Laymen's Missionary Movement records4492661

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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:	Laymen's Missionary Movement of the United States and Canada
Title:	Laymen's Missionary Movement records
ID:	4492661
Date [inclusive]:	1906 -- 1956
Physical Description:	1.75 linear feet 1.75 linear feet; 4 boxes
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	This collection contains records of the Laymen's Missionary Movement (LMM), founded in 1906, which focused on helping churches with foreign missions, including minutes, reports, proceedings of committees and conferences, correspondence, publicity material, publications, photographs, and by-laws and legal documents.

Preferred Citation

Item description, MRL 12: Laymen's Missionary Movement records, 1906-1956, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

The Laymen's Missionary Movement (LMM) originated in 1906 at a New York Haystack Prayer Meeting. John B. Sleman and a group of seventy-five laymen proposed "a campaign of education among laymen to interest them more largely in the cause of missions." The focus of LMM was not to send out missionaries or fund missions specifically, but to help churches with their foreign missions. Working through existing staff, the LMM assisted seventeen Christian denominations. The organization was specifically for men. Bartlotti writes: By publishing charts, books, tracts, and monthly magazines, and encouraging laymen to visit the foreign field, the LMM confronted the lethargy and missiological illiteracy of the churches. Challenging Christians with the discrepancy between money spent by the churches at home and the

comparatively small amount given to missions, the LMM set forth, with sanctified business sense, financial policy guidelines to increase the mission giving of their churches…" Soon after inception, member Jay Schieffelin was sent to Great Britain to establish a sister movement. Other members of note include J. Campbell White and Samuel Capen. John R. Mott, Robert E. Speer and other religious leaders comprised the Executive Committee, which sought broader geographical and social representation in the General Committee. The Executive Committee established regional offices in seven major cities in 1911. The LMM was active in sponsoring hundreds of congresses, campaigns and conventions. Rabe states that the "first coordinated drive was the National Missionary Campaign in which seventy five separate conventions were held..." The LMM, along with the Foreign Missions Conference of North America (FMCNA) and the Home Missions Council of the United States, organized and directed United Missionary Campaigns from 1913-1915. LMM also organized National Missionary Campaigns, which held Conventions throughout the United States. The movement ran its course during wartime, and by 1919 the national campaign was absorbed into the Interchurch World Movement. During the Second World War, descendants of those originally in the LMM founded a new Laymen's Movement for a Christian World.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains records of the Laymen's Missionary Movement (LMM) which focused on helping churches with foreign missions, including minutes, reports, proceedings of committees and conferences, correspondence, publicity material, publications, photographs, and by-laws and legal documents. The bulk of material dates to the inception of the organization and the minutes date to the earliest meetings of the Movement, and lay out the basis for membership, what membership involves, and elected executive committee members. Some of the minutes are in full; others only extracts. Legal documents include an Articles of Amendment, a certificate, and a commendation offered.

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Arrangement

This collection is unarranged, though roughly grouped by material type.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2022-01-28

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Access

The following boxes are located offsite: Box 1-4. Please note that requests for use of boxes held in offsite storage must be made three business days in advance.

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

Minutes, reports, and proceedings were cataloged by Lynn A. Grove on1988-08-03. Metal clips and staples were removed from select 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 Brigette Kamsler in 2013 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2022.

Conditions Governing Use

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Controlled Access Headings

- Missions -- Societies, etc
- Laity

Burke Library record group:

Missionary Research Library Archives: MRL12, Ecumenical/World Mission

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Executive Committee minutes, 1906 -- 1907	box 1	folder 1-2
Executive and General Committees minutes, 1908	box 1	folder 3
Executive Committee minutes, 1909 -- 1910	box 1	folder 4-5
Executive and General Committees minutes, 1911 -- 1914	box 1	folder 6-9
Secretaries and Executive Officers minutes, 1910 -- 1914	box 1	folder 10
Executive and General Committees minutes, 1915	box 1	folder 11
Various Committees minutes, 1911	box 1	folder 12
Secretarial Council minutes, 1911 -- 1913	box 1	folder 13
General, Reports and Agendas, circa 1906 -- 1914	box 1	folder 14
Conference, Report of Commission on Inspection of the Mission Field, Williams Bay, Wisconsin, 1911	box 2	folder 1
Conference, Proceedings, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, 1911	box 2	folder 2
National Missionary Congress, Chicago, 1910	box 2	folder 3
National Missionary Congress, Washington, 1916	box 2	folder 4
United Missionary Campaign, 1913 -- 1915	box 2	folder 5-7

United Missionary Campaign Correspondence, 1913 -- 1914	box 2	folder 8
National Missionary Campaign, 1915 -- 1916	box 2	folder 9
Photograph, Laymen's Convention, Houston, Texas, 1916-03	box 2	folder 10
Southern Baptist Convention, 1907; 1924	box 2	folder 11
Laymen's Movement for World Christianity/Christian World correspondence, 1946 -- 1950	box 3	folder 1
Bulletin, Christian Laymen, 1948	box 3	folder 2
Laymen's Movement for World Christianity/Christian World statements and reports, 1933 -- 1941	box 3	folder 3
By-Laws, 1951	box 4	folder 1
Correspondence, 1907 -- 1956	box 4	folder 2-3
Eastern Area of LMM, 1938 -- 1945	box 4	folder 4
Legal Documents, 1944 -- 1950	box 4	folder 5
Movement Publications, 1906 -- 1954	box 4	folder 6-12
Newspaper Articles, 1907	box 4	folder 13
Project Ideas, circa 1907 -- 1954	box 4	folder 14
Reports, 1952	box 4	folder 15