

Gladwyn Murray Childs papers

Inventory

Accession No: 2208-001

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This document forms part of the Preliminary Guide to the Gladwyn Murray Childs Papers. To find out more about the history, context, arrangement, availability and restrictions on this collection, click on the following link:

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GLADWYN MURRAY CHILDS PAPERS

Accession No. 2208, 2208-2

GUIDE

Gladwyn Murray Childs was born in 1896 in Endeavor, Wisconsin. He was graduated from Pomona College with a B.A. in 1919 and received an M.A. from Columbia Teachers' College in 1922 and a B.D. from Union Theological Seminary in New York in 1923. Afterwards in the same year he was ordained as a minister in New Jersey. He also received a Diploma from the University of Coimbra, Portugal in 1925. He completed graduate work at Columbia University in Education and Anthropology in 1939 and was granted a Ph.D. in 1950. His dissertation for the Doctorate was Umbundu Kinship and Character, published by Oxford University Press and the University of Witwatersrand in 1949.

Gladwyn Murray Childs and Margaret Pfaeffli, born in Switzerland November 5, 1902, were married in Switzerland on February 14, 1925. Margaret Childs completed a course at Madchen Hochschule Darmstadt Commercial School in Germany in 1920. In 1922-23 she studied at the Special University in Lausanne, and in 1925 with her husband at the University of Coimbra, Portugal. The Childs had three daughters.

Gladwyn Childs was appointed a missionary by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (later the United Church Board for World Ministries) in December, 1922 and went to Portugal in 1924. It may be at this early stage in his career that Childs worked with his uncle, Merlin Ennis, a well-known missionary, who remained close to his nephew until his death in 1964. Margaret Childs was also appointed a missionary by the Board, and the Childs sailed for Angola in December of 1925.

Dr. and Mrs. Childs were stationed for 22 years at Dondi, West Central Angola, where he was in charge of religious education and served as Principal of the Currie Institute with other duties such as text-book production, and Bible translation. Mrs. Childs supervised the upkeep of the school, served as treasurer, taught French, botany and zoology; and also worked at the Sara Hurd Memorial Hospital. At least one of the Childs' daughters appears to have taught in the school as well. Both Dr. and Mrs. Childs were fluent in Portuguese as well as the African Umbundu.

The Childs continued to do missionary work in Dondi and later Nova Lisboa from 1925 to the early 60's under the aegis of The United Church of Christ and of the American Board of Commissions for Foreign Missions in Angola and Portuguese West Africa.

Dr. and Mrs. Childs spent their last term in Angola at Nova Lisboa supervising the new hostel and administering the scholarship program for the mission, as well as carrying out many diversified functions for the Church. During 1964-65 they were in Lisbon, Portugal, where he served as interim secretary for the Liga Evangelica Missionaria, which represents mission Boards with work in Portuguese territories.

During their long service in Angola the Childs influenced the lives of countless numbers of young people. In some cases they taught as many as three generations of the same family. Their deep interest in education stimulated young Africans toward greater learning, and their example inspired many younger missionaries. The Childs were also active in the Alianca Evangelica de Angola, an alliance of Evangelical missions in Portuguese West Africa.

Dr. Childs hoped to return to West Central Angola to head the Feti Dig for which he applied for an National Science Foundation grant with the help of Melville Herskovitz and others. The site was an old burial ground named for the "Adam of the Ovimbundu." There is no evidence in these papers that the work was ever done. This may have been due to illness on the part of Dr. Childs. Dr. Childs had done much research on the Ovimbundu, focusing on one of the smaller but oldest in tradition of the 13-14 sub-groups, the Wambu. (The people are the Ovimbundu, but Umbundu is the rubric for the language and the culture. Umbundu is a member of the Bantu language group.)

Dr. Childs also acted as Chairman of the Scholarship Committee of the Angola Mission of United Church Board for World Ministries, Boston, and was in charge of the secondary scholarship program in Angola. He was a member of the International African Institute, South African Archeological Society, and a Fellow of the African Studies Association. Dr. Childs died in 1973. The date of Mrs. Childs' death is not known.

A list of Childs' Publications follows:

Umbundu Kinship and Character. London, International African Institute, 1949

"The Kingdom of Wambu (Huambo): A Tentative Chronology," Journal of African History, London

"Kinship and Character of the Ovimbundu." London, Dawsons for International African Institute & Witwatersrand University Press

Outline of Church History. (In Portuguese and Umbundu) Lisbon, 1947.

The Story of the Bible. (In Portuguese and Umbundu), n.p. 1958

Provenance

The Childs' papers were donated by Elaine Childs Gowell, (daughter), Seattle, 12/17/73 and 10/20/86, and measure 6 cu. ft. They were last processed in 1994.

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INVENTORY

<u>Box/Folders</u>		<u>Dates</u>
1	BIOGRAPHICAL FEATURES	
	INCOMING LETTERS	
	Ennis, Merlin	1937 - 1964
	Herskovitz, Melville Jean	1958 - 1962
	Miscellaneous A to Z	ca.1949-1972
	Unidentified	1960 - 1970
	OUTGOING LETTERS	1931 - 1971
	GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE A to Z	1931 - 1972
	GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE	
	United Church Board For World Ministries	1959 - 1965
	FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE	1936 - 1969
	GREETING CARDS	
	OUTGOING LETTERS of Mrs Minnie Mawhir Sanders, Angola	1882 -1891
	SPEECHES	
	WRITINGS	
	"Chronology of the Ovimbundu Kingdoms"; Proofs of the; Cilulu Ca Tete;	
	Alguno Aspetos da Etnografia de Angola	
	"Foreign Religious Influence on Life and Culture of the Ovimbundu..."	
	"Religious Influence Among the Ovimbundu: Indigenous and Foreign"	
	Survey of African Chronologies	
	Umbundu Kinship and Character, parts 1 and 2	1939
	SPEECHES AND WRITINGS - miscellaneous	
	SPEECHES AND WRITINGS OF OTHERS	
	WRITINGS OF OTHERS	
	SERMONS	1959 TO 1965
	REVIEWS BY AND ABOUT GLADWYN MURRAY CHILDS	

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Dates

SUBJECT SERIES

2	Biographies Bernardino Moma, Jeremiah Chali, Utila Wange, Utila wa Antonio Ngula Journeys, etc. Utila wo Maikulu Njanja... Used in Chapter IV	1936-
	Education African education Christian Responsibilities Currie Institute Ennis material: "Usoma wo Bailundu" Landers Library Nutrition Scholarship Ethnography African Nationalism, Origins of; Chronologies, Genealogies Biographical Stories Personal Biographies Childhood Ciyaka King; Elende Customs, diverse DAH (Hastings) Ch. V; Illustration cases; Ch's VIII, IX, XIX, XX Economic and Domestic Activities Economic and Political conditions Epata lia Civanja Ethnic Groups in Africa Ethnographic divisions: Proverbs Family and Kinship Genealogies Greetings and Respect - Ulinkinda wangurdi ya lombi Kandundu Ceremony of the Ovimbundu The Kings and their Courts "Kinship", "Marriage," DAH with comments by Nganga Kupola u waifo, etc. Linguistic and Ethnographic questionnaire Magic and Religion, proverbs Magic and Witchcraft Magyar, Ladislav: "Reisen in Sud Afrka; Maps; Notes Marriage and Courtship Marriage Schedules Miscellaneous and Film lists Names of Countries by Hastings with notes by Kamila Ngalangi; Njanja; Cingolo Olosapo Viucito Wonana Umbundu	

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SUBJECT SERIES (cont.)

1904

SUBJECT SERIES (cont.)

<u>Box/Folders</u>		<u>Dates</u>
3	History (cont.) Umbundu History and Prehistory; photos Viye Wambu; maps	
4	Linguistics Bilhetes Duplicates R. Kanita, etc.; Proverbs Okomba, Okasapolo; Vamaji Venili; Clipping, Olasapo via Umbundu; Proverbs Olasapo vioku; lia Olomikunala: Riddles Olosapo Violonduko Olosoma; Olosai Ovaembo; Olonjango; Ombola Proverbs from book Riddles and other duplicates; R. Kanita Evambi Umbundu grammar Umbundu material from MWE Vocabularies Umbundu, Portuguese, etc. Vocabularies	1964
	Missions Activities - Missions Angola Biblical names into Umbundu, transliteration of Hymns; Liturgy in Umbundu Notes; Clipping Olonganji, translation Ruti Yona	1957-58
	Notes Annaes Maritinos IV McDowell on Oku likutilita Magyar, Notes on Magyar, Ladislav Miscellaneous Research Seminar, Anthro 101 Silva Porto Statistical Data	
4-5	PUBLICATIONS	
	REPRINTS	
4-5	REPORTS	
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	

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BOOKLISTS

EPHEMERA

FINANCIAL RECORDS

LISTS

ADDRESS BOOK

ADDRESS LISTS

NEWSLETTERS

PHOTOS

GRANT PROPOSAL

QUESTIONNAIRES

5-6 CLIPPINGS

MAPS

MAPS AND CHARTS

Subgroups

AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

By-Laws	1970
General Correspondence	1946-1970
Minutes	1967-1970
Newsletters	1968-1971
Writings of Others	
Angolan Nationalism	1968
Brasil - Portuguese Africa	1968
Religious Influence among the Ovimbundu	1968
Reports	1964 - 1969

ALIANCA EVANGELICA DE ANGOLA	1949 - 1963
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Subgroups (cont)

5-6 MARGARET CHILDS	
General Correspondence	1946 - 1963

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Dates

End of Subgroups

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