Bureau of Missions Records 4492653

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Description is written in: English.
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Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

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Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	Bureau of Missions (New York, N.Y.)
Title:	Bureau of Missions records
ID:	4492653
Date [inclusive]:	1898 -- 1914
Physical Description:	1.25 linear feet 1.25 linear feet; 3 boxes
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Bureau of Missions was an umbrella organization for all missionary organizations, designed to collect and curate information related to missionaries and missionary work around the world. The cllection contains correspondence and organizational records.

Preferred Citation

Item description, MRL 12 : Bureau of Missions Records, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

The Bureau of Missions was established in 1902 in New York City , a result of the Ecumenical Conference on Foreign Missions in 1900. The Bureau of Missions was "primarily organized to care for and develop the Missionary Exhibit and Library gathered at that time," however "it's scope...enlarged to include a Bureau of Missionary Information, and its aim is to be a 'clearing house' of missions.'" There were originally three departments within the Bureau of Missions: the general and information office, the museum – located with the American Museum of Natural History – and the library, located within the museum. Alexander Maitland was elected President of the Bureau of Missions at its founding, and Dr. Edwin Bliss was elected Secretary. In 1904, the position of Secretary was filled by Dr. Henry Otis Dwight, who continued prolific letter writing, particularly through 1905. The Bureau of Missions was active throughout the

first decade of the 20th century. The charter was revoked by the State of New York in 1914. It is unknown why this occurred.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains correspondence and organizational records related to the Bureau of Missions. Correspondence primarily includes letters of Edwin Bliss and his successor Dr. Henry Otis Dwight, as they write to missionaries and missionary organizations around the world to garner interest in the newly formed organization, sell Bureau-produced materials, and acquire information and documents for the museum and library. There are also a few letters from Bureau President Alexander Maitland. Organizational records include extensive bylaws, meeting minutes, publications, newspaper articles, and charters.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged by format.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

XML Instance Created by Sarah Davis. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. EAD spot checked and corrected and description updated by Leah Edelman. June 24, 2014 2019-05-20 2021-11-10

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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.

Processing Information

Some material cataloged by Lynn A. Grove on 1988-08-03. Folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Bylaw and Meeting Minutes book was wrapped and placed in own separate folder. Papers that were grouped together with nails/stales/clips were filed by the latest date on the letters. All those without dates are in a general folder in Box 1. The finding aid was created 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.

Conditions Governing Access

The following boxes are located offsite: Box 1-3. Please note that requests for use of boxes held in offsite storage must be made three business days in advance.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

MRL 12: Ecumenical Conference on Foreign Missions NYC, 1900, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Missions -- Societies, etc

Burke Library record group:

Missionary Research Library Archives: MRL12, Ecumenical/World Mission

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence: Regarding the founding of the Bureau of Missions, 1898 -- 1901	box 1	folder 1
Correspondence: Dr. Edwin Bliss on behalf of the Bureau of Missions, 1902 -- 1903	box 1	folder 2-5
Correspondence: Dr. Henry Otis Dwight on behalf of the Bureau of Missions, 1904 -- 1907	box 2	folder 1-6
Book of Bureau of Mission Bylaws and Meeting Minutes, 1900-1914	box 3	folder 1
Charter and Revocation of Charter, 1900, 1914	box 3	folder 2
General, circa 1906	box 3	folder 3
Memorandum to Relationship with AMNH, 1907	box 3	folder 4
Newspaper Articles, 1902	box 3	folder 5
"Objection to Missions" Pamphlet, circa 1900 -- 1909	box 3	folder 6
Objectives and Mission of Bureau of Mission, circa 1900 -- 1909	box 3	folder 7
Proposed Constitution, 1900	box 3	folder 8
Publications and Pamphlets, circa 1901 -- 1906	box 3	folder 9

Statement of Purpose to the 9th Conference of Foreign Missions, 1902	box 3	folder 10
Trustees List , circa 1900 -- 1909	box 3	folder 11