



Call for Papers

Footprints of Mary Slessor in the Lower Cross River Region since 1876

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Justification for the Book

On April 10, 1846, the first group of Christian missionaries led by the Rev. Hope Waddell arrived Calabar. They were sent by the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland Mission in response to the request of Calabar chiefs. When ill-health forced Hope Waddell to leave the field for good, the most distinguished worker to join the field was Mary Slessor, a Scottish lady who arrived in Calabar on September 11, 1876. Starting as a mill girl in Dundee, she ended up as a magistrate in Calabar. Her work and activities in the Lower Cross River Region arguably opened a significant part of the Lower Cross River Region to Europeans. When Southern Nigeria became a British Protectorate on January 1, 1900, Mary was the first female magistrate in the British Empire and a tactful diplomatic emissary. Also acting in the capacity of Vice-Consul for Calabar Rivers, Mary Slessor's activities were responsible for the extension of trade in the region as she was also saddled with the responsibility of working out customs arrangements as well as the establishment of postal and treasury departments in the area under her jurisdiction. Although she was of the Church of Scotland Mission, she enjoyed a degree of celebrity status that extended beyond the Church of Scotland. Geographically, Mary operated around three contiguous regions and peoples - the Ibibio, Efik and Igbo. From Creek Town (in present day Cross River State) through Itu (in present day Akwa Ibom State) to Arochuku (in present day Abia State), Mary Slessor left the imprint of an industrialist, teacher, missionary and magistrate. Indeed, for every community in the Lower Cross River Region that Mary Slessor passed through or settled, she left a bold imprint of social, economic, religious and humanitarian changes. Her humanitarian showmanship engraves her on the same epitaph of charity as Mother Theresa and Florence Nightingale. Arguably, one of Mary's most remarkable achievements is in relation to the protection, accommodation, adoption of twins and the subsequent prohibition of their killing. By her colossal and myth-breaking contributions to evangelism, charity work, educational and health services, she registered her foot-prints indelibly in the annals of Nigerian history and also publicized Nigeria in the map of the world. In the field of education, it was her appeal to the United Presbyterian Mission in Scotland that resulted in the establishment of the famous Hope Waddell Training Institution, Calabar, the first post-primary institution in Eastern Nigeria and the first Comprehensive School in Nigeria in 1895. She also facilitated the establishment of several primary schools in places such as: Okoyong, Itu, Ibiono and other parts of the Lower Cross River Region. In all, her services traversed the Executive, Judicial and Legislative arms of government in the Lower Cross River Region. As part of the domestic and international responses to her activities and legacies, her effigy adorns Mary Slessor Road in Calabar and her image adorns the Scottish Ten Pounds. There also exist some domestic and international philanthropic foundations dedicated to her humanitarian role.

Significance of the Book

Given that 2016 marks 140 years since Mary Slessor stepped her feet on the Lower Cross River Region of present day Nigeria, the Department of History and International Studies, University of Uyo, Nigeria hereby puts up a call for book chapters to document and advance knowledge on the activities and legacies of Mary Slessor in the Lower Cross River Region.

Scope of the Book

Scholars from various disciplines in the humanities and social sciences are invited to submit well researched papers for publication in the book along the lines of the following subthemes:

- ✓ The Land and People of the Lower Cross River Region
- ✓ Religion and Cosmology of the Lower Cross River Region in Pre-Colonial Times

- ✓ Mary Slessor: Early Career and Sources of Philanthropic Inspiration
- ✓ Mary Slessor and Consular Activities in the Lower Cross River Region
- ✓ Mary Slessor and the Spread of Christianity in the Lower Cross River Region
- ✓ Mary Slessor and the Development of Education in the Lower Cross River Region
- ✓ Mary Slessor and the Establishment of British Legal System in Nigeria
- ✓ Mary Slessor and the Mediation of "Palaver" in the Lower Cross River Region
- ✓ Mary Slessor and the Socio-Economic Life of Women in the Lower Cross River Region
- ✓ Domestic and International Responses to the Activities and Legacies of Mary Slessor in the Lower Cross River Region

Submission Policy

All book chapters will go through a double blind review process. Contributors should ensure that their chapters are original and not recycled. Chapters should endeavour to make objective and significant contributions to updating our knowledge on the cause, effect, changes, continuities and contingencies evident in Mary Slessor's activities in the Lower Cross River Region. Furthermore, manuscripts turned in for submission should not be published already or under consideration for publication by any other books or journals.

Interested contributors are kindly requested to submit their chapter title(s) accompanied by a comprehensive introduction, research outlay and a short author(s) biography by April 23, 2016 to enoikpe@uniuyo.edu.ng and ubongumoh@uniuyo.edu.ng. Prospective authors will be notified about the status of their chapters by May 15, 2016. Completed chapters which must not exceed a maximum of 10000 words, should be in English (British) and submitted in Microsoft Word format, Century Gothic, 10 font by July 30, 2016 or at an earlier date to enoikpe@uniuyo.edu.ng and ubongumoh@uniuyo.edu.ng