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Missionary Research Library collection of lantern slides10259035

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.

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:	Missionary Research Library (New York, N.Y.)
Title:	Missionary Research Library collection of lantern slides
ID:	10259035
Date [inclusive]:	circa 1920 -- 1929
Physical Description:	5.50 linear feet 5.50 linear feet; 7 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	This collection contains color and black and white lantern slides compiled by the Missionary Research Library, depicting mission related and general scenes in China circa 1920-1929, including hospitals and hospital personnel, medical schools and labs, landscapes, and city and village life including buildings and people.

Preferred Citation

Item description, MRL6: Missionary Research Library collection of lantern slides, box #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

The Missionary Research Library was created by John R. Mott in 1914 after the World Missionary Conference, held in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1910. It was created in order to be both a resource for missionaries, and a means to document the missionary movement. With funding from John D. Rockefeller, Mott stated, "We are now ready to...secure the most complete and serviceable missionary library and archives in the world. I desire it to be thoroughly interdenominational, ecumenical and international. It should be made preeminently rich in source material." It was located at the Madison Avenue headquarters of the Foreign Missionary Conference of North America. By the 1920s, funding was becoming scarce; therefore it was moved to the Brown Tower of the Union Theological Seminary, New York City in 1929. The

Library was an important center of information and research. Active missionaries would consult the material of the Missionary Research Library while on furlough. Much of the Library's success was due to the director and librarian, Charles H. Fahs. Upon his retirement in 1948, the MRL's financial difficulties continued until it was integrated with the Burke Library's collections in 1976. In 2004, the Burke Library was fully integrated with the Columbia University Library system.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains color and black and white lantern slides depicting mission related and general scenes in China circa 1920-1929, including hospitals and hospital personnel, medical schools and labs, landscapes, and city and village life including buildings and people. A number of images were taken or published by T. H. McAllister-Kelly Company, Inc. For detailed descriptions of slides, please consult the legacy spreadsheet by contacting Burke staff.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one numerical series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

Spreadsheet converted into EAD finding aid format by Leah Edelman. 2023-04-11

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

Conditions Governing Access

Lantern slides are very fragile. Please handle with care.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Formerly part of the independent Missionary Research Library (MRL), these records were accessioned by the Burke Library at the time of the MRL's closure in 1976.

Custodial History

For detailed descriptions of slides, please consult the legacy spreadsheet by contacting Burke staff.

Processing Information

Slides processed and spreadsheet created by Brigette Kamsler in 2011. The finding aid was created by Leah Edelman in 2023.

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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Controlled Access Headings

- China -- Pictorial works
- Lantern slides

Burke Library record group:

Missionary Research Library Archives: MRL6, China

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Collection Inventory

Missionary Research Library collection of lantern slides, circa 1920 -- 1929

Physical Description: 5.5 linear feet 5.5 linear feet; 7 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

Lantern slides are very fragile. Please handle with care.

Arrangement

This series is arranged numerically.

Custodial History:

Custodial History

For detailed descriptions of slides, please consult the legacy spreadsheet by contacting Burke staff.

Scope and Contents

This series contains color and black and white lantern slides depicting mission related and general scenes in China circa 1920-1929, including hospitals and hospital personnel, medical schools and labs, landscapes, and city and village life including buildings and people. A number of images were taken or published by T. H. McAllister-Kelly Company, Inc. For detailed descriptions of slides, please consult the legacy spreadsheet by contacting Burke staff.

Title/Description	Instances
Slides 1-45, circa 1920 -- 1929	box 1
Slides 46-72, circa 1920 -- 1929	box 2
Slides 73-104, circa 1920 -- 1929	box 3
Slides 105-135, circa 1920 -- 1929	box 4
Slides 136-181, circa 1920 -- 1929	box 5

Slides 182-224, circa 1920 -- 1929

box 6

Slides 225-253, circa 1920 -- 1929

box 7

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