



FRIENDS OF THE ANGUS

Newsletter Summer 2025

WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

It has as always been a busy, interesting and enjoyable few months in the Angus, full of discovery, conversation and research.

We have welcomed many visitors, some familiar faces and some new. All of them have brought fascinating insights into the marvels of the Angus library and archive! Read on to find out more...

THE Angus Library and Archive

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[Angus Library and Archive](https://www.facebook.com/AngusLibraryandArchive)

Website:

<http://theangus.rpc.ox.ac.uk>

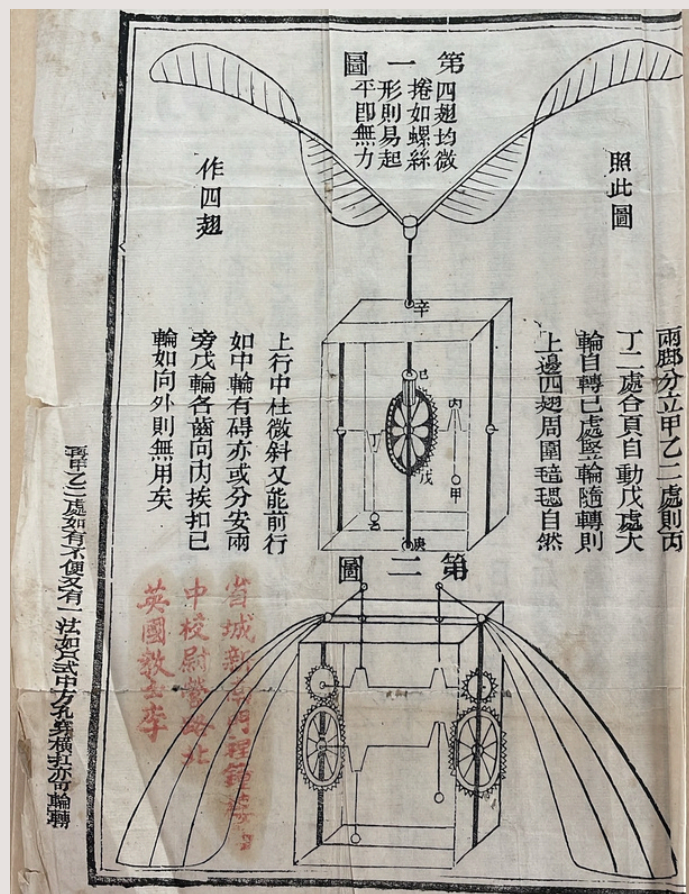
NOTICE OF TEMPORARY CLOSURE



The Angus Library and Archive will be closed next year from January to October, while we attend to important housekeeping tasks. During this time, we won't be welcoming any visitors or answering research enquiries, though the inbox will still be monitored regularly. We are well aware that it may cause inconvenience to some, and we apologise for this, but please bear with us during this time. The Angus will reopen with an even better service for our users late next year!

A new volunteer in the Angus, Yanjing Lu has been working on translating some of the Chinese language material that we hold as part of the archive of the Baptist Missionary Society. Recently she came across this picture.

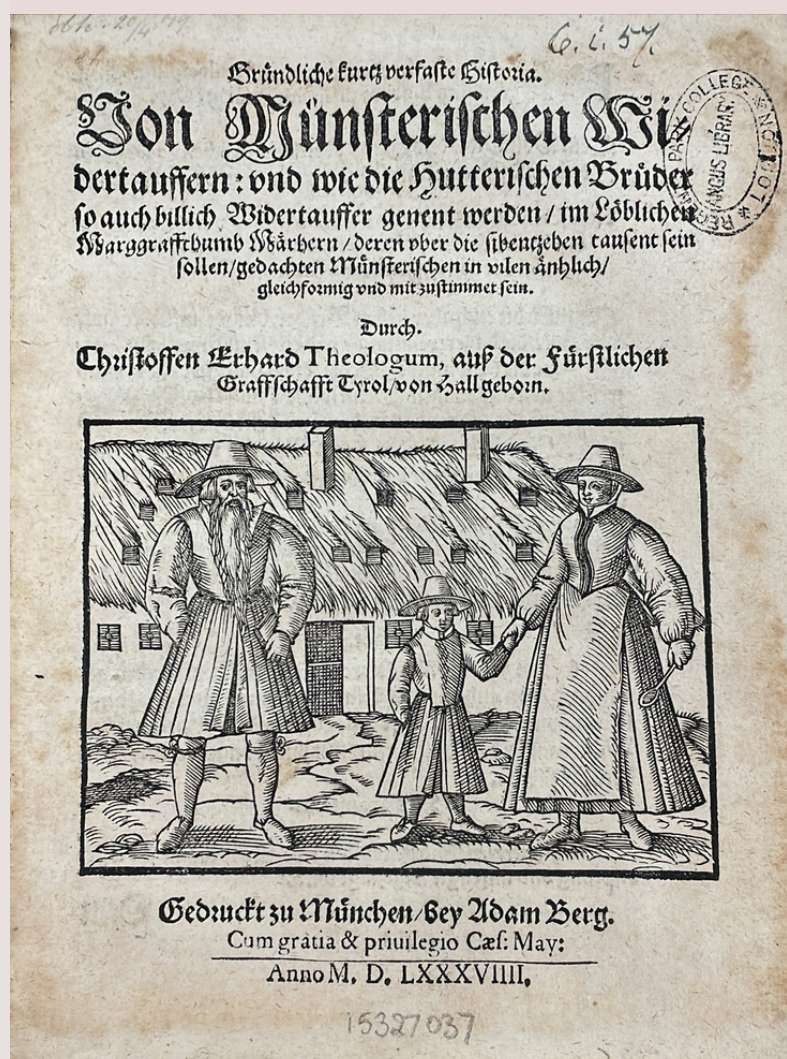
Can anyone guess what it is?



Timothy Richard's Flying Machine

Of course, it's an illustration of a flying machine 1880s style! Held in the papers of Timothy Richard, renowned and influential missionary and a great proponent of educational reform and scientific endeavour in China, Richard was an enthusiast of flying and thought that the invention of a flying machine, 'could eliminate geographical barriers... serve as a model for other nations and benefit future generations'. To qualify, Richard stipulated that the machines should be able to fly independently and carry a load equal to their own weight. The prize was 100 taels of silver!

In February we displayed some of our fascinating Anabaptist books and pamphlets at the day conference, held in Regent's Park College, 'Beyond 500: A Baptist-Anabaptist Conversation', organized by the Centre for Baptist Studies. One of these, a 1589 pamphlet, entitled *Gründliche kurtz verfaßte Historia und wie die Hutterischen Brüder so auch billich Widertauffer genent werden* or *A Short History of the Anabaptists of Munster and how the Hutterite Brethren are rightly called Anabaptists*, was written by Christoph Erhard, a vocal critic of the Anabaptists. The title page shows a beautiful woodcut showing a Hutterite house with a Hutterite man, woman, and child in front (the Hutterites were a branch of the Anabaptists).



Gründliche kurtz verfaßte Historia (1587)



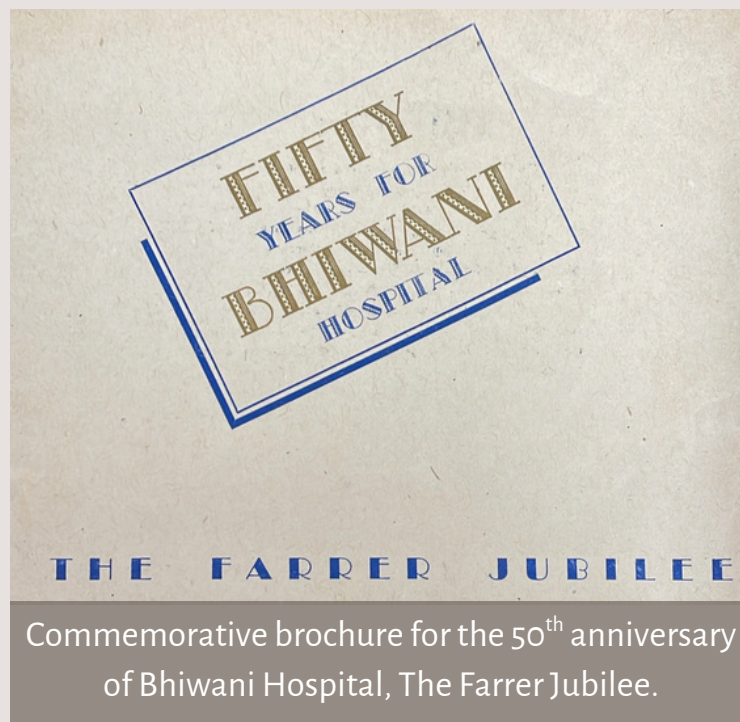
We are thrilled to have had all of Dr Ellen Farrer's diaries, as well as selected letters of Dr William Carey, his celebrated 1814 work *Hortus Bengalensis* and a selection of maps and charts used by George Grenfell, digitised as part of the Science for Seminaries project.

Dr Farrer was appointed by the Baptist Zenana Mission in early 1891 and sailed to India later that year, taking over a dispensary in Bhiwani started by two other BZM women, Isabel Angus (daughter of our very own Joseph) and Annie Theobald. Ellen went on to found the Farrer Hospital in Bhiwani.

The maps and charts of George Grenfell, BMS missionary and recipient in 1887 of the Royal Geographical Society's Founders medal for his explorations in the Cameroons and what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo, give us a glimpse into his navigational methods as he sailed up the Kivu, Kwango, and Kasai rivers, and ascended the Mubangi river.



Careya Arborea, named for William Carey



William Carey is known as the Founder of Modern Missions, but he was also an important botanist, horticulturalist and founder in 1820 of the Agri Horticultural Society of India. These letters show the exchanges he had with many correspondents discussing plants and seeds.

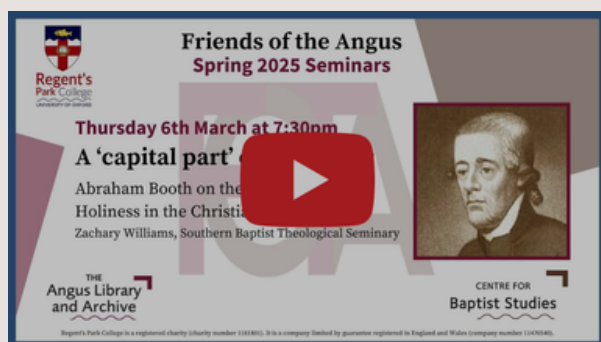
We are busy putting these images on the archive catalogue Epexio so keep an eye out for them here:

<https://regents-park.epexio.com/>



March saw our most recent Friends of the Angus talks, with Dr Zack Williams speaking on the Salvationism of Abraham Booth and Paloma Miravet Llorens talking about colonialism and agency in Fernando Po. Both are extremely interesting talks and are available to watch here:

<https://theangus.rpc.ox.ac.uk/opening-the-angus-seminars/>



We very much hope that you'll join us for our next seminars this Autumn, when our speakers will include:

- **Sandra Langhop**, Research Associate in Church History at the Institute of Protestant Theology and Religious Education, based in the University of Oldenburg,
- **Rev Dr Daniel Pratt Morris-Chapman**, Senior Tutor at Wesley House, Cambridge
- **Dr Lee Spitzer**, Historian of the Baptist World Alliance.

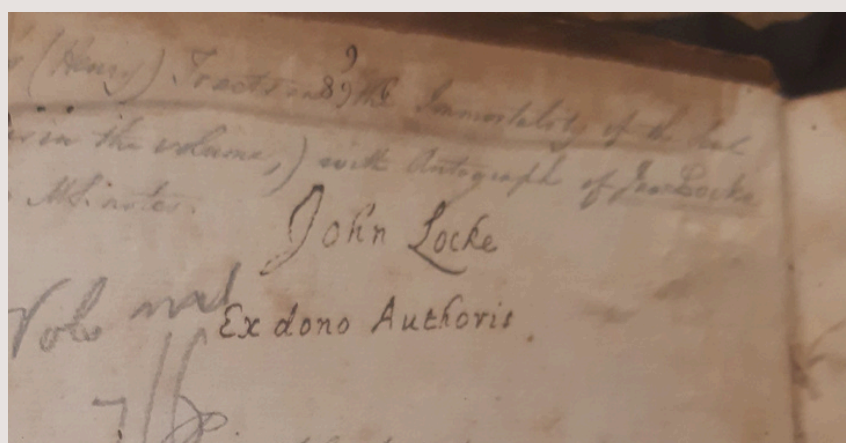
More details regarding dates etc will be announced on our social media pages on

Facebook, BlueSky and our website: <https://theangus.rpc.ox.ac.uk/opening-the-angus-seminars/>



FIND OF THE TERM...

...is a book belonging to the great philosopher and physician John Locke. The book contains a number of bound pamphlets sent to Locke by the author, Henry Layton. Layton, himself a philosopher who, amongst other subjects, wrote extensively about the immortality of the soul, sent Locke his works, writing that he had offered them to him 'as a very good Judge upon this argument'. Locke accordingly wrote next to his name the words *ex dono authoris*, a gift of the author. What a tremendous book to have in the library! With great thanks and appreciation to Jonathan Walmsley for his help and verification of Locke's autograph.



John Locke's signature

NOTABLE VISITORS TO THE LIBRARY

We welcomed MP David Smith, UK Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion to the Angus in March and he enjoyed looking at some of the material we hold which reflects Baptist involvement in the struggle for religious toleration, including Thomas Helwys' *A Short Declaration of The Mystery of Iniquity*, letters written by William Wilberforce and Thomas Clarkson and 20th century material from the archives of David Russell, Ernest Payne and J.H.Rushbrooke all Baptists who spoke out against religious persecution.



David Smith MP during his visit to the Angus



Visit from Cheeloo University

Recently we were delighted to welcome Dr Seunghey Sun, Director of the London Korean Cultural Centre UK and Hannie Riley, College Librarian of Wycliffe Hall, to see the very beautiful second volume of Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* which we hold as part of the BMS Archive.

Printed in the Korean language, this exquisite work was created thanks to money raised by a Bible class taught by Arthur Tappan Pierson, to mark the 200th anniversary of Bunyan's death in 1888. Rev. Pierson was a pastor, writer, missionary and founder of what is now Pyeongtaek University in South Korea.



Visit from Hannie Riley and Dr Seunghey \Sun

...AND THERE WAS LIGHT!



Lights out!

On a more practical, but no less important note, the lighting has now been replaced in the Angus Reading Room so we can now all see what we're looking at again!



New lights!

[MORE ARCHIVES](#)

[MORE ARCHIVES](#)

...and don't forget that some issues of the Baptist Times and all of the Baptist Union Handbooks 1832-1955 are now online to access via Find My Past and The British Newspapers Archive. Happy searching!



Baptist Times July 14th, 1905



**Regent's
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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

FRIENDS OF THE ANGUS

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