

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10670-2 - They Built for the Future: A Chronicle of Makerere University College
1922-1962

Margaret Macpherson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THEY BUILT FOR
THE FUTURE

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10670-2 - They Built for the Future: A Chronicle of Makerere University College
1922-1962

Margaret Macpherson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)



Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10670-2 - They Built for the Future: A Chronicle of Makerere University College
1922-1962

Margaret Macpherson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THEY BUILT FOR THE FUTURE

A CHRONICLE OF
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE
1922-1962

BY

MARGARET MACPHERSON



CAMBRIDGE
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS
1964

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10670-2 - They Built for the Future: A Chronicle of Makerere University College
1922-1962

Margaret Macpherson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521106702

© Cambridge University Press 1964

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without the written
permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1964

This digitally printed version 2009

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-05655-7 hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-10670-2 paperback

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10670-2 - They Built for the Future: A Chronicle of Makerere University College
1922-1962

Margaret Macpherson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

<i>List of Plates</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xiii
I The Site, 1921–25	1
II The Foundations, 1925–39	10
<i>Appendix</i> The Founders	29
III Slow Progress, 1939–45	31
IV Inter-University Council—Consultant Engineers, 1946–49	48
V The Building Takes Shape, 1950–55	63
VI University College, 1956–61	98
VII Makerere Men and Women	147
VIII Looking Back	165
IX The Future	178
<i>Notes</i>	190
<i>Index</i>	207

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10670-2 - They Built for the Future: A Chronicle of Makerere University College 1922-1962

Margaret Macpherson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

LIST OF PLATES

- Students in front of the main administrative building *frontispiece*
- 1 Sir Bernard de Bunsen, M.A., C.M.G., K.B., Principal since 1950 and Vice-Chancellor of the University of East Africa *facing page 64*
 - 2 Past Principals of Makerere. Above left: H. O. Saville, Dip. Civil Engineering, Principal 1922-5; above right: D. G. Tomblings, M.A., C.M.G., Principal 1925-39; below left: G. C. Turner, M.A., C.M.G., M.C., Principal 1939-46; below right, W. D. Lamont, M.A., D.Phil., Principal 1947-9
 - 3 The heron tree which sheltered Kagugube market
 - 4 (a) Makerere's first students, with H. O. Saville (centre, front row), Stacey Hanson (left), Captain Le Pla (right), Matayo Sempala and Erasito Tabyetise
(b) One of the early hostels, later part of Mitchell Hall
 - 5 (a) The main administrative building today. On the left is Queen's Court
(b) The University Library in 1961 (an extension has already been added). Beyond are the buildings of the Faculty of Science, and the top of Makerere Hill
 - 6 (a) The Medical School
(b) Part of Mary Stuart Hall
 - 7 The entrance to New Hall
 - 8 (a) Croquet on the lawns of University Hall
(b) Livingstone Hall, with the new Mulago Hospital beyond. The slope in the foreground is now occupied by terraced houses and flats for staff
 - 9 (a) The gardens of University Hall. Since this photograph was taken, the ornamental colonnade above the steps has disappeared in favour of more rooms
(b) Queen's Court, housing the Faculty of Arts
 - 10 (a) After morning service at the Chapel of St Francis
(b) Northcote Hall, dining hall

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10670-2 - They Built for the Future: A Chronicle of Makerere University College
1922-1962

Margaret Macpherson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*List of Plates*

- 11 (a) The first Shakespeare play staged by the English Department: *Julius Caesar*, 1948. Seated is Julius Caesar—A. M. Obote, now Prime Minister of Uganda; kneeling: Cassius—A. F. Mpanga, now Legal Adviser to the Buganda Government
- (b) The Makerere swimming pool and squash courts beyond
- 12 (a) Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Chancellor of the University of London, receives Dr Josephine Namboze, the first African woman to qualify as a doctor at Makerere
- (b) The opening of the new Mulago Hospital by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent in October 1962. The Duchess is with the Minister of Health, Dr Emmanuel Lumu (at Makerere 1938–45)

Map of Makerere University College

Acknowledgements are due to Professor Fergus Wilson for Plates 1, 3, 4*b*, 5*a* and *b*, 6*a* and *b*, 7, 8*a* and *b*, 9*a* and *b*, 10*a* and *b*, and 11*b*; to Mr D. G. Tomblings for Plate 4*a*; to Mr J. R. Crabbe for Plate 11*a*; to Mr R. C. Wellingham, senior medical photographer in the Makerere Medical School, for Plate 12*b*; to the Uganda Information Department for Plate 12*a*; and to the Makerere Library Photographic Collection for Plate 2.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10670-2 - They Built for the Future: A Chronicle of Makerere University College
1922-1962

Margaret Macpherson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE

The motto of Makerere University College is *Pro futuro aedificamus*. When our entrance into special relationship with the University of London in 1949 marked an important stage in our growth towards a university in our own right, it was felt that our crest should incorporate symbols of all the territories from which our students come and the motto should no longer be in Luganda and so representative of only a fraction of our academic population. It may be protested that Latin represents no section of the community at all, but its use is hallowed by academic and heraldic custom and many may feel it is better to represent none than only some. 'We build for the future' seems increasingly a suitable slogan for this University College. It is those who have had the fortune of a university education who can look and therefore plan ahead; the research which is so essential a part of university life is directed towards the improvement of present ills or the informing of present ignorance; and the role of Makerere University College and its students in these emergent countries is indeed to build for the future. Now as we move towards the establishment of the University of East Africa it seems fitting to review our 40 years of history and see how the building has gone so far.

The College began at the bottom of Makerere Hill with two temporary workshops, a temporary house and fourteen day-boys to study carpentry and mechanics. Now its buildings spread over an area of 400 acres, and its student population, graduate and undergraduate, is nearly 1000 men and women drawn from all parts of East Africa, from all races and with many overseas students as well.¹

It began with a staff of two Englishmen, H. O. Saville, as Principal, W. S. Hanson as 'Instructor of Native Artisans', lent by the Public Works Department of the Government, one 'Native Assistant of Carpentry', one 'Native Schoolmaster' and, for four months, an 'Instructor of Mechanics', Captain

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10670-2 - They Built for the Future: A Chronicle of Makerere University College
1922-1962

Margaret Macpherson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Preface

F. G. Le Pla, lent by the Director of Transport. Now it has a staff list of over 200, including teaching staff, wardens, chaplains, administrators and numbering among them, several graduates and diplomates of Makerere itself. This College, which began as a technical school, numbers among its past students the first Prime Minister of Tanganyika, leading ministers and politicians in all the East African territories, as well as the leaders of many local governments. Makerere men figure in prominent positions in the civil services and are the backbone of the professions. All acknowledge loyalty to the same College and are proud to have this in common.

The De La Warr Commission, in considering the possibility of a Higher College for East Africa, recommended that although it should be situated somewhere between Makerere, Kampala and Mulago (where the teaching hospital is) it should be separate from Makerere which should continue as a secondary school.¹ While accepting the recommendations of the Commission in general, the great inter-territorial conference, which considered the implementing of its suggestions, decided² to develop at Makerere, to avoid a break in continuity and because Makerere had already established a reputation that could be built on. Schools and the general public had learnt to regard Makerere already as the Higher College and it would be unwise to confuse things. This was a wise decision, for it has meant a greater continuity and unity for the University College. In Ghana, in spite of the established reputation of Achimota, there was a complete break in tradition with the establishment of their University College; and Ibadan, in Nigeria, was also a completely new institution. Here, in East Africa, the men who took the clerical course in the 1920s (then the most advanced course in the College), together with the telegraphist (an experimental course to supply an urgent need) and the carpenter, regard themselves as members of the same college as the present-day science graduate or doctor and all are proud of the growth of their college, rejoice in its rising standards and will lend a helping hand to the young man beginning on his career.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10670-2 - They Built for the Future: A Chronicle of Makerere University College
1922-1962

Margaret Macpherson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Preface

Some 3500 men and women have passed through the College; sons and daughters of Makerere men have followed their parents here. This link between the old and the new is important, not only in helping to create a bond between people of very differing views and standpoints, but in integrating the emergent University with the peoples which it serves.

‘They built for the future.’ In many ways. The builders of the first permanent buildings built so strongly that although these buildings are no longer to be used for a student hall of residence, they can stand for a large number more years and are being eyed avidly by planners of many projects which need space. The men who put up these buildings were looking ahead and in their construction thought of more than the mere bricks and mortar. Saville writes in his first annual report of 1922:

It is our boast that the whole of the buildings so far completed are entirely the work of natives of the Protectorate, working under the direction of the European instructors, and no foreign skilled labour has been employed in any part of the buildings. It is to be hoped that we may be able to complete our building programme without departing from this principle, as by so doing we shall not only help forward the object of this College, but shall also give the students a pride in it, which they could hardly be expected to take in any buildings which they could not claim had been built entirely by native labour.

Although this principle had very soon to be abandoned as the College grew, the aim here expressed of making the most mundane part of growth serve an ideal is an aim which has been built into College development. The physical builders then built, in one sense, for the future, although exasperated users of more recent buildings may frequently exclaim at the oversights and omissions which we have had to learn to remedy, by bitter experience. But, in a far greater sense, those early directors of College policy began to look ahead. Sir Geoffrey Archer, the Governor of Uganda who opened the first big teaching building, the Big School (later Mitchell Hall Junior Common Room and offices), put it only vaguely when

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10670-2 - They Built for the Future: A Chronicle of Makerere University College
1922-1962

Margaret Macpherson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Preface

he said, in 1924: 'We have definitely set our hand to the plough as regards education. Further, we are going forward until Makerere College becomes a credit to any scheme of education', but the Director of Education, E. R. J. Hussey, the following year, indulged in a pipe dream which is not really so far off what has come to pass, although the scope has perhaps been extended further than he had intended:

Here will be gathered students from all parts of the Protectorate, differing in race and creed, but united by one common purpose—the quest for knowledge. To this quest no limits can be set and whether through the ordinary courses of instruction which the College offers or in the freer field of postgraduate study and research they will find full scope for intellectual development in familiar surroundings on their native soil and among their own people. In this way will it be possible for the people of the Protectorate, led by men who have not weakened through education the ties that bind them to their mother country, to progress slowly but surely towards a higher civilization and culture, borrowing freely in form and essence from the older civilizations of Europe, but deriving inspiration and distinctive character from their own national institutions.

The planners of courses of study were always looking ahead to the next stage in educational development and often forcing the schools to advance by their demands for increased standards.

Inevitably mistakes have been made, some minor, some major. The College has been heatedly divided on matters of policy, from time to time. Friction between students and staff, between College and general public, between College and Government Departments, has not been unknown. There has been the need to fight again the battle for academic freedom which is an established part of the university pattern as we know it, but it would be fair to say that at no time has the College been served by those who did not engage themselves whole-heartedly in the cause of her progress and at no time has she lacked men with vision to build for the future.

MAKERERE
March 1964

M. M.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10670-2 - They Built for the Future: A Chronicle of Makerere University College
1922-1962

Margaret Macpherson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank all those friends, colleagues and officers of Makerere who have patiently listened to passages from this history and given valuable advice and information; the librarian and his staff for not only making available much material from the archives but for most generous assistance in the confirmation of facts, and searching out early pictures; Mr Douglas Tomblings for his help in the earlier chapters; Professor Fergus Wilson for his photographs (and the other photographers); Mr Arthur French for the map on the endpapers, and above all Miss Grace Hunter who not only typed the final draft but gave most valuable advice in the course of it. The author would also like to thank the Publications Committee of Makerere University College for their subsidy towards production costs.