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United China Relief records4492600

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Description is written in: English.

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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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|----------------------------------|---|
| Repository: | Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary |
| Creator: | United China Relief (U.S.) |
| Title: | United China Relief records |
| ID: | 4492600 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1941 -- 1949 |
| Physical Description: | 0.5 linear feet 0.5 linear feet; 1 box |
| Language of the Material: | English . |
| Abstract: | United China Relief, known from 1946 as United Service to China, was a cooperative association of aid agencies active in China during the Second World War and the immediate post-war era. The collection includes transcripts, reports, meeting minutes, and correspondence. |

Preferred Citation

Item description, MRL 6: United China Relief records, 1941 - 1949, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

United China Relief (UCR) was an important focal point of the American partnership with Nationalist Chinese forces in the war in East Asia. It was founded in 1941 as a cooperative organization of American relief agencies operating in China, and within the first year was able to generate more total funds raised than the agencies had previously been able to raise separately. In 1943 it joined forces with the National War Fund, which had committees based in major cities in the United States, and by the end of the war in 1945 had switched its focus to more long-term rebuilding projects in China. It was partly this shift in mission that prompted the organization to change its name to United Service to China (USC) in mid-1946. Its post-war efforts to raise money for China were not, however, very successful, and at the end of 1950 the decision was made to cease operations, and to put all remaining funds into a reserve account.

By 1965 it was clear that the organization was defunct and it was dissolved at the end of the next year, with the remaining funds being distributed to cooperating agencies. In total, UCR/USC raised over \$52 million for China aid. Active members of the organization who routinely attended executive committee meetings held in New York City included Henry P. Van Dusen, Cornelius V. Starr and Henry R. Luce.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains transcripts, reports, meeting minutes, and correspondence related to United China Relief, including transcripts from a series of fifteen radio broadcasts called "Speaking of China", as well as documentation of the organization's work with refugees, children, soldiers, medical aid, education, and industry.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one series in rough chronological order.

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Administrative Information

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Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2021-07-08

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

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. The transcripts in folders 2-5 were donated by Mrs. E.M. Williams of Topeka, Kansas at an unknown date between 1949 and 1976.

Processing Information

Transcripts cataloged by Lynn A. Grove on 1988-07-21. 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 separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. The finding aid was created by Gregory Adam Scott in 2010, updated by Brigette Kamsler in 2012 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

MC135 United Service to China Records, 1934-1967, bulk 1941/1950. Public Policy Papers, Department of Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Related Materials

MssCol 3078 United China Relief Records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library. Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.

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Controlled Access Headings

- China -- Social life and customs

Burke Library record group:

Missionary Research Library Archives: MRL6, China

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Collection Inventory

United China Relief records, 1941 -- 1949

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| Title/Description | Instances | |
|---|-----------|----------|
| Correspondence and Contents List Re: Radio Broadcast Transcripts: "Speaking of China", 1943 | box 1 | folder 1 |
| Transcript: "Speaking of China" No. 1, 1943 | box 1 | folder 2 |

Scope and Contents

"The Wisdom of China," Dr. Lin Yutang and Mrs. Maurice T. Moore

Transcripts: "Speaking of China" Nos. 2-3, 1943 box 1 folder 3

Scope and Contents

"Covering China by Ricksha and Airplane," Mr. John Goette and Miss Josephine Duvall and "The Art of China," Mr. Alan Priest and Mrs. Ruth Pratt

Transcripts: "Speaking of China," Nos. 4-5, 1943 box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

"The Strategy of the China War," Robert Bellaire and Russell Whelan and "Government System [of China]," Dr. Lin Mou-Sheng and Mrs. Maurice T. Moore

Transcripts: "Speaking of China" Nos. 7, 9-10, 1943 box 1 folder 5

Scope and Contents

"The Inventiveness of China," Miss Sze Mai-mai and Mrs. Maurice T. Moore; "The Music of China," Mr. Liu Liang-mo, Elisabeth Kingham and Mrs. Maurice T. Moore; and "The Humor of China," Pearl S. Buck

Transcripts: "Speaking of China" Nos. 11, 14-15, 1943 box 1 folder 6

Scope and Contents

"The Political and Economic Future of China," James L. McConaughy and Nathaniel Peffer; "Understanding and the appreciation which exists between the people of the new world of America and the ancient world of China," Mrs. Maurice T. Moore and Dr. B. A. Carside; and "China and the War," Dr. David de Sola Pool and Mrs. Maurice T. Moore

UCR Program Division: Reports, 1943 -- 1944 box 1 folder 7

UCR Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Summary, Reports, 1944 box 1 folder 8

UCR Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Summary, 1945 -- 1946 box 1 folder 9

UCR By-Laws First Draft, 1946-01 box 1 folder 10

USC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Summary, 1946 -- 1949 box 1 folder 11

Summary of Assistance Rendered by UCR Funds, 1941 -- 1945 box 1 folder 12

| | | |
|---|-------|-----------|
| Correspondence Re: Name Change to United Service to China, 1946-07 | box 1 | folder 13 |
| USC Program Division, Reports, 1947 | box 1 | folder 14 |
| USC Bulletins to Local Committees, 1947 | box 1 | folder 15 |

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