

# Basel Mission Archives

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"Clerk's Report for the First Quarter of 1896"

**Title:** "Clerk's Report for the First Quarter of 1896"

**Ref. number:** D-01.65.VIII..186

**Date:** Proper date: 24.04.1896

**Description:** Reports a case of a husband who has having, difficulties becoming a Christian - he was a polygamist, and one of his wives had also had her name written down, perhaps in the hope of being the chosen wife. She was somewhat weak in body, however, often suffering hard births, and the husband was perplexed over this choice. Clerk demonstrates that relations between the Buem 'king' and the mission were complicated. The king wanted a teacher for Borada, and had refused to intervene in one case where a Guamang man had asked him to stop a young relative becoming a Christian. However, he had apparently countenanced the pressure put on a young Guamang man, the son of Kwaku Lofu. The latter too had an ambivalent attitude - he had been friendly to Clerk ever since Clerk stayed in his house on his first visit to Guamang. Also he had frequently asked for a teacher to teach them wisdom. He had placed no obstacle in the way of a nephew, Yaw, being baptised, but he had refused to let his son be baptised. In Borada this lad had been threatened with violence if he did not - first - take the great oath 'Friday' that he would never become a Christian, then - second - the less oath 'the foot' that he would not. Neither of these strategies had succeeded, but he had eventually been deterred by his father's threat to kill him. There are difficulties at Gyasekan - the chief is friendly, but his linguist very hostile. He had on one occasion broken into a house on the station in pursuit of a Christian he was harassing, and since this was against traditional law the chief had sentenced him to pay a pacification fee. A similar case had occurred in Clerk's presence on his last visit to Gyasekan, a Christian was actually being beaten in the room where Clerk had been talking to him, before Clerk stopped the aggressor.

**Subject:** [Archives catalogue]: Guides / Finding aids: Archives: D - Ghana: D-01 - Incoming correspondence from Ghana up to the outbreak of the First World War: D-01.65 - Ghana 1896: D-01.65.VIII. - Anum

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