



# ArchivesSpace

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## National Christian Council of China records4492591

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Description is written in: English.

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

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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>	National Christian Council of China
<b>Title:</b>	National Christian Council of China records
<b>ID:</b>	4492591
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1919 -- 1950
<b>Physical Description:</b>	2.75 linear feet 2.75 linear feet; 6 boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Council was an interdenominational consultative and advisory organization for Protestant Christian groups in China, founded in 1922 as a successor to the China Continuation Committee. The collection contains correspondence, publications, and organizational records including meeting reports.

### Preferred Citation

Item description, MRL6: National Christian Council of China records, 1919-1950, 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 National Christian Council of China (Chinese: Zhonghua quanguo Jidujiao xiejin hui 中華全國基督教協進會) was formed in 1922 following a National Christian Conference held in Shanghai. The council was seen as fulfilling the mission of the China Continuation Committee, which had been set up in 1913 to continue the work of the Edinburgh World Missions Conference. In 1922 the committee was disbanded and the N.C.C. of China took its place, also absorbing other institutions such as the China for Christ movement, which had been founded in 1919. The N.C.C. of China was designed as a representative body made up of delegates from missions and churches, one which would play an advisory role to the many Protestant groups operating in China. It was hoped that it would facilitate greater cooperation

among churches and interdenominational work among missions. Among those excluded from the council were the Roman Catholics, who had created an Apostolic Delegation of China in the same year that the council was established. In 1923 the council set up the Society for the Advancement of Christian Literature. Based in Shanghai, it published Christian literature in Chinese and was run by Chinese Christians with missionaries acting as advisors. The council and its sub-committees published a number of books and pamphlets, as well as the China for Christ Bulletin in Chinese, and the N.C.C. Bulletin in English. In 1926 the China Inland Mission and the Christian and Missionary Alliance withdrew from the council, citing the liberal direction of the organization as their reason. By 1932, however, the council represented about 70% of the Protestant presence in China. Similar councils also appeared in other countries, such as the N.C.C. of India which was founded in the early 1920s, and the N.C.C. of the Philippines, established in 1929. C.Y. Cheng (Cheng Jingyi 誠靜怡) served as the chairperson of the 1922 National Christian Conference and general secretary of the N.C.C. of China from 1922 to 1933. In the late 1930s Wu Yi-fang (Wu Yifang 吳貽芳) was chairperson, Ronald Rees was a secretary, Earl H. Cressy was secretary of the commission on Christian education, and Edward Hicks Hume was secretary of the commission on Christian medical work. Edwin Carlyle Lobenstine had a position as honorary secretary, and T.T. Lew (Liu Tingfang 劉廷芳) headed the National Committee for Christian Religious Education in China. The council ceased functioning in the early 1950s as leadership of the Chinese Christians in the PRC was taken over by the proponents of the Three-Self movement.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains reports, meeting minutes, and other official materials produced by the council or its sub-committees and related organizations, as well as administrative correspondence related to the council's work; the N.C.C. China Bulletin, a news bulletin published by the council during the early years of the war with Japan in China (copies and originals of the bulletin, covering nearly the entire run of the publication); and pamphlets, published reports, directories, and other publications.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged in 2 series: Series 1: Organization records, and Series 2. Correspondence and publications.

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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. 2023-01-04

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Many of these records were originally copies produced by the Foreign Missions Conference of North America, which had had a close relationship with the independent Missionary Research Library. 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.

### 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. Items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper, and items in an advanced state of deterioration were photocopied on to acid-free paper. In 2014, the collection was updated as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant. At this time, materials were reorganized in series 1, and additional material was added. The finding aid was created by Gregory Adam Scott in 2009, updated by Cecile Queffelec and Brigitte C. Kamsler in 2014 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, and edited 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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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

MRL 6: China Continuation Committee Records, 1912 - 1922, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### Related Materials

MRL6: Missionary Research Library collection on student evangelism, 1938-1947, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Christians -- China -- Societies, etc
- China -- Religious life and customs
- Photographic prints
- National Christian Council of China -- : Archives

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## Burke Library record group:

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Missionary Research Library Archives: MRL6, China

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## Collection Inventory

### Series 1: Organization records, 1919 -- 1946

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 arranged by committee and format.

#### Scope and Contents

This series contains reports, meeting minutes, and other official materials produced by the council or its sub-committees and related organizations.

Title/Description	Instances	
Annual/Biennial Meetings, 1919 -- 1946	box 1	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
National Christian Conference of China: Meeting Record, 1919; Annual Reports: 1922 - 1923; 1923 - 1924; Seventh Annual Meeting: Reports, 1929; Eighth Biennial Meeting: Minutes, Reports, 1931; Tenth Biennial Meeting: Reports, 1935; Eleventh Biennial Meeting: Impressions, 1937; Twelfth Biennial Meeting: Memoranda for Discussion, December 1946; Twelfth Biennial Meeting: Recommendations, December 1946; Twelfth Biennial Meeting: Special Papers, 1946; Twelfth Biennial Meeting: Reports, 1946; Twelfth Biennial Meeting: Papers on Legal Matters, 1946		
Executive Committee, 1934 -- 1946	box 2	folder 1-6
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Meeting Minutes, November 1934; Enlarged Committee Meeting: Resolution Adopted, May 1943; Meeting Minutes, April 1945; Enlarged Committee Meeting: Minutes, Reports, Appendices, January 1946; Meeting Minutes, October 1946		
Religious Education, 1923 -- 1933	box 2	folder 7-12
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Committee on Religious Education: Minutes, Reports, 1923-1927; Committee on Church in Worship and Religious Education, 1927-1928; China Christian Educational Association: Reports, 1929; Meeting on		

Religious Education Work and the Five Year Plan:  
 Report, 1929; Committee on Religious Education:  
 Minutes, Reports, 1930; 1932-1933

Ad Interim Committee meeting minutes, 1934 -- 1941	box 2	folder 13-17
Christian Literature, circa 1919 -- 1945	box 2	folder 18-20
Transcripts of Articles and Broadcasts, 1936 -- 1939	box 2	folder 21
Administration Committee Meeting: Minutes, 1929	box 3	folder 1
Canton Conference: Reports, Findings, 1929	box 3	folder 2
Regional Retreat Conferences: Correspondence, Reports, 1929	box 3	folder 3
Conference on the Peoples' Livelihood: Conference Papers, 1931	box 3	folder 4
Committee on the Training of Missionaries: Reports, 1934	box 3	folder 5
Cooperation in Mission Work: Correspondence, Reports, 1934	box 3	folder 6
Reports; Committee Meeting Minutes, 1934	box 3	folder 7
Sub-Committee on Studies: Meeting Minutes, 1937	box 3	folder 8
Visit Reports, 1937 -- 1941	box 3	folder 9
War Relief: Minutes, Reports, 1937 -- 1941	box 3	folder 10
East China Regional Conference: Meeting Minutes, 1939	box 3	folder 11
Cooperation in West China: Reports, 1939 -- 1940	box 3	folder 12
Related Boards and Organizations: Correspondence, Reports, Minutes, 1939 -- 1944	box 3	folder 13
Rees Report, 1940	box 3	folder 14-16
Evacuation to the West: Reports, Correspondence, 1940 -- 1941	box 3	folder 17
Essay, Reports, Minutes Extracts, 1940 -- 1941	box 3	folder 18
Child Welfare Project Committee Meeting Minutes, 1941	box 3	folder 19
Budget, 1944 -- 1945	box 3	folder 20
Committee for Student Work in Government Universities: Reports, 1944 -- 1945	box 3	folder 21
Relief Committee: Reports, 1945	box 3	folder 22
Letters sent to Dr Decker, 1945	box 3	folder 23
Report on State of Churches in China Today, 1946	box 3	folder 24
Memorandum, Notes, Report, circa 1946	box 3	folder 25



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## Series 2: Correspondence and publications, circa 1920 -- 1950

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 by format.

### Scope and Contents

This series contains administrative correspondence related to the council's work; the N.C.C. China Bulletin, a news bulletin published by the council during the early years of the war with Japan in China (copies and originals of the bulletin, covering nearly the entire run of the publication); as well as pamphlets, published reports, directories, and other publications.

Title/Description	Instances	
Administrative Correspondence, 1928 -- 1945	box 4	
N.C.C. China Bulletin, 1938 -- 1941	box 5	
Publications, circa 1920 -- 1949	box 6	folder 1-4
Revised Directory of the Protestant Christian Movement in China, 1950	box 6	folder 5-6
Directory of Protestant Missionaries in China, 1950-06	box 6	folder 7

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