

# Guide

## Jerusalem and East Mission Archive 1842-1976

*Middle East Centre, St. Antony's College, Oxford*



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# Jerusalem and East Mission Archive 1842-1976

Middle East Centre, St. Antony's College, Oxford

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# Introduction

The history of the Jerusalem and East Mission begins in 1841 with the foundation of the Jerusalem Bishopric under the joint auspices of Queen Victoria and King Frederick William IV of Prussia. The bishops were nominated alternately by the English and Prussian sovereigns, to be consecrated by Anglican bishops, and to have spiritual jurisdiction over Anglican and Lutheran Christians in Palestine. In 1881, however, a failure to obtain episcopal orders for the Lutherans prepared the way for the withdrawal of Prussia, and the bishopric fell into abeyance for almost six years.

The bishopric was finally reconstituted on a purely Anglican basis and, on the 25th of March 1887, the Venerable Archdeacon Blyth was chosen to fill the vacancy and consecrated Bishop in Jerusalem with jurisdiction over Syria, Egypt, Asia Minor, Cyprus, the region around the Red Sea, and, later the Sudan and Iran.

In the early days there was virtually no bishopric property and Bishop Blyth set about raising money by opening the Jerusalem Bishopric Fund - later the Jerusalem and East Mission Fund - for the maintenance and development of work begun with donations given to him by personal friends.

With the aid of the fund the work of the Mission proceeded apace: in 1887, The Beirut Chaplaincy was founded, and educational work began in Lebanon; in 1889, St. Mary's home for orphans was opened in Jerusalem, and a chaplaincy was founded in Cyprus; 1890 saw the beginnings of St. Luke's Mission in Haifa and the building of a church and school in Cairo; in 1894 the foundations were laid for St. George's College, Jerusalem and in 1898 the nave of St. George's Church was consecrated.

In 1914 Bishop Blyth was succeeded by Bishop Rennie MacInnes who consolidated and extended the work of the Mission, with new ventures into higher education + notably the Jerusalem Girls' College - and medical work at hospitals in Gaza, Nablus, Jaffa, Salt and Hebron. During this period the work of the Mission grew to such an extent that it became necessary to divide the Jerusalem Bishopric, and in 1920 Egypt and the Sudan were separated from Jerusalem to form a new diocese with Llewellyn Gwynne as bishop.

The episcopacies of Bishop Graham-Brown and Bishop Stewart saw a further extension of the Mission's work; in 1939, for example, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Assyrian Mission came fully under the control of the Jerusalem and East Mission. The phenomenal rise of the oil companies in Iraq, and later in The Gulf, brought increasing pastoral responsibilities within its jurisdiction, and the conflicts following the termination of the British Mandate in Palestine saw the Mission turn its attention to providing aid for Arab refugees.

In July 1957, the diocese of Jerusalem became the seat of a province and several diocese hitherto supervised directly by the Archbishop of Canterbury were assigned to the new Metropolitan, together with those areas where there were churches and chaplaincies under the direction of other English Missionary Societies. At the same time a new diocese of Jordan, Lebanon and Syria was created, and an Arab priest, the Right Reverend Najib Cubaind became its first bishop.

## The Archive

The extensive archive of the Jerusalem and East Mission, now housed at the Middle East Centre, St. Anthony's College, Oxford, covers the period 1841-1976 and is arranged as follows: general administrative, constitutional and financial records; papers and correspondence relating to the work of the Jerusalem bishopric; the records of the Assyrian Mission; the archdeaconry of Cyprus; the diocese of Egypt and Sudan; the archdeaconry and chaplaincies in The Gulf; the diocese of Iran; and papers relating to the Mission's work in Iraq, Jordan, North Africa, Syria and Lebanon.

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## JERUSALEM AND EAST MISSION - CENTRAL ORGANIZATION

fiche no.

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