Today’s Presentation

- The Basel Mission’s global ministry & Effects of WWI
- The BM China ministry & Hong Kong’s strategic position
- Hong Kong colonial government’s attitude towards German missions
Why the Basel Mission a German mission?
Why a German mission?

- German elements in BM’s source of funds, management, workforce and supporting community
- BM workers helped German army in Cameroons
- BM seminary students fought for German force
- BM directors’ pro-Germany sermons

A German institution under a Swiss cloak!!!
Global Mission Work of the Basel Mission, 1914

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>No. of Mission Workers</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cameroons</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Coast</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 446
Global Mission Work of the Basel Mission, 1914

No. of Indigenous Church Members

- Cameroons: 15,112 (21%)
- Gold Coast: 25,042 (35%)
- China: 12,185 (17%)
- India: 19,762 (27%)

Total: 72,101
Global Mission Work of the Basel Mission, 1914

- Cameroons (40%) 22,818
- Gold Coast (14%) 7,819
- India (37%) 21,071
- China (9%) 5,151

Total: 56,859
Expulsion from British Territories

- Missionaries expelled or interned
- Mission assets acquired by British authorities
- Ban on the return of German mission to British territories

BM: A robbery of assets and missionary rights!
A violence of the world power!
International Efforts

- Financial aids to orphaned German stations
- Supervising and caring indigenous congregations
- Government lobbying and public defending
- Sponsoring German missions’ return

BM: The help of the LMS would be inscribed for all time on the pages of the Basel Mission History!
Reference Materials


Barriers for German Missions After WWI
Barriers for German Missions After WWI

- Three-year ban on access of German subjects to British territories
- Custodianship of mission assets in British territories
- New control regime on foreign missionaries in British territories

Resumption of Mission Work depend on the approval of colonial authority !!!
Mission Work in China

Basel Missionaries at the Peak of Hong Kong, 1905
The Beginning

Karl Friedrich August Gützlaff
(1803 - 1851)
Arrival in Hong Kong, 19 March 1847

Guangdong province, China

Theodor Hamberg (1819 - 1854)

Rudolf Lechler (1824 - 1908)
HAKKA (客家) = Guest People

BMA, A-30.006.0026

BMA, A-30.53.030
Hakka Walled Villages, built to keep the community safe
The first Basel Mission girl school, Hong Kong
The building of the Longheu Girl School became the P+V Gallery, Shenzhen in 2016.
The P+V Gallery, Shenzhen
A Public Facility and Museum
Basel Mission Hospitals in China

Meixian Hospital (1893)

Meizhou People’s Hospital
Basel Mission Hospitals in China

Hoyen Hospital (1908)

Hoyen People’s Hospital
Hong Kong’s Strategic Importance
Hong Kong’s Strategic Importance

- Gateway to China
- Safe house
- Management centre
- Income generating source
Mission Properties in Hong Kong

Berlin Foundling Home
Basel Mission House and Church
Hildesheim Mission’s Blind Girl School
Rhenish Mission Church
Rhenish Mission House
### Table 2: Properties Owned by German Missions in Hong Kong

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Mission</th>
<th>No. of property</th>
<th>Total Area (sq. ft)</th>
<th>Total Estimated Value ($)</th>
<th>% of all German Missions Property’s value</th>
<th>Total Estimated Value if Held on Ordinary Lease ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basel Mission</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>213,892</td>
<td>179,420</td>
<td>45.8%</td>
<td>267,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhenish Mission</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>71,870</td>
<td>57,230</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>187,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hildesheim Mission for the Blind</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>89,912</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>42,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berlin Women’s Mission for China</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>46,125</td>
<td>115,312</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td>115,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>29</strong></td>
<td><strong>421,799</strong></td>
<td><strong>391,962</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>613,054</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Severn to Andrew Bonar Law, 7 April 1919, CO 323/793/33, TNA.
# German Missions in Hong Kong

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missionary Society</th>
<th>Year of Establishment in Hong Kong</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Basel Evangelical Missionary Society</td>
<td>1847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Rhenish Mission (Barmen Mission)</td>
<td>1847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Berlin Ladies Mission for China</td>
<td>1852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Hildesheim Mission for the Blind</td>
<td>1890</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Foundlings and their care-takers, Berlin Foundling Home
The foundlings of the Berlin Women’s Mission
The older foundlings and their caretakers
Blind girls of the Hildesheim Mission, Hong Kong
4 August 1914:

Proclamation of War between Britain and Germany
A Sympathetic Governor (1914-1918)

- Male missionaries permitted to go to China
- Female missionaries stayed in the colony
- Foundling Home and the blind facilities funded by the government
- Chinese churches supervised by British missionaries
- Mission assets professionally managed
Successors of May

Sir Claud Severn,
Acting Governor of Hong Kong
(1918-1919),
Colonial Administrator, Hong Kong
(1919 - 1925)

Sir Reginald E. Stubbs,
Governor of Hong Kong
(1919-1925)
Housing Shortage in Hong Kong
Housing Shortage in Hong Kong

BMA, A-30.86.1
Map of the Mid-Levels, Hong Kong, 1888

A: Berlin Foundling Home
B: Basel Mission House and Sai Ying Pun Church
C: Rhenish Mission Chinese Church
D: Rhenish Mission House
E: Basilea, Basel Mission’s properties for rent
May’s Submission (1916)

- Excluded all mission properties for religious, educational and philanthropical purposes in the value estimation

- ‘very old’ and ‘could only be sold at a loss!’

- Over a hundred Chinese foundlings and blind girls staying there
Re-submission by Severn (1919)

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Properties</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Value ($)</td>
<td>179,000</td>
<td>115,312</td>
<td>57,130</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hong Kong Government: “There has been a large increase in the value of the land since 1916.”
Problem of Foundlings and Blind Girls

- Expulsion of German female missionaries in April 1919
- Moved the small blind girls to Guangdong
- Moved the foundlings to the blind girl school, Pokfulam
The Berlin Foundling Home

Foundlings removed, building vacated, converted to a married police quarters

“The government reserved the right to further remove the children, if these properties should be required for other purposes!”

QA-30.113.0016
German Missions Trust

- Established by the German Missions Trust Ordinance, 1923 to hold and manage German missions property in Hong Kong.

- Trustees included the Anglican bishop of Hong Kong, Hong Kong representatives of the Church Missionary Society and the London Missionary Society, English pastors of the Kowloon Union Church and the Methodist’s International Church.
Multiple attempts to acquire GM properties

Proposal to grant the RM church to a Catholic mission in exchange for a leased land in 1920
Multiple attempts to acquire GM properties

Proposal to purchase the Berlin Foundling Home for residential development in 1920
Multiple attempts to acquire GM properties

Initial drafts of German Missions Trust Ordinance suggested empowering the Governor to order the Trustees to surrender properties!
Rejected Hong Kong’s proposals:

“It seems to me contrary to the spirit of the Peace Treaty and wrong in itself for State Power to compel trustees to surrender trust property.”

Sir Gilbert Edmund Augustine Grindle (1869-1934)
Source: National Portrait Gallery
In July 1925, the Hong Kong government:

• Sell all German missions properties in Hong Kong
• Return the proceeds to the four missions
• Only the Basel Mission wished to return to the colony
• ‘Significant opposition’ to the Basel Mission’s resumption of work in Hong Kong
Opposition by International Missionary Council

Violate the principle of missionary freedom!

Rhenish and Hildesheim missions also wanted to return!

Joseph Houldsworth Oldham (1874–1969)
Return of German Missions

- Colonial Office did not approve Hong Kong’s proposal to remove German missions permanently from the colony
- Stubbs and Severn left Hong Kong in late 1925
- Cecil Clementi as the new governor
- Hong Kong property market collapsed
- Negotiation for the return of German missions assets and resumption of work began in 1926
- Settlement in 1929, a decade after the end of the War
Thank You!

leungchuiwa@gmail.com