

Livingstone Online: 10 Things You Might Not Know About David Livingstone

New Website: <http://livingstoneonline.org>

Complete Press Pack: <http://www.livingstoneonline.ucl.ac.uk/materials>

1. The famous phrase “Dr. Livingstone, I presume?” might not have been said. The phrase doesn’t appear in Livingstone’s writings, and the page from Stanley’s diary is missing. Some scholars think that Stanley made the phrase up after-the-fact.
2. Despite a rather stern and sober appearance, Livingstone fills his letters with witty sarcasm and punchy criticism. In one case, his irritation is directed towards a series of “‘resolutions’ passed at various teetotal meetings strongly condemning my impiety” after he joined his friends in a toast to his health.
3. Livingstone had a pet. A poodle named Chitané came with Livingstone on his expedition to find the source of the Nile.
4. Livingstone’s face appears on the cover of The Beatles’ iconic *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band* album.
5. Whimsical drawings as well as maps and ethnographic illustrations fill Livingstone’s field diaries. He drew cartoonish sketches of people and animals as well as mapping rivers and recording the horrors of slavery.
6. While he is still known as a famous missionary, Livingstone only converted one person – who later lapsed.
7. Livingstone loved coffee and may have anticipated the production of coffee in Africa in writing that the coffee he had in Africa “is really the best ever tasted.”
8. A trained physician, Livingstone recorded native medicines and developed an anti-malaria medicine called “rousters” which combined large doses of quinine with the cathartic resin of jalap, rhubarb and calomel and which purged the bowels. He used his advanced western medical training as a physician and a surgeon as a passport across war-torn borderlands, much like “Doctors without Borders” today.
9. Livingstone’s oldest son, Robert, fought and died in the U.S. Civil War after being forced to enlist. He took an assumed name out of concern that his participation in the violence would bring shame to Livingstone.
10. Livingstone died in Africa and was embalmed by his followers. When brought back to Britain, his body was so decomposed that the only way to identify it was to use his arm bone, which bore distinct signs of a famous lion attack years earlier.