South Fukien Religious Tract Society

Annual Report 1932

Financial Statements

for

Year Ending 30th November, 1932
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1933

PRESIDENT
Mr. R. Tully,
English Presbyterian Mission.

SECRETARY
Mr. H. J. P Anderson,
English Presbyterian Mission.

TREASURER
Mr. H. J. P Anderson,
English Presbyterian Mission.

COMMITTEE
Miss A. T. Duncan,
London Missionary Society.
Miss D. M. Arrowsmith,
English Presbyterian Mission.
Mrs. C. H. Holleman,
American Reformed Church Mission.
Rev. Mrs. K. H. L. Hutley,
London Missionary Society.
Rev. H. P. DePree, D.D.,
American Reformed Church Mission.
CONSTITUTION

I. Name.—This Society shall be called the “South Fukien Religious Tract Society,” and its headquarters shall be at Amoy.

II. Object.—The object of the Society shall be the publication and circulation of books and tracts, prepared on the same principles as those of the Religious Tract Society of London or the American Tract Society.

III. Membership.—All Protestant Missionaries labouring in South Fukien may, on application through the Secretary and by payment of an annual subscription, become members thereof. Friends, other than missionaries, willing to further the object of the Society may, on payment of a subscription of $5 and upwards, become Honorary Life Members.

IV. Officers.—The officers of the Society shall be a President, Secretary and Treasurer; all of whom shall be elected annually.

V. Executive.—The business of the Society shall be conducted by an Executive Committee which shall consist of the officers and six other members elected at the annual meeting. This committee shall have power to fill vacancies in its membership during the year. It shall meet when necessary for the transaction of business, four to form a quorum.

VI. Annual Meeting.—The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held at Amoy before the 31st of December of each year and as soon after the close of financial year on the 30th of November as possible. At the Annual Meeting a Report of the past year’s working of the Society shall be presented for adoption together with a statement of accounts; and the officers and Committee for the ensuing year shall be elected. Should fewer than fifteen members be present any matters decided must have the support of three-quarters of the members attending.

General Meetings may be held at other times when business requires, a quorum at these meetings shall consist of one-third of the total membership present in South Fukien.
VII. PUBLICATIONS.—All books and tracts published by the Society must first be submitted to the Executive Committee for examination, and no tract or book shall be adopted which is not approved by a majority of the Committee.

Nothing relating to denominational controversy shall be published by this Society.

VIII. SALES AND GRANTS.—The price of books and tracts shall be fixed by the Executive Committee. Persons ordering the Society's publications from the Secretary or Book Depot shall be responsible for the payment of the Catalogue value of the same. Requests for free grants must be referred to the Executive Committee.

IX. SUBSCRIPTIONS.—The Treasurer shall be authorized to solicit subscriptions on behalf of the funds of the Society.

X. REPORT AND CATALOGUE.—A Catalogue and Annual Report shall be printed and circulated.

XI. AMENDMENTS.—Changes in the Society’s Constitution can be made only at an Annual or General Meeting by two-thirds vote of the total membership present in South Fukien, and provided that one month's previous notice has been given. Members unable to attend may send their votes to the Secretary.

CAPITAL FUND

At the first meeting of the Executive Committee it was decided that all money received from Honorary Membership subscriptions shall be set aside as a Capital Fund, using only the interest for current expenses. Should it at any time be desirable to use the Capital Fund, or any part of it for special purposes, this shall be done only by a three-fourths vote of the total membership present in South Fukien. Other friends may contribute to this Capital Fund.
SOUTH FUKIEN RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY

Annual Report 1932

The year under review is the twenty-fifth in the history of the South Fukien Religious Tract Society so that already for quarter of a century the Society has sought to do all that was possible in the preparation of books in the Amoy vernacular,—in addition it has acted as a distributing agency for books prepared in character by other similar societies working in China.

The Committee expresses its gratitude and thanks to Almighty God for all that He has enabled the Society to do in the course of 1932, and also thanks the members and friends of the Society for financial and other help given during that period.

At the last annual meeting the Committee was given authority to go forward with a scheme by which the Society would secure premises of its own in a central position on Kulangsu, and, thanks to the generosity of the members and friends of the Society as well as to substantial donations from the American Reformed Church Mission and the English Presbyterian Mission, the Society is now carrying on its activities in its own premises on Kulangsu. The new building consists of a splendid sales depot, adequate storage accommodation as well as a flat of four for the depot-keeper. The whole matter of the provision of new premises for the Society will be dealt with in a separate pamphlet, and copies will in due course be sent to all those interested in the work of the Society. However the Committee takes this opportunity of placing on record its sincere thanks to all who in any way have helped to make it possible to secure permanent and adequate premises for the Society’s work.

Mr. Chng Ek Chheng has continued in the Depot service of the Society as depot-keeper during the year, and in many respects he has done satisfactory work. A careful record of the Society’s
transactions has been kept, and the stock has been well cared for. One would like to see more initiative in pushing business, and much more might be done in attracting prospective buyers to the depot. The Committee hopes that there will be an improvement in this respect during the coming year. The shortage in the staffs of the co-operating Missions has resulted in the Amoy missionaries being overburdened with the work of their own Missions, and it has not been possible to give that amount of supervision to the work of the depot that is called for.

Circulation.

Romanised publications 14,663
Character publications (books and tracts) 25,850
Sunday School Lessons and Daily Readings) 3,228
Dictionaries 136
Commentaries 55
Maps and Diagrams 272
“Amoy Church News” 530 copies per month.

The above figures show a considerable falling off as compared with the previous year, which is partly accounted for by some of the ‘best sellers’ having been out of print, but it is also certain that the prevailing world-wide economic difficulties have had an effect on the number of publications disposed of during the year. There has been a considerable falling off in the number of “Sunday School Lessons & Daily Readings” (Tsu-jit Sin-liong), but this does not necessarily indicate a lessening of the number of people using the “Readings” as in 1932 for the first time the “Readings” in romanised and in character were combined in one volume whereas formerly different books were published for the romanised and for the character—thus in 1932 it was necessary only to buy one book whereas in former years many people bought both the romanised and the character editions.
The Sunday School Cards issued by the China Sunday School Union have as in former years been used in considerable numbers, but the Society has no accurate figures to give in regard to them. Supplies are sent now direct from Shanghai to those using the cards. As intimated in last year's report the Secretary of the South Fukien Religious Tract Society will again forward any orders for these cards to the proper authorities in Shanghai, and in view of the increased interest in Sunday School work strongly recommends a more extensive use of the cards than at present pertains.

Once again the Committee deplores that it has not been possible for the Society to issue more new publications, but until more funds are available this will not be possible. It is only with difficulty that the Society is able to reprint books for which there is a steady demand, but even in the case of such books there are many that ought to be reprinted, but the work must be postponed until funds become available.

The Committee however has pleasure in intimating that it has been possible to print in romanised a daily devotional book for the first half of the year (the second half will be published when funds become available). This book has been prepared by Miss Ho Siok-cheng. Also a book in character ("Sip-to Chho-po") prepared by Miss A. T. Duncan has been published by the Society. In addition the Society has issued both in romanised and in character the new hymn book, ("Poe-leng Si-koa"), which was approved a year ago by the South Fukien Church Synod.

The Committee would also draw the attention of the members to two other books in romanised which have been printed privately and issued during 1932. These are "Lu-bi Toan-gian" prepared by Miss M. E. Talmage, and "Se-pak Pian-hong Po-to Li" by Mrs. Tan Chhiu Keng.

All the above-mentioned new publications are now on sale at the depot.
The following is a complete list of the publications issued by the Society during 1932, viz:

1. **New Publications.**
   
   (a) In Chinese Character.
   1. “Sip-to Chho-po.”
   2. “Poe-leng Si-koa.”
   3. “Seng-keng Tsat”—22 different kinds.

   (b) In romanised.
   2. “Poe-leng Si-koa.”

2. **Reprints.**
   
   (a) In Chinese Character.
   2. “Seng-keng Tsat.”

   (b) In romanised.
   2. “Chin-to Bun-tap.”
   3. “Pi-pan Sim Siu Boan-chhan.”
   4. “Peh-oe Ji-bu.”
   5. “Hai-tong Si-koa.”

3. **Character and Romanised in the same book.**
   
   “Tsu-jit Sin-liong” (Sunday School Lessons and Daily Readings, etc.)

The Committee also begs to announce that Mrs. Barbour’s “Home Education” has been translated into romanised by Mrs. H. P. DePree, and it is hoped that funds will become available so that this book may be published in the course of 1933.

A statement of the finances of the Society during 1932 as well as lists of subscriptions from members and friends are included in this report. There has been a falling-off in the amount
received from such subscriptions, and it is hoped that those, who forgot to forward their subscriptions for 1932, will keep this in memory when they forward their 1933 subscriptions. The economic situation in Europe has necessitated a reduction in the grant given by the Religious Tract Society of London, and for 1932 the sum of £20 was sent as against £50 in previous years. The cost of running the depot and of printing has also increased during the year under review, and it is to be feared that the latter will be still heavier in 1933 as much of the paper used has to be imported into China, and with the continued low rates of exchange as well as with increased custom's duty there is a tendency for the cost of paper to rise.

A detailed statement of the cost of the new premises will be given in the separate statement that will be prepared in connection with the New Premises Building Scheme, and for the purpose of this report it will suffice to mention that these premises have been opened free of debt, and that the necessary funds were secured without in any way drawing on funds given to the Society for ordinary running expenses of the depot or for printing. For this the Committee is profoundly thankful, and desires to place on record in the annual report its thanks to the members and friends of the Society for their noble efforts to attain this end.

It has not been an easy year as far as the finances for the work of the Society is concerned, and the accounts have been closed with a debit balance of $300.96. This would have been larger, but the subscriptions from honorary members have been included as ordinary receipts —this action of the Committee will have to be confirmed by a special resolution at the Annual Meeting. Also a special donation towards printing (originally intended for the Building Fund) and another donation towards reducing the deficit on the year's working have helped to reduce the debit balance—had it not been for these three items the debit balance at 30th November 1932 would have been $561.53.
The Committee would again impress on the members and friends of the Society the importance of considering a "higher scale of giving" for this "key" work of the missionary enterprise. This was stressed in last year's report and in several instances was acted upon, but the decline in the number of subscribers has counteracted the effect of this increased support to the work. The Society should increasingly be prepared to arrange for new publications being translated and printed; but unless more funds become available this will not be possible. The 1932 Committee trusts that the in-coming Committee for 1933 will have their hands strengthened by increased financial support, and thus be the better enabled to fulfil the purpose for which the Society was founded twenty-five years ago.

Thanks.

The Committee desires to give its grateful thanks

(1) to the Religious Tract Society of London for a grant of £20,

(2) to the members and friends of the Society for their annual subscriptions,

(3) to Miss A. T. Duncan on whose shoulders the main work of publishing the "Amoy Church News" fell, to the other members of the Editorial Board, and to the contributors of articles for the paper,

(4) to all who have by prayer or otherwise forwarded the interests of the Society.

Above all the Committee again gives thanks to God for His guidance and help throughout another year, and prays that the Christian books distributed in the course of the year may be used by Him to the end that His name may be glorified and His Kingdom extended.

On behalf of the Committee,

H. J. P. Anderson,
Secretary.
ANNUAL MEETING

The twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the South Fukien Religious Tract Society was held on Wednesday, January 18th., 1933, at 6 p.m. in the Union Church, Kulangsu, Amoy.

The following members and friends of the Society were present, viz:


Miss E. K. Beekman, President of the Society, occupied the Chair, and opened the meeting with a devotional service.

The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting, held on February 3rd 1933, were read and confirmed—proposed by the Rev. N. B. Slater and seconded by Mr. W. Vander Meer.

The Secretary, Mr. H. J. P Anderson, presented the Committee’s Report for 1932. The Rev. N. B. Slater proposed and Miss J. Veldman seconded that the Report be adopted, and that it be printed and circulated. This was unanimously agreed to.

The Treasurer, Mr. H. J. P Anderson, presented the Financial Statements for the year ending 30th November, 1932, and in doing so stated that he had transferred the subscriptions obtained from Honorary Members to meet to some extent the deficiency in the general working account for 1932 and that this action of the Committee would require to be approved by the members present at the Annual Meeting.

Dr. H. P. DePree proposed and Rev. L. G. Phillips seconded that the subscriptions obtained from Honorary
Members during the financial year ending 30th November, be transferred to help meet the deficiency in the general working account for that period, and that in future the Committee be authorised to use any such Honorary Members' subscriptions to meet any deficit in connection with the ordinary running expenses of the Society. This was unanimously agreed to.

Dr. C. H. Holleman proposed and Miss D. M. Arrowsmith seconded that the accounts for the financial year ending 30th November, 1932 be adopted, and that they be printed and circulated. This was unanimously agreed to.

In reply to a query the Secretary reported that a price list of the Society's and other publications was being prepared, and would be issued in the near future.

The Rev. W Short proposed and Miss D. M. Arrowsmith seconded that

"This meeting expresses its thankfulness to God that He has made it possible during the past year to meet a long felt want of the Society in the erection of an adequate building in which the work of the Society can be carried on. It further expresses its gratitude to all who have contributed to the building fund and especially to those who have so efficiently made arrangements for the erection and equipment of a handsome and suitable building."

This was unanimously agreed to.

The Office-Bearers and Committee for 1932 were thanked for their services throughout the year.

The following office-bearers and committee for 1933 were elected, viz:

President:— Mr. R. Tully,
Secretary and Treasurer:— Mr. H. J. P. Anderson,
Committee Members:— Miss A. T. Duncan,
                        Miss D. M. Arrowsmith,
                        Mrs. C. H. Holleman,
                        Rev. K. H. L. Huttley,
                        Rev. H. P DePree, D.D.

The Meeting was closed with prayer.
List of Members and Subscriptions 1932.

A. Ordinary Members for 1932.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Subscription</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. H. J. P. Anderson</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. and Mrs. W. R. Angus</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss D. M. Arrowsmith</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss E. K. Beekman</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss R. Broekema</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss E. G. Bruce</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Busby</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss M. Clarke</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. and Mrs. H. P. DePree, D.D.</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss A. T. Duncan</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss L. N. Duryee</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss M. Fraser</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. and Mrs. A. F. Griffiths</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss T. Holkeboer</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. and Mrs. C. H. Holleman</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss M. B. Macgregor</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss J. P. McKay</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. R. H. Mobbs</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss M. C. Morrison</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss J. Nienhuis</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. and Mrs. L. G. Phillips</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. and Mrs. H. A. Poppen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. and Mrs. E. A. Preston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. and Mrs. N. B. Slater</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss M. C. C. Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss A. A. Symington</td>
<td>5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss K. M. Talmage</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. E. I. Taylor</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. L. G. Thacker</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. R. Tully</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. and Mrs. G. R. Turner</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. W. Vander Meer</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss J. Veldman</td>
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$400.00
Late Subscriptions for 1931.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. and Mrs. W. R. Angus</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. A. F. Griffiths</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. and Mrs. C. H. Holleman</td>
<td>10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss J. P McKay</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Rogers</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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$ 60.00

B. Honorary Members for 1932.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miss J. Ewing</td>
<td>$ 10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss M. G. Ewing</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss E. J. Herschell</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss H. Lecky (£1)</td>
<td>16.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. and Mrs. L. A. Talman</td>
<td>10.00</td>
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$ 56.07
RELIigious
KULANGSU,
GENERAL ACCOUNT

1932
Dec. 20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of stock</td>
<td>$767.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing of books</td>
<td>2,315.28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries, rent, light</td>
<td>790.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discount allowed on cash sales</td>
<td>58.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refund to owners of books sold on commission</td>
<td>454.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refund: interest to Tsoh for guarantee deposit</td>
<td>21.00</td>
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Nov. 23

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Loss of stock at removal</td>
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Dec. 20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subscription to Christian Publishers' Association</td>
<td>10.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>38.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cleaning depot, etc.</td>
<td>77.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landing charges on goods</td>
<td>18.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stationery</td>
<td>12.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing, etc. of Seng Hoe Po</td>
<td>350.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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$4,931.97
TRACT SOCIETY

Amoy

FOR YEAR 1931-1932

1931
Dec. 22

Balance from previous year .......... $ 19.08

1932
Nov. 30

Grant from R.T.S. London: £20 @ 1/3½% .......... 317.35
Dec. 20

Members' subscriptions 1931 .......... 60.00

"  "  "  " 1932 .......... 400.00

Honorary Members' subscriptions 1932 .......... 56.07

From Suspense Account for printing .......... 900.00

Sale of sundries from Yap .......... 90.00

Commission on sale of private publications .......... 45.48

Donation for printing .......... 150.00

Sale of Seng Hoe Po .......... 106.60

Cash sales at depot .......... 1,055.86

Sales on account .......... 1,352.23

Interest on current account at H. & S. Bank .......... 2.84

Interest on Tsng Guarantee Deposit .......... 21.00

Special donations to reduce deficit .......... 54.50

Balance: deficit on year's working .......... 300.96

$4,931.97
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Account Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 20</td>
<td>Building new premises</td>
<td>$195.84</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tsnr Superannuation Account</td>
<td>248.69</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Suspense Account</td>
<td>117.81</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Building Project Account</td>
<td>266.66</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$829.00</strong></td>
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Audited and found correct,

R. Tully.
SHEET:

1932

1932
Dec. 20

General Account: deficit on year’s working . . . . $300.96
Cash Book Balance . . . . . . . . . . 528.04

$829.00

H. J. P. Anderson,

Treasurer.