

**Papers of Alfred
Cecil Cooper,
Bishop in Korea**

Reference: DA59

Papers of Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea

DA59 Papers of Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea 1902-1964

Private letters from Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea (1931-1954), to his sister Rose, dated 1940-1955, diaries and ephemera including C.B.E. awarded to Bishop Cooper in 1956.

Alfred Cecil Cooper was born in 1882. He was ordained into the priesthood in 1907, and went out as a missionary priest to the Diocese of Korea in 1908. He was consecrated as Bishop of the Diocese in 1931. Following the liberation of Korea from the Japanese at the end of the Second World War, he returned to Korea and laboured to rebuild the Church. In 1950 he refused to leave the Diocese when the Communist forces occupied the Capital (Seoul), and he was taken into captivity in North Korea. He was forced to undertake the 'Death March', when all Communist prisoners were marched north as U.N. troops pushed towards the Yalu River. Bishop Cooper spent two and a half years as a prisoner in North Korea, and was finally repatriated in April 1953. He returned to Korea in October 1953. He retired in 1954. He died on 17 Dec 1964.

Source: Compiled from records of the Korean Mission

1 box

Open

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Language: English

These papers were acquired with the records of the Korean Mission which were deposited in 1987 and 1993 with the Selly Oak Colleges Library. It is likely that Bishop Cooper's papers had been deposited with the Korean Mission by Rose Cooper. The papers were then transferred to the Orchard Learning Resources Centre which was opened in 1997 following the merger of the Selly Oak Colleges Library and the Westhill College Library. In 2000, the custodianship of all archive collections held at the Orchard Learning Resources Centre was transferred to the University of Birmingham

Cadbury Research Library: Special Collections, University of Birmingham holds the records of the Korean Mission (DA24); it also holds a collection of papers of Constance Trollope & Mark Napier Trollope, Third Bishop in Korea (DA60)

DA59/1	Letters from Alfred Cecil Cooper to his sister Rose	1940-1956
	Private letters from Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea (1931-1954), to his sister Rose, dated 10 Apr 1940 - 10 Feb 1955. There is no correspondence for the period Feb 1941 - Apr 1945, when foreign Mission staff were forced to leave Korea for the duration of the War, and Jun 1950 - Oct 1953, during which Bishop Cooper was held as a prisoner by Communist forces in North Korea. Correspondence relates to his life and work as Bishop of the Diocese of Korea. The letters provide an interesting insight into the position of the Anglican Church in Korea during World War 2 and the Korean War, 1950-1953.	

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	11 files	
	Open	
DA59/1/1	Letters	1940-1941
	Letters from Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea (1931-1954), to his sister Rose, dated 10 Apr 1940 - 8 Feb 1941.	
	37 items	
	Open	
DA59/1/2	Letters	1945
	Letters from Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea (1931-1954), to his sister Rose, dated 21 Apr - 27 Oct 1945. Written upon Bishop Cooper's return to Korea at the end of the War.	
	2 items	
	Open	
DA59/1/3	Letters	1946-1947
	Letters from Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea (1931-1954), to his sister Rose, dated 25 Mar 1946 - 5 Jan 1947. Letters cover Bishop Cooper's return to Korea at the end of the War, and discuss the state of the Anglican Church in Korea upon his return to the Diocese.	
	43 items	
	Open	
DA59/1/4	Letters	1947
	Letters from Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea (1931-1954), to his sister Rose, dated 12 Jan - 20 Jun 1947.	
	25 items	
	Open	

Papers of Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea

DA59/1/5	Letters	1947
	Letters from Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea (1931-1954), to his sister Rose, dated 6 Jul - 16 Dec 1947.	
	25 items	
	Open	
DA59/1/6	Letters	1948
	Letters from Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea (1931-1954), to his sister Rose, dated 4 Jan - 8 Jun 1948.	
	21 items	
	Open	
DA59/1/7	Letters	1948
	Letters from Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea (1931-1954), to his sister Rose, dated 3 Oct - Christmas 1948. Some of the correspondence relates to Bishop Cooper's trip to the USA.	
	16 items	
	Open	
DA59/1/8	Letters	1949
	Letters from Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea (1931-1954), to his sister Rose, dated 2 Jan - 27 Jun 1949.	
	25 items	
	Open	
DA59/1/9	Letters	1949
	Letters from Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea (1931-1954), to his sister Rose, dated 3 Jul - 18 Sep 1949.	
	12 items	
	Open	

Papers of Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea

DA59/1/10	Letters	1949-1950
	Letters from Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea (1931-1954), to his sister Rose, dated 25 Sep 1949 - 19 Jun 1950. Bishop Cooper was captured by Communist forces on 25 Jun 1950.	
	36 items	
	Open	
DA59/1/11	Letters	1953-1956
	Letters from Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea (1931-1954), to his sister Rose, dated 8 Oct 1953 - 10 Feb 1955. Letters begin at Bishop Cooper's return to Korea following his release from imprisonment by Communist forces in North Korea, and repatriation to the UK, and continue to his retirement in 1954 and his return home in 1955.	
	80 items	
	Open	
DA59/2	Diaries	1962-1964
	Private diaries kept by Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea (1931-1954), 1962-1964.	
	3 vols	
	Open	
DA59/2/1	Diary	1962
	Diary kept by Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea (1931-1954), for the year 1962. Relates to Bishop Cooper's retirement years in the UK.	
	1 vol	
	Open	

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DA59/2/2	Diary	1963
	Diary kept by Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea (1931-1954), for the year 1963. Relates to Bishop Cooper's retirement years in the UK.	
	1 vol	
	Open	
DA59/2/3	Diary	1964
	Diary kept by Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea (1931-1954), for the year 1964. Relates to Bishop Cooper's retirement years in the UK. Entries end on 8 Dec. Bishop Cooper died on 17 Dec.	
	1 vol	
	Open	
DA59/3	Ephemera	1902-1963
	Miscellaneous items belonging to Alfred Cecil Cooper, Bishop in Korea (1931-1954), including press cuttings relating to his Consecration and order of service for his Enthronement in 1931; notebooks; C.B.E. award granted in 1956; correspondence with family members relating to family history.	
	1 file	
	Open	
DA59/3/1	Ephemera	1902-1963
	Miscellaneous items belonging to Alfred Cecil Cooper, including:	
	/1-2 press cuttings relating to the Consecration of Bishop Cooper, St Paul's Cathedral, 1931;	
	/3 order of service for the Enthronement of Bishop Cecil Cooper, 17 Oct 1931;	

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/4 notebook recording bicycle runs done by Cecil Cooper and others, 1902-1908;

/5 notebook containing 'List of Names of the Subscribers to the Presentation to the Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop in Corea, by Friends and Parishioners of the Parish of Bagborough, Aug 1942 - Dec 1945;

/6-9 letters to Cecil Cooper from members of his family, dated 21 Apr 1953 - 27 Mar 1963, including a discussion of family history and family trees;

/10 Cecil Cooper's C.B.E certificate, dated 2 Jan 1956.

10 items

Open

/10 is an outsize item and is stored in Plan Chest drawer 5