



# ArchivesSpace

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## **Missionary Research Library collection on ecumenical and world-wide mission work11077819**

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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](mailto:burke@library.columbia.edu)

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

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
<b>Creator:</b>	Missionary Research Library (New York, N.Y.)
<b>Title:</b>	Missionary Research Library collection on ecumenical and world-wide mission work
<b>ID:</b>	11077819
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1792 -- 1990
<b>Physical Description:</b>	14 linear feet 14 linear feet; 30 boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	This collection contains material related to ecumenical and world-wide mission work and committees and conferences, education, churches and religion, and missionaries, as well as photographs and maps and subject and topic files, including some on geographic locations, as well as the earliest records in the collection (1792) which pertain to Presbyterian Moderators of the General Assembly. Formats include reports, minutes, papers, photographs, negatives and maps.

### Preferred Citation

Item description, MRL12: Missionary Research Library collection on ecumenical and world-wide mission work, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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## Biographical / Historical

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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

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This collection contains material related to ecumenical and world-wide mission work and committees and conferences, education, churches and religion, and missionaries, as well as photographs and maps and subject and topic files, including some on geographic locations, as well as the earliest records in the collection (1792) which pertain to Presbyterian Moderators of the General Assembly. Formats include reports, minutes, papers, photographs, negatives and maps.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged in six series: Series 1: Committees and conferences; Series 2: Education; Series 3: Churches, Christianity, and Religion; Series 4: Missions and Missionaries; Series 5: Photographs and Maps; and Series 6: Subject and Topic files.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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3041 Broadway

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Telephone: (212) 851-5606

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

### **Revision Description**

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman 2022-10-04

### **Conditions Governing Access**

This collection is open for research.

### **Conditions Governing Access**

The following boxes are located offsite: Box 1-30 (entire collection). Please note that requests for use of boxes held in offsite storage must be made three business days in advance.

### **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.

### **Processing Information**

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. The collection was organized following the "More Product, Less Process" method. This means that the collection was generally organized, but not taken to the folder level of description. The clips and staples were also left in the folders. This allows the collection to be made available more quickly and gives researchers a general idea of what is available in the collection. The finding aid was created by Brigette Kamsler in 2014 with financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2022.

### **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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## **Burke Library record group:**

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Missionary Research Library Archives: MRL12, Ecumenical/World Mission

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series 1: Committees and Conferences, 1921 -- 1964

Physical Description: 1.5 linear feet 1.5 linear feet; 3 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

#### Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

#### Arrangement

This series is unarranged.

#### Scope and Contents

This series contains material related to committees and conferences.

Title/Description	Instances
Fourth Conference on Science, Philosophy and Religion, Hunter College, New York, 1943	box 1: 1
Committees and Conferences, 1937 -- 1964	box 1: 2
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Conference on Missionary Societies; National Study Conference on the Church and International Situation; Advisory Committee Christian Higher Education; Friends World Committee; National Peace Conference; Ecumenical Conference on Christian World Mission	
Committees and Conferences, 1921 -- 1945	box 1: 3
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
American Committee on Preservation of the Sacred Places in the Holy Land; Committee of the Inquiry; Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief; Belgian Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church; Citizens Committee of One-Thousand; Intermountain Conference of Evangelical Churches; Committee on Missionary Education	

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### Series 2: Education, 1909 -- 1970

Physical Description: 1.25 linear feet 1.25 linear feet; 3 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

**Arrangement**

This series is unarranged.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains material related to Education.

Title/Description	Instances
Reports of the Oriental Educational Commission of the University of Chicago, Ernest DeWitt Burton and Thomas Crowder Chamberlin , 1909	box 2: 1
Education, 1921 -- 1970	box 2: 2
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Christian Colleges; Missionary Education; Theological Colleges; Board of Christian Education; Institute of International Education; Problems in Administration of Missionary Education; Sunday School	
Religious Education; Theological Schools, circa 1920 -- 1949	box 2: 3

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**Series 3: Churches, Christianity and Religion, 1910 -- 1973**

Physical Description: 1.25 linear feet 1.25 linear feet; 3 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged chronologically.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains material related to Churches, Christianity and Religion.

Title/Description	Instances
Churches, Christianity and Religion, 1910 -- 1963	box 3: 1

### Scope and Contents

Presbyterian Church of the United States; Brethren of Christ; Christians throughout the World; Christian Witness; Christian Bases of World Order; Undenominational Fellowship of Christian Churches and Churches of Christ; Aid to Churches in Other Lands; Christian Union Quarterly

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Churches, Christianity and Religion, 1919 -- 1966

box 3: 2

### Scope and Contents

The Church and the Urban Industrial Revolution; Protestant Churches in Europe; Christian Relations with Muslims; Christian Relations with Post-War Europe; International Christian Movements; World Affairs of Christian Churches; Constitutions of Councils of Churches

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Churches, Christianity and Religion, 1929 -- 1973

box 3: 3

### Scope and Contents

Catholic Societies; Church in Modern Society; Church Social Relations; Christian Literature

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## Series 4: Missions and Missionaries, 1867 -- 1972

Physical Description: 2.75 linear feet 2.75 linear feet; 6 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

### Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

### Arrangement

This series is unarranged.

### Scope and Contents

This series contains material related to Missions and Missionaries.

### Title/Description

### Instances

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Missions and Missionaries, 1933 -- 1972

box 4: 1

### Scope and Contents

Missionary Bulletins; World Missions; Biographies of Women and Pioneer Missionaries; United Mission in Mesopotamia; Language Study Courses for



Missionaries; Paris Missionary Society; German  
Evangelical Mission

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Missions and Missionaries, 1867 -- 1960 box 4: 2

**Scope and Contents**

Correspondence from Missionaries; Missions and  
World Affairs; Agricultural Missions

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Missions and Missionaries, 1911-- 1965 box 4: 3

**Scope and Contents**

Worldwide Missions; Orphaned Missions; Study of the  
Turnover of Missionaries; World Atlas of Christian  
Missions; Statistics of Mission Work; Board of World  
Missions; Missionary Orientation Center Workbook;  
Furlough Address of Missionaries

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Missions and Missionaries, 1878 -- 1934 box 4: 4

**Scope and Contents**

Agricultural Missions; General Conference Concerning  
Missions; Education of Missionary Children

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Conference on Missions and Ecumenism, 1900 box 4: 5

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Missions and Missionaries, 1935 -- 1954 box 4: 6

**Scope and Contents**

Mission Fields and Stations; Christian Missions and  
Other Religions; Veterans for Missions; Missionary  
Giving; Rural Missions

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## Series 5: Photographs and Maps, 1909 -- 1986

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 unarranged.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains photographs and maps.

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**Title/Description**

**Instances**

Photographs and Maps, 1909 -- 1986 box 5: 1

**Scope and Contents**

Maps; Photographs; Photo Album of Lepers;  
 Missionary Education Exposition; Church Missionary  
 Entertainment; Souvenir Pins (1 of 2)

Photographs and Maps, 1909 -- 1986 box 5: 2

**Scope and Contents**

Maps; Photographs; Photo Album of Lepers;  
 Missionary Education Exposition; Church Missionary  
 Entertainment; Souvenir Pins (2 of 2)

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**Series 6: Subject and Topic Files, 1792 -- 1990**

Physical Description: 6.25 linear feet 6.25 linear feet; 13 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

**Arrangement**

This series is unarranged.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains subject and topic files, including some on geographic locations, as well as the earliest records in the collection (1792) which pertain to Presbyterian Moderators of the General Assembly.

Title/Description	Instances
Canada; Asia; Japan; Korea; Europe; Africa, circa 1900 -- 1990	box 6: 1
Index Cards pertaining to Mission Work Worldwide, circa 1900 -- 1990	box 6: 2
China; Japan; Korea; India; Africa; Europe, circa 1900 -- 1990	box 6: 3
Subject and Topic Files, 1926 -- 1968	box 6: 4
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Statistics; Agency Data; American Baptist Foreign Missions; Baptist Young People's Union; Homiletics; Thesis by Robert Lee	
World Order; Post-War; Relief and Rehabilitation, 1925 -- 1947	box 6: 5

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Presbyterian Church; Race Relations; Clippings; Dramas and Pageants, 1911 -- 1990	box 6: 6
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Subject and Topic Files, 1929 -- 1972	box 6: 7
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**Scope and Contents**

World Affairs; Franklin H. Littell; Social Problems; Measurement of Social Attitudes and Personality Traits; Litton Report; Language of Ikoka; Williamstown Meeting Minutes

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Subject and Topic Files, 1920 -- 1965	box 6: 8
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**Scope and Contents**

Pamphlets; Anti-Opium Information Bureau; Church Union in Canada; Frank Millican; The Catholic Church Problem in Mexico; Address by Pope Paul

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Subject and Topic Files, 1922 -- 1946	box 6: 9
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**Scope and Contents**

Translation Documents; Sermons and Poetry; Ancestor Worship and Filial Piety; Anti-Christian Movement; United Clearing Board

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Subject and Topic Files, 1900 -- 1946	box 6: 10
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**Scope and Contents**

American Relations with Asia; John Milton Society for the Blind; History of American and South Asian Contacts; Government; John Mackay and Robert Speer Correspondence; Communism through Europe and Prussia

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Subject and Topic Files, 1929 -- 1956	box 6: 11
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**Scope and Contents**

Correspondence, Letters and Articles; International Relations Commission; Post-War Planning; Evangelism; Mussolini; SeventhDay Adventists; Christian Libraries in New York City; Reformed Church in America

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Subject and Topic Files, 1792 -- 1954	box 6: 12
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**Scope and Contents**

World Presbyterian Alliance; International Living; Presbyterian Moderators; United Church Board for World Ministries

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Subject and Topic Files, circa 1927 -- 1939	box 6: 13
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**Scope and Contents**

Methodist Episcopal Church; Plays, Pageants and Religious Dramas; Far East Opium Report; Moving Pictures Abroad

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