

HENRY VENN COLLECTION  
C.1975

FINDING AID

The David Allan Hubbard Library



Alyson Thomas  
October 2024  
©Fuller Theological Seminary

## **Administrative Information**

**Title:**

Henry Venn Collection, c.1975

**Creator(s):**

Shenk, Wilbert

Venn, H. (Henry), 1725-1797

**Collection Identifier:**

CFT00043

**Extent:**

4 Boxes, 1.46 linear feet

**Repository:**

David Allan Hubbard Library

Fuller Theological Seminary

135 N Oakland Ave

Pasadena, CA 91182

**Acquisition Information:**

Gift of Wilbert Shenk. In September 2018, Shenk's *Bibliography of Henry Venn's Printed Writings with Index* was added to the Henry Venn Collection.

**Conditions Governing Access:**

Scholarly use with parameters of copyright law.

**Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:**

Copyright restrictions may apply.

**Language:**

English

**Preferred Citation:**

[Identification of Item], Henry Venn Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California.

**Name of Cataloger/Date Completed:**

Collection cataloged and finding aid written by Alyson Thomas, September 2018.

**Statement on Archival Language:**

The David Allan Hubbard Library aims to describe archival materials in a way that is respectful to all communities who use, create, and are represented in our collections. However, the nature of historical materials is such that some material may represent positions, language, values, and

stereotypes that are not consistent with the current values and practices at Fuller Theological Seminary.

Within our finding aids, it is possible users may encounter language that is offensive or harmful. While some language included in finding aids was written by staff, other language originates from the people and organizations that created the material. For example, folder titles are often preserved from the creators. It is standard practice not to change them and, in some cases, it provides important context about the materials. When we find problematic language created by archivists and staff we strive to update it. When we find problematic language from the original creator we will transcribe as is to preserve the context of its creation.

**Rights Statement for Archival Description:**

Except where otherwise noted, the guide to the Henry Venn Collection by Archives and Special Collections, David Allan Hubbard Library, Fuller Theological Seminary is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

## Biographical History

Henry Venn (February 10, 1796 - January 13, 1873) was honorary secretary of the Church Missionary Society from 1841 to 1873. He expounded the basic principles of indigenous Christian missions later addressed and made widespread by the Lausanne Congress of 1974.

Henry Venn and Rufus Anderson of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions were the first to use the term "indigenous church" in the mid-nineteenth century. They wrote about the necessity for creating churches in the missions field that were self-supporting, self-governing, and self-propagating (Venn used the term "self-extending"). Venn is quoted by Wilbert Shenk, among others, as encouraging the "euthanasia of missions," which meant that missionaries were to be considered temporary workers and not permanent.

## Related Collections

Papers of Wilbert Shenk, Fuller Theological Seminary

Church Missionary Society Archive. Microfilm. Film MS109. Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library in New Haven, Connecticut

Church Missionary Society Archives. Cadbury Special Collections at the University of Birmingham, UK

## Scope and Content

The Henry Venn Collection, c.1975 consists of 23 bound volumes related to Henry Venn's collected writings. Thirteen volumes contain a bibliographic index of the Church Missionary Society correspondence by Clerical Secretary Henry Venn, dating from 1835 to 1873. The archival collections are available for research at the University of Birmingham, UK.

Nine volumes are photocopies of the Collected Writings of Henry Venn; Wilbert Shenk collected, photocopied, and bound the materials. The articles, sermons, etc. are numbered according to the *Bibliography of Henry Venn's Printed Writings with Index* by Wilbert Shenk; Elkhart, Ind.: Institute of Mennonite Studies of the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries, [1975]. Not all materials listed in the *Bibliography* are present in the bound volumes.

All bound volumes were created and donated to the Fuller Theological Seminary Library by Professor Wilbert Shenk. Staff removed the *Collected Writings of Henry Venn* from to the Fuller Seminary Library circulating collection prior to 2016. The call number labels were removed and left a sticky residue.

## Subjects

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions  
Church Missionary Society  
Indigenous church administration

## Container List

### Box 1: Index of Henry Venn Materials in the Church Missionary Society Archive at the University of Birmingham, U.K.

Volumes include photocopies of summary descriptions of the indexed correspondence.

Item	Title	Classification
1	Henry Venn Correspondence – Sierra Leone	C.A1/L3—1835-45 to C.A1/L8—1865-85
2	Henry Venn Correspondence – Yoruba	C.A1/L4—1846-52 to C.A2/L4—1867-80
2	Henry Venn Correspondence – Niger	C.A3/L1—1858-82
3	Henry Venn Correspondence – China	C.CH/L1 1834-63 to C.CH/L2 1863-76
3	Henry Venn Correspondence – East Africa	C.A5/L1 1842-77
3	Henry Venn Correspondence – Mediterranean	CM/L3 1838-54 to CM/L5 1854-64
4	Henry Venn Correspondence – New Zealand	CN/L4 1840-45 to CN/L7 1862-78
4	Henry Venn Correspondence – N-W America	C/C1/L1 1821-46 to C/C1/L3 1860-75
4	Henry Venn Correspondence – West Indies	CW/L3 1839-58
5	Henry Venn Correspondence – North India Missions	CI1/L2-CI1/L7
6	Henry Venn Correspondence – South India Missions	CI2/L3-CI2/L7
7	Henry Venn Correspondence – West India Missions	CI3/L2-CI3/L4

### Box 2: Index of Henry Venn Materials in the Church Missionary Society Archive at the University of Birmingham, U.K.

Volumes include photocopies of summary descriptions of the indexed correspondence.

Item	Title	Classification
1	Henry Venn Correspondence – Ceylon	C/CE/L2 – C/CE/L4
1	Henry Venn Correspondence – Mauritius	G/MA/L1
2	Henry Venn Correspondence – Index to Special Subjects	
3	Missions Misc. – Venn Correspondence	G/AC1/14 – G/ACI/18
4	Missions Misc. – Venn Correspondence	G/AC1/11– G/ACI/13

5	Missions Misc. – Venn Correspondence	G/AC1/3 – G/AC1/10
6	General Index Missions Misc. – Venn Correspondence	G/AC1/3 – G/AC1/18
7	<i>Collected Writings of Henry Venn</i> , Vol. 1, 1825-43	
8	<i>Collected Writings of Henry Venn</i> , Vol. 2, 1843-48	

**Box 3: Bound Volumes of Collected Writings of Henry Venn**

Volumes consist of photocopies of materials found in Shenk, Wilbert. *Bibliography of Henry Venn's Printed Writings with Index*. Elkhart, Ind.: Institute of Mennonite Studies of the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries, 1975. Not all materials listed in the *Bibliography* are present in the bound volumes.

Item	Title	Classification
1	<i>Collected Writings of Henry Venn</i> , Vol. 3, 1848-49	
2	<i>Collected Writings of Henry Venn</i> , Vol. 4, 1850-54	
3	<i>Collected Writings of Henry Venn</i> , Vol. 5, 1855-58	
4	<i>Collected Writings of Henry Venn</i> , Vol. 6, 1859-61	
5	<i>Collected Writings of Henry Venn</i> , Vol. 7, 1861-66	
6	<i>Collected Writings of Henry Venn</i> , Vol. 8, 1867-69	

**Box 4: Bound Volumes of Collected Writings of Henry Venn**

Volumes consist of photocopies of materials found in Shenk, Wilbert. *Bibliography of Henry Venn's Printed Writings with Index*. Elkhart, Ind.: Institute of Mennonite Studies of the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries, 1975. Not all materials listed in the *Bibliography* are present in the bound volumes.

Item	Title	Classification
1	<i>Collected Writings of Henry Venn</i> , Vol. 9, 1870-72	
2	Shenk, Wilbert. <i>Bibliography of Henry Venn's Printed Writings with Index</i> . Elkhart, Ind.: Institute of Mennonite Studies of the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries, 1975.	