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Missionary Research Library collection on student evangelism4492598

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Description is written in: English.

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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 student evangelism
ID:	4492598
Date [inclusive]:	1938 -- 1947
Physical Description:	0.25 linear feet 0.25 linear feet; 1 box
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	This collection contains correspondence, reports, minutes, and other documents compiled by the Missionary Research Library related to the efforts of missionaries to evangelize Chinese students in government-run universities during the Second Sino-Japanese War. Organizations and persons reflected in the records include the National Christian Council of China: Committee on Student Evangelism, the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions, the Foreign Missions Conference of North America: Committee on the Far East, and Jiang Wenhan 江文漢 or Kiang Wen-han (1908 - 1984).

Preferred Citation

Item description, MRL6: Missionary Research Library collection on student evangelism, 1938-1947, 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 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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Biographical / Historical

In December 1937 the skirmishes and tensions which had existed between China and Japan since 1931 broke out into full-scale war. Before long the Japanese army had occupied the major city of Shanghai 上海 and the capital of Nanjing 南京, forcing the Nationalist government to retreat first to the central city of Wuhan 武漢, then to Chongqing 重慶 in the West of China. Universities and colleges also fled the Japanese invasion, setting up campuses in isolated centers throughout China's West and Southwest. By late 1939 the National Christian Council of China met to address the problem of evangelizing university students who were attending classes on these refugee campuses, and who, to a much greater extent than students at Christian universities, were ever more difficult to reach because of the war.

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Scope and Contents

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one series in chronological order.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2021-06-23

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.

Processing Information

Material was cataloged by Lynn A. Grove on 1988-07-20. Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were photocopied on to acid-free paper and interleaved with acid-free paper as needed. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed

in Mylar envelopes. The finding aid was created by Gregory Adam Scott in 2009, reviewed and updated by Sarah Davis 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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Related Materials

Related Materials

MRL6: National Christian Council of China Records, 1919 – 1950, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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.

Related Materials

MRL12: American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions Records, 1878 – 1958, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Controlled Access Headings

- College students -- China
- Evangelistic work
- Universities and colleges -- China
- China -- Religious life and customs
- National Christian Council of China

Burke Library record group:

Missionary Research Library Archives: MRL6, China

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Collection Inventory

Missionary Research Library collection on student evangelism , 1938 -- 1947

Physical Description: 0.25 linear feet 0.25 linear feet; 1 box

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Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence and reports, 1938 -- 1947	box 1	folder 1-5

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