

# Hudson Taylor & Missions to China

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There are probably more books on Hudson Taylor, and his China Inland Mission, than on any other missionary since the apostle Paul and perhaps Francis Xavier, the 16th-century Jesuit missionary to Japan. Just in the Princeton Seminary library, which I regularly use, I counted some 54 titles. In the case of books out-of-print or republished many times, only the date of the original edition is given.

## Hudson Taylor and the CIM

The single most indispensable and easily available work is A. J. Broomhall's seven-volume paperback *Hudson Taylor & China's Open Century* (Hodder & Stoughton and OMF, 1981–89). For those not quite ready for seven volumes, read the older standard 2-volume work, *Hudson Taylor in Early Years* and *Hudson Taylor and the China Inland Mission* (in many editions), both by Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor. Also see the fine short history of the mission by Leslie T. Lyall, *A Passion for the Impossible: the China Inland Mission 1865–1965* (Moody, 1965).

For young people, there are two fine works: Marshall Broomhall's *Hudson Taylor: The Man Who Dared* (1920) and *Hudson Taylor: God's Man for China* by Betty Macindoe (Hodder & Stroughton, 1979).

Hudson Taylor is known for his unwavering faith and his devotional life. On this, see Marshall Broomhall's stirring *Hudson Taylor: The Man Who Believed God* (1929), Virgil Robinson's *Hudson Taylor: Man of Faith* (1966), and *Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret* (1932) by Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor. His human, Christian compassion is sometimes overlooked but not so in Marshall Broomhall's *By Love Compelled* (1936), which traces the motivation of both the man and the mission to the "overwhelming sense of God's love" as much as to God's faithfulness.

Anyone concerned that mission history neglects the major role that women have played should read *Hudson Taylor and Maria* by John Charles Pollack (1962). On the forced transition of the mission from its base in China to "mission to the world," see *The Fire Burns On: A C.I.M.*



ET Archives

**Doomed journal.** *Masthead of The Missionary Gleaner*, whose articles fueled Hudson Taylor's early passion for China. Its publisher, the Chinese Evangelization Society, sponsored Taylor's early China years. Inattention to finances (and perhaps spelling: note the masthead!) led to the society's collapse in 1860.

*Anthology* (1965), edited by Frank Houghton, and Phyllis Thompson's *China: The Reluctant Exodus* (1979).

*Martyred Missionaries of the China Inland Mission*, edited by Marshall Broomhall (1901), focuses especially on the Boxer Rebellion. One of the most poignant stories of martyrdom, however, is *Not Worthy to Be Compared: The Story of John and Betty Stam and the Miracle Baby* by E. H. Hamilton (1936).

## Reading wider

For the larger picture of China missions, the standard work, though now more than 60 years old, is still Kenneth Scott Latourette's *A History of Christian Missions in China* (1929). For a delightfully readable paperback updating the record, see G. Thompson Brown's *Christianity in the People's Republic of China* (John Knox, 1986).

For those who want the story of Christianity in China stretched back to its beginnings, read my *A History of Christianity in Asia, Vol. 1, Beginnings to 1550* (Harper-Collins, 1992), especially chapters 15, 18, 20, and 21.

Check the author blurbs at the end of this issue's articles for other suggested readings.

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# CHRISTIAN HISTORY



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In 1854, some 380 million in the vast China interior had never seen a Westerner nor heard the name of Christ. That spring, a young Englishman landed in Shanghai determined to change that.