

The Cobbler

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PAGE 4 • SEPTEMBER 27, 2001

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William Carey web-site ‘academic anchor’ for WCC

BY MITCHELL SMITH

Cobbler Writer

Since the presentation of the William Carey lectures, there has been some buzz around campus about William Carey’s life and ministry.

If you are one of those curious students wanting to know more, there is a place for you.

The Center for Study of the Life and Work of William Carey, D.D. (1761-1834), founded in July 2000, is one of the most extensive and well-informed sites on the internet concerning this great man.

If you are interested in checking out the site, you can surf the web to www.wmcarey.edu, and take the link marked *Center for Study of the Life and Work of William Carey, D.D. (1761-1834)*.

This truly is an amazing and extensive site that will help you to learn more than you ever knew about the man from whom we get our namesake—William Carey.

The Cobbler asked the site’s founders Bennie R. Crockett, Jr. and Myron C. Noonkester to each write a history and description of this intriguing site. The response was more than *The Cobbler* could have hoped for, here is what we received:

Myron C. Noonkester—

In July 2000, Co-directors Bennie R. Crockett, Jr. and Myron C. Noonkester founded *The Center for Study of the Life and Work of William Carey, D. D. (1761-1834)*. William Carey was a Baptist pastor from Northamptonshire, England who journeyed in 1793 to India, where he began a mission at Serampore, near Calcutta.

Carey and his colleagues, Joshua Marshman and William Ward translated the Bible into numerous Indian dialects and founded Serampore College.

Carey’s work led to thousands of conversions to Christianity.

He also lobbied for the abolition of suttee (widow burning), pioneered education of Indian women, standardized Indian botany and founded the Indian Agricultural Society, stimulated the “Bengal Renaissance” in Indian literature, published the first periodical in India, and invented Indian savings banks.

The purpose of the Carey Center is twofold. It promotes an understanding of the accomplishments of William Carey as a missionary, social reformer, linguist, botanist and educator.

It also seeks to enhance appreciation of the religious, cultural, scientific, and historical contexts in which Carey worked in Britain and India.

The Center maintains a web site of several thousand pages on the William Carey College server. Since the inauguration of the web site, it has received approximately 15,000 page hits.

The Asian Studies World Wide Web Monitor rates the Center “five stars, essential,” the highest rating it confers.

With the help of a generous memorial donation from the Fowler family of Hattiesburg, the Center purchased *Flora Indica*, a two-volume work published in 1820 and 1824 and edited by William Carey.

Flora Indica provides a detailed catalog of plants of India with extensive descriptions and analysis. Other purchases soon followed.

The Center is proud to own a copy of *Hortus Bengalensis*, another rare Carey edition on botany, was published in 1814.

The Center has also acquired a work by Carey’s colleague, the Serampore printer William Ward, *A View of the History, Religion and Literature of the Hindoos*.

The Center’s holdings, many of which may be viewed at the Center website, include other rare books, pamphlets and periodicals related to Carey, medals celebrating the Baptist Missionary Society and the Marquis of Wellesley, and an Indian postage stamp, first day cover, and brochure celebrating Carey’s accomplishments.

Bennie R. Crockett, Jr.—

Since the summer of 2000, the Center for Study of the Life and Work of William Carey, D.D. (1761-1834) has acquired from around the world numerous artifacts related to William Carey and the Serampore, India, mission.

The technological developments during the 1990s—pentium processors, the internet, and information databases—has been an essential and necessary component in the success of the Carey Center.

Shameless in the pursuit for artifacts, rare books, and diverse information about Carey, the Co-directors have pursued a policy of “democratizing the study of William Carey.”

By this policy is meant a focus on acquisition and uploading information to the Center’s website hosted on the College’s server.

In effect, the Carey Center web-site has developed into a “virtual library and museum” for the entire world, and hopefully, a more comprehensive assessment of Carey’s life and work can be provoked by the Center’s website.

A fine example of the power of the internet was the acquisition of the “Dr. William Carey Stamp and First Day Cover,” issued by the Government of India in 1993.

Stamp collectors in both Great Britain and India supplied the Center (via e-mail requests) with the physical stamp issues that appear on the website.

India, a country of approximately one billion persons, honored Carey in 1993 by issuing the stamp for the bicentennial of Carey's arrival in India.

Carey's accomplishments for the Indian people went far beyond his Christian mission efforts, and the stamp's brochure catalogs Carey's eminent stature for Indian culture and sense of modern identity.

Some lessons—for students, faculty, and people all over the world—from the establishment of the Carey Center are numerous.

First, Carey was and continues to be an international figure, and the internet now provides more accurate information about Carey than previously available.

Second, the far-reaching effect of Carey's life provides the College an incentive to look beyond its walls to a more expansive geographical, ideological, and religious environment.

And last, Carey's life—in clearer ways than ever discussed before at William Carey College—yields an academic anchor for students, faculty, and staff to sink in an age of expanding information and shrinking knowledge.