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Near East College Association Records 10161697

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

burke@library.columbia.edu

URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	Near East College Association (New York, N.Y.)
Title:	Near East College Association records
ID:	10161697
Date [inclusive]:	1928 -- 1943
Physical Description:	3.25 linear feet 3.25 linear feet; 8 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Near East College Association formed in 1927 to combine financial and administrative work in a joint office for efficiency in management and to help raise endowment funds for institutions from Greece, Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Bulgaria, and Iraq. The collection contains administrative records, correspondence, publications, and records related to partner institutions.

Preferred Citation

Item description, MRL2: Near East College Association Records, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

The plan for a college association in the Near East began with Cleveland H. Dodge in 1919. In the interest of efficiency and saving money, Dodge believed that Robert College in Istanbul and the Syrian Protestant College in Beirut should have a joint office in the United States. Albert W. Staub, who would become Executive Secretary of the Joint Office, was sent to visit the colleges and report back on educational problems in the Near East. The result of this survey showed financial deficits at each college totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars. In 1920, the Syrian Protestant College was renamed the American University in Beirut. The Joint Office was so popular that other organizations were included. The member organizations of the newly-

established Near East College Association (NECA) were Robert College, Istanbul; the American University of Beirut, Syria; the American College for Girls at Istanbul; the American College of Sofia, Bulgaria; the International College in Izmir, Smyrna; and Athens College, Greece. Many of these organizations had originally been founded by American missionaries. Original executive committee members included William Morgan Kingsley, Arthur Curtiss James, Stephen Baker, Henry Sloane Coffin, George A. Plimpton, Harold A. Hatch, Lucius R. Eastman, James L. Barton, and Edward Capps. The organization was incorporated in March 1927. Using private donors, organizations, clubs, educational foundations, and international relief, funds were raised and educational locations in the Near East were reorganized. Endowments for each were successfully filled in 1940, but the NECA Trustees approved the permanent continuation of the Association. The Boards of Trustees for Robert College and the American College for Girls at Istanbul decided, "for the purpose of simplifying the problem of dealing with the Turkish Government officials and in the interest of coordination and progress," to elect a common President, appoint joint professorships, and share financial burdens. Dr. Paul Monroe was appointed President on May 18, 1932. Problems in 1933 at the International College in Izmir, Smyrna led to a two-year investigation by the Board of Trustees who eventually liquidated the college; the property was sold to the Turkish Government. The work at the International College became affiliated in 1936 with the American University of Beirut. According to the Near East Colleges Quarterly Vol. 6, No. 2 published June 1947, two more institutions were added: The American School for Boys, Baghdad, Iraq; and Damascus College, Syria. Anatolia College in Thessaloniki, Greece, joined NECA in 1950. Dr. William Adams Brown was appointed President of the Board of Directors in May 1936, assuming the role from William Morgan Kingsley. He would serve until his death in 1941, when he was succeeded by Henry C. Holt. Allen W. Dulles assumed the responsibility in 1946, followed by Harold B. Hoskins in 1951. The institutions of the Near East College Association continue to exist, as does the Near East College Association.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains administrative files, including records relating to the establishment of NECA and the work of William Adams Brown and others, Five Year Stabilization Fund reports, materials relating to professors and their position in the college, and other documents; correspondence, including extensive correspondence regarding the establishment of NECA, the various schools and people involved, and events that were occurring in the area, with the majority of the correspondence sent to or by William Adams Brown, his wife, or his secretary; publications, including published materials depicting the history of NECA, as well as events occurring in the area such as earthquakes in Turkey, restrictions on land sale in Palestine, and the consequences of World War Two; and material related to partner institutions, including correspondence, financial records, programs and events, anniversary booklets, and reports to Trustees regarding attendance, staff, academic council, buildings and grounds, agricultural activities, finances, and outstanding problems.

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Arrangement

This collection is organized in four series: Series 1: Administrative Files, 1934-1942 (1 box, 0.50 lin. ft.); Series 2: Correspondence, 1931-1943 (2 boxes, 1.00 lin. ft.); Series 3: Publications, 1935-1941 (1 box, 0.25 lin. ft.); Series 4: Partner Institutions, 1928-1943 (4 boxes, 1.50 lin. ft.)

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

XML instance document created by Brigette C. Kamsler. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. EAD spot checked and corrected and description updated by Leah Edelman. July 25, 2013 2019-05-20 2021-11-16

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Formerly part of the independent Missionary Research Library (MRL), these records were moved with the MRL to the Brown Memorial Tower of Union Theological Seminary in 1929, and accessioned by the Burke Library at the time of the MRL's closure in 1976.

Processing Information

This collection was created from a large group of unprocessed material. Select metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. The finding aid was created by Brigitte C. Kamsler in 2013 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2021.

Conditions Governing Use

Some material in this collection may be protected by copyright and other rights. Information concerning copyright, fair use, and reproduction requests can be consulted at Columbia's Copyright Advisory Office.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Robert College records, 1858-2018. Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Libraries.

Related Materials

American College for Girls records, 1880s-1979. Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Libraries.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Iraq
- Bulgaria
- Syria
- Lebanon
- Turkey
- Greece
- Brown, William Adams, 1865-1943

- Near East College Association (New York, N.Y.)
- Near East Relief (Organization)
- Near East Foundation
- Near East Society (New York, N.Y.)

Burke Library record group:

Missionary Research Library Archives: MRL2, Near/Middle East

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Collection Inventory

Series 1: Administrative Files, 1934 -- 1942

Physical Description: 0.5 linear feet 0.5 linear feet; 1 box

Scope and Contents

This series contains records relating to the establishment of NECA and the work William Adams Brown and others did to complete the task, an example of which are the Five Year Stabilization Fund reports. In August 1936, a plan was approved to contract with Tamblyn and Brown to conduct a five-year stabilization fund. The goal was to raise \$120,000 annually for a period of five years, which would be dispersed among the colleges. Allen W. Dulles became Chairman of the Stabilization Fund Committee. While fundraising was successful during the first few years, it faltered during World War Two. In addition to general information on the organization, specific materials relating to professors, their position in the college and their education form part of the collection Other documents reveal who returned to America from Turkey and their addresses. There exists a document listing preferred prospects and their addresses for membership in NECA, and if the individual could donate funds or at times, "literature only." The majority of those on this list were in Metropolitan New York, with a small number from "miscellaneous states." Also of note is a letter between Cleveland Dodge and W. A. Brown regarding the establishment of a Near East Society from March 1935. This society would be formed by NECA and the Near East Foundation, the purpose of which was to provide information to the American public on happenings in the Middle East. It officially formed in 1948.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged in rough chronological order.

Title/Description	Instances	
Minutes, 1934	box 1	folder 1

Suggestions for a Cooperative Near East Organization "Near East Society", 1935	box 1	folder 2
Membership Information, "Preferred Prospects in New York and Miscellaneous States", October 1936	box 1	folder 3
Reports, 1937-1942	box 1	folder 4-7
<i>An Appraisal of America's Investment in Six Near East Colleges</i> , presented by the Five Year Stabilization Fund of the Near East Colleges, 1936-1941	box 1	folder 8-9
Five Year Stabilization Fund Final Report, March 1938	box 1	folder 10
Histories, 1940	box 1	folder 11
Staff Information for Near East Colleges, 1940-1941	box 1	folder 12

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Series 2: Correspondence, 1931 -- 1943

Physical Description: 1 linear feet 1 linear foot; 2 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged roughly chronologically.

Scope and Contents

Within this series is extensive correspondence regarding the establishment of NECA, the various schools and people involved, and events that were occurring in the area. The majority of the correspondence was sent to or by William Adams Brown, his wife or his secretary, and many include attachments and enclosures. Individuals from a variety of locations and organizations throughout the world are represented in the correspondence.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1931-1937	box 2	folder 1-10
Correspondence, 1938-1943	box 3	folder 1-5
Five Year Stabilization Fund, 1936	box 3	folder 6

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Series 3: Publications, 1935 -- 1941

Physical Description: 0.25 linear feet 0.25 linear feet; 1 box

Scope and Contents

Within this series are published materials depicting the history of NECA, as well as events occurring in the area which had an effect on the institutions. Earthquakes in Turkey in 1940, restrictions on land sale in Palestine, and the consequences of World War Two are examples of topics covered in publications. The Board of Directors voted in 1939 to change the name of the Near East College News Letter to the Near East Service Quarterly.

Conditions Governing Access:**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged roughly chronologically.

Title/Description	Instances	
Source Material, 1935	box 4	folder 1
Newsletter, Near East Colleges, 1935-1937	box 4	folder 2
Bulletins, Near East Service, 1940-1941	box 4	folder 3
Quarterly, Near East Service, 1940-1941	box 4	folder 4
Pamphlets , circa 1930 -- 1939	box 4	folder 5

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Series 4: Partner Institutions, 1928 -- 1943

Physical Description: 1.5 linear feet 1.5 linear feet; 4 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is organized by institution.

Scope and Contents

The records in this series relate specifically to each individual college, and include financial records, programs and events, and anniversary booklets. Also available are informal reports to Trustees regarding attendance, staff, academic council, buildings and grounds, agricultural activities, finances, and outstanding problems. Correspondence for specific individuals has remained separate for Dr. Mary Mills Patrick; Dr. Paul Monroe, joint President of Robert College and the American College for Girls; Elizabeth Clarahan, and G. Howland Shaw, Ambassador to Ankara and later Assistant Secretary of State. Dr. Mary Mills Patrick was the founder of the American College for Girls at Istanbul and for many years,

the President of the College. Elizabeth Clarahan was an administrator of the Preparatory School at the American College for Girls at Istanbul.

American College for Girls

Title/Description	Instances	
Audit Reports, 1934-1942	box 5	folder 1-6
By-Laws of the Trustees, 1940	box 5	folder 7
Reports, 1932-1943	box 5	folder 8-11
Student Enrollment Information, 1941-1943	box 5	folder 12
Budgets and Financial Reports to Trustees, 1930-1943	box 5	folder 13-15
Meeting Minutes and Agendas, 1932-1943	box 5	folder 16
Memorandum Regarding Cooperation between Robert College and Constantinople Women's College, circa 1930 -- 1939	box 5	folder 17
Correspondence, 1928-1943	box 6	folder 1-9
Correspondence, Elizabeth Clarahan, 1931-1933	box 7	folder 1
Correspondence, Mary Mills Patrick, 1931-1937	box 7	folder 2
Correspondence, G. Howard Shaw, 1931-1932	box 7	folder 3
Correspondence, Paul Monroe, 1932-1936	box 7	folder 4

Robert College

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1931-1938	box 8	folder 1
Reports, 1934	box 8	folder 2
Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Booklet 1863-1938 , 1938	box 8	folder 3

American University of Beirut

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1931-1943	box 8	folder 4

American College of Sofia, Bulgaria

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1932-1937	box 8	folder 5
Plan for Development, 1931-1932	box 8	folder 6

Athens College, Greece

Title/Description	Instances	
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Financial Statement, 1929-1937	box 8	folder 7
Program Material, 1940	box 8	folder 8

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