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Miner Searle Bates papers8634469

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Description is written in: English.

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:	Bates, M. Searle (Miner Searle), 1897-1978
Title:	Miner Searle Bates papers
ID:	8634469
Date [inclusive]:	1927 -- 1984
Physical Description:	0.25 linear feet 0.25 linear feet; 1 box
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Miner Searle Bates taught history at Nanking University 南京大學, was a member of the International Committee for Nanking Safety Zone in the Second Sino-Japanese War, and Professor of Missions at Union Theological Seminary, New York, 1950-1965. The collection contains papers, meeting minutes, articles, reports, and other publications collected or created by Bates regarding missions in 20th century China.

Preferred Citation

Item description, MRL6: Miner Searle Bates papers, 1927-1984, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

Miner Searle Bates was born on May 28, 1897 in Newark, Ohio, and was the son of Miner Lee Bates, a Disciples of Christ minister who later became president of Hiram College. M.S. Bates received a Rhodes scholarship to study at Oxford University, where he earned his A.B. and M.A. degrees. When the United States entered World War I, he volunteered with the YMCA and served in Mesopotamia. In 1920 he was commissioned by the United Christian Missionary Society to teach history at the University of Nanking in China. He married Lilliath

Robbins, a teacher at Ginling College, in 1923, and received a Ph.D. in Chinese history from Yale University in 1935. At some point he began to use the Chinese name Bei Deshi 貝德士.

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Biographical / Historical

Bates was one of the key figures in the International Committee for the Nanking Safety Zone, which sought to protect Chinese from the Japanese soldiers who invaded and occupied the capital city in late 1937. He was appointed Vice President of Nanking University in January 1938 in order to enhance his standing with the Japanese and help his efforts to protect the Chinese. Bates remained in the city from 1937 to 1941, and after the war was summoned as a witness to the Tokyo War Crimes trials.

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Biographical / Historical

Bates was active in many missionary organizations, including the International Missionary Council, the China Council of Higher Education, the Nanking International Relief Committee, and the executive committee of the National Christian Council of China. From 1950 to 1965, Bates was Professor of Missions at Union Theological Seminary, New York, and after his retirement worked on a research project devoted to the history of Protestant missions in twentieth-century China. He died in 1978 in New York City.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains papers, meeting minutes, articles, reports, and other publications collected or created by Bates regarding missions in 20th century China, most of which are connected to the research project on which he was working after his retirement (and which remained incomplete at the time of his death). The publication in folder 7 was an attempt to collect his notes and drafts from this project. The Hunan 湖南 Synod of the Church of Christ in China is well represented in the collection, as is Bates' experience in Nanjing 南京 in the late 1930s, dealing with the Japanese occupation. This collection also contains some provenance information and signature cards.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one series organized in rough 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. 2020-08-17

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

These records were donated to the Burke Library in 1979 by Mell Williams, while the publication in folder 7 was donated by the China Program Director of the NCCC USA in 1984.

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. 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, reviewed and updated with unprocessed material by Brigitte

C. Kamsler in 2014 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2020.

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

MRL 6: 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

Miner Searle Bates Papers (RG 10), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Missions -- China
- China -- Religious life and customs
- Missionaries -- China
- Bates, M. Searle (Miner Searle), 1897-1978 -- : Archives

General

Missionary Research Library Archives: MRL6, China

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Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances	
Publications and pamphlets, 1927 -- 1963	box 1	folder 1
Japan and China reports, 1935 -- 1937	box 1	folder 2
Articles on narcotics, 1938 -- 1940	box 1	folder 3
Hunan Synod reports and Delegates Second meeting minutes, 1941 -- 1949	box 1	folder 4
Reports on missionary activities, circa 1940 -- 1950	box 1	folder 5
Missionary work in China project drafts, 1956, circa 1950 -- 1959	box 1	folder 6
"Gleanings Manuscripts of M. Searle Bates: Protestant Endeavor in Chinese Society, 1890-1950", 1984	box 1	folder 7
Provenance notes and signature cards, circa 1970 -- 1984	box 1	folder 8
Excerpts from communications by Bates, 1932 -- 1936	box 1	folder 9

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