

# Basel Mission Archives

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"Widmann and Riss from Akropong and Ussu"

**Title:** "Widmann and Riss from Akropong and Ussu"

**Ref. number:** D-01.02.(1843),11

**Date:** Proper date: 06.11.1843

**Description:** Widmann Pages 1-11, Riis pages 12-15 Widmann extracts see: Missionsmagazin 1844, pp 187-192. Not printed: His sickness he had to cure himself. It would be good to have a Christian doctor. The local Africans friendly visited him during his sickness -an occasion to speak to them about God. He had a Fanti interpreter called George Rymolds, a middle-aged mulatto from Cape Coast, Methodist and former teacher at the school in the fort, sent by Governor Maclean (p 2). The Ashanti dictionary: They intend to do English-Ashanti and not German-Ashanti. They shall not work in English in the schools, but in the vernacular (pp 2-3). The Methodists sent away at Osu, tried to open an English school at Labadi - the Governor sent them to Riis. A pity that the Methodists want to go everywhere and leave in between much. Freemann spends £ 1000 on a journey to Dahomey and therefore there is not more money for missionaries. Difficulties of Thompson He should not be let alone to work - a brother should be at his side (p 3). Halleur is a selfish man and given to moods. Widmann had difficulties with him when Riis was away, but he kept mostly quiet. Riis treats him the same way as he treats the other missionaries (pp 4-5). About the West Indians: Difficulties with them seem not to take true root, they behave like all emigrants. Does not matter, as long as they form some sort of a nucleus for a Christian congregation and a contribution to civilization. The aftermath of liberation does not predispose them to obedience and order. The men are willing to work, if they can do it their own way, but the uninstructed woman are lazy - they have the pride of English ladies, but not their intelligence (pp 5-6). Collaboration with Riis: Happy in it, Africans show much confidence in him (p 6). Needs a church liturgy and especially English books for the library (p 11). Riis' parts printed: Missionsmagazin 1844, pp 192 f. School at Ussu opened -Aburi people say, they want to build a school. Not printed: He could tell many stories about George Thompson, but Mrs. Thompson is pious and goodhearted, a good teacher, faithful wife, a believing soul, an honour to the mission. Request for a school at Labadi and Aburi. The sawing machine does not work well under Halleur, he shall be occupied some months in the forest. Riis has to travel much and is away from his family and regulated work, but such is his job. They need more brethren and a physician brother. Send goods by Bremen and Marseille (addresses given). Will go this afternoon with Governor to plantations hence to plan a path to Akwapim, a matter of great importance for them. Halleur by carelessness has got again his old complaints from his fractures.

**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-01.02 - Ghana 1842-1848: D-01.02.(1843) - Gold Coast

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