Editorial Procedures

As previously mentioned, what follows are transcriptions of Walter’s missionary diaries. Instead of primarily scanning images from Walter’s writings and binding them together, thereby making an exact duplicate of the diaries, I decided to directly copy—word for word, punctuation for punctuation—Walter’s diaries into a typewritten format, with some photocopies inserted throughout. I feel that this format is more accessible and that it enhances the readability and usability of the diaries.

Unfortunately, such transcribing also leaves out some of the more minute but personable details. Walter’s impeccable penmanship, for example, is replaced with the sterile ink of the modern laser-jet printer. The yellowing, crispy pages of the diaries are supplanted by 8½ x 11 sheets of drab white paper.

All care was taken during the transcription to preserve Walter’s original spelling, grammar and punctuation. For the most part a flawless writer, Walter occasionally spelled words or placed punctuation differently than the conventional spelling and punctuation of our modern age. These ‘errors’ are retained in the transcription.

Errors by the transcriber, nonetheless, may have crept in throughout the transcription process. Although Walter’s penmanship was excellent, it was periodically difficult to interpret individual letters or unfamiliar words. English place names, as with “Carliysle Terrace” and “Cleckheaton,” are words that are not only unfamiliar to the transcriber’s eye but are also sometimes very difficult to make out. The same holds true for names of individuals or families. Walter’s cursive upper-case letters, such as “F,” “G,” and “C,” also could be occasionally tricky to decipher.

Notwithstanding the copier’s potential errors, Walter sometimes used different spellings of names in different entries. For instance, Walter talks on page 20 of his first missionary diary about meeting a “Mrs Challinger” for tea; yet, eleven pages later he spells her name as “Mrs Challanger.” It is assumed he is describing the same woman in both entries.

The format of most of Walter’s diary entries follows a generalized pattern. That is, each entry usually begins with the day of the week (e.g., Monday), the date of the year (e.g., Aug 10, 1908), and the location (e.g., Huddersfield). These, which are at the top of the entries, are then followed by an explanation of the day’s events. Many times, Walter wrote about the people he visited, what he ate, and where he traveled. Walter also spoke often about the weather, placing these snippets at the end or to the side of his daily chronicle.

Walter, as with every writer, had his own characteristic authorship. For instance, he frequently used shortened words, such as “thot” for “thought,” “thru” for “through,” and “altho” for “although.” In his cursive penmanship, what looks like “oz” is really “OK,” and is written in the transcribed text as OK. And “forenoon” and “afternoon” are most often written as “fore-noon” and “after-noon,” with “today” occasionally written as
a hyphened “to-day.” When using parentheses, Walter would sometimes only use the first parenthesis, such as with “(Huddersfield.”

For the reader’s convenience and deviating somewhat from the intention of direct reproduction, this transcribed copy has added to or subtracted from certain features of Walter’s diaries. Page numbers, which are missing from the original diaries, have been placed in italics (e.g., page 17). Space between diary entries has also been added. Indentations from the original copies have been disregarded in place of wrap around text; that is, while Walter’s diaries can only contain five or six words per line and the dates or weather are sometimes indented onto the right portion of an entry, this typed copy keeps a left margin with continuous text. Additionally, anything italicized and in brackets – but not inside quotation marks – within Walter’s entries have been inserted by the transcriber for clarification (e.g., [“old” written over “of”]). Frequent italicized clarification includes notification that a particular phrase was originally written along the side margin or was illegible (i.e., indecipherable) to the copier’s eye.

Below are the physical descriptions of Walter’s diaries and record book.

Diary I

A small notebook: 5 inches wide, 8 inches tall, and 9 millimeters thick. The cover is an aqua blue hue (looks like teal when held to the light), bound along the spine with a leather feeling material of a reddish brown color. The first and last pages within the notebook are not ruled. The rest of the pages are ruled, with blue horizontal lines every 7 millimeters and 20 millimeters of no lines at the top of each page. Walter wrote on both sides of each ruled page.

Diary II

A small notebook: 5 inches wide, 8 inches tall, and 9 millimeters thick. The cover is lavender, bound along the spine with a leather-like material of a black color. The first and last pages within the notebook are not ruled. The rest of the pages are ruled, with blue horizontal lines every 7 millimeters and 20 millimeters of no lines at the top of each page. Walter wrote on both sides of each ruled page.

Diary III

A larger notebook than diaries I and II: 4.5 inches wide, 7 inches tall, and 14 millimeters thick. The cover is reddish brown and made up of a cardboard type material, with a textured – bumpy – outer layer. The inside front and back covers, as well as the pages opposite the front and back covers, are lined in a decorative patterned thick paper and are not written upon. The rest of the pages are ruled, with blue horizontal lines every 7 millimeters and 15 millimeters of no lines at the top and bottom of each page. Walter wrote on both sides of each ruled page.
Missionary Record

A notebook, specially designed for an L.D.S. missionary, measuring: 4 inches wide, 6.5 inches tall, and 10 millimeters thick. The cover is dark red (which also appears dark brown) and seems to be made of leather. A decorative pattern is embossed along the outer edges of the front and back covers. The first two-thirds of the Missionary Record contains grids stretching two side-by-side pages, with customized rows and columns to record, for example, “Meetings attended,” “Strangers’ Houses Visited,” and “Star Subscribers” by day and date. The last one-third of the Missionary Record holds blank sheets, with blue horizontal lines every 7 millimeters and 17 millimeters of no lines at the top and 15 millimeters of no lines at the bottom of each sheet. The last page of the Missionary Record is unlined. Walter did not use every available page of the Missionary Record, with many pages only partially written upon.