ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SOUTH FUKIEN

RELIGIOUS TRACT

SOCIETY

Library of the
YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL
New Haven, Conn.

1937
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1938

PRESIDENT
Mr. R. Tully

SECRETARY
Rev. H. A. Poppen

TREASURER
Rev. H. A. Poppen

COMMITTEE
Miss D. M. Arrowsmith
Miss Daisy Pearce
Miss A. E. Lindsay
Miss L. Vander Linden
Miss B. C. Chiu
Mrs. C. H. Holleman
Rev. N. B. Slater
Mr. C. T. Lu
Mr. S. G. Shen
Miss A. T. Duncan (Co-opted)
The year under review may be recorded as the most unusual year in the Society’s history. The unprecedented sales in the two previous years following the spiritual awakening in South Fukien gave every prospect for opportunity for even larger service during the year 1937. The prospects for an even bigger year in the sale and distribution of Christian literature and Scriptures was soon interrupted by the unfortunate Sino-Japanese conflict. A preview of the records show that as early as August there was already a marked falling off in sales.

At the Annual meeting held in February, 1937, the Committee was asked to consider the possibility of taking over the Amoy Christian Bookroom. This transaction was effected and in May the Amoy shop was opened as a branch depot under the management of Mr. Chng, Jr. and an assistant. Days were spent in going over the large stock on hand and a carefully selected amount was added to the Society’s stock. The unsaleable stock, ten large cases, was returned to publishers and distributing agencies. The secretary made personal calls, when in Shanghai last spring, on several of the Amoy Bookroom creditors with a view to making settlements for outstanding accounts. In almost every case creditors were very willing to take back old stock purchased from them and credit the account; others wrote off outstanding accounts; the management of the Amoy Bookroom took responsibility for $700; some were paid up in full, in this way it was possible to reduce the outstanding indebtedness of the Amoy Bookroom, of
approximately $3000., so that to date the amount still out-
standing is well covered by bills collectable, and the Society
can go forward without any financial burden entailed by
taking over this Bookroom. The Committee is grateful to
all who have coöperated to make this possible.

The Amoy shop was temporarily closed the middle of
September, the attendants withdrawn, awaiting develop-
ments in Amoy. The short experiment of four months
has not been sufficient on which to base any accurate con-
clusion as to the practicability of conducting a depot in
Amoy city, as the months covered are generally amongst
the slackest months of the year. However, it is a great
convenience to the churches on Amoy island and the
churches in the interior to have a distributing center in
the city and the Society may well consider continuing the
branch depot even if it must do so at a slight financial loss.

At a special meeting held in March, three Chinese
members were elected to serve on the Committee. The
Committee rejoices that this step in fuller coöperation in
the distribution and production of Christian literature has
been effected. The valuable help given during the year by
these new members has fully justified this change in policy
and it is the hope of the Committee that with this fuller
sharing of responsibility with our Chinese fellow Christ-
ians the Society may go on to bigger and better service to
the Church in the years that lie ahead. Mr. Lu Chin-tiong
has translated for us a booklet of “Private Prayer” and
also Dr. Charles E. Erdman’s devotional commentary on
“Mark” Miss B. C. Chiu has translated Dr. Wm. Bancroft
Hill’s book of Bible stories, “Chinham and His Khan”.
The first booklet on “Private Prayer” is already on sale
at the depot and the other two volumes are now in the
press.
The work at the depot has been carried on by Mr. Chng and his son in their characteristic way. The taking over of the Amoy Bookroom entailed considerable more work but they have shared this added responsibility without any undue stirring of spirit. Records of stock have been carefully kept and the shop has presented a moderately neat appearance. The notice boards and the large window have been useful in displaying new books and posters. Lack of space has hampered a larger and more effective display of literature. The problem of disposing of old stock is a stubborn one and the Committee welcomes any good suggestion which will help to dispose of the old stock of hymnals, approximately a ton of them, occupying valuable space in the stock room.

If the production of new literature is an important one, the circulation and distribution is of no less importance. The circulation during the year has been very encouraging especially in view of the disturbed situation. Distributing centers in Changchow, Changpu, Tungan, Chuanchow and Kim Chi’ are doing genuine service in getting literature and the Scriptures into the churches and chapels in the interior.

The following table gives the circulation of books, Bibles and tracts:

1. The Society’s own publications:
   (a). Romanised publication .................. 32,176
   (b). Character publication .................. 30,462

2. Books sold on commission (privately owned):
   (a) Character ......................................... 47
   (b) Romanised ....................................... 347
3. Books published in Formosa .......................... 97
4. Books published by other societies in China 10,225
5. Tracts and portions .................................. 55,997
6. Dictionaries ........................................... 38
7. Commentaries ......................................... 433
8. Sunday School Lessons and Daily Readings,
   Romanised and Character combined ............... 4,772

134,594

9. "Amoy Church News" – (Seng Hoe Po)
   monthly copies .................................. 600

Sale and Distribution of Bibles:

1. Bibles:
   Mandarin ........................................... 1,798
   Wenli ............................................... 14
   Romanised ......................................... 570
   English ............................................. 16  2,398

2. New Testaments:
   Mandarin ........................................... 833
   Romanised ......................................... 429
   English ............................................. 98
   English (Modern Translations) ................. 22
   Chinese-English ................................ 37  1,419

3. Portions:
   Mandarin ........................................... 814
   Phonetics .......................................... 36
   New Testament & Psalms ......................... 32
   Psalms ............................................. 193
   Braille ............................................. 2
   Old Testaments ................................... 6  1,083

4,900
The Committee is happy to report that some progress has been made during the year in the way of new publications. As mentioned above, Chinese members of the Committee have given valuable help in translating new books. The Committee welcomes suggestions from the members of the Society for suitable books or pamphlets for translation either from the Chinese character or any other language. The Society now has a “Printing Fund for the Publication of New Books.” It is hoped that all three of the Missions working in South Fukien will find it possible to make annual contributions to this fund. Two friends in the U.S.A. Mr. Wm. B. Eerdmans of the “Eerdmans Publishing Company,” in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the Rev. Charles E. Erdman D. D. of Princeton, New Jersey have donated $100. U.S.C. each to this fund. Through the cooperation of Mr. Onley, Secretary of the R. T. S. Hankow, the Tract Society of London has promised to defray the expenses of translating and publishing one book. This book is now in the press and should be ready for circulation within a few weeks.

The Committee would like to suggest to the Annual Meeting the matter of stocking a limited variety of books of a more general nature, books that deal with the Christian movement in a more general way and that have a wider appeal than the limited field now covered.
The following is a list of publications issued by the Society during the year:

1. Romanised and Character Combined;
   Chu Jit Sin Liong. (S. S. Lessons and
   Daily Readings) .................. 4,000

2. Romanised: (Reprints)
   "Ia-so Su-liok" .................................. 3,000
   "Peh-oe Ji-bu" .................................. 10,000
   "Su-toan Tiah-liok" ............................. 1,000
   "Lien Sip Toa" ................................. 25,000

   New Publications
   "Ia-so e Seng-hoat kap Ka-si" ............ 1,000
   "Pe-bu Hak" ...................................... 1,000

3. Character:
   "Seng Si Staff Edition"
   1. Cloth Cover .................. 300
   2. Stiff Paper Cover ............ 1,200
   3. Soft Paper Cover ............. 1,500  3,000

4. Small Character words only .......... 5,000
5. Large Character .......................... 5,000
6. Church History – (for Synod) ....... 3,000

41,000

   1. "Facts and Mysteries"
   2. "Gospel of Mark"
   3. "Chinham and His Khan"
   4. "Seng Keng Chat"
   5. "Bit-to Chi-chaw"
The Amoy Church News "Seng Hoe Po," has added another year to its already more than 50 years of continuous publication. It boasts of being the only church paper in South Fukien today. Its four companions, in Chinese character with whom it began the year have all been discontinued, others come and go but the Seng Hoe Po keeps going. The Committee wishes to place on record its appreciation of the work done by Miss A.T. Duncan as editor during the year and solicits coöperation on the part of the membership in getting the periodical distributed amongst the church, and supplying copy.

With the addition of the Amoy depot, which gave a wider scope of activities; the coöperation on the Committee of Chinese members; the generous response to the Printing Fund and the loyal support of the members of the Society, the Committee was looking forward to an unprecedented year in the history of the Society. But no one could foresee the events of the year which precipitated us into the Sino-Japanese conflict with its tragic interruption in the work of the Church and Christian schools. That we were able to close the year with such a small debit balance of only $34.06 is Providential. The Committee wishes to place on record its appreciation of the sympathetic attitude of Mr. Toh Choan seng, owner of the Amoy Depot Premises by his readiness to reduce the already low rent of $22.50 per month to $10.00 per month and finally even contributing three month's rent. The Committee regrets that it has been necessary to increase the price of some of its publications during the year, but the large increase in the cost of paper has necessitated an increase in price.
In presenting this report the Committee wishes to record its thanks to God for guidance given during a difficult year. We are living in unprecedented days in China and the future of the Christian movement in this area is bound to be affected in one way or another by the present disturbances now taking place. It is well that we ask ourselves as a part of the Christian Community whether we are rising to the opportunity for service this calamity affords. There are hard months ahead but we must hold tight to the belief that our work—the preaching of the Gospel—through the distribution of the written page and personal witness will unify the world. The Committee prays that under the guidance of God the incoming Committee may find an ever increasing field of service in the building of God's Kingdom in South Fukien.

On behalf of the Committee,

H. A. POPPEN
Secretary.

Kulangsu, Amoy.
January 17th 1938

List of Members and Subscriptions for 1937.

A. Ordinary Members

Dr. F. C. Read .................................. $20.00
Rev. and Mrs. W. DeVelder ............... 10.00
Rev. and Mrs. L. G. Phillips.................. 10.00
Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Busby................... 10.00
Miss R. Broekema ............................ 10.00
Dr. and Mrs. R. Hofstra.................... 15.00
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<td>Mr. and Mrs. H. J. P. Anderson</td>
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<td>Rev. and Mrs. H. M. Veenschoten</td>
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<td>Rev. and Mrs. E. W. Koepe</td>
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<td>Rev. and Mrs. H. J. Voskuil</td>
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<td>Miss J. P. McKay</td>
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<td>Miss J. Nienhuis</td>
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<td>Miss E. K. Beekman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Daisy Pearce</td>
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<td>Rev. and Mrs. N. B. Slater</td>
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<td>Rev. I. M. R. Latto</td>
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<td>Miss Margaret Fraser</td>
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<td>Rev. and Mrs. H. A. Poppen</td>
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<td>Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Shen</td>
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<td>Mr. and Mrs. Peter Anderson</td>
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<td>Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Lu</td>
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<td>Dr. and Mrs. H. P. Boot</td>
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<td>Miss E. A. Boot</td>
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<td>Dr. and Mrs. T. V. Oltman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Homer C. Ling</td>
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Mr. and Mrs. Toh Choan seng.......................... 30.00
Miss K. M. Duncan.................................... 10.00
Miss M. H. Box........................................ 10.00
Miss N. Wheeler........................................ 5.00
Mr. C. K. Woo......................................... 5.00
Miss A. T. Duncan..................................... 10.00

$510.50

B. Honorary Members

Miss H. Lecky ........................................ 16.00
Miss A. E. Herschell.................................. 15.00
Miss A. A. Symington................................ 2.00
Dr. and Mrs. A. L. Warnshuis....................... 16.67
Mrs. A. B. Poppen..................................... 15.00

$64.67

Donations for Printing

Mr. Wm. B. Eerdman $100, U. S. C. ............. $334.03
Dr Charles R. Eerdman $100 U. S. C. .......... 335.42
American Mission .................................... 150.00
“A Friend” ........................................... 20.00

$839.45

Special Donations Account

Miss R. R. Green .................................... 40.00
Miss K. M. Talmage .................................. 80.00

$120.00
GENERAL

To Rent – Amoy depot ........................................ $ 119.60
To Salaries ................................................... 798.26
To Light ....................................................... 42.54
To Printing Reports ......................................... 36.99
To Discount on Sales ....................................... 60.33
To Municipal Assessments ................................... 97.04
To Printing Socy’s Pub. ..................................... 2794.50
To Purchase of Stock ....................................... 3883.76
To Miscellaneous and Postage ................................ 288.07
To Seng Hoe Po – Printing .................................. 213.00
To Donations for Printing ................................... 95.00
To Donations for Printing transferred to separate account .................................................. 744.45
To Synod Loan-refund Bal. ................................. 200.00
To Refund for sales on Comm. .............................. 154.65

$9508.39

PROPERTY

BALANCE ................................................................ $3993.49

MR. CHNG’S

BALANCE ................................................................ $ 754.38

$ 754.38
## ACCOUNT 1936-1937

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>By 1935-1936 Balance</td>
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<td>64.67</td>
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<td>By Regular Membership</td>
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<td>By Seng Hoe Po Sub's</td>
<td>49.20</td>
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<td>By Sales on Account</td>
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<td>By Cash Sales at Depot</td>
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<td>By Donations for Printing</td>
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<td>By Synod Loan</td>
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<td>By Special Donations</td>
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<td>By Sales on Commission</td>
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<td>By 1936-1937 Debit Bal.</td>
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$9508.39

## PROJECT FUND

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$3993.49

## SUPERANNUATION

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<tr>
<td>By Mr. Chng's Contribution</td>
<td>42.00</td>
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<td>By Society's Contribution</td>
<td>42.00</td>
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<td>By Int. on F/D</td>
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<td>By Int. from Salary Account</td>
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$ 754.38
ASSISTANT

BALANCE .............................................. $ 24.00

$ 24.00

PRINTING

To Paid to Translators ................................. $ 75.00
To Transfer to printing A/C ......................... 20.00
To BALANCE carried forward ..................... 744.45

$ 839.45

TRIAL

To Property Project Bal. ............................... $3993.49
To Mr. Chng's Superannuation ..................... 754.38
To Assistant's Superannuation ................... 24.00
To Printing Fund Bal. ............................... 744.45

$5516.32

STOCK

General Literature

Books Sold on Commission .................. $3911.88
R. I. S. Publications ......................... 7383.26
Formosa Publications ...................... 73.78
Commentaries ................................. 491.74
Other Societies .............................. 2756.14

$14,616.80

Respectfully submitted
Signed: H. A. Poppen
Treasurer
January 15, 1938.
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<td>Assistant’s Contribution</td>
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**FUND**

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<td>Rec’d Wm. B. Eerdman</td>
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<td>Rec’d Rev. C. E. Eerdman D. D.</td>
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<td>Rec’d R. C. A. Mission</td>
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<td>Rec’d “A Friend”</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$839.45</strong></td>
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**BALANCE**

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<td>Superannuation Fund F/D</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**ON HAND**

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<td>Bibles</td>
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<td>Portions</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1862.42</strong></td>
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Audited and found correct.
Signed:  N. B. Slater  
Auditor
January 15, 1938.
ANNUAL MEETING

The thirtieth annual meeting of the South Fukien Religious Tract Society was held in Union Church, Kulangsu, Amoy, on Monday, January 17th, 1938 at 5:30 P. M.

The following members and friends of the Society were present: The Misses Daisy Pearce, K. M. Duncan, T. Holkeboer, R. Broekema, N. Wheeler, D. M. Arrowsmith, M. Fraser, A. E. Lindsay, M. H. Box, J. Nienhuis, A. T. Duncan, B. C. Chiu, Rev. and Mrs. E. W. Koeppke, Dr. and Mrs. C. H. Holleman, Mr. and Mrs. P. Anderson, Rev. and Mrs. H. A. Poppen, Rev. and Mrs. Balchin, Rev. and Mrs. W. DeVelder, Rev. H. P. Boot D. D., Rev. H. P. DePree D. D., Rev. Frank Eckerson, Rev. L. G. Phillips, Rev. A. F. Griffiths, Mr. R. Tully, Mr. Homer C. Ling, Dr. T. V. Oltman.

The President of the Society, Mr. H. J. P. Anderson was prevented from attending the meeting. Mr. R. Tully presided and opened the meeting with a brief devotional service.

The minutes of the annual meeting held February 5, 1937, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the South Fukien Religious Tract Society was held in the Union Church, Kulangsu, Amoy, March 4, 1937, at 6 P. M.

The following members were present:

The following members were present by proxy and had sent in their ballots for Committee members:
Misses M. H. Box, D. M. Arrowsmith, R. Broekema, L. Vander Linden, N. Wheeler, M. Clarke, E. Kameen, K. M. Duncan and Dr. T. C. Read, Rev. L. G. Phillips, Mr. C. T. Lu, Mr. Homer C. Ling, T. K. Chiu, C. Y. Shao, E. S. Ting, P. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Shen, Mr. and Mrs. Y. Rogers, and Dr. E. J. Strick.

The president Mr. H. J. P. Anderson occupied the chair and opened the meeting with prayer.

The Call for the meeting was read by the chairman.

The chairman ruled that there was a quorum present and the meeting proceeded with the business in hand.

A ballot was taken for the three additional committee members and the ballots sent in by absent members were counted. The following were elected to serve as additional committee members:

Mr. T. K. Chiu
Mr. C. T. Lu
Mr. G. S. Shen
The meeting was closed with prayer by Miss Daisy Pearce.

These minutes of the special meeting were confirmed by the annual meeting.

The secretary then presented the Committee’s report of work done during the year and also presented a statement of accounts.

The Rev. A. F. Griffiths proposed and Rev. E. W. Koepe seconded that the reports be adopted, printed, and circulated. This was unanimously approved.

After a brief discussion on some aspects of the work of the society, the following office bearers and committee were elected for 1938;

President..................Mr. R. Tully
Secretary and Treasurer...Rev. H. A. Poppen
Committee members: ......Miss Daisy Pearce
Miss D. M. Arrowsmith
Miss Daisy Pearce
Miss A. E. Lindsay
Miss L. Vander Linden
Mrs. C. H. Holleman
Rev. N. B. Slater
Mr. C. T. Lu
Mr. G. S. Shen
Miss B. C. Chiu
Miss A. T. Duncan (Co-opted)
Herewith I enclose .............. being my subscription to the 

South Fukien Tract Society for 193 

To the Secretary 

SOUTH FUKIEN RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY, 

AMOY