



# ArchivesSpace

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## **Missionary Research Library collection on mission work in Africa11078404**

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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 mission work in Africa
<b>ID:</b>	11078404
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1903 -- 1972
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4.25 linear feet 4.25 linear feet; 9 boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	This collection contains materials compiled by the Missionary Research Library that document foreign mission work in Africa during the early and mid 20th century, including material pertaining to committees, conferences, education, churches, Christianity, religion, missions, missionaries, and other subjects and topics in Africa. Formats include reports, minutes, papers, photographs, and a drum.

### Preferred Citation

Item description, MRL1: Missionary Research Library collection on mission work in Africa, 1903-1972, box #, 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 materials compiled by the Missionary Research Library that document foreign mission work in Africa during the early and mid 20th century, including material pertaining to committees, conferences, education, churches, Christianity, religion, missions, missionaries, and other subjects and topics in Africa. Formats include reports, minutes, papers, photographs, and a drum.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is organized in one series arranged by topic and format.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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## **Revision Description**

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2021-08-18

## **Conditions Governing Access**

This collection is open for research.

## **Conditions Governing Access**

The following boxes are located offsite: Box 1-5, 7-9. 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, utilizing box level description. The clips and staples were also left in the folders. The finding aid was created by Brigitte Kamsler in 2014 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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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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- Missions -- Africa -- Sources
- Africa

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## Burke Library record group:

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Missionary Research Library Archives: MRL1, Africa

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## Collection Inventory

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### Missionary Research Library collection on mission work in Africa, 1903 -- 1972

Physical Description: 4.25 linear feet 4.25 linear feet; 9 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged by topic and format.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains materials compiled by the Missionary Research Library that document foreign mission work in Africa during the early and mid 20th century, including material pertaining to committees, conferences, education, churches, Christianity, religion, missions, missionaries, and other subjects and topics in Africa. Formats include reports, minutes, papers, photographs, and a drum.

Title/Description	Instances
Committees and Conferences, 1931 -- 1960	box 1
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Joint Study Committee on Broadcasting Opportunities in Africa; International Committee on Christian Literature for Africa; International Conference on African Children; Africa Committee	
Education, 1928 -- 1972	box 2
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Mass Education; Theological Education; Moravian Schools of Surinam; Theological Education Fund	
Christianity, Religion, and the Church, 1940 -- 1966	box 3

**Scope and Contents**

Training of Native Ministry; Methodist Church of Nigeria; Christian Council of South Africa; Evaluation of the Church

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Missions, 1920 -- 1942

box 4

**Scope and Contents**

Egypt Missions and Government; African Methodist Episcopal; Mission to Congo; Basel Mission

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Missions, 1904 -- 1952

box 5

**Scope and Contents**

Congo Mission; Missions Protestantes du Congo Belge; German Missions; United Christian Missionary Society; Algerian Mission

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Drum with Hammer, circa 1920 -- 1950

box 6

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Photographs, 1918 -- 1940

box 7

**Scope and Contents**

Photo Album of West Africa; Photographs of Rhodesia

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Subject and Topic Files, 1903 -- 1945

box 8

**Scope and Contents**

Foreign Policy; Belgian Congo Situation; Colonization; Wilfrid and Fred Bunker; Cairo; Ethiopia;

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Subject and Topic Files, 1903 -- 1948

box 9

**Scope and Contents**

French and Belgian Colonies; Conseil Protestant du Congo; Peace Settlement; Algeria and Belgian Congo

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