

LEW

Photocopies of Report by Revd Theodore L. Lewis on Boga, with letters and other papers about the Anglican Church in Congo

69 items, 1967-1980

**Presented by Revd Theodore L. Lewis, Germantown, Maryland, U.S.A.,
May 1998-November 2001 (Acc.19/9-11)**

Catalogued by Sue Sutton before March 2000 - January 2002

Introduction revised, LEW 0/1-2 added, some format revision November 2016

These photocopied papers are mainly from the 1970s. This is the period in which the Anglican Church in the Congo underwent a major transition, from being confined to an enclave along the Ugandan border to reaching out to the surrounding region and beyond. Revd Theodore L. ('Ted') Lewis, the donor, a priest in the American Episcopal Church, was for most of his career employed by the American Foreign Service but combined this with being a non-stipendiary minister in local churches. In 1967 he was posted by the Service to Kinshasa, the capital of the Congo. While there he began a small Anglican congregation but wondered if there might not be other Anglicans elsewhere in that vast country. The question was resolved for him only in November 1969 when he visited Boga, the remote area along the Ugandan border where Apolo Kivebulaya, a Ugandan missionary, had established the Anglican Church in 1896 and where most Congolese Anglicans were still located. Further contextual information is contained within a note of the papers by the donor, now catalogued as LEW 0/1.

The report (LEW 1/1) of his experiences is the starting point and probably the most important of the papers. It was circulated in Uganda, the United Kingdom and the United States and was instrumental in opening the way for Philip Ridsdale to become the first bishop to reside in Boga and for the subsequent expansion of the church through much of the country. The remaining papers are mostly correspondence arising from the report, largely much after his departure from the Congo in 1970. His correspondents included Archbishop Erica Sabiti of Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi, Archbishop Oliver Green-Wilkinson of Central Africa, the Reverend Samuel Van Culin, Secretary for Africa in the Office of Overseas Relations of the Episcopal Church in New York, Bezaleri Ndahura, later Archbishop of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Philip Ridsdale as Bishop of Boga.

LEW 0 Contextual information about the papers donated at time of original deposit of records and stored with them but only added to the catalogue November 2016

LEW 0/1 'Background to the Congo Documents of the Revd Theodore Lewis'. A biographical note explaining how the collection came into being. 1998

LEW 0/2 'Pilgrimage to Boga by the Revd Theodore L. Lewis, VTS '64. Pages from *Virginia Seminary Journal Winter 1996-97*, recounting his visit to Boga and grave of Apolo Kivebulaya (illustrated). 1996

LEW 1 The Report

LEW 1/1 Report written by Ted Lewis, 'Visit to Boga: Report on an Isolated Community', Kinshasa, December 1969 (13pp)
His journey to the region was, officially, to inspect a gold mine, north of Bunia. This is the official report, given to the American Embassy in Kinshasa. It describes the area and its people and, briefly, the church.

LEW 1/2 Ted Lewis to the Rev. Samuel Van Culin, Secretary for Africa, Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, New York, New York, Epiphany, 1970 (5p)
Forwards to him the above report and adds supplementary remarks on the church. Believes the Boga community presents an opportunity for a well-established Anglican Church in the Congo.

LEW 2 Correspondence with Erica Sabiti, Archbishop of Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. Letters are written from Kampala to Lewis unless otherwise noted.

LEW 2/1 13 May 1967 (1p)

LEW 2/2 27 February 1970 (1p)

LEW 2/3 Lewis to Sabiti, New York, 10 March 1970 (1p)
In reply to the above

LEW 2/4 19 March 1970 (1p)

LEW 2/5 Lewis to Sabiti, New York, 8 April 1970 (2pp)
Reply to the above

LEW 2/6 17 April 1970 (1p)

LEW 2/7 Sabiti to Roy Brubacher, Mennonite Central Committee, Kinshasa, 4 May 1970 (1p). Copy sent to Lewis

LEW 2/8 18 May 1970 (1p)

LEW 2/9 10 June 1970 (2pp) Written from London

LEW 2/10 17 August 1970 (2p) From Alexandria, Virginia, U.S.A.

LEW 2/11 2 October 1970 (1p) (2 copies)

LEW 2/12 5 November 1970

LEW 3

**Correspondence with Oliver Green-Wilkinson, Archbishop of Central Africa.
Letters written from Lusaka, Zambia, to Lewis, unless specified otherwise.**

LEW 3/1 26 June 1967 (1p)

LEW 3/2 5 June 1969 (1p)

LEW 3/3 Samuel Van Culin, New York, 17 February 1970 (2pp)

LEW 3/4 Lewis to Green-Wilkinson, 8 March 1970 (2pp)
Reply to the above

LEW 3/5 26 March 1970 (2pp)

LEW 3/6 Lewis to Green-Wilkinson, 13 April 1970 (2pp)
Reply to the above

LEW 3/7 11 July 1970 (1p)

LEW 4 Correspondence with Bezaleri Ndahura, later Archbishop of Rwanda, Burundi and Zaire

Letters are written to Lewis from Boga unless otherwise stated

LEW 4/1 13 June 1969 (1p)

LEW 4/2 3 August 1969 (2pp)

LEW 4/3 12 January 1970 (2pp)

LEW 4/4 15 May 1970 (1p)

LEW 4/5 13 June 1970 (2pp)

LEW 4/6 25 January 1971 (2pp)

LEW 4/7 12 May 1971 (1p)

LEW 4/8 Kisangani, 15 February 1972 (1p)

LEW 4/9 London 6 November 1974 (3pp)

LEW 4/10 London 20 January 1975 (3pp)

LEW 4/11 London 9 February 1975 (3pp)

LEW 4/12 4 August 1975 (3pp)

LEW 4/13 12 September 1975 (3pp)

LEW 4/14 Bukavu, 10 July 1976 (2pp)

LEW 4/15 Lewis to Ndahura, Bethesda, Maryland, 30 July 1978 (1p)

LEW 4/16 Bukavu, 20 October 1978 (1p)

LEW 5 Correspondence of the Reverend Samuel Van Culin, Secretary for Africa, Office of Overseas Relations, Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, New York.

LEW 5/1 Rev J. Seymour Flinn, Secretary for Exchange Visitors, Episcopal Church, New York, to Lewis, 17 October 1969 (1p)

LEW 5/2 Samuel Van Culin to Archbishop Oliver Green-Wilkinson
22 January 1970 (1p)

LEW 5/3 Samuel Van Culin to Lewis, New York, 23 January 1970 (1p)
Sends him a copy of the above

LEW 5/4 Same to Same, 5 March 1970 (1p)

LEW 5/5 Lewis to Van Culin, New York, 10 March 1970 (1p)

LEW 5/6 Van Culin to Lewis, New York, 12 May 1970 (1p)

LEW 5/7 Same to Same, New York, 11 May 1971 (1p)

LEW 6 Miscellaneous Correspondence

Items 1 to 5 are concerned with providing teachers for the high school in Mboga, near Bunia, Eastern Congo

LEW 6/1 Archdeacon Festo Byakisaka and others to Mrs R. Grant, Philadelphia, Bunia, 2 February 1970 (1p)

LEW 6/2 Same to Lewis, Bunia, 26 February 1970 (2pp)
[In Swahili with a 'purported' translation into French]

LEW 6/3 Samuel Van Culin to Archdeacon Byakisaka, New York, 12 March 1970
(1p) Commenting on his letter to Mrs Grant [6/1]

LEW 6/4 Ray Brubacher, Director MCC [Mennonite Central Committee] to Festo Byakisaka. Kinshasa, 10 April 1970 (1p)

LEW 6/5 Samuel Van Culin to Brubacher, New York, 20 April 1970 (1p)

LEW 6/6 Mensah Clement to Mr and Mrs Lewis
Kinshasa, 15 February 1971 (1p)
Situation as regards the Anglican worship in Kinshasa much the same as when Lewis left. There appears to be no immediate plans for a permanent church.

LEW 6/7 Ted Lewis to Rev Robert Steilberg, Bon Air, Virginia
Bethesda, Maryland, 3 December 1974 (1p)
Comments on a visit to Washington by Bishop and Mrs Ridsdale

LEW 6/8 Milton Laudo to Lewis, Kinshasa, 10 June 1974 (1p)
Possibility of an Anglican Bishop for Kinshasa

LEW 6/9 Invitation to Lewis to attend the installation of Bezaleri Ndahura as
Bishop of Bukavu
18 July 1976 (1p)

LEW 6/10 'A Congregation begins in the Congo', Kinshasa, July 1968 (2pp)
Lewis describes his efforts to create an Anglican congregation in Kinshasa and his hopes and fears for the future.

LEW 7 Correspondence of Bezaleri Ndahura

7/1 – 5 Letters to Ted Lewis

LEW 7/1 Bunia, Zaire, 5 April 1975
Prospective visit to the U.S.A., condition of the Congo Church, anticipation of consecration as Bishop of Bukavu

LEW 7/2 Bunia, Zaire, 25 January 1976
Division of Boga Diocese, plans for his consecration, development programmes

LEW 7/3 Bukavu, Zaire, 28 August 1976
Account of consecration, family and personal situation

LEW 7/4 Bukavu, 22 March 1977
Plans to visit the U.S.A.

LEW 7/5 Bukavu, 14 June 1980
Acknowledgement of a gift from a parish in the Diocese of Washington

LEW 7/6 Letter to Revd. David B. Birney [2 copies, one with hand written notes]
Bukavu, 18 June 1980
Case for separating the Anglican Church from the ECZ, financial and other requirements.

LEW 8 Further miscellaneous correspondence

LEW 8/1 Bishop Philip Ridsdale to Partners in Mission, Bunia, 25 June 1979,
The case for an Anglican presence in Kinshasa where the Revd. Beni Bataaga is working for a few months.

LEW 8/2 Bishop Philip Ridsdale to David Birney, Bunia, 11 September 1979,
Problems of establishing a Christian presence in Kinshasa

LEW 8/3 Birney to Ridsdale,
Bunia, 6 August 1980,
Reflections on an evidently somewhat contentious Partners in Mission meeting

LEW 8/4 Internal Memorandum of ECUSA, 6(7) August 1980,
New church appointments in the Congo and in Rwanda: Njojo, Tibafwa and Kolini to be bishops, Dirohpa to be Provincial Secretary

LEW 8/5 Confidential Internal Memorandum of ECUSA, 19 September 1980,
Views of other churches on Anglican independence from ECZ

LEW 9 Correspondence of Bezaleri Ndahura

LEW 9/1 – 3 Letters from Bezaleri Ndahura, Bishop of Bukavu to Ted Lewis

LEW 9/1 28 August 1976

LEW 9/2 29 November 1976

LEW 9/3 23 December 1976

LEW 9/4 Letter from Ndahura, Archbishop of Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire, 14 June 1980

LEW 9/5 Rev. David Birney, National Officer of the Episcopal Church, New York to Archbishop Ndahura, 14 August 1980

LEW 9/6 Rev. Theodore Lewis to Archbishop Ndahura, Bethesda, Maryland, 23 November 1980