Finding Aid for the Robert Gardner Warton Papers, 1892-1929

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Finding Aid for the Robert Gardner Warton Papers, 1892-1929

Collection number: 1214

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
Manuscripts Division

Los Angeles, CA

Processed by:
Paula Larich
Encoded by:
Caroline Cubé

Online finding aid edited by:
Josh Fiala, February 2004

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Robert Gardner Warton Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1892-1929
Collection number: 1214
Creator: Warton, Robert Gardner
Extent: 2 boxes (1.0 linear ft.)
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Dept. of Special Collections.

Abstract: Lieutenant Colonel Robert Gardner Warton of the Staff College, Camberly (F.R.G.S.) was the first Englishman in North Rhodesia (Zambia). He undertook three expeditions between 1892-1898, successfully receiving land concessions which he brought to the British Commissioner, and which were among the last areas to be linked with the British Commonwealth. The collection consists of correspondence, letter book, reports with accounts, diaries including sketches, maps, photographs, and clippings relating to Warton's activities as a pioneer member (later Administrator and Managing Director in Africa) of the North Charterland Exploration Company.

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English.

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Restrictions on Access

COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Open for research. Advance notice required for access. Contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Provenance/Source of Acquisition

Purchased from E.A. Wharton, 1968.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Robert Gardner Warton Papers (Collection 1214), Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

UCLA Catalog Record ID

UCLA Catalog Record ID: 4233961

Biography
Lieutenant Colonel Robert Gardner Warton of the Staff College, Camberly (F.R.G.S.) was the first Englishman in North Rhodesia (Zambia); undertook three expeditions between 1892-1898, successfully receiving land concessions which he brought to the British Commissioner, and which were among the last areas to be linked with the British Commonwealth.

**Expanded Biographical Note**

Lt. Col. Robert G. Warton (b. 16 Jan. 1847, d. 20 Sept. 1923) of the Staff College, Camberly (F.R.G.S.) represented the North Charterland Exploration Co. in its dealings with Portuguese and other trading companies in Mozambique and Northern Rhodesia (later Zambia) in the late 19th century. He negotiated the purchase of land concessions from Carl Wiese (a German citizen who received the land from a native Zulu chief), and which were among the last areas to be linked with the British Commonwealth. He was appointed by Cecil Rhodes to act as the British South Africa Company's Commissioner and Magistrate for the North Charterland Exploration Company in Northern Zambesia under Forbes, the Administrator for the area, and was the first Englishman (but not the first European) to enter the area, setting up telegraph stations that would eventually link to the Cape in South Africa. In 1888 he also brought the first English cricket team to South Africa for a test match.

**Scope and Content**

Collection consists of correspondence, letter book, reports with accounts, diaries including sketches, maps, photographs, and clippings relating to Warton's activities as a pioneer member (later Administrator and Managing Director in Africa) of the North Charterland Exploration Company, a mining and trading venture in Rhodesia.

**Expanded Scope and Content Note**

Materials consist of handwritten daily diaries detailing several of Warton's expeditions from England to Zambia via Mozambique between 1892 and 1896 (including shipboard life, trade negotiations with Portuguese, dealings with natives (including customs, language, religion, vocabulary, etc.), surveying for the construction of telegraph lines and stations, overseeing prospectors searching for gold); a typed transcription of the 1893 diary; sketches done by Warton; 2 maps of the grant from the British South Africa Co. to North Charterland Exploration Co. in Northern Rhodesia, west of Lake Nyassa, east of Muchinga Mountains; one hand-drawn map of the telegraph line from Gambe (near Beira) to Inyamuriho; annual reports of the North Charterland Exploration Company; business correspondence; personal correspondence; photographs taken by Warton; and legal documents (1895).

**Organization and Arrangement**

Arranged in the following series:

1. Diaries (box 1)
2. Photographs, correspondence, reports, maps, legal documents, newspaper clippings (box 2)
3. Oversized material (box 3).

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

**Subjects**

Warton, Robert Gardner--Archives.
North Charterland Exploration Company.
Zambia--History--1890-1924.

**Genres and Forms of Material**

Diaries.

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**Diary**

**Box 1, Folder 1**

*Sticker on outside says "August 1892" but entries are for May 1892. Expenses and notes, lists of luggage, "to-do" lists. Diary mostly empty. Two sketches: Chinde May 25, 1892; Arab dhow May 16, 1892. 9 May - 26 May 1892*

Physical Description: 6" x 3.75" brown leather, with leather pencil holder on left; elastic band attached to keep closed (no longer elastic). Pocket at back. Writing appears at both ends of diary, with many blank pages in middle.

Physical Description: 1 item.
Box 1, Folder 2

Shipboard life; weather; German Anti-Slavery Committee; extensive negotiations with Portuguese and Wiese for trading concessions; setting up trading areas; other trading companies active in area 13 Nov. 1893 - 16 July 1984

Physical Description: Leather diary with key (attached with red thread). Gold lettering (Lt. Col. Warton. Private Journal.). Writing started at both ends. At front, “If found kindly forward either to Durban Club, Natal, S.A. or Naval Military Club, 94 Piccadilly, London W.

Physical Description: 1 item.

Box 1, Folder 3

Details of trip mentioned in previous diary: business dealings; trading posts; interactions with natives; local customs; description of landscapes; registration of Wiese’s concessions; missionaries; agriculture; setting up new post; vocabulary list

29 Jan. - 27 March 1894

Physical Description: At front Warton wrote name and 1893, so daughter wrote 1893 on outside, but is actually 1894. 6.25” x 3.5” leather notebook with front pocket (empty), made in Germany

Physical Description: 1 item.

Box 1, Folder 4

38 sketches by Warton. Typed transcript edited by Warton (with some additions by daughter). Wildlife; food; landscape; Wiese’s dealings with natives; Portuguese rule

11 April - 27 April 1893

Physical Description: 5” x 3” leather diary with front pocket, place for pencil (missing), elastic to close (missing), attached slate tablet, different colored paper

Physical Description: 2 items.

Box 1, Folder 5

Shipboard life; concern about keeping correct time via watches brought from England; latitudes and longitudes kept; Durban Club; list of letters written and received; diary mostly empty 12 July - 1 Sept. 1895

Physical Description: 9.25” x 7.25” black leather

Physical Description: 1 item.

Box 1, Folder 6

Tete, Muchena, surveying for telegraph; finding of iron ore; possibility of gold mines; native uprising at Boroma 1 Sept. - 14 Dec. 1895

Physical Description: 7” x 4” black leather with place for pencil (included), pocket in front, space for stamps, calendars pasted to inside front (July -Dec. 1895, Jan.-Dec. 1896), elastic used to close cut off

Physical Description: 1 item.

Box 1, Folder 7

Appointed by Rhodes as BSA Co. Commissioner and Magistrate for NCE Co. in N. Zambesia under Forbes; 1st European to cross Cadzebesi (?) River (8 June 1896); Ft. Young; list of routes taken during trip 24 Dec. 1895 - 3 July 1896

Physical Description: 7” x 4” black leather with pencil holder on side; pockets in front to hold stamps, etc.; in pockets 1 small sketch by Warton, some notes by daughter

Physical Description: 2 items.

Box 1, Folder 8

Gold; quartz; description of Zulu chief M’Pesene’s subjects, country, tribal life; telegraph stations; Loangweni; inter-tribal rivalries; problems with native workers; Wiese; Forbes and discussion of positions relative to BSA Co. and NCE Co. 4 July - 31 Oct. 1896

Physical Description: 6” x 4” brown stamped leather; pencil holder with pencil on side; pocket in front; sheet of carbon paper in back.

Physical Description: 1 item.

Photographs
Photographs

Box 2, Folder 1

Handwritten list by E.A. Warton of photos by R.G. Warton, mostly landscapes: 6 8 3/8" x 6.5" (#39-44); 26 5 3/8" x 3.5" (#45-69); handwritten descriptions on inside flap match written list; most undated; 1 10" x 7.75" framed photo of Warton, no date 7 June 1894 - 4 Dec. 1897

Physical Description: Handwritten list doesn't match photos: list numbers photos consecutively 39-71; photos labeled consecutively 39-47, 48a, 48b, 49-69.

Physical Description: 34 items.

Correspondence (Business)

Box 2, Folder 2

NCE Co. blank memo paper; letters to Warton upon return; memo re mining concessions; extracts of letters to Wiese; letters to/from NCE; letter to RCI detailing involvement with NCE 11 Jan. 1894 - 11 Dec. 1919

Physical Description: 8" x 5" letterbook with carbon sheet; some letters handwritten, some carbon copied.

Physical Description: 14 items.

Box 2, Folder 3

Letter book for business correspondence with alphabetical index in front; mention of German Anti-Slavery committee (undated); letter re father's death (undated) 16 Sept. 1892 - 10 Sept. 1895

Physical Description: 11.5" x 8.75", leather bound; alphabetical index at front; each page number stamped for reference.

Physical Description: 1 item.

Correspondence (Personal)

Box 2, Folder 4

2 letters to sister re situation with M'Pesene (cf. b1, f8), native ceremonies, household plans for return to England; letter to father describing development of new country; 2 letters to Miss Warton re selling shares (from ? Illegible, undated) 17 Sept. 1895 - 31 July 1896

Physical Description: 5 items.

Reports

Box 2, Folder 5

Handwritten list of reports/dates; report of pioneer expedition; articles on NCE; surveyor's report of expedition; various annual meeting reports; undated description by Warton of final trip to region and suggestions to generate revenue 7 Dec. 1896 - 22 Dec. 1923

Physical Description: 24 items.

Maps/Legal Documents

Box 2, Folder 6

3 legal documents (power of attorney for Warton; concessions between trading companies); two maps: grant from British S. Africa Co. to North Charterland Exploration Co.; hand- drawn map of telegraph stations from Beira to Inyamuriho 4 - 10 July 1895

Physical Description: 5 items.

Map

Box 2, Folder 7

Duplicate of map in Box 2, Folder 6 (grant from British South Africa Co. to North Charterland Exploration Co.) Undated

Physical Description: 1 item.

Handwritten notes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2, Folder 8</th>
<th>Handwritten extracts from books, read by E.A. Warton, connected with R.G. Warton's diaries  Undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 2 items.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Reports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2, Folder 9</th>
<th>Typewritten report on expedition to area west of Nysassaland: Zulu native customs, religion, history; NCE expeditions into area; geography; mineral deposits; ending slavery; projections for future of NCE in area. After Dec. 25, 1896</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Newspaper Clippings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2, Folder 10</th>
<th>Newspaper clippings of Warton and NCE members, and NCE's activities. The African Review, July 27, 1895; reprint from The Truth, Jan. 2, 1929; The Sunday Telegraph, May 17, 1964; undated clipping re trade with Rhodesia; news photo of Warton, 1892., 1892-1964 Broken Series</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 6 items.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 1</td>
<td>Newspapers clippings dealing with R.G. Warton and North Charterland Exploration Co.; newspaper photo of R.G. Warton British Central Africa Gazette, July 1, 1896, 2 copies; The Citizen, Jan 30, 1897 two clippings; undated and unidentified clipping. 1896 - ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: Oversized material removed from Box 2, folder 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 5 items.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>