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Missionary Research Library collection on mission work in Australia and Oceania11045928

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 on mission work in Australia and Oceania
ID:	11045928
Date [inclusive]:	1840 -- 1956
Physical Description:	2.75 linear feet 2.75 linear feet; 3 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	This collection contains materials compiled by the Missionary Research Library that document foreign mission work in Australia, the Philippines, and Indonesia, largely during the early 20th century, including reports, minutes, correspondence, publications, and a sketchbook.

Preferred Citation

Item description, MRL11: Missionary Research Library collection on mission work in Australia and Oceania, 1840-1956, box #, folder #, 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 to be a resource for missionaries and to document the missionary movement, and was initially funded by John D. Rockefeller. It was located at the Madison Avenue headquarters of the Foreign Missionary Conference of North America. By the 1920s, funding was becoming scarcer; 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 finally integrated as one with the Burke Library's collections in 1967. In 2004, the Burke Library was fully integrated with the Columbia University Library System.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains materials compiled by the Missionary Research Library that document foreign mission work in Australia, the Philippines, and Indonesia, largely during the early 20th century, including reports, minutes, correspondence, publications, and a sketchbook. The majority of materials relate to the Philippine committee of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America (FMCNA), of which E. K. Higdon was chairman. The sketchbook was kept by Rev. Anthony Wilson Thorold, Bishop of Rochester and later Bishop of Winchester, while on board the S.S. Australia and S.S. Parramatta, and includes views of Van Dieman Land, North Cape, Bay of Islands, Cape Brett, and Auckland, New Zealand; Honolulu, Diamond Head, and Waikiki, Oahu; the Suez Canal; Botany Bay, New South Wales; a missionary house in Samoa; Golden Gate, San Francisco, and more. The Report on the Progress of the Gospel in Polynesia is a 14 page folio manuscript in the hand of A.B. Putnam; it is his transcription of a speech by P.C. Colgrove given before the Society for Inquiry on December 7, 1840, and reports on atrocities but with emphasis on how missionaries have managed to convert many of the natives and how education and Christianity have spread.

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Arrangement

This collection is organized in one series arranged by geographical area.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2021-08-03

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was assembled from records in the Missionary Research Library before its 1976 closure. These records were accessioned by the Burke Library at the time of the MRL's closure in 1976. The sketchbook in box 2 folder 3 and Report in box 3 were purchased by the Burke Library in 2010.

Processing Information

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Most materials were part of a large grouping of unprocessed and disorganized boxes; the sketchbook and Progress of the Gospel in Polynesia in 1840 were an addition in 2015. The finding aid was created by Brigitte Kamsler in 2014, updated by Erin Campbell in 2015, 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

MRL12: Foreign Missions Conference of North America (FMCNA) Records, 1894 – 1968, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Missions -- Australia -- Sources
- Missions -- Oceania -- Sources

Burke Library record group:

Missionary Research Library Archives: MRL11, Australia and Oceania

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Collection Inventory

Missionary Research Library collection on mission work in Australia and Oceania, 1840 -- 1956

Physical Description: 2.75 linear feet 2.75 linear feet; 3 boxes

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Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged by geographical area.

Scope and Contents

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Title/Description	Instances	
Australia: National Missionary Council of Australia, 1935 -- 1945	box 1	folder 1
Indonesian National Council of Churches, 1955 -- 1956	box 1	folder 2
Philippine Islands: Reports, 1910 -- 1930	box 1	folder 3
Philippine Islands: National Christian Council Minutes and reports, 1932 -- 1935	box 1	folder 4
Philippine Islands: Samuel Catli Correspondence, Minutes and Reports, 1945 -- 1947	box 1	folder 5
Philippine Islands: Rural and Agricultural, 1942 -- 1946	box 1	folder 6
Philippine Islands: Union College, Manila, 1939 -- 1940	box 1	folder 7
Philippine Islands: E. K. Higdon Correspondence, Minutes and Reports, 1946 -- 1947	box 1	folder 8-9
Philippine Islands: Conferences and Committees, 1933	box 1	folder 10
Philippine Islands: Christian Work, 1929 -- 1940	box 1	folder 11
Philippine Islands: National Christian Council and Union Theological Seminary of the Philippines, 1928 -- 1934	box 1	folder 12
Philippine Islands: Relief for Americans, 1943 -- 1945	box 2	folder 1
Philippine Islands: Women's Work and Social Welfare, 1940	box 2	folder 2
Rev. Anthony Wilson Thorold's Sketchbook, circa 1910 -- 1956	box 2	folder 3
Report on the Progress of the Gospel in Polynesia, 1840	box 30S	

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