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Missionary Research Library collection of Missionary Personnel records9612579

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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 of Missionary Personnel records
ID:	9612579
Date [inclusive]:	1929 -- 1964
Physical Description:	1 linear feet 1 linear foot; 2 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	This collection contains materials for missionary personnel compiled by the Missionary Research Library, including studies on preparation, recruitment, psychological testing and turnover of missionary personnel, as well as handbooks and instruction manuals for missionaries.

Preferred Citation

Item description, MRL12: Missionary Research Library collection of Missionary Personnel records, series #, 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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Scope and Contents

This collection contains studies conducted by various committees, including the Committee on Research in Foreign Missions; the Committee of Lay Training; and the Committee on Missionary Personnel of the Division of Foreign Missions on missionary preparation and training, involving readying the missionary before they leave as well as during their first post and their first furlough, including language training. This collection also contains booklets compiled for use by missionaries throughout the world, with detailed information on outfit lists which the missionary needed to bring with them. The outfit lists could include not only clothes but personal effects, clothing, and furnishings. Other information provided for the missionary was household items required, differences for singles versus married couples; food needed; recreation allowed, and other such information in order to familiarize the missionary with each custom before arriving. The manuals were used as a guide. The manuals were compiled in 1953 but have information from previous years. These booklets were compiled and bound by the Missionary Research Library. Correspondence is included to show who sent the materials.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in two series: Series 1: Studies; and Series 2: Handbooks and Instruction Manuals.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2023-04-13

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.

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. Further materials are possible as the unprocessed collections are completed. The finding aid was created by Brigitte C. Kamsler in 2013 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2023.

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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Controlled Access Headings

- Missions
- Missionaries

Burke Library record group:

Missionary Research Library Archives: MRL12, Ecumenical/World Missions

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Collection Inventory

Series 1: Studies, 1929 -- 1964

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

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is unarranged.

Scope and Contents

This series contains studies conducted by various committees, including the Committee on Research in Foreign Missions; the Committee of Lay Training; and the Committee on Missionary Personnel of the Division of Foreign Missions. Missionary preparation and training involve readying the missionary before they leave, but also during their first post and their first furlough. Training also refers to learning the local language.

Title/Description	Instances	
Recruitment, 1957 -- 1964	box 1	folder 1
Psychological Evaluation, 1960	box 1	folder 2
Testing and Selection, 1929 -- 1960	box 1	folder 3
Preparation and Training, 1956 -- 1963	box 1	folder 4
Lay Training, 1949 -- 1953	box 1	folder 5

Turnover of Foreign Missionary Personnel, 1953 -- 1957

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Series 2: Handbooks and Instruction Manuals, 1939 -- 1953

Physical Description: 0.75 linear feet 0.75 linear feet; 1 box

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains booklets compiled for use by missionaries throughout the world. These booklets include detailed information on outfit lists which the missionary needed to bring with them. The outfit lists could include not only clothes but personal effects, clothing, and furnishings. Other information provided for the missionary was household items required, differences for singles versus married couples; food needed; recreation allowed, and other such information in order to familiarize the missionary with each custom before arriving. The manuals were used as a guide. The manuals were compiled in 1953 but have information from previous years. These booklets were compiled and bound by the Missionary Research Library. Correspondence is included to show who sent the materials.

Title/Description	Instances	
American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, 1946 -- 1953	box 2	folder 1
Scope and Contents		
Outfit Suggestions for Assam, 1950 Equipment List for Married Couples to Bengal-Orissa, 1953 Outfit List for Burma, 1951 Outfit List for the Congo, 1952 Outfit List for India, 1949 Outfit List for Japan, 1951 Outfit List for Philippines, 1946-1953		
Augustana Lutheran Church, Board of World Missions, circa 1946 -- 1953	box 2	folder 2
Scope and Contents		
Outfit List for Tanganyika, East Africa		
Brethren in Christ Church, Foreign Mission Board, 1952	box 2	folder 3
Scope and Contents		
Outfit List for India, 1952		
Church of the Brethren: General Brotherhood Board, Foreign Mission Commission, 1953	box 2	folder 4

Scope and Contents

India Handbook, Received 1953

Congo Inland Mission (Mennonite), circa 1953	box 2	folder 5
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Scope and Contents

Outfit List

Evangelical Lutheran Church, Board of Foreign Missions, circa 1953	box 2	folder 6
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Scope and Contents

Outfit List for Japan Outfit List for Madagascar Outfit List for The Sudan

Evangelical Mission Covenant Church of America, Board of Missions, circa 1947 -- 1953	box 2	folder 7
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Scope and Contents

Instructions for New Missionaries Instructions for Missionaries returning to the field after furlough Handbook for Covenant Missionaries to Alaska, 1947 Handbook for Missionaries to the Congo, 1949 Outfit List and Instructions for the Congo, 1953 Outfit List for Ecuador Supplementary Advice for Formosa Outfit List for Japan

General Council Assemblies of God, Foreign Missions Department, circa 1945	box 2	folder 8
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Scope and Contents

Outfit List for Africa Outfit List for Japan Outfit List for Middle East and India

Methodist Church – The Division of World Missions of the Board of Missions and Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Board of Missions, Department of Work in Foreign Lands, circa 1945	box 2	folder 9
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Scope and Contents

Outfit List for Africa Outfit List for North Africa Outfit List for Central Congo Outfit List for Southern Congo Outfit List for Cuba Outfit List for India and Pakistan Outfit List for Korea Outfit List for Latin America Outfit List for Malaya Outfit List for the Philippines Outfit List for Southern Rhodesia Outfit list for Southeast Asia

Presbyterian Church in the United States – Board of Foreign Missions, circa 1939 -- 1952	box 2	folder 10
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Scope and Contents

Outfit List for Mexico, 1940 Outfit List for Guatemala, 1947 Outfit List for San Jose, Costa Rica, 1950 Outfit List for Colombia, 1949 Outfit List for Venezuela, 1945 Outfit List for Brazil Outfit List for Chile, 1940 Outfit List for Syria-Lebanon, 1952 Outfit List for Iran, 1948 Outfit List for Iraq Outfit List for India and Pakistan, 1951 Outfit List for Thailand, 1940 Outfit List for the Philippines (Damagueta), 1949 Outfit List for Japan, 1951 Outfit List for Korea, 1939 Outfit List for China, 1948

Presbyterian Church in the United States – Board of World Missions, circa 1949 -- 1952	box 2	folder 11
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Scope and Contents

Outfit List for Brazil Outfit List for the Congo Outfit List for Japan Outfit List for Korea Outfit List for Mexico

United Presbyterian Church of North America and The Women's General Missionary Society (Pittsburgh), 1946 -- 1952	box 2	folder 12
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Scope and Contents

Outfit List for Egypt, 1952 Outfit List for Ethiopia, 1946 Outfit List for Pakistan – India, 1946 Outfit List for South Sudan, 1947 Outfit List for North Sudan, 1947

United Lutheran Church in America – Board of Foreign Missions, circa 1946 -- 1952	box 2	folder 13
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Scope and Contents

Outfit List for Argentina Outfit List for British Guiana Outfit List for India Outfit List for Liberia Outfit List for Malaya

Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society, Foreign Department, circa 1946 -- 1952	box 2	folder 14
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Outfit List for Africa – Sierra Leone, West Africa

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