

Acc.12801  
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## **Inventory**

**Acc.12801**

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This collection comprises the personal papers of Rev Dr Archibald Clive Irvine (1893-1974). After service with the Royal Army Medical Corps in German East Africa (now Tanzania) during the First World War, Dr Irvine was appointed as medical missionary to the Church of Scotland's new mission station at Chogoria, Kenya. He married Margaret Joyce Carr, whom he met in Kenya, in 1921, and the couple moved to Chogoria in October 1922, when the building of the mission began. The Irvines raised their three sons at Chogoria and the story of the mission cannot be separated from that of the Irvine family; the collection reflects the extent to which mission and family life were intertwined. Dr Irvine was ordained in 1933 and his time at Chogoria saw the station expand from one house in 1922 to a thriving community with a 120 bed hospital, a church, boys' and girls' schools and an extensive network of out-stations by the time of his retirement in 1961. The papers show that while retirement may have meant the end of his medical career, he remained very active in ministry and teaching, and in the ongoing development of Chogoria, until his death in 1974.

Dr Irvine's second son, Dr Geoffrey Irvine, with his wife Dorothy – also a doctor – followed his father into medical missionary work at Chogoria. It is they who kindly presented this collection to the Library, in continuance of their earlier gift of Dr A C Irvine's photographic archive ([Acc.12016](#)).

*Presented. 2007*

The collection is arranged as follows:

<b>1-19</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>
<b>20-23</b>	<b>Articles and reports</b>
<b>24-42</b>	<b>Sermons, prayers, teaching texts and related papers</b>
<b>43-66</b>	<b>Diaries and personal record</b>
<b>67-70</b>	<b>Chogoria records</b>
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<b>74-75</b>	<b>Church Organisations</b>
<b>76-80</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>

## **1-19 Correspondence**

Dr Irvine kept carbon copies of his outgoing correspondence, including letters to family members, so these files are unusually complete. It is too difficult to separate the family letters from those of his larger Christian family, so no attempt has been made to do so and the letters remain largely in the groupings in which they arrived.

### **1** 'Early days at Chogoria, reports, correspondence &c'

Mainly letters, 1922-1923, of Dr Irvine to his parents, and some incoming letters from various correspondents.

### **2** Correspondence, 1934-1939, with some ephemeral items.

**3** 'Home letters'

Carbon typescript letters, 1935-1946, sent out to various family members and friends by Dr and Mrs Irvine.

**4** Correspondence (including family letters), school reports and other papers, 1938-1951, relating the education of the Irvine's three sons.

**5-14** General correspondence; includes carbon copies of Dr Irvine's outgoing letters and related papers, c 1957-1965. Many Irvine family letters are included in the files, which retain their original order (though it is not always obvious why items are filed as they are and – for example - correspondents occasionally turn up under both first and last names).

- 5** A
- 6** B
- 7** C
- 8** D-E
- 9** F-G
- 10** H-J
- 11** K-L
- 12** M-N
- 13** O-R
- 14** S-Z

**15** Irvine family correspondence, 1967-68.

**16** Irvine family correspondence, 1968.

**17** Irvine family correspondence, 1969-1971.

**18** Correspondence, 1970-1971, with The Family Service Council of Kenya.

**19** Correspondence, 1970-1974, with the Far East Broadcasting Association (FEBA).

**20-23** **Articles and reports**

**20** Articles, circular letters and reports, 1922-1931, by Dr Irvine.

**21** Articles, circular letters and reports, 1933-1940, by Dr Irvine. Includes copies of his 'Chogoria Days' articles, which were a regular feature in *Kikuyu News*; printed copies of letters to friends of the mission; typescript versions of diaries of trips away from Chogoria, one of which covers a trip to the Congo and is illustrated with photographs.

**22** Articles, circular letters and reports, 1941-1961, by Dr Irvine. Includes copies of his 'Chogoria Days' articles; some medical papers; of particular interest during this period are his letters to friends of Chogoria in which he discusses the local and national impact of the Mau-Mau Emergency of 1952-1960.

- 23** 'Articles &c, circular letters, booklet'  
A further file of Dr Irvine's articles and circular letters, 1947-1951, much of the material relates to the production of the annual Chogoria booklet (see Acc.12016/17-19).

**24-42 Sermons, prayers, teaching texts and related papers**

- 24** 'Sermons & Addresses'

Texts of sermons and addresses compiled c.1933-1941. At the head of many, Dr Irvine has noted when and where the sermon was delivered, and the readings and hymns which accompanied it. Later dates when a service was re-used are occasionally recorded. The pages are in a 'home-made' loose-leaf binder.

- 25** Teaching notes, 1939- c.1970, originally in a file labelled 'Gists etc.'. Themes include church history, devotional life, God's purpose; many of the papers have been translated into Kikuyu.

- 26** 'Bible readings and Hospital Services'

Typescript texts, c.1949, mainly in Kikuyu but with some pages of manuscript notes in English.

Carbon typescript, undated, 'Chogoria Hospital Ward Prayers'

- 27** 'Thoughts for the day'

Typescript and carbon typescript texts, c.1956.

- 28** 'Prayers, St Andrews Wed TC'

Prayers and related notes, 1961-1974.

- 29** Notes, c.1962-1965, taken by Dr Irvine at addresses and talks by other speakers.

- 30-31** 'Literature'

Correspondence, texts, invoices, distribution lists and other papers, chiefly relating to the production of Christian booklets and translation of texts into Kikuyu.

**30** 1962-1965

**31** 1965-1971

- 32** 'Prayers'

Notes for and texts of prayers, c.1962-1969; some are translated into Kikuyu.

- 33** Lecture notes and talks, 1963-1968, relating to Dagoretti BHS, Makerere University College Christian Union and 'Epilogues', 1972, for the Voice Of Kenya Devotional [radio] Programme.
- 34** Notes, drafts and texts of prayers, lessons and sermons, c 1963-1969.
- 35** Papers, pamphlets, notes and test papers, 1965-1974, relating to sex education for girls.
- 36** Papers, 1965-1974, relating to Eastleigh Community Centre, Nairobi. Much of the material concerns sex education; copy of *You need to know: sex education for modern girls* (Nairobi: Longman Kenya, 1971).
- 37** Correspondence and teaching notes, 1966-1968, relating to ?BSU Convent Confirmation classes.
- 38** Papers, 1969-1971, relating to St Andrews Church, Nairobi, and to their Stewardship and Eldership programmes.
- 39** Notes, texts, correspondence and papers, c.1969-1973, relating to the teaching of various Christian youth groups including the Church Army and the Pan African Fellowship of Evangelical Students.
- 40** Texts, c.1960s, by Dr Irvine. The texts were much duplicated and probably given as hand-outs to students, some were also given as lectures. Titles include: 'The Lord's Prayer', 'The Nobility of Women', 'God's Purpose in History', 'The Holy Spirit and the Gift of Tongues', 'Alcohol the Enemy'.
- 41** 'Bahati Eng & Kyu', on spine: 'Today's Service'

Small loose-leaf binder containing notes and texts for services, 1971-1973, presumably given at Bahati, Nairobi, in both English and Kikuyu; related hymn lists. A copy of *Our Psalms and Hymns* by W M Page (Edinburgh: Church of Scotland, 1939) with Dr Irvine's annotations is loosely inserted.

- 42** 'Lectures at LTC [?Limuru Training Centre] &c'

Typescripts of lectures and some related ms notes, undated.

#### **43-66 Diaries and personal record**

- 43** Commonplace book/diary, 1944-1949, some sections arranged alphabetically, in which Dr Irvine recorded devotional notes, biblical interpretation and practical information. It seems likely that he would have used this as a source for his teaching, sermons and lessons.

**44** 'Illustrations'

Commonplace book/scrapbook, c.1964-1969. A collection of press-cuttings, transcriptions and quotations on Christian themes. The volume was indexed by Dr Irvine and was clearly a resource which he drew upon in preparing his services.

**45** Lists, 1945-1946. Possibly circulation lists of people and organisations who received the Chogoria newsletter or other correspondence; there are also details of occasional parcels sent out.

**46** Record, 1962-1974, of services and talks given by Dr Irvine; with some loose pages containing similar information and a small envelope with a few of his calling-cards.

**47** Leaves of an address book, c.1965-1970. Beneath each address is recorded the contact that Dr Irvine had with the individual over the period. Carbons of some short outgoing letters are loosely inserted.

**48-66** Pocket appointment diaries, 1937-1960. As well as appointments, Dr Irvine recorded 'to do' lists and other information necessary to his demanding schedules.

**48** 1937 (1)

**49** 1937 (2)

**50** 1938

**51** 1939

**52** 1940

**53** 1941

**54** 1942

**55** 1943

**56** 1944

**57** 1945

**58** 1948

**59** 1949

**60** 1951

**61** 1952

**62** 1953

**63** 1957

**64** 1958

**65** 1959

**66** 1960

**67-70 Chogoria records**

**67** Reports, budgets and statistics for Chogoria 1924-1928.

**68** Papers and plans, 1923-1971, relating to Chogoria Hospital.

**69** "Chogoria business development plan/Chogoria visits"

File containing correspondence, sermon notes and papers, 1966-1971, relating to various aspects of development at Chogoria.

- 70 *Jubilee at Chogoria, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1922-1972*. Pamphlet, with manuscript distribution list.

### 71-73 Financial

- 71 Financial papers, mainly 1961-1974, relating to Dr Irvine's personal accounts, investments and charitable giving, with a 'home-made' spreadsheet tracking various investments through the 1940s.

- 72 Draft accounts, 1966-1973.

- 73 Receipts, 1970, 1972.

### 74-75 Church Organisations

- 74 Papers, 1964-1968, relating to the Presbyterian Church of East Africa and its General Assembly of 1964 and 1967.

- 75 National Christian Council of Kenya papers, 1964-1971. Includes reports, minutes, newsletters and some correspondence.

### 76-80 Miscellaneous

- 76 Large photograph, c.1930, of one of Dr Irvine's sons in infancy, with a calligraphic tribute to Dr Irvine on his retirement in 1961, which had been placed on top of the photograph in its frame.

- 77 'Church discipline – a contemporary problem of the Church in Kikuyu', Hancock Memorial Prize Essay, c.1966, by Hannah Gathii.

- 78 Two transcripts of an interview, 1973, of Dr Irvine by Kevin Ward. One much corrected and annotated, the other a fair carbon copy.

- 79 Two large drawings and one chart, undated, designed as wall-hangings to support the teaching of Christianity at Chogoria.

- 80 Miscellaneous

Printed items: *Kikuyu News: Special "Chuka-Mwimbi" number*. No.53 (Jan-Feb.1915); *St Andrew's Journal* (Nairobi), no.29 (Aug.1972); *The Word: how to study it, how to teach it* [by] James H McConkey (Pittsburgh: Silver, n.d.).

Carbon typescript of a text, undated, probably by Dr Irvine, titled 'Science and The Bible' in which the writer refutes Darwinism.

Two cards, a letter and a note, 1954-1974 and undated, from various correspondents (and not obviously belonging in any other file).