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AGGREY, J.E. KWEGYIR

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**J.E. KWEGYIR AGGREY PAPERS**

Collection 147-1 to 147-11

Prepared by:  
Sharon E. Green  
December 1988

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## SCOPE NOTE

The J.E. Kwegyir Aggrey Papers total 9 linear feet and span the period of the 1890's to 1981. The materials were donated to the Center by his children: Mrs. Abna Aggrey Lancaster, Miss Rosebud Douglass Aggrey, and Ambassador O.Rudolph Aggrey.

A teacher, orator, clergyman, and scholar, Dr. Aggrey devoted his life to the attainment of education for Black people in Africa, particularly his native Ghana, and in the United States. He also directed his energies towards the promotion of racial harmony. The collection documents his activities in the arenas of education and race relations. Of interest is the material on Achimota School in Ghana, which Dr. Aggrey helped establish in 1925, and under whose leadership the institution flourished.

The correspondence in the collection, composed of both family and professional communications, chronicles Dr. Aggrey's experiences as lecturer and researcher. Reflected in the family correspondence is his longing to spend more time with his family; a difficult undertaking attributable to his rigorous travel schedule. Of note is correspondence from Dr. Aggrey to his wife, Rose.

Additional material includes items related to Dr. Aggrey's death: obituaries, memorial service programs and condolences.

There are several writings by Dr. Aggrey; all save one are published. Most of the writings present his views on the developmental needs of Africa.

The collection contains photographs of Dr. Aggrey, his family; friends, associates, and the people and places he encountered while traveling. Many of the photographs were taken in Africa. Depicted are gatherings attended by Dr. Aggrey, who was at times accompanied by his wife; missionaries in Africa; students and schools in Africa; and the Aggrey home in Ghana.

Further material includes reports concerning Africa Written in the late 19th century, an example being the 1898 Gold Coast Protectorate Report. There is printed material comprised of journals on Africa published between 1925 and the early 1930's. Represented are the African World, the Gold Coast Independent, and West Africa.

## Biographical Data

- 1875 Oct. 18 Born in Anamabu, Ghana (known at the time as the Gold Coast) to Kodwo Kwegyir and Abna Aggrey.
- 1883 June 24 Entered the Wesleyan Methodist School at Cape Coast, Ghana.
- 1890 Began teaching career at the age of fifteen in the village Abdura Dunkwa, Ghana. Served as the school's only teacher and administrator.
- 1891 Returned to Cape Coast where he was appointed assistant teacher at his alma mater, now named the Wesleyan Centenary Memorial school.
- 1898 Appointed headmaster, Wesleyan Centenary Memorial school.
- Sailed for the United States to attend Livingstone College in Salisbury, N.C. Worked in the publishing house of the Zion church of Charlotte, N.C. Contributed articles to the Charlotte Daily Observer.
- 1902 Graduated, B.A. with honors, Livingstone College. served as college registrar and professor.
- 1903 Assumed position of elder in the Zion Methodist Church in Charlotte, N.C. Pastored in the Black churches in the community.
- 1904-1919 Began studies (summer program) at Summer Columbia University, N.Y.

- 1905 Married Rose Douglass. To this union were born four children: Abna, Kwegyir, Rosebud and O. Rudolph.
- 1912 Received A.M. degree from Livingstone College and D.D. degree from Hood Theological Seminary, Salisbury, N.C. served as instructor at both institutions.
- 1920-1921 Received Teachers Life Professional Certificate, the highest education diploma granted in the state of North Carolina. Interrupted studies at Columbia to travel to Africa as a member of the Phelps-Stokes commission. Traveled to western and southern Africa to research the state of education.
- 1921 Re-entered Columbia University.
- 1922 Received M.A. degree from Columbia University. Pursued further studies.
- 1923 Passed all examinations leading to a Ph.D. degree, leaving only the dissertation to complete. (He died before he could complete the program).
- 1924 Joined the second Phelps-Stokes Commission. Participated in an educational survey of eastern and southern Africa.
- 1925-1927 Served as Assistant Vice Principal of Achimota School in Ghana, an educational institution he was instrumental in establishing in 1925.
- 1927 May Took a leave of absence from Achimota School to return to the United States to complete his dissertation.
- July 30 Died in New York.

Source: Smith, Edwin W., *Aggrey of Africa*. New York: Richard Smith, Inc., 1930.

## Series Description

- Series A  
Box 147-1
- Personal Papers
- This series contains documentation of Dr. Aggrey's wedding, professional life, educational endeavors, his death, and the death of his mother. Included are his obituary, memorial service programs, and condolences addressed to Mrs. Aggrey. Additional materials are a 1924 travel itinerary for southern Africa; two scrolls of welcome from the Ghanaian people living in Lagos and Calabar, Nigeria on the occasion of Dr. Aggrey's visit in 1920; and diplomas from Columbia University and the International School of Osteopathy.
- Series B  
Box 147-2  
to 147-3
- Family Correspondence
- This series contains correspondence between Dr. Aggrey and his wife, children, and nephew, William Brown-Orleans. The correspondence reveals his interest in maintaining close family relations during his lengthy travels. Of interest are poetical love letters Dr. Aggrey wrote to his wife while traveling on business.
- Series C  
Box 147-3
- General Correspondence
- The correspondence in this series is concerned primarily with Aggrey's professional activities from 1906-1927. Included are invitations to lecture throughout the United States, Canada, and Africa; letters discussing his role in the establishment of Achimota School; and his efforts as a member of the Phelps-Stokes Commission's study on education in Africa. Among the correspondents are the principal of Fourah Bay College in Sierra Leone, students from Government Training college in Ghana, the student Christian Movement of Canada, the Faculty of Political Science at Columbia University, and Thomas Jesse Jones of the Phelps-Stokes Fund.

Series D  
Box 147-3

Writings By

This small series is comprised mainly of published articles authored by Dr. Aggrey. Most of the writings focus on the developmental needs and accomplishments of Black people in Africa. The potential for further progress is explored as well. There is also an article about Livingstone College in Salisbury, N.C. Aggrey's poetic talents are evidenced through a poem contained in this series. The writings are arranged alphabetically by title.

Series E  
Box 147-3  
to 147-4

Writings About

This series consists of articles written about Dr. Aggrey and published between 1905-1981. The articles focus on his contributions towards the upliftment of African people and racial harmony. References are often made to Dr. Aggrey's religious convictions. Included are sermons on Dr. Aggrey, a partial thesis, poetry, references to biographies, and bibliographies.

Series F  
Box 147-4

Aggrey, Rose (Mrs.)

This small series documents the activities of Dr. Aggrey's wife, Mrs. Rose Douglass Aggrey, a noted educator in North Carolina. It is comprised of correspondence from around the world requesting Mrs. Aggrey's services as a speaker on information about Dr. Aggrey's life and contributions. Included are the program for her 1953 visit to Sierra Leone, and an article concerning her activity as principal of the Granite Quarry colored schools in North Carolina.

Series G  
Box 147-4  
to 147-5

Printed Material

Contained within this series is material about Africa. Included are Achimota School reports for 1927, 1930, 1931, and the fifty year anniversary report. Other material included are an 1898 Gold Coast Protectorate Report and several African Periodicals. Among the periodicals are the *Africa World*, *New Nation* and *West Africa*, published in 1930, 1931 and 1955; the *Gold Coast Weekly Review* and *The Times of West Africa*, published 1932 and 1954.

Series H  
Box 147-5  
to 147-7

#### Photographs

Contained in this series are photographs of Dr. Aggrey, Mrs. Aggrey and other individuals with whom Dr. Aggrey came in contact during his many travels and various speaking engagements. Many of the photographs were taken in Africa and depict the colonial relationship between Britain and Africa. There are photographs of the British as missionaries/teachers presiding over African churches and schools, and military ceremonies featuring African as well as British soldiers.

Series I  
Box 147-8  
to 147-11

#### Oversize Items

This series contains three large diplomas; among them Dr. Aggrey's 1922 M.A. degree from Columbia University in New York. There are two scrolls of welcome from the Ghanaian people living in Lagos and Calabar, Nigeria on the occasion of Dr. Aggrey's visit in 1930, and a poster, "Christian Heroes of Many Nations which includes a picture of Dr. Aggrey. Xerox copies of several of these items are contained in "Series A Personal Papers." Included also are original issues of journals (fragile) which have been xeroxed for research use in "Series C Printed Material."



## Container List

### A Personal Papers

Box	Folder	
147-1	1	Obituary
	2	Funeral Program
	3	African Funeral Rites
	4	Memorial Services
	5	Memorial services - address delivered at Prince of Wales College, Achimota
	6	Memorial Services - Aggrey Memorial Committee
	7	Centenary Programs
	8	Condolences - Death of Dr. Aggrey, A-C
	9	Condolences - Death of Dr. Aggrey, D-K
	10	Condolences - Death of Dr. Aggrey, L-R
	11	Condolences - Death of Dr. Aggrey, S-Z
	12	Condolences - Death of Dr. Aggrey, Illegible Names
	13	Writings about his death, August 1927
	14	Writings about his death, August 1927
	15	Writings about his death, August - September 1927
	16	Resolutions of Condolence
	17	Resolutions of Condolence Sandy Ridge A.M.E. Zion Church - Pastored by Dr. Aggrey
	18	The Loyal Sons of Africa Minutes - Sept. 17, 1913
	19	The African Members of the Gold Coast Civil Service (Aggrey among the signatures)

**A Personal Papers (cont'd)**

Box	Folder	
147-1	20	Travel Itinerary - June 1924, Southern Africa
	21	School Notebook - Columbia University
	22	School Notebook
	23	Sermons and Lectures (announcements of)
	24	Diploma - International College of Osteopathy, Doctor of Osteopathy, 1914 (xerox copy original see "Series I Oversize Items")
	25	Diploma - Columbia University, Master of Arts, 1922 (xerox copy - original see "Series I Oversize Items")
	26	Diploma - Columbia University, Teacher of Education, 1922 (xerox copy - original see "Series I Oversize Items")
	27	Certificate - North Carolina Dept. of Public Instruction, July 19, 1920.
	28	Wedding announcement (news article)
	29	Aggrey, Abna (mother) - Death announcement
	30	Guggisberg, Frederick Gordon (Sir) - Death of - Close friend, Governor of Gold Coast, Godfather to O. Rudolph Aggrey
	31	Scroll of welcome from Lagos, Nigeria Nov. 8, 1920 (xerox copy original see "Series I Oversize Items")
	32	Scroll of Welcome from Calabar, Nigeria Dec. 15, 1920 (xerox copy original see "Series I Oversize Item")
	33	Notes
	34	Invitations
	35	Aggrey Fellowship Program
	36	Livingstone College
	37	The <i>Interpreter</i> - Magazine of Aggrey Memorial College
	38	Aggrey of Africa - Biography by E.W. Smith - Book cover(xerox copy - original see "Series I - Oversize Items")
	39	Foreign Language Publication bearing photograph of Aggrey

147-2

B Family Correspondence

- 1 Aggrey, Abna (Daughter), 1907-1920
- 2 Aggrey, Abna (Daughter), Jan. -  
July 1921
- 3 Aggrey, Abna (Daughter), Oct.  
1921-1923
- 4 Aggrey, Kwegyir (Son), 1920  
April 1921
- 5 Aggrey, Kwegyir (Son), May  
Dec. 1921
- 6 Aggrey, Kwegyir (Son), 1922-1927
- 7 Aggrey, Rose Mrs. (Wife),  
1905-1919
- 8 Aggrey, Rose Mrs. (Wife),  
Jan. - Sept. 1920
- 9 Aggrey, Rose Mrs. (wife),  
Oct. - Dec. 1920
- 10 Aggrey, Rose Mrs. (Wife),  
Jan. - March 1921
- 11 Aggrey, Rose Mrs. (Wife),  
April-August 1921
- 12 Aggrey, Rose Mrs. (Wife),  
Oct. - Dec. 1921
- 13 Aggrey, Rose Mrs. (wife), 1922
- 14 Aggrey, Rose Mrs. (wife), 1923-1925
- 15 Aggrey, Rose Mrs. (Wife), 1926-1927
- 16 Aggrey, Rose Mrs. (Wife), No date
- 17 Aggrey, Rose Mrs. (wife), Partial  
letters
- 18 Aggrey, Rosebud Douglass (Daughter),  
1913-1921

147-3

- 1 Aggrey, Rosebud Douglass (Daughter),  
1922 - 1927
- 2 Brown-Orleans, William (Nephew),  
1926
- 3 Aggrey, Abna; Kwegyir; Rosebud

C General Correspondence

- 4 A-I
- 5 J-R
- 6 S-Z
- 7 Other Correspondents
- 8 Other correspondents, Fraser, A.G.

D Writings By

- 9 Diary of a Journey Through Angola  
(unpublished)
- 10 " Dr. Goler's Return" 0

D Writings By (continued)

Box	Folder	
147-3	11	"Human Need in Africa"
	12	The Inventive Faculties of the European and Africa Races (holograph)(incomplete)
	13	"The Native Students of Africa"
	14	From "Price Our Star of Hope"
	15	Quotations from Dr. Aggrey

E Writings About

	16	Proud To Be Black - Partial thesis includes introduction music and lyrics
	17	Sermons - Aggrey of Africa by Rev. Professor James T.Cleland
	18	Sermon on Aggrey of-Africa-by Rev. Thomas Faichney
	19	Africa Advancing, 1945
	20	Remarks or the President at White House Reception Celebrating the Third Anniversary of the O.A.U.
	21	1905-1921
	22	1922-1923
	23	1924-1927
	24	1928-1932
	25	1933
	26	1934-1939
147-4	1	1940-1945
	2	1946-1959
	3	1960-1964
	4	1965-1969
	5	1970-1981
	6	No date
	7	Bibliographies An Annotated Bibliography. Compiled by Louise Roundtree
	8	Bibliographies - A Revised Annotated Bibliography...compiled by Louise Roundtree
	9	Poetry
	10	Biographies - Aggrey of Africa by Edwin W. Smith - announcement
	11	Biographies - "Plan for the Preparation of the Biography of Dr. James Emman Kwegyir Aggrey" by Phelps-Stokes Fund
	12	Biographies - Project for a new Biography of J.E.K. Aggrey (1875-1927) by Trevor Coombe
	13	Aggrey of Africa A Commemorative Collection of Tributes... compiled by Louise M. Roundtree

F Aggrey, Rose (Mrs.)

Box	Folder
147-4	14 Correspondence - A-Q
	15 Correspondence - R-Z
	16 Program for visit to Sierra Leone 1953
	17 Notes - Member of North Carolina delegation to Liberia for Centennial Commission
	18 Notes on Aggrey family
	19 Writings about (newsclipping)

G Printed Material

147-5	20 Land of Our Birth - Hymn adopted as National Anthem of Ghana
	21 Smith, Edwin W.D.D. - Death of (Aggrey biographer)
	22 Achimota School - programs, articles, notes
	23 Achimota School - report - 1927 (Incomplete)
	24 Achimota School - report - 1930
	25 Achimota School - report - 1931
	26 Achimota School - Fifty Year Anniversary
	27 Phelps-Stokes Commission
	28 Certificate of competency - Kwesi Kobia Ogoe, 1897
	1 The Gold Coast Protectorate - report, 1898
	2 Northern Rhodesia Protectorate-draft report, 1924
	3 Bechuanaland Protectorate draft report, 1924
	4 Martyrs De L'ouganda, 1920 (gift from Robinson, J.A.)
	5 The African World - March 7, 1931
	6 The Gold Coast Independent, Souvenir of the visit of HRH Prince of Wales April 9-14, 1925
	7 The Gold Coast Leader, Sept. 25, 1926 (Xerox copy -original see "Series I oversize Items")
	8 The Gold Coast Times, Jan. 16, 1926 (Xerox copy - original see "Series I oversize Items")
	9 Gold Coast weekly Review, July 7, August 11, Sept. 1, 1954 (Xerox copy - original see "Series I oversize Items")
	10 Grievances Memorial, with a Relative: Exposition of the Native Question by A.K. Soga
	11 The New Nation, July 1955
	12 The Times of West Africa, May 19, 1932 (Xerox copy - original see "Series I oversize Items")

## H Photographs

Box	Folder	
147-5	13 Aggrey, J.E. Kwegyir	
	14 Aggrey, J.E. Kwegyir	
	15 Aggrey, J.E. Kwegyir, Rose (wife), and others in Ghana	
	16 Aggrey, Abna and Kwegyir? (son & daughter) at Aggrey home in Salisbury, North Carolina	
	17 Aggrey, J.E. Kwegyir, Rose (wife), and others at Aggrey home in Ghana	
	18 Aggrey, J.E. Kwegyir at speaking engagements in Africa	
	19 Aggrey, J.E. Kwegyir, male students, and female teachers at Achimota school	
	20 Aggrey, J.E. Kwegyir, male students, and female teachers at Achimota school	
	21 Aggrey, J.E. Kwegyir and others	
	22 Aggrey, J.E. Kwegyir and others	
	23 Aggrey, J.E. Kwegyir and others	
	24 Aggrey, J.E. Kwegyir and others	
	25 Aggrey, J.E. Kwegyir and others	
	147-6	1 Aggrey, J.E. Kwegyir and others
		2 Aggrey, J.E. Kwegyir and others
		3 Achimota School - opening ceremony participants
		4 Aggrey Memorial School For Girls staff and students
		5 Akuffo, F.W. Quasi - Omanhene of Alkuapem
		6 Kaguna, Afalo
		7 Kuye, W.R.B.
		8 Peet, H.W.
		9 Akuffo, F.W. Quasi and others
		10 A.M.E. Zion Church - Participants of the First Convention
		11 Amanzimtoh School - students and campus
		12 Balintuua, Mr. and Mrs., and wedding party
13 Biodren, Joseph and Tunde, Theresa		
14 Derber Chiefs in Ghana		
15 Dondi School - students, teachers, campus		
16 Good Samaritan Society School - male students and teachers		
17 Inanda school - Domestic Science class		
18 Jones, Thomas Jesse and Family		
19 Kisonkole and Kitaminike Families; Mrs. Serebe and Mr. Bisase (Kisonkole)		

H Photographs (continued)

Box	Folder	
147-6	20	Kuipmead School - Summer term teachers and students
	21	Lokoja C.M.S. School - Female students and teacher (Fragile)
	22	Lucas, Rev. and Mrs. and others
	23	Lucas, Rev. and unidentified man
	24	Namilyango School - students
	25	Native Constables of the S.A. Police and East London municipality
	26	Native officers of the Mounted Infantry at Kano
	27	Opong, J.M. With wife and son
	28	Seshoka, Rev. and others
	29	White Fathers School - Group of male students and teachers
	30	Jacobos and family
	31	Governor inspecting the guard of honor at Achimota
	32	His Excellency and Major Ormsby Gore and others
	33	Unidentified man
34	Unidentified man	
147-7	1	Unidentified woman
	2	Unidentified children
	3	Unidentified couple in wedding clothing
	4	Unidentified family
	5	Unidentified group of male lodge members in Ghana
	6	Unidentified group of men
	7	Unidentified group of men
	8	Unidentified group of men and women
	9	Unidentified men, women and children at school in the Transvaal, South Africa
	10	Unidentified graduation procession in Sierra Leone
	11	Unidentified women
	12	Unidentified group of women
	13	Aggrey, J.E. Kwegyir - gravestone
	14	Aggrey, J.E. Kwegyir - residence in Salisbury, N.C.
	15	Anamabu Castle
	16	Jubilee Memorial Church - Cape Coast, Ghana
	17	Kettle Point Drive - road in Ontario
	18	Lucas, Reverend and Mrs. - residence in Africa
	19	Royal mail steamer, "Windsor Castle"
	20	"Wesley" Church, Cape Coast
	21	Wesley Girls High School - Foundation Stone
	22	Sculpture - representation of Aggrey's story of the eagle who thought he was a chicken

- 23 Unidentified house
- 24 Unidentified people on road in  
Ghana
- 25 Unidentified table setting

147-8

I Oversized Items

Scroll of Welcome - Presented to  
Aggrey by Ghanaian residents of  
Lagos, Nigeria, Nov. 1920  
(original - xerox copy in "Series A  
Personal Papers")

Scroll of welcome - Presented to  
Aggrey by Ghanaian residents of  
Calabas, Nigeria, Dec. 15, 1920  
(original - xerox copy in "Series A  
Personal Papers")

*Aggrey of Africa* - Biography by E.W. Smith.  
Book cover (original xerox copy in  
"Series A Personal Papers")

147-9

Diplomas

147-10

Poster of Christian heroes. Dr.  
Aggrey featured

147-11

Printed material - journals.  
FRAGILE DO NOT CIRCULATE.  
(Xerox copies in "Series G Printed  
Material")