

Finding Aid

Eridadi M.K. Mulira Papers: Cambridge Centre of African Studies

Biography

Eridadi Medadi Kasirye Mulira (1909–1995) was B/Uganda's foremost Protestant constitutional thinker in the second half of the twentieth century. In his early life, Mulira studied at King's College, Budo, Makerere College and Prince of Wales' College, Achimota. In the 1940s, he moved to London, where he worked with a group of linguists to produce what is still considered one of the most accessible and thorough Luganda grammars, *A Luganda Grammar* (London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1954). During his time in London, Mulira was active, increasingly, with the Fabian Colonial Bureau. He also served as an East African representative for the First Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 1948. Mulira then returned to Uganda to work with Dr Audrey Richards at the East African Institute of Social Research, though he resigned shortly after to take a more intentional role in Uganda's late colonial politics.

Mulira provided crucial leadership in the mid-1950s to facilitate the return of the then recently exiled king of Buganda, Sir Edward Muteesa II, who was deported to London in 1953. During this time, Mulira organised an influential popular campaign throughout Great Britain that shaped public debates within churches, town halls and the House of Commons. During the Namirembe Conference, which outlined Uganda's path toward independence, Mulira helped frame B/Uganda's postcolonial constitutional arrangement.

In many respects, Mulira was a political outsider in Buganda's conservative politics. He was born in the peripheral community of Kamesi, Kooki, and was overtly critical of Mmengo's conservative politicians, which meant that he spent much of the late 1950s battling in court trumped-up charges of intrigue. To disseminate his ideals and marshal like-minded activists, Mulira established the Progressive Party in January 1955 and spent much of the 1950s producing short works in Luganda and English. He was also a prolific writer in *Uganda Empya*, a leading Luganda press that he edited and owned.

In 1959, Mulira was deported to Gulu in northern Uganda for co-organising Buganda's Trade Boycott. Following exile, he served as a parliamentarian throughout the 1960s. During Uganda's Second Republic, he distanced himself from formal politics, focusing mostly on his family's businesses and the life of the Church of Uganda. He also devoted significant amounts of time writing theological and social expositions. By the mid-1980s, Mulira was openly outspoken against the presidency of Apolo Milton Obote (Obote II) and worked toward the re-institutionalisation of Buganda's monarchy, which had been constitutionally abrogated in 1967.

Mulira was the husband of Rebecca Allen Namugenze Mukasa Mulira (1920–2002), one of Uganda's foremost women's activists during the twentieth century. The two produced seven children: Andrew Mulira (deceased), Peter Mulira, Sarah Mulira, Eve Mulira, Aggrey Mulira (deceased), Ham Mukasa Mulira and Nathaniel Mulira (deceased).

Mulira's published works include:

- *Aligaweesa: Omuvubuka wa Uganda Empya* (Kampala: Uganda Bookshop Press, [1955])
- *Government Gyennyonya: Abakopi Okuba N'eddobozzi Mu Buganda* (Kampala: Uganda Bookshop Press, 1944)
- *Kiribedda Ne Balizakawa: Abavubuka Ababiri Ab'omulembe* (Nairobi: East African Printers Ltd., 1963)
- Mulira, E.M.K., and E.G.M. Ndawula, *A Luganda-English and English-Luganda Dictionary*, 2nd edn (London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1952)

- Ashton, E.O., E.M.K. Mulira, E.G.M. Ndawula, and Alfred N. Tucker, *A Luganda Grammar* (London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1954)
- *No Constitution Without the Sovereignty of the People: A Candid Exposition of the Subject* (1988)
- *Sir Apolo Kaggwa, KCMG, MBE*, trans. by John A. Rowe (Kampala: Uganda Bookshop Press, 1949)
- *Teefe* (Kampala: Uganda Publishing House, 1968 [1950])
- *Thoughts of a Young African* (London: Lutterworth Press for the United Society for Christian Literature, 1945)
- *Troubled Uganda* (London: Fabian Publications, 1950)
- *The Vernacular in African Education* (London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1951)

Provenance & Scope

Jonathon L. Earle and the surviving children of E.M.K. Mulira coordinated the deposit of this collection into the Centre of African Studies. Prior to the deposit at Cambridge, the children of E.M.K. Mulira worked with Michael Kibwika-Bagenda to loosely arrange the material. At Cambridge, with the assistance of Marilyn Glanfield, Rachel Malkin, and Emily Rodes, Earle organised the material into its current arrangement.

With any collection, the organisation of Mulira's personal papers presented certain challenges, especially in relation to the theological writings: 1) *This is the Way*; 2) *Jesus: the Way*; and 3) *Jesus Christ: The Life of the World* (EMKM/CT/3–5). While in exile in Gulu Mulira initiated a study entitled *The Way of Life* (EMKM/CT/4/1). He continued to build upon this study at least until the early 1980s, culminating in *How to Know God and Man*, which Mulira had hoped to publish with Eagle Press; and *Jesus Christ: the Life of the World*, an essay composed on occasion of the Sixth Assembly of the World Council of Churches. Because of the incremental nature of this project—and Mulira's preference for using similar content in varying textual corpora—it is not always easy to pair his notes with particular projects or essays.

Mulira was incredibly resourceful, which also raised challenges in organising the collection. Mulira took notes on party invitations and he used various sources to record and edit his ideas—from passing ideas to sustained reflection. In EMKM/CT/2/4, for instance, Mulira used the back of a letter concerning an application for housing surveying to reflect upon the purpose of ancient Israel's priesthood. Further, Mulira used designated folders to file unrelated material. Mulira placed his son's wedding invitation from 1974 and additional material beyond the scope of his Progressive Party in a folder entitled 'The Progressive Party: Letters of Members, 1955'. This is not to be seen as a distraction, per se. Rather, it illuminates the complexity of biographical study—Mulira's life and public activism cannot be fully understood within the rigidity of any one particular category. His life was far more sophisticated.

Diligent effort was made to maintain the integrity of Mulira's classifications and filing system in the first instance, and the family's in the second. The bulk of the material found in EMKM/KCB was originally located in a folder entitled 'King's College, Budo'. For the purpose of accessibility, however, it was necessary to restructure the collection—in some sections more than others. The papers seemed to fit into five broad categories: 1) General; 2) King's College, Budo; 3) Essays and Plays; 4) Politics; 5) Church and Theology. Much of his private correspondence is contained in EMKM/Gen/2/1–7.

In its current arrangement, Mulira's unpublished autobiography constitutes 221 pages and provides wide-ranging discussion surrounding his life and expansive career. Mulira began working on the autobiography in the late 1950s, and his intent by the early 1980s was to narrate his life through six sections, each noted in the autobiography's Table of Contents. Unfortunately, the extant edition of the autobiography does not reach beyond Chapter 16. Mulira's unpublished autobiography also contains missing and inaccurately numbered pages and, for extended sections, does not include page numbers. Page 44 is not evident and there exists two editions of Page 69. Some chapters are not clearly identified, nor consistent with the volume's Table of Contents. According to the Table of Contents, for example, Chapter 14 (London and America, 1949–1950) should actually read Chapter 12; Chapter 14 should read Chapter 13, etc. Moreover, the enumeration of Part III does not sequentially follow Part II. To aid the reader, folio numbers have been added to each page of the volume. Citation from the autobiography should read: EMKM/Gen/1/1/1, EMKM/Gen/1/1/2, etc.

Mulira's roles were many: husband, father, cosmopolitan, educationalist, parliamentarian, social activist, historical writer, churchman, and business proprietor. His papers, therefore, are comprehensive, and provide one of the first extensive collections of private papers to emerge out of Uganda's modern history. This collection offers far-reaching insight into decolonisation in eastern Africa. Among its many contributions, it highlights the inner debates that were unfolding in Buganda's *Lukiiko* (parliament) in the late 1950s—also noted in Mulira's court records from this period. His papers provide innovative historical essays on the precolonial kingdom of Kooki, which was assimilated into Buganda in the late nineteenth century. Finally, the collection offers an important window into Uganda's postcolonial past. It shows that Uganda's postcolonial politics was not simply a period of tumult and violence; it was a moment of tremendous creativity and complexity.

Digitisation

The digital collection is comprised of 4,471 images, which contains the majority of the deposited archive. The finding-aid indicates which records were not digitised. The digitisation of the Mulira papers began during July 2015 in Cambridge and was finalised during the following summer (2016) with funding from the Faculty Development Committee of Centre College. The process was completed with the assistance of Emily Rodes. Additional encouragement and administrative support was provided by the Director for the Centre of African Studies, Professor Harri Englund; Librarian for the Centre of African Studies, Jenni Skinner; and Sarah Middle, with University of Cambridge Repository (Apollo). Appropriate photographic and lighting measures were taken to comply with the guidelines of the International Organization for Standardization. ABBYY FineReader software was used to provide OCR recognition. Records that were originally drafted using typescript demonstrate higher OCR recognition than hand-written documents. The autobiography was digitised in Kampala.

Jonathon L. Earle
Cambridge
July 2012

(revised July 2016)

General (2 Boxes)

Box 1

- EMKM/Gen/1/1 Unpublished Autobiography
*see Provenance & Scope
- EMKM/Gen/1/2 Additional biographical material (including journals)
- EMKM/Gen/1/3 Rebecca Mulira
- EMKM/Gen/1/4 Photograph
- EMKM/Gen/1/5 Miscellaneous
 - December 1976 (World Council of Churches)
 - July 1981 (World Council of Churches)

Box 2

- EMKM/Gen/2/1 Correspondence: Personal & Political. November 1945–1949
- EMKM/Gen/2/2 Correspondence: Personal & Political. 1950–1952
- EMKM/Gen/2/3 Correspondence: The Progressive Party: Letters of Members. 1955
- EMKM/Gen/2/4 Correspondence: Official Letters (organised in three sections):
 - Odd Letters
 - Mengo Lukiko Proceedings. 1956–7
 - E.M.K. — Councillor Kampala Municipal Council
- EMKM/Gen/2/5 Correspondence: Personal & Political. 25 July 1956–20 July 1985
- EMKM/Gen/2/6 Correspondence: Personal & Political. n.d. [c. late 1940s (?)]
- EMKM/Gen/2/7 Correspondence: Personal & Political. n.d.

King's College, Budo (1 Box)

Box 1

- EMKM/KCB/1/1 Speeches & Essays
 - The Legacy of Two Schools: Being a Historical Background to the Causes of Trouble in Uganda, in 1945 (three manuscript editions; first copy digitised only)
 - Education for Responsibility for Citizenship. 13 December 1961 (two copies; first copy digitised only)
 - Speech at the King's College Budo Staff Luncheon. n.d. (two copies; first copy digitised only)
 - Budo and I: Speech by E.M.K. Mulira on the Occasion of His Farewell Speech from Being Chairman of the Board of Governors of King's College, Budo. 20 September 1987
 - The Law of the Second Mile in Education. n.d.
 - Christianity and Popular Education. n.d.
 - The Wrong Type of Education. n.d.
- EMKM/KCB/1/2 Concerning Canon Harold Myers and Mollie Grace
 - Commemoration (Funeral) Material
 - Correspondence between E.M.K. Mulira and Mollie Grace. c. 1967–c. 1975
- EMKM/KCB/1/3 Committee Meeting. c. 1980–c.1986
- EMKM/KCB/1/4 Fragments concerning Gayaza. [c. 1965 (?)] [Rebecca Mulira (?)]

- EMKM/KCB/1/5 Miscellaneous
 - Terminal Maths Tests. 1965
 - King's College, Budo, Founder's Day. 1980
 - Makerere College, Senior Common Room. n.d.
 - An Appreciation for D.G. Tomblings. n.d.
 - Loose page on education, one-party states and development. n.d.
 - Loose page on Makerere College. n.d.

Essays and Plays (3 Boxes)

Box 1

- EMKM/EP/1/1 My Essays. c. 1935
- EMKM/EP/1/2 Omw. N'omk. Yokana Kaye. 1946
- EMKM/EP/1/3 Material concerning Dr James E.K. Aggrey. c. 1947
- EMKM/EP/1/4 Material regarding *Aligameesa*
- EMKM/EP/1/5 About the Heart and Head. [c. 1951 (?)]
- EMKM/EP/1/6 Luganda grammar and dictionary
 - Correspondence. July 1951
 - Notes in red ink. n.d.
- EMKM/EP/1/7 Unidentified essay. 7 February 1962
- EMKM/EP/1/8 The Two Men of Destiny. 1967

Box 2

- EMKM/EP/2/1 Notes on research on Kooki. c. 1972
- EMKM/EP/2/2 In Search of My Origin: Being an Attempt to Trace the Origin of the Hamite Rulers of Uganda. [c 1972 (?)]
- EMKM/EP/2/3 The Kingdom of Kooki during the 19th century. 1972
- EMKM/EP/2/4 King Freddie's Reign. c. 1973
- EMKM/EP/2/5 Troubled Uganda. c. 1973
- EMKM/EP/2/6 Okugunjula [to train or educate]. [c. 197(?)]

Box 3

- EMKM/EP/3/1 Two Ggombolola Chiefs. 1 April 1975
- EMKM/EP/3/2 Typed manuscript on Uganda's postcolonial history (Chapter 1: Nationalism). c. 1980
- EMKM/EP/3/3 Enough is Enough: The Uganda Tragedy and the Way Out. c. 1984–1985
- EMKM/EP/3/4 A New Chapter in Uganda. 1986
- EMKM/EP/3/5 Gaalimasane: a Play. n.d.
- EMKM/EP/3/6 Historical Corner: How King Kabalega Defeated Sir Samuel Baker. n.d.
- EMKM/EP/3/7
 - Outline of essay on a brown, narrow-width envelope. n.d.
 - Unidentified Mss. n.d.
 - Family Planning in Uganda
 - Physical Welfare
 - Material Welfare
 - Mengo Hospital

- Epilogue
- What is history? n.d.

Politics (1 Box)

Box 1

- EMKM/Pol/1/1 ‘A Dominion in Central Africa’. c. 1948 (found in *Muva Bulya*)
- EMKM/Pol/1/2 ‘Progressive Party & Pan-Africanism’. October 1956–1958
Includes party reports, political treatises and membership forms
- EMKM/Pol/1/3 Photographs of *balubaale* activism. 1956
- EMKM/Pol/1/4 Court Records & Notes. 1956–1957
- EMKM/Pol/1/5 Newspaper Collection
 - ‘London Papers’ (c. 1950s). n.d.
 - Rebecca Mulira’s transcriptions of E.M.K. Mulira’s activism, from Uganda Argus. 12 June 1956–16 March 1959
 - Luganda & English Press. Includes marginalia. 20 July 1956–5 July 1961 (annotated copies digitised only)
 - *Ebifa mu Uganda*. March 1937
 - *Uganda Eyogera*. 20 July 1956
 - *Emambya Esaze*. 31 July 1956
 - *Uganda Eyogera*. 31 July 1956
 - *Uganda Express*. 3 August 1956
 - *Uganda Empya*. 6 August 1956
 - *Gambuze*. 7 August 1956
 - *Sekanyolya*. 12 October 1956
 - *Manchester Guardian*. 19 June 1957
 - *Taija Uganda*. 5 July 1961
- EMKM/Pol/1/6 Postcolonial Activism. 1963–1986
 - The Emergence of Political Parties in Uganda: being a speech to the political society at King’s College, Budo. 1963
 - The Role of Political Parties in Uganda: being a speech to the M.A. Graduate Seminar in African Politics at Makerere University College. [c.] 1963
 - *Londa E.M.K. Mulira ku Bwakitikkiro*. 1964
 - The Uganda Tragedy and the Way Out: An Open Letter to H.E. The president of Uganda Apolo M. Obote: outline & notes. c. 1985
 - Mere Condemnation is not National Unity: A Rejoinder to Dr M. Kauma’s Article. 1986
- EMKM/Pol/1/7 Miscellaneous
 - Receipts & Financial records. 17 September 1956–29 March 1977
 - Loose-leaf comments & letterhead. n.d.

Church and Theology (5 Boxes)

Box 1

- EMKM/CT/1/1 Sermons & Homilies
 - Sermons & Addresses in the King's College, Budo, Chapel. 1933–1935 [moves into the early 1940s, includes letter drafts]
 - Let us learn from God and nature. 6 November 1936
 - What I Owe to Christ. 1963
 - A Christian Lay Man Thinks Aloud. 23 September 1964
 - Essays originally delivered as speeches
 - The Christian in Public Life: Being Given to the Makerere University Christian Union. 13 February 1966
 - The Christian and the State: Being a Talk to the Graduate Fellowship Conference at Limuru, Kenya. 11–15 April 1968
 - Church Councils and Church Conferences: Being a talk given to Bishop Tucker Theological College Students. 29 June 1972
 - Speech to ([...]am) Iga Memorial Primary School. 25 November 1972
 - Sermon at Evening Song St. Paul's Cathedral. 31 August 1975
 - The Significance of Jesus to the World: Being a Sermon Preached to the Teachers-Parents Association of King's College, Budo. 22 May 1977
 - Communication from the Chair. c. 1982
 - Speech to School of Ministry, Mwiri College. 3 December 1984
 - Unspecified speech concerning the history of the Church of Uganda. n.d.
- EMKM/CT/1/2 Plays & Poetry
 - *Behold the Man*, play on the Passion of Jesus Christ: Luganda & English manuscripts. [c. early 1970s (?)]
 - The Amazing Love and Two Other Expressions in Depth: The "Basin of Eden" and The Ultimate Concern. 1974
- EMKM/CT/1/3 Essays
 - Heresies of E.M.K. Mulira. n.d.
 - Ekkansa Empya. n.d.
 - God and Man: Divine Study. [c. 1975(?)]
 - On Education for the Whole Man. 20 September 1975 (found in On Education for the Whole Man)
 - The Power to Conquer the World. 30 October 1990
 - Buddhism: Notes and essay. n.d.
- EMKM/CT/1/4 Miscellaneous

Box 2

- EMKM/CT/2/1 The Church in Uganda. c. 1948 (found in *Muva Bulya*)
- EMKM/CT/2/2A
 - Story of the Church of Uganda During the Last Hundred Years: Correspondence. 1977

- Growing Up into Christ: The Story of a Hundred Years of the Church in Buganda: Manuscripts. 1977
 - Manuscript: Problems of Growth
 - The Rev. Dunstan Nsubuga Becomes the First African Principal. n.d.
 - Workbook & Loose Note Sheets (including end notes). [c. mid-1970s]
- EMKM/CT/2/2B Reflections on theology and the history of the Church of Uganda. n.d.
- EMKM/CT/2/2C Gayaza Old Girls and Mukono Old Boys. Letters and a curriculum vitae that illuminates Protestant Christianity in twentieth-century Buganda & Kigezi, 23 November–27 November 1976
- EMKM/CT/2/3
 - Centenary Celebrations Program: Namirembe Diocese. 1977
 - *Okwogera kwa E.M.K. Mulira: Chairman of Namirembe Diocesan Centenary Committee.* n.d.
 - *Eddini ya Kristo nga bwe Yajja mu Uganda.* n.d.
- EMKM/CT/2/4
 - Mulira to Managing Editor, Centenary Publishing House. 16 February 1982
 - *How to know God and Man: the story of God and man on earth: Book I: The First Man: Adam.* c. 1982
 - *How to know God and Man: the Story of God and man on Earth: Book 2 (Excerpts Only).* c. 1982
 - The Fool hath said, “There is [no] God”. n.d.
 - Kabaka Muteesa II of Buganda
 - Handwritten notes (not digitised).

Box 3

- EMKM/CT/3/1 *How to Know God and Man: Books I and II & The Life of the World* (handwritten notes and typed drafts): not digitised. 1982
- EMKM/CT/3/2 Continued: Handwritten notes and types drafts of *How to Know God and Man: Books I and II & The Life of the World* (not digitised)
- EMKM/CT/3/3 Continued: Handwritten notes and types drafts of *How to Know God and Man: Books I and II & The Life of the World* (not digitised)
- EMKM/CT/3/4 Continued: Handwritten notes and types drafts of *How to Know God and Man: Books I and II & The Life of the World* (not digitised).

Digital files include:

- Uganda Students Studying Abroad. n.d.
- The Deportation of the Kabaka. n.d.
- Suspension of Child (King’s College, Budo). 1980
- Church of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi & Boga-Zaire, Notice of Meeting. 1977

- Namirembe and Uganda Keswick Convention (with annotation). 31 August–7 September 1980
- An Analysis of Synthesis and Experience. 30 December 1980.

Box 4

- EMKM/CT/4/1 The Way of Life: Notes & Manuscripts (including dated reflections). 1959
- EMKM/CT/4/2A Jesus: The Way. [c. 1967 (?)]
 - Guiding Notes (not digitised)
 - Typed Manuscript
- EMKM/CT/4/2B Jesus: The Way (Additional Copies) (not digitised)
- EMKM/CT/4/3 First Things First. n.d. Theological Reflections

Box 5

- EMKM/CT/5/1A *Jesus Christ: The Life of the World*, being an essay to the World Council of Churches' Sixth Assembly
 - Letter to the Publishers. 12 May 1982
 - Four Copies of Manuscript (the most recent edition is digitised, with two concluding pages of an earlier edition, which are not readily available in the last edition)
- EMKM/CT/5/1B Notes and drafts used for both *Jesus Christ: The Life of the World* and 4/2/A (*Jesus the Way*) (not digitised)