Greaves), where he and his brothers were educated for which he edited *Book of records of Weymouth College* and a history of the college, afterwards for one term only 1902 at Trent College (Venn, *Times* obituary 17 Sept. 1932).

T.A.M. Falkner was born in 1904, was educated at Shrewsbury and came up to Trinity College Cambridge as a pensioner in 1922, graduating B.A. in 1925 having taken tripos in history part I (class II.ii) and theology part 1 section B (class II). He went out to India in 1925 (FAL 4/17 – surprisingly the year has been filled in later) perhaps then to work for Cambridge Mission to Delhi from the start. He certainly worked for them later, or for the closely associated Society for Propagation of the Gospel (SPG). In 1936-8 he was Warden of the SPG Paulus Sadan Hostel for Boys (FAL 3/12, p.4) and taught afterwards (and perhaps before and during) at St Stephen's College Delhi. His teaching is referred to his wife's journal of a return visit to India evidently contrived to coincide with the royal visit there of 1961 (FAL 2). This refers to meeting her husband's students, and also to a joke, she did not at first comprehend (and perhaps did not see the funny side of) that he was rewarded for teaching there with his wife. He was evidently regarded with respect

and affection, a token of which is that the daughter of one of his students visited to see his grave as recently as May 2017. At the end of his period in India, covering the traumatic period of independence, he was secretary and treasurer of the Archdeaconry of Delhi, becoming the Diocese of Delhi.

Thomas married Kathleen Vidler (a family friend for some years) upon returning to the United Kingdom in 1949 and taking the post of Assistant Secretary to the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance [information from Trinity College]. They lived at Rose Cottage, Stratford-sub-Castle (i.e. Old Sarum). Thomas continued his support for the Anglican church in India through connections with the Cambridge Mission to Delhi and the Association of the Friends of Delhi Diocese, of which Thomas was first chairman. In spare time he gathered together 'memorabilia' of his famous uncle (with whom he shared the Christian name of Meade – he seems not to have commonly used this, though the depositor refers to him as 'Thomas Meade-Falkner', perhaps just to point out the connection) and was a founder of the John Meade Falkner Society. He died 5 August 1983 (*Trinity College Annual 1983*, p.43).

Kathleen's maiden name was Vidler and she was evidently a relative of Alec Vidler, theologian and Dean of King's College Cambridge. She grew up in Dorchester and may have visited India during Tom's employment there but was not herself employed there. In 1939 she enrolled in the ATS and during the War drove ambulances [information online and from Elizabeth Barham, now of Rose Cottage, sister to Belinda Parham]. Her occupation otherwise is unclear at present. It is unfortunate that, only months before this was written, the depositor, who presumably knew more, died [online gifts to Jimmy's Night Shelter] but she had in any case suffered dementia for some time. The papers are largely those of her husband, except for typescript copy of a journal of their return visit to India in 1960-1 (FAL 2), created out of copies of letters sent back to her mother. This has largely the appearance of a holiday diary, preoccupied with secular matters, but also refers to work that her husband was apparently doing for the USPG on transfer of their properties. As visiting VIPs they appear both to have presented prizes at schools. She shared her husband's interest in the John Meade Falkner Society and her death, aged 94, in 2002 is reported with sadness on the Society's website. For some years she had lived in a residential home in Swanage, where it looks as if she sorted these papers and gave them to her cousin, Belinda Parham, who was regarded as 'the family archivist'. One item, a guide to Agra (FAL 5/4), has the ownership inscription 'Parham', suggesting they had some common connection with India.

An entirely discrete part of the collection is a series of letters to Kathleen from Richard Adams, a young man whom she sponsored through the 'Project Trust' to work in children's homes or at the NYSC Training Centre, Athungama (or Ethungama), Sri Lanka, in 1989-90. (FAL 1/3-12).

At this stage I have made only limited formatting changes to the following catalogue. Some rearrangement to distinguish the separate sources of the archives and printed collections seems desirable in due course.

FAL 1

Correspondence and Notes

FAL 1/1 'Laje' to Kathleen Falkner, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wilts.
Aligarh Muslim University. No date [postmarked 5 October 1961] (1p)
Have not been affected by the war between India and Pakistan

FAL 1 /2 From 'Ruth', no date (2p, first page missing). Account of her work and that of others in the Delhi Diocese

FAL 1/3 - 12 Correspondence of Richard Adams, 'Project Trust' Volunteer with the National Youth Service Council Training Centre, Athungama, Sri Lanka. He was sponsored by Kathleen Falkner.

Letters to Kathleen Falkner:-

1/3. 22 September 1988 (3p) photocopy

Description of the centre and its work, running a residential course for 70 students for 6 months. He is to teach English. Includes a sketch map of the centre and of Sri Lanka.

1 /4, October 1988 (3p) photocopy

Details of teaching and life at the centre. Political problems in the area has forced him to move to the Child Protection Society Home, Maharagama

1/5. 1 December 1988 (2p) photocopy

Describes the problems they encountered and the need to move. Hopes to go back in January. Description of his work at the new location, also teaching English and of the conditions ' much more luxurious'.

1/6. 6 December 1988 (1p)

Preparations for Christmas

1/7. NYSC Training Centre, Ethungama, [Athungama], 1 February 1989 (2p) photocopy

Description of Christmas and the New Year and his re-location back to the training centre. Account of a visit to Kandy.

1/8. NYSC Training Centre, 21 March 1989 (3p) photocopy

Ceremonial tree planting to celebrate Independence Day. Description of the General Election and terrorist threats. Details of the village of Ethungama and of his travels in Sri Lanka.

1/9. NYSC Training Centre, 4 April 1989 (1p)

Celebrations for the Sri Lankan New Year.

1/10. NYSC Training Centre, 2 May 1898 (4p) photocopy

Description of his taking part in the National Youth Camp - 7,000 young people from all over Sri Lanka, particularly Tamils. Celebrations for New Year

1/11. NYSC Training Centre, 13 June 1989 (2p) photocopy
Family rituals in Sri Lanka. Celebration of Vesak Day and the anniversary of the introduction of Buddhism into Sri Lanka

1/12. Richard Adams to his family, 16 July 1989 (5p) photocopy
Description of his travels to Colombo, Kandy and elsewhere

FAL 1/13 Postcard of the Taj Mahal:-
'Jenny' to Kathleen Falkner, 28 February 1992
Thanks for the book on India

FAL 2 'India Revisited'. Diary of a trip taken by the Falkners, 1960-1961 (55p),
[created by Kathleen Falkner from letters sent to her mother]
Coincided with the visit of Queen Elizabeth to India and Pakistan but it appears to have been occasioned by work by Tom Falkner on behalf of CCCWD or USPG to audit property prior to handover.
Visited Delhi where Tom Falkner had worked for the Bishop of Delhi and Jaipur and Agra. Came back to England via Karachi and Rome.
Lively account of their stay with details of life in India and the changes since their last visit.

FAL 3 Articles, pamphlets and notes chiefly on the Church in India.

FAL 3/1 J.N. Farquhar, 'The Apostle Thomas in North India' Part I
Reprinted from The Bulletin of the John Rylands Library, Vol. II No. 1 (January 1926)

FAL 3/2 'The Apostle Thomas in North India' Part II
Reprinted from The Bulletin of the John Rylands Library, no date

FAL 3/3 Church of St. James, Delhi Order of Morning Prayer, 29 January 1961
In the presence of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip

FAL 3 /4 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel [USPG], Archives and Library Committee. Evidently retained for suggestions about what personal papers deserve preservation and how to sort prior to deposit
Minutes, 18 July 1967

FAL 3/5 USPG 'Brief on India'. C.1967

FAL 3/6 USPG 'Brief on Pakistan'
No date c. 1967

FAL 3/7 'One Mission'
Report by the Missionary and Ecumenical Council, 1968

FAL 3/8 Pamphlet on the Church in North India and the Church of Pakistan,
c. 1970

FAL 3/9 'Indian Church Aid Newsletter'
No. 12 (1970)

FAL 3/10 *SACAA News*
Annual Magazine of the South Asia Church Aid Association
No 13 (1971)

FAL 3/11 *Gambia. Pongas News*
Magazine of the Gambia Diocesan Association
No 1 (1972)

FAL 3/12 Programme for the Inauguration of the new hostel building, Paulus Sadan,
Delhi
15 April 1983

FAL 3/13 Correspondence with the Joe Homan Trust relating to the publication
'Intermediate Technology News'
Includes copies for 1987/88

FAL 3/14 Notes on the Right Reverend Eric Nasir, appointed Bishop of Amritsar,
No date

FAL 3/15 Hand written notes on Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam (the last of these in
ballpoint), with photocopy extract on Hinduism. [by T.A.M. Falkner]
[?1960s]

FAL 3/16 Notes on Church in North India [?in Hindi]

**FAL 4 Pamphlets, notes and cuttings on Delhi Diocese, Friends of Delhi Diocese and
the Cambridge Mission to Delhi**

FAL 4/1 An Address given to the members of the Cambridge Mission on the expected
relinquishment of control of India by the British Government at the end of the War.
September 1942 by T.A. Falkner

FAL 4/2 Pamphlet detailing proposals to form an Association of the Friends of Delhi
Diocese
Introductory note from Bishop Arabindo of Delhi [the first bishop of the new Diocese]
August 1948 (9 copies)

FAL 4/3 Fundraising statement on the history and work of the Cambridge Mission to Delhi

[1950 (refers to recent translation of Bishop Mukharjee)]

FAL 4/4 Leaflet 'The Brotherhood of the Ascension'

Includes biographies of Christopher Robinson, Kenneth Sharp, Ian Weathercott, James Stuart, Ernest John and Eric Nasir. No date

FAL 4/5 Leaflet 'The Cambridge Mission to Delhi'

First published 1954

FAL 4/6 Proposals for the formation of the Friends of Delhi Diocese

1967

FAL 4/7 Accounts of the Cambridge Mission to Delhi and the Teape Lecture Fund

1967

FAL 4/8 Newsletter of the Friends of Delhi Diocese (Chairman: T.A.M. Falkner)

Spring 1970

FAL 4/9 Pamphlet *One Hundred Years in Delhi*

The Brotherhood of the Ascended Christ, 1877-1977

Delhi, 1977

FAL 4/10 Pamphlet *The Anglican Church in Delhi, 1852-1952*

FAL 4/11 Lecture on Delhi and the Church in the city

[Probably by TA Falkner]. C. 1961

FAL 4/12 Notes for a sermon on the Church in India

February 1962

FAL 4/13, 14 Notes on the Church in Delhi (probably by Falkner)

c. 1961-1962

FAL 4/15 Souvenir pamphlet for the centenary of the Victoria Girls Higher Secondary School, Delhi, 1868-1968

FAL 4/16 Church of North India, cutting from *The Church Times*, July 1970 and

Notes on the election and appointment of the first bishops

August 1970

FAL 4/17 Notes for a talk on Delhi and its schools by TA Falkner

October 1970

FAL 4/18 Two copies of 'Communicate', the magazine of the Church of North India,

Vol. I no 17 (1978)

Vol. I no 19 (1978)

FAL 5 Pictures and cuttings enclosed in a folder labelled 'Ceylon, Kashmir and India'

1936 - 1986

FAL 5/1 Various pictures illustrating life in India - notably Hindu ceremonies and the Life of Buddha

FAL 5/2 Cuttings from mainly Indian newspapers and magazines
1937 - 1986

Culture, religion and the natural world in India, Sri Lanka and Burma

FAL 5/3 Sketch of Dagon

FAL 5/4 Guide to Agra

FAL 6 Publications [*subject to review*]

Times of India Annual, 1940

Illustrated Weekly of India, October 1960

Illustrated London News, March 1961 - account of the visit of the Queen to India and Pakistan

Times of India Annual. 1961

Illustrated London News 1964 - death of Nehru

Sunday Times' Magazine, 1964 - death of Nehru

Times Supplement on India, August 1965