

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

COMMONWEALTH AND CONTINENTAL CHURCH SOCIETY

Records 1835-1955

Reels M413-416, M577-579

**Commonwealth and Continental Church Society
175 Tower Bridge Road
London SE1 2AQ**

**National Library of Australia
State Library of New South Wales**

Filmed: 1962, 1964

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Newfoundland School Society was founded at a meeting in London in 1823 with the aim of promoting the education of the poor in Newfoundland. Its activities gradually spread to other parts of Canada. In 1835, following an appeal from Captain Frederick Irwin who had returned from the Swan River colony, the Western Australia Missionary Society was established. In the first year it sent two clergymen and a catechist to Western Australia. In 1838 its name was changed to the Colonial Church Society and its purpose was defined as 'sending out clergymen, catechists and schoolteachers to the colonies of Great Britain and to British residents in other parts of the world'. In 1851 the Newfoundland School Society and the Colonial Church Society merged to form the Colonial Church and School Society. The first secretary was Mesac Thomas, who was later the first Anglican Bishop of Goulburn.

During the 1850s, in addition to its colonial work, the Society established a growing number of chaplaincies on the European continent. This development led to another name change in 1861. The Colonial and Continental Church Society remained the name of the organisation until 1958, when it was changed to the Commonwealth and Continental Church Society. In 1979 it became the Intercontinental Church Society.

The earliest activities of the Society in Australia took the form of the selection and financial support of missionaries, catechists and schoolteachers in the settlements at the Swan River, Port Phillip and Van Diemen's Land. Funds were also provided for the purchase of books and the appointment of chaplains on emigrant and convict ships. By 1856 the Society was supporting three lay missionaries in the diocese of Sydney, one lay missionary in Newcastle, eight missionaries, one lay missionary and a teacher in the diocese of Melbourne and one missionary in the diocese of Perth. In the 1860s and 1870s the Society began to give priority to the large rural dioceses, which often lacked resources. In 1873 it paid for the stipends of eight missionaries in the diocese of Goulburn and five in the diocese of Bathurst. By 1887 grants to the dioceses of Sydney and Melbourne had come to an end, but the Society had extended its support to the dioceses of the Riverina, Ballarat and North Queensland, followed in later years by the dioceses of Gippsland, Wangaratta, Grafton and Armadale, and Carpentaria. In New Zealand its support was largely limited to the dioceses of Auckland, Waiapu and Nelson. In 1904 the Society funded 45 clergy and four lay evangelists in twelve Australian and New Zealand dioceses.

After 1914 the Society gradually reduced its involvement in Australia and New Zealand. In 1924 it supported 18 clergy, eight lay evangelists and teachers, and nine divinity students in nine dioceses. It also provided some funds to the Bush Church Aid Society. By 1934 it was supporting eight clergy, six lay evangelists and five divinity students in eight dioceses.

COMMONWEALTH AND CONTINENTAL CHURCH SOCIETY

Reel M413

Volume 2?

1 Newfoundland and British North America School Society. Statement concerning the extension of the operations of the Society to all the colonies of Great Britain, 30 July 1846 (12pp)

2 Proceedings of the Church of England School Society for Newfoundland and the Colonies, 25th year, 1847/48.

Volume 3

1 Reports of the Colonial Church Society, 1st-11th, 1837-47

The first report uses the name 'Australian Church Missionary Society, established 23 September 1835'. Each report contains proceedings of the annual meeting of the Society, regulations, the anniversary sermon, the report, appendices, a list of subscribers, and the cash account. The appendices include extracts from reports of missionaries in the colonies.

2 Colonial Church Society Occasional Papers, nos. 1-12, 1841-46

The papers contain extracts from reports of the Society and letters from missionaries and catechists

3 *Colonial Church Record* vol. 1, nos. 1-9, Oct. 1838-Feb. 1840

No. 3: Churches in South Australia

No. 4 New South Wales

No. 5 Van Diemen's Land

Volume 4

1 Proceedings of the Church of England School Society for Newfoundland and the Colonies, 1848/49

The pages filmed relate to Melbourne only.

2 Annual reports of the Colonial Church Society (1848-50) and the Colonial Church and School Society (1851-55/56)

The reports were filmed selectively. In each report the early pages were filmed, followed by the section on Western Australia, Port Phillip (after 1850 Victoria) and Van Diemen's Land. In the last two reports (1854/55-1855/56) the Australian section was divided into dioceses: Sydney, Newcastle, Melbourne, Perth).

3 Colonial Church and School Society Occasional papers, nos. 16-20, 1851-56

4 Abstract of Reports Presented at Annual Meetings, May 1855, May 1856

Reel M414

Volumes 5-12

Annual reports of the Colonial Church and School Society (1856-60) and the Colonial and Continental Church Society (1861-97)

The reports were filmed selectively. In each report the early pages were filmed, comprising a list of officers, a list of local honorary secretaries, the minutes of the annual general meeting of the Society, a lists of missionaries and agents (arranged geographically),and a summary of the colonial operations of the Society. In some instances, the anniversary sermon was also filmed, as well as financial and statistical details and a summary of the continental (European) operations of the Society.

The other pages filmed contain reports received from dioceses in Australia and New Zealand. They varied in regularity and detail. Some dioceses supplied reports almost every year, while some were erratic. In some cases, there is just a brief message from the bishop expressing his gratitude to the Society, while other reports extend to several pages, with each missionary in the diocese providing summaries of their work during the year. This is particularly the case with rural diocese such as Goulburn and Bathurst.

Reports from the following dioceses are contained in the annual reports:

Sydney:	1856-84
Newcastle:	1856-57
Goulburn:	1865-87, 1889-97
Bathurst:	1870-97
Riverina:	1884-86, 1887-88, 1890-97
Melbourne:	1856-69, 1871-72, 1875, 1881, 1885/86, 1891/92
Ballarat:	1880, 1883-87, 1888-90, 1891-93, 1894-95, 1896-97
Adelaide:	1856-57
Brisbane:	1859-68
North Queensland:	1880-87, 1889-91, 1892-95, 1896-97
Perth:	1856-57, 1859-72, 1876, 1879-97
Tasmania:	1870, 1874-75, 1878-83
New Zealand:	1857-58

Auckland:	1878—80, 1882-97
Waiapu:	1870-73, 1886-88, 1890-91, 1892-94, 1895-97
Nelson:	1894-95, 1896-97

Reel M415

Volumes 13-20

Annual reports of the Colonial and Continental Church Society, 1897-1926

The reports were filmed selectively. In each report the early pages were filmed, comprising a list of officers, a list of local honorary secretaries, the minutes of the annual meeting, the constitution and rules of the Society, a list of missionaries and agents in the colonies, statistics, and an abstract of the annual report. The anniversary sermon has sometimes been copied. The other pages filmed are the reports received from dioceses in Australia and New Zealand. No reports from the dioceses were included in the 1916-17 and 1917-18 annual reports.

Reports from the following dioceses are contained in the annual reports:

Sydney:	1909-10, 1912-15, 1918-25
Goulburn:	1897-1916
Bathurst:	1897-1905, 1906-16, 1918-23
Riverina:	1897-1916, 1918-24, 1925-26
Grafton & Armidale:	1898-1912
Grafton:	1913-16, 1918-23
Armidale:	1913
Melbourne:	1913-14
Ballarat:	1898-1907, 1908-12, 1913-14, 1915-16
Bendigo:	1902-16, 1918-26
Gippsland:	1902-3, 1904-6, 1908-16, 1918-26
Wangaratta:	1902-3, 1904-7, 1908-10, 1911-16, 1920-24, 1925-26
North Queensland:	1898-99, 1900
Carpentaria:	1901-13, 1914-16
Willochra:	1918-26

Perth:	1898-99, 1900, 1913-16
Bunbury:	1903-6, 1908-10
Kalgoorlie:	1914-15, 1918-19
Auckland:	1897-98, 1901-5, 1906-8
Waiapu:	1897-1907, 1913
Wellington:	1913-14
Nelson:	1897-1911, 1912-16, 1918-23

The reports from the Diocese of Sydney in 1920-25 deal with the activities of the Australian Bush Church Aid Society, which was founded in 1919 with the assistance of the Colonial and Continental Church Society. Its aims were to provide training and support for clergy, catechists, lay evangelists and teachers in the bush areas of Australia. Its work soon spread beyond New South Wales and, in particular, it played a major role in the Diocese of Willochra in South Australia.

Reel M416

Volume 21

1. Annual reports of the Colonial and Continental Church Society, 1926-39

The reports, which are similar in content and arrangement to the earlier reports on reel M415, were filmed selectively. After 1932 diocesan reports no longer appeared in the annual reports. The diminishing involvement of the Society in Australia and New Zealand is reflected in the relatively small number of diocesan reports appearing in the annual reports in 1926-32:

Bendigo:	1926-32
Gippsland:	1926-28, 1930-32
Wangaratta:	1926-27, 1929-30
St Arnaud:	1929-32
Willochra:	1926-27, 1931-32
Bunbury:	1927-32
Nelson:	1926-27, 1928-32

In addition, there is a report on the Bush Church Aid Society in every annual report.

2. Abstracts of the annual reports of the Colonial and Continental Church Society, 1939-55

The abstracts are very brief and usually contain no more than a paragraph on Australia, mainly dealing with the Bush Church Aid Society. There are no reports for 1940-41 and 1943-44. The reports are not dated after 1948, but from internal evidence they appear to have been issued each year until 1955.

Reel M577

1 Minute book of the Committee of the Colonial Church Society, 1839-42

The minute book, which has been filmed selectively, dates from 8 January 1839 to 19 July 1842. The minutes refer to the appointment of missionaries to the Swan River and Port Phillip, requests for assistance for clergy in Australia, the construction of churches at the Swan River, the stipends of itinerant missionaries, and the supply of books to Norfolk Island.

2 Minute book of the Committee of the Colonial Church and School Society, 1850-55

The minute book, which has been filmed in its entirety, dates from 27 December 1850 to 7 August 1855. The minutes refer to the merger of the Colonial Church Society and the Newfoundland School Society, the annual expenses of the colonial missions (1851-55), the appointment of clergy, catechists, Scripture readers and schoolmasters for Australia, religious instruction on emigrant and convict ships, requests for financial assistance, the appointment of a missionary to the Victorian goldfields (August 1852), properties owned by the Society in Australia, the purchase of books for the colonies, letters from bishops commenting on the performance of missionaries, interviews with bishops and other visitors from the colonies on the state of religion in the colonies, the appointment of seamen's chaplains in colonial ports, and the resignation of missionaries.

3 Minute book of the Committee of the Colonial Church and School Society, 1855-61

The minute book was filmed comprehensively. The entries for 18 September 1855 to 17 June 1856 appear on this reel.

Reel M578

Minute book of the General Committee of the Colonial Church and School Society, 1855-61 (cont.)

The entries for 17 June 1856 to 19 December 1861 appear on this reel. The entries refer inter alia to reports by bishops, missionaries and lay agents in the colonies, relations with the Church Missionary Society, the selection of missionaries and catechists for Australia, assistance with passages to Australia, meetings with the Bishop of Perth and other visitors from Australia, the appointment of an itinerant missionary in the Diocese of Newcastle, and the appointment of a chaplain for seamen in Sydney. Most of the relevant correspondence is from the dioceses of Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.

4 Minute book of the General Committee of the Colonial and Continental Church Society, 1862-72.

The minute book, which was filmed selectively, dates from 16 January 1862 to 19 December 1872. The minutes refer inter alia to the annual grants to colonial dioceses, financial transactions, reports from bishops and clergy in the colonies, the Society's properties in Western Australia, the appointment of Mesac Thomas as Bishop of Goulburn (1862), the commencement of grants to the dioceses of Goulburn (1862), Bathurst (1870) and Waiapu (1870), the need for missionaries on the New South Wales goldfields, the work of the Society's agents in the colonies, appointments made by bishops in Australia, the effects of drought on rural parishes in Australia (1865), and the return of R. Munden to England (1868) after 14 years as a catechist in Queensland. Most of the relevant correspondence is from the dioceses of Sydney, Melbourne, Goulburn and Perth.

5 Minute book of the General Committee of the Colonial and Continental Church Society, 1873-83.

The minute book was filmed selectively. The entries on this reel cover the period 6 February 1873 to 20 April 1882. They deal inter alia with the annual grants to colonial dioceses, financial transactions, addresses to the Committee by the Bishops of Melbourne and Goulburn (1875), the mission at Kati Kati in New Zealand, the withdrawal of Government aid to churches in Western Australia, and the creation of the diocese of North Queensland. Most of the relevant correspondence is from the dioceses of Sydney, Goulburn, Bathurst, Melbourne, Perth and Auckland.

Reel M579

Minute book of the General Committee of the Colonial and Continental Church Society, 1873-83 (cont.)

The entries for 20 April 1882 to 10 May 1883 appear on this reel.

6 Minute book of the General Committee of the Colonial and Continental Church Society, 1883-91

The minute book, which has been filmed selectively, dates from 10 May 1883 to 24 June 1891. The entries refer inter alia to annual grants to dioceses, requests for increased grants, progress in parishes supported by grants from the Society, and grants for remote communities in New Zealand and northern Australia. Most of the relevant correspondence is from the diocese of Bathurst, Ballarat, Goulburn, Riverina, North Queensland, Perth and Auckland.

7 Minute book of the Committee of the Colonial and Continental Church Society, 1891-1901

The minute book, which was filmed selectively, dates from 21 October 1891 to 8 October 1901. The entries refer inter alia to appointments to the eastern goldfields in Western Australia, the death of Bishop Mesac Thomas (1892), and concerns that only evangelical clergymen should be appointed to positions funded by the Society. Most of the relevant correspondence is from the dioceses of Bathurst, Goulburn, North Queensland, Perth, Auckland and Waiapu.