

**The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
at Union Theological Seminary, New York**

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 1

Finding Aid for

Emory Warren Ross Papers, 1877 – 1971



Credit to MELI Palermo [APPLE Palermo], MRL1: Emory Warren Ross Papers, Series 2, Box 8, Folder 6,
The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Kirk D. Lyons Sr., 2008; Deyse Bravo, 2009

Updates by Kristen L. Southworth and Brigette C. Kamsler, 2012 with financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation.

Summary Information

Creator: Emory Warren Ross, 1887-1973
Title: Emory Warren Ross Papers, 1877-1971
Inclusive dates: 1877 – 1971
Bulk dates: 1900 – 1965
Abstract: Treasurer of Disciples of Christ Congo Mission (1908); Secretary/Treasurer of Union Mission House (1909); Disciples of Christ missionary (1912-1916); Secretary of Conseil Protestant du Congo (1925-1933); Secretary of African Welfare Committee of the Federal Council of Churches and American Committee of Work in the Congo (1933-1936); Executive Secretary of African Committee of the National Council of Churches of Christ U.S.A. (1936-1953); Collection contains publications, articles, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, reports, minutes, maps, photos, and personal correspondence.
Size: 24 boxes, 1 oversize box, 14.75 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance:** Emory Warren Ross Papers were given to Union Theological Seminary in 1976. This coincided with the closure of the Mission Research Library and the transfer of the contents of both archives and library to Union Theological Seminary Library.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkearchives@library.columbia.edu, or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible. Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain documents, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, MRL 1: Emory Warren Ross Papers, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

The Rev. Emory Warren Ross was born in 1887 to Allison and Elizabeth Williams Ross, both teachers at the Southern Christian Institute in Edwards, Mississippi. He graduated from Eureka College in 1908 as a top basketball player and went on to serve as the secretary-treasurer for the Southern Christian Institute for two years. In 1908, Ross became the treasurer of the Disciples of Christ Congo Mission. The following year he was made secretary-treasurer of the Union Mission House in Leopoldville, which was conducted as a joint enterprise by a number of missions to serve travelers passing up and down the Congo.

Ross undertook graduate studies at the University of Chicago, the University of Wisconsin and the College of Missions in Indianapolis. From 1910-1912, he taught at Eureka College. He was ordained to the Disciples of Christ in 1912, and went on to serve as a missionary in Liberia until 1916. In 1925, when the Congo Continuation Committee was reconstituted as the Conseil Protestant du Congo, he served as its joint secretary and became its first full-time secretary in 1928. He was married to Myrta Maud [Pearson] Ross (1892-1985) and they had two children, Frances Elizabeth Ross Cummings and Roger Pearson Ross. While in Africa, Emory and Myrta Ross met and befriended Albert Schweitzer and hosted him on his first visit to the United States.

Emory Ross returned to the U.S. in 1933 to serve as the secretary of both the African Welfare Committee of the Federal Council of Churches and the American Committee on Work in the Congo, representing missionary bodies established in that region. From 1936 to 1953 he served as the Executive Secretary of the African Committee of the National Council of Churches of Christ U.S.A. He was a life member of the Royal African Society, a lifelong fellow of the Geographical Society of London, and served as a Trustee of both the Phelps Stokes Fund and the N.Y. State Colonialization Society. He died in March 1973 while living in Annandale, VA.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection is organized in the following six series:

- **Series 1: Writings and Publications, 1877-1961 (4 boxes, 2 linear ft.)**

The first group in this series contains correspondence, reports, meeting minutes, journal extracts, articles, publications, newsletters, photographs and pamphlets of mission organizations that Ross collected for a book project entitled *Jubilee History Congo Protestant Missions*, to be published in celebration of the first fifty years of missionary work in the Congo. Included in this series are memoirs, reports, articles, and other materials written and collected by missionaries describing their personal mission experiences, along with the history of each organization and its approach to mission work.

The second group in this series contains other writings and publications by Ross including materials and drafts related to *African Heritage*, and copies of articles, speeches, lectures, interviews, and other published works written by Dr. Ross. Four boxes from this series (original box #s 5-9) were reported missing in 2004.

- **Series 2: Organizations and Conferences, 1907-1971 (8 boxes, 4 linear ft.)**

This series contains meeting summaries, press releases, correspondence, reports, and newspaper clippings from various organizations, committees, meetings, and conferences in which Emory Ross participated. Included are program documents for the 1944 Dumbarton Oaks Conference at which the United Nations was formed, drafts of a syllabus proposed by Ross on behalf of the Commission on Courses of Study at the 1944 Methodist Ministerial Training Conference, documents from the 1947 and 1948 Summer Conferences of African Administration, documents from the 1948 Foreign Missions Assembly, a number of written reports from a 1953 seminar conference entitled "Africa in the Modern World," and documents from the 1955 White House Conference on Education. Also included are a number of documents related to the Foreign Missions Conference of North America (FMCNA) Committee conferences and meetings. The series is arranged alphabetically by organization, with general conference materials arranged by date at the end. A complete alphabetical listing of conferences included in this series is available upon request.

- **Series 3: Correspondence, 1920-1971 (2 boxes, 1 linear ft.)**

This series contains correspondence along with reports, drafts, and newspaper clippings. General correspondence has been arranged according to date. Correspondence that had been organized according to specific people, ideas, projects, proposals, and other topics of interest were left in their original groupings and organized in alphabetical order. Items of interest include reports from the African Music Society regarding the International Library of African Music (ILAM) in Grahamstown, South Africa, which was founded in 1954, reports and memoirs by author Calvin S. Stillman, educator Thomas Jesse Jones, senior secretary of YMCA's Colored Work Department Channing Tobias, G.B. Johnson, notes by general secretary of the John Milton Society Dwight C. Smith, and writings by botanist H.L. Shantz and professor and Baptist minister H.N. Sherwood.

- **Series 4: Geographical Areas, 1913-1971 (4 boxes, 2 linear ft.)**
This series contains correspondence, reports, drafts, newspaper clippings, maps, pamphlets, minutes, and other collected materials that have been organized and arranged according to geographic location. Geographical regions include the Belgian Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, the Portuguese Colonies, Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo, and Taganyka.
- **Series 5: Source Files, 1895-1971 (6 boxes, 2.75 linear ft.)**
This series contains addresses and speeches, articles, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, maps, reports, and other documents collected by Ross. Items have been arranged according to subject, with attempts to group items according to their original order, including a series of reports (Series 5 Box 21 Folders 6-12) that were labeled by Ross with the number “297.” General items have been compiled and arranged by type.
- **Series 6: Oversized Materials, 1907-1970 (1 box, 3 linear ft.)**
This series contains maps, news magazines, posters, and other materials that were taken out of their original folders and placed in an oversized box. Original folder locations are noted in brackets at the end of each item in the contents list.

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from papers 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. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes. Photographs were placed in Mylar inserts.

The Emory Ross Papers have been rearranged from their original order, which was referred to as “Packets” in the original correspondence. Some unprocessed documents were identified among a large group of Missionary Research Library materials as part of the Ross collection and redistributed into Series 1, Series 3, and Series 4.

The collection was reprocessed and updated in April 2012 with financial assistance by the Henry Luce Foundation.

Further Resources

Layman’s Missionary Movement Collection contains correspondence regarding the Planning Committee of the Younger Men’s Conference Princeton Club, Oct. 28, 1941. The Foreign Missions Conference of North America (FMCNA) Collection contains documents and correspondence related to Ross’ work with the Africa Department and Secretarial Council. For more information or to see these papers, please contact the Burke Library archives staff by phone, fax or email burkearchives@library.columbia.edu, as far in advance as possible.

Syracuse University offers a collection of photographs called the Myrta and Emory Ross Collection of African Photographs. More information can be [found online](#).

Publications by E. Ross

Books:

Out of Africa, New York: Friendship Press, 1936.

African Heritage, New York: Friendship Press, 1952.

Colour and Christian Community, Johannesburg: S.A. Institute of Race Relations, 1954.

Pamphlets, Articles and Addresses:

“Ralph Johnson Bunche ‘Peacemaker’”

“Africa in Crisis”

“The Role of Christian Missions in Education and Development in Dependent Territories”

“Freedom of Religion and Religious Teaching: Answers to Questions Informally Submitted to Mr. Emory Ross on March 27th, 1944”

“Desirable Policy and Action with Regard to Dependent Peoples”

“Building the Church in Congo Belge: With Special Reference to the Use of Foreign Money.”

Contents list

Series 1: Writings and Publications, 1877-1961

Series Box Folder Contents

Congo Jubilee Missions History, 1877-1956

1	1	1	Africa Inland Missions, 1926-1946
1	1	2	American Baptist Mission: Conference on Congo Mission Minutes, 1916
1	1	3	American Baptist Mission: Correspondence, 1926-1928
1	1	4	American Baptist Mission: Pamphlets, 1927
1	1	5	American Baptist Mission: Materials from Catherine L. Mabie [1926]
1	1	6	American Baptist Mission: Materials from Charles Blair Banks, 1889-1927
1	1	7	American Baptist Mission: Materials from Mrs. Charles Banks [1887-1927]
1	1	8	American Baptist Mission: Materials from John Becket Murphy, 1895-1927
1	1	9	American Baptist Mission: Materials from Peter Frederickson, 1927
1	1	10	American Baptist Mission: Materials from P.H.J. Lerrigo, M.D., 1928
1	1	11	American Baptist Mission: Materials from Seymour E. Moon, 1884-1898
1	1	12	American Baptist Mission: Review of Work of Congo Mission, 1933
1	1	13	Angola Evangelical Mission, 1927
1	1	14	Anti-slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, 1905-1928
1	1	15	American Presbyterian Church in the United States: Board of Foreign Missions Executive Committee, 1890-1928
1	1	16	American Presbyterian Congo Mission: Correspondence and Reports, 1905-1927
1	1	17	American Presbyterian Congo Mission: Pamphlets [1905-1927]
1	2	1	Baptist Missionary Society UK: Congo Jubilee Exhibition, 1877-1933
1	2	2	Baptist Missionary Society UK: Correspondence, 1927
1	2	3	Baptist Missionary Society UK: Materials from Alfred R. Stonelake, 1926-1933
1	2	4	Baptist Missionary Society UK: Materials from C.H. Faus, 1918
1	2	5	Baptist Missionary Society UK: Materials from H.E. Crudgington, 1928
1	2	6	Baptist Missionary Society UK: Materials from John Howell, 1927
1	2	7	Baptist Missionary Society UK: Materials from S.C. Gordon, 1927-1928
1	2	8	Baptist Missionary Society UK: "The Story of Our Medical Work," 1922
1	2	9	British and Foreign Bible Society: William J.W. Roome, 1927
1	2	10	Center of Africa Mission, 1925-1927
1	2	11	Christian and Missionary Alliance, 1927
1	2	12	Congo Evangelic Mission: Correspondence, 1927
1	2	13	Congo Balolo Mission, 1878-1928
1	2	14	Congo Island Mission, 1927-1956
1	2	15	Congo Mission News: Protestant Missions Statistics Chart, 1920
1	2	16	Congo Methodist Episcopal Mission: Bishop William Taylor's Mission, 1928
1	2	17	Congo Methodist Episcopal Mission: Correspondence and Reports, 1927
1	2	18	Congo Methodist Episcopal Mission: Materials from D.L. Mumpower, 1927
1	2	19-20	Congo Methodist Episcopal Mission: Materials from J.S. Springer, 1926-1933

Series 1: Writings and Publications (Cont'd)**Series Box Folder Contents****Congo Jubilee Missions History (Cont'd)**

1	3	1	Cooperative Baptist Missions of North America, 1921-1927
1	3	2	Disciples of Christ Congo Missions, 1927
1	3	3	Evangelization Society Africa Mission, 1926-1928
1	3	4	Garengaza Evangelical Mission, 1926-1927
1	3	5	Heart of Africa Mission, 1916-1927
1	3	6	Heart of Africa Mission: <i>First Seven Years</i> book [fragile], 1919
1	3	7	Heart of Africa Mission: <i>First Ten Years</i> book [fragile], 1922
1	3	8	International Mission Council, 1927-1945
1	3	9	Kongo Evangelical Training Institute, 1927
1	3	10	Livingstone Inland Mission, 1878-1927
1	3	11	Livingstone Inland Mission: Materials from Mrs. H. G. Guinness, 1880-1927
1	3	12-13	Livingstone Inland Mission: <i>Regions Beyond</i> , April and July 1884
1	3	14	Luanza Mission, 1926-1927
1	3	15	Mission Baptiste Norvégienne, 1927
1	3	16	Mission de l'Oubangui Chari [Ubangi Shari Mission], 1926-1927
1	3	17	Mission Evangélique de l'Ubangui [Evangelical Mission of the Ubangi], 1927
1	3	18	Missionary Research Library, 1927
1	3	19	Nyangkundi Mission, 1927
1	3	20	Pentecostal Missionary Union, 1927
1	3	21	Seventh Day Adventists, 1927
1	3	22	Société Belge des Missions Protestantes au Congo [Belgian Society of Protestant Missions in Congo], 1925-1927
1	3	23	Société de la Mission Norvégienne [Society of the Norwegian Mission], 1927
1	3	24	Sudan United Mission, 1920
1	3	25	Svenska Fria Missionen [Swedish Free Mission] (Mission Libre Suédoise), 1927
1	3	26-27	Svenska Missionförbundet (Swedish Missionary Foundation), 1927-1952
1	3	28	Swedish Baptist Mission, 1927
1	3	29	Unevangelized Tribes Mission: Jubilee History, Correspondence, 1927
1	3	30	Union Missionaire Hospitalière: History for Union Mission House, 1927
1	3	31	Westcott Missions, 1927
1	3	32	World Dominion, 1927
1	4	1-2	Correspondence, 1926-1928
1	4	3	History extracts and drafts, 1905-1927
1	4	4	Newspaper clippings, 1890-1922
			General Publications, 1919-1961
1	4	5-6	<i>African Heritage</i> Documents, 1958
1	4	7-9	Published Articles, 1919-1956
1	4	10	Speeches, Lectures, Interviews, 1938-1961

Series 2: Organizations and Conferences, 1907-1971**Series Box Folder Contents**

2	5	1	Africa Bureau, 1944-1964
2	5	2-10	Africa Committee, 1929-1955
2	6	1-5	Africa Committee, 1955-1964
2	6	6	Africa Study Group, 1942-1943
2	6	7	African Affairs Society of America, 1945-1962
2	6	8	American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, 1931-1950
2	6	9-10	Church Missionary Society, 1944-1951
2	6	11	Church Peace Union, 1955-1959
2	6	12	Commission of Inquiry into Forced Labor, 1948-1950
2	7	1-4	Commission pour la Protection Des Indigenes [Commission for the Protection of Natives], 1926-1949
2	7	5-7	Committee for African Students in North America, 1943-1952
2	7	8-9	Committee on Africa and Peace Aims, 1941-1942
2	7	10	Committee on Preparations for International Service, 1952-1953
2	7	11-13	Foreign Missions Conference of North America, 1907-1953
2	8	1	Foreign Policy Association, 1947-1954
2	8	2	International African Institute, 1950-1957
2	8	3-5	International Committee on Christian Literature for Africa, 1934-1954
2	8	6-8	International Institute of Differing Civilizations, 1959-1968
2	8	9	Laymen's Movement for a Christian World, 1923-1952
2	9	1-2	National Committee of Church Women, 1938-1939
2	9	3-4	National Council of Churches, 1938-1971
2	9	5	New York State Colonization Society, 1950-1965
2	9	6	Paris Mission Society, 1942-1959
2	9	7-8	Phelps Stokes Fund, 1944-1961
2	9	9	Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, 1939-1949
2	9	10	UNESCO, 1946-1962
2	10	1-2	United Board for Christian Colleges in China, 1949-1952
2	10	3-7	World Council of Churches First Assembly in Amsterdam, 1947-1949
2	11	1-15	Conferences and Meetings, 1921-1949
2	12	1-9	Conferences and Meetings, 1950-1969

Series 3: Correspondence, 1920-1971**Series Box Folder Contents****General, 1920-1964**

3	13	1	1920-1939
3	13	2	1940-1944
3	13	3	1945-1949
3	13	4	1950-1959
3	13	5	1960-1964

People and Topics, 1920-1971

3	13	6	Alan Paton, 1953-1960
3	13	7	Alfred F. Stonelake, 1939-1946
3	13	8	British Colonial Office, 1953-1957
3	13	9	Calvin Stillman, 1952-1956
3	13	10-11	Chester Bowles, 1953-1963
3	13	12	“Christianity and Africa” Course Taught at Hartford Seminary, 1937
3	13	13	David Crane’s Proposal for Study of Urban Planning in Africa, 1956
3	13	14	Hugh Tracey’s Proposal for International Library of African Music, 1954
3	13	15	“Life of a South African Tribe” Correspondence, 1926-1928
3	14	1	Michael Glaser’s Proposed Solution for Displaced Persons, 1948
3	14	2	Myrta Pearson Ross (wife of Emory Ross), 1940-1961
3	14	3	Post-WWII Japanese-American Relations, 1941-1945
3	14	4	Post-WWII Planning in Africa, 1943-1945
3	14	5	Programs and Invitations for Honorary Dinners, 1946-1962
3	14	6	Proposed Inter-University Board of African Studies in the U.S., 1945-1948
3	14	7	Tour in Europe: Plans and Documents, 1946-1951
3	14	8-9	Tour in Florida: Plans and Documents, 1939-1946
3	14	10	Union Mission House Plans and Photos, 1920-1971
3	14	11-12	WWII Child Refugees, 1940

Series 4: Locations, 1913-1971**Series Box Folder Contents**

4	15	1-10	Belgian Congo, 1882-1958
4	16	1-8	Ethiopia: Abyssinia Crisis, 1935-1936
4	16	9	Ethiopia: WWII and Postwar, 1943-1951
4	16	10-12	Ghana, 1932-1971
4	16	13	Kenya, 1948-1956
4	17	1	Liberia, 1915-1944
4	17	2	Liberia: “Acts Passed by the Republic of Liberia” booklets, 1932-1944
4	17	3-8	Liberia, 1946-1959
4	17	9	Nigeria, 1939-1940
4	17	10-12	Portuguese Colonies: Conferences, Photographs, Reports, 1919-1970

Series 4: Locations (cont'd)**Series Box Folder Contents**

4	18	1-2	Portuguese Colonies: Correspondence, 1944-1970
4	18	3	Rhodesia and Nyasaland, 1930-1962
4	18	4	Sierra Leone, 1913-1958
4	18	5-6	South Africa, 1917-1971
4	18	7-10	South Africa: Institute of Race Relations 1932-1959
4	18	11	Togo, 1946-1961
4	18	12	Taganyka, 1943-1963

Series 5: Source Files, 1895-1971**Series Box Folder Contents**

5	19	1	Addresses and Speeches, 1939-1964
5	19	2-13	Articles and Pamphlets, 1923-1971
5	20	1-22	Maps
5	21	1	Newspaper Clippings, 1895-1959
5	21	2	Newspaper Clippings Originals RESTRICTED
5	21	3-12	Reports, 1935-1966

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5	22	1	African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church Missions, 1938-1957
5	22	2	Baptist Missions, 1919-1945
5	22	3	Catholic Missions, 1933-1963
5	22	4	General Missions, 1931-1950
5	22	5	Lutheran Missions, 1941-1961
5	22	6-7	Methodist Missions, 1942-1957
5	22	8	Presbyterian Missions 1926-1950
5	22	9	Waldensian Missions 1937-1947

Topics of Interest, 1933-1958

5	22	10	Church and World Affairs, 1949
5	22	11	Colonial Problems, 1941-1947
5	23	1-3	Communism, 1946-1952
5	23	4	Cooperatives, 1937-1948
5	23	5	Church World Service, 1949-1955
5	23	6	DDT/Malaria Control, 1945
5	23	7-8	Democracy, 1917-1943
5	23	9	Economic Development, 1941-1960
5	23	10	Evangelism, 1939-1954
5	24	1	Foreign Policy, 1958
5	24	2-4	Schools and Education, 1947-1955
5	24	5	Slavery, 1933-1934

Series 6: Oversized Materials, 1907-1970

6	25OS	1	Committee of Reference and Counsel Report, 1907-1909 [S2, B7, F13]
6	25OS	2	Life Magazine Article Series: History of Western Culture, 1947 [S5, B19, F5]
6	25OS	3	Newspaper Clippings, 1962 [S4, B16, F7]
6	25OS	4	Central Africa Review, 1954 [S4, B16, F7]
6	25OS	5	Assembly Reflector Newsletter [S3, B14, F9]
6	25OS	6	Census Map: Distribution of Nonwhite Population in the Southeastern United States, 1950 [S5, B23, F2]
6	25OS	7	Survey Graphic: The Harlem Renaissance, 1925 [S5, B19, F5]
6	25OS	8	“Inside the New Africa” Magazine, 1961 [S4, B17, F11]
6	25OS	9	Angola Newspapers of Benguela, 1925 [S4, B17, F5]
6	25OS	10	Congo Belge map [19??] [S4, B15, F5]
6	25OS	11	The Anglican Communion in Africa map [19??] [S4, B16, F11]
6	25OS	12	The Episcopal Church in Liberia map [19??] [S4, B16, F11]
6	25OS	13	Picture Sheet of Southern Baptists work in Nigeria, 1940 [S4, B17, F4]
6	25OS	14	Development Plan: Department of Medicine at ULC, 1970 [S4, B15, F3]