Missionaries and Explorers in Africa
Presented by Dr Sarah Worden
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©National Museums Scotland
I am prepared to go anywhere, provided it be forward' (Livingstone)
Missionaries and Explorers in Africa

‘Looking back now on that life of toil, I cannot but feel thankful that it formed such a material part of my early education; and, were it possible, I should like to begin life over again in the same lowly style, and to pass through the same hardy training.’

David Livingstone 1813-1873
Mill worker
Medical student
London Missionary Society

Shuttle Row, Blantyre
‘I think I would rather cross the African continent again than undertake to write another book. It is far easier to travel than to write about it.’
David Livingstone
‘His absolute lack of any sense of fear amounted almost to a weakness. He would go into the most perilous situations without a tremor or a touch of hesitation’ John Kirk of Livingstone

‘I can come to no other conclusion than that Dr L is out of his mind and a most unsafe leader’ John Kirk 1862
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Livingstone and Slavery
Now I am at the point of starting another trip into Africa I feel quite exhilarated….. The mere animal pleasure of travelling in a wild unexplored country is very great. When on lands of a couple of thousand feet elevation, brisk exercise imparts elasticity to the muscles….the eye is clear, the step is firm and the day’s exertion always makes the evening’s repose thoroughly enjoyable...’
Missionary as collector: Livingstone
1850s in NMS collections
Grinding stone
Weaving loom
Gold
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Death of Livingstone 1873
Carried to the coast by Abdullah Susi and James Chuma
Buried with honours in Westminster Abbey
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Alexander MacKay 1849-1890 Early days

Father was Rev. Alexander Mackay, preacher at Free Church, Rhynie
Studied engineering in Edinburgh and Berlin

One thing above everything; I must make my Christianity a practical thing, (MacKay, 14 April 1874)
Early Missionaries and Explorers in Uganda

1. Captain John Hanning Speke 1862 Explorer
2. Henry Morton Stanley 1875 Explorer
3. Alexander MacKay 1878 Engineer missionary
MacKay built 230 mile road to Mpwapwa from Sadani on the east coast (assisted with supplies by Abdullah Susi (Livingstone’s assistant))

Two and half years travel from England to Rubaga, Uganda

Transport and travel - Boat building *Daisy* to cross Lake Victoria Nyanza
King Mutesa (died 1884)

Approach road to Mutesa’s court
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- 1884 Mwanga succeeds Mutesa
- 1885-7 Slaughter of Christians/Uganda Martyrs

Rev. Robert Pickering Ashe (1857-1944) worked with MacKay
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Commemoration and remembering Livingstone and MacKay
Missionaries and Explorers in Africa

- Journey of Exploration
- Travel/Transport
- Networks
- Commerce
- Christianity
- Civilisation
- Legacy
- Commemoration