Inventory

Acc.13268

William Summers Sutherland
Letters, notes and photographs, 1894-1920, of Dr William Summers Sutherland (1856-1924), Church of Scotland minister and missionary, and his wife, Annabella.

Sutherland’s first posting as a missionary was to Darjeeling in 1879, later moving to the station at Kalimpong, India. The letters and notes in this collection record two visits made by Sutherland to Bhutan. The first was in 1917, during which Sutherland was involved in the baptism of a Lepcha man. The second took place in 1919, when Sutherland accompanied Rev Dr John Anderson Graham (1861-1942), founder of the Kalimpong homes, to Bhutan. The letters describe the journey from Kalimpong in detail, and offer an insight into relations between European Christian missionaries and the Lamas in the country they were visiting.

Sutherland’s second marriage was to Annabella Mitchell, and the papers include her photograph album from the period she spent as a missionary in Poona [Pune], India.

*Presented, 2000.*

1-4 Correspondence and other papers

1 Letters from Sutherland to his wife and daughter describing his journey and experiences on reaching Bhutan, October 1917.

2 Diary of a trip from Kalimpong to Kupup and Jelap La, India, May 1918.

3 Letters from Sutherland to his family on a second visit to Bhutan and papers relating to both occasions, including letters of permission and frontier passes to enter Bhutan, and letters relating to Bhutanese attitudes towards admitting Christian missionaries to the country, 1914-1919 and undated.

4 Notes apparently made in preparation for the visits to Bhutan, undated. These include notes on the route from Kalimpong, descriptions of villages, schools, vegetation and other aspects of the region.

5-7 Photographs

5 Loose photographs, consisting of a small number of studio portraits in Scotland apparently relating to the family Sutherland’s wife, Annabella, and images of Kalimpong, the surrounding region and its people, ca. 1890-1920.

6 Album, probably belonging to Annabella, of Poona and other parts of Western India, 1894-1897.

7 Album recording a visit to Bhutan, ca. 1910-1920.
Acknowledgement of service from the members of St Andrew’s Bengali Church addressed to Annabella, 1898, and photocopy of her family tree.