

Review and Prospects for Studies on George L. Mackay

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Although there are numerous papers and books on Dr. George Leslie Mackay (1844-1901), the most famous and distinguished missionary in Taiwan, it is necessary for scholars to restudy the man with primary sources and published works in English, Chinese and Japanese languages. Therefore, this paper first deals with a brief introduction of Mackay's mission and the primary sources relating to him, which are located mainly in Canada and Taiwan. Then the author discusses and criticizes research on Mackay in Taiwan, Mainland China, Hong Kong, Japan, the United States and Canada. Special attention is paid to Taiwanese publications because of their quality and quantity. It also compares and contrasts the characteristics of those scholars' writings.

Finally, the author identifies some tasks and requirements for furthering the study of Mackay: the collection and publication of primary sources on Mackay; the need to be familiar with different languages, especially Chinese, English and Japanese languages; knowledge of Christian culture; and the use of multidisciplinary methods since some Taiwanese scholars have conducted research into Dr. Mackay's contributions for Taiwanese music, architecture, and travelling, among other aspects.