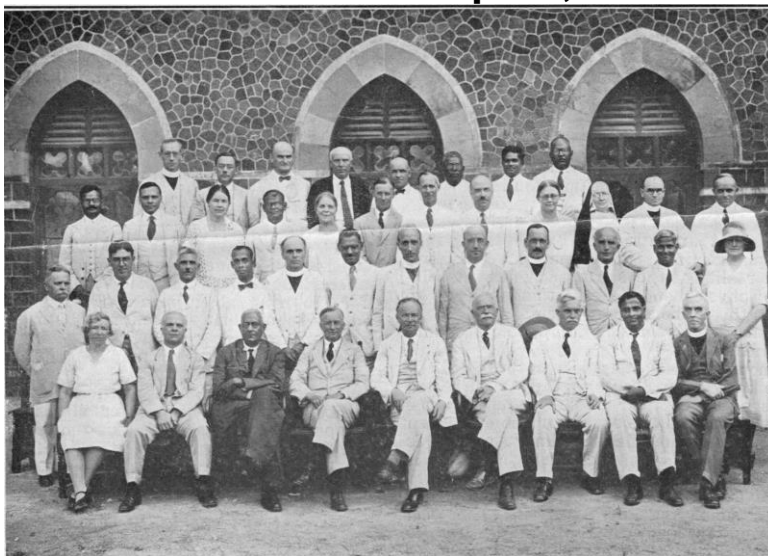


**The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,  
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 3

Finding Aid for

**William Adams Brown Papers, 1912 – 1946**



The National Conference on Christian Higher Education, Bombay, 1931.

Credit to MRL 3: William Adams Brown Papers, series 2, box 5, folder 9,

The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, March 2012

With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

**Summary Information**

Creator: William Adams Brown, 1865 – 1943

Title: William Adams Brown Papers

Inclusive dates: 1912 – 1946

Bulk dates: 1929 – 1938

Abstract: Records of Commission on Christian Higher Education in India and Burma (Lindsay Commission) collected by Vice-Chairman William Adams Brown, Presbyterian minister, systematic theologian and UTS professor. Includes minutes, correspondence, reports and other materials depicting the purpose and findings of the Commission, and general Christian education in India.

Size: 6 boxes, 3.00 linear feet

Storage: Onsite storage

Repository: The Burke Library  
Union Theological Seminary  
3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027

Email: [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu)

### Administrative Information

- Provenance:** Originally part of the independent Missionary Research Library, these records were moved with the MRL to the Brown Memorial Tower of Union Theological Seminary in 1929. In 1976 the records were accessioned to the Burke Library archives with the closure of the MRL.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto: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 materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, MRL 3: William Adams Brown Papers, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### History

The roots of the Commission on Christian Higher Education in India and Burma, also known as the Lindsay Commission, can be traced to a conference of Indian Christian and missionary scholars in Agra from 1928. It was proposed by native Indian Christians that a group consisting of people from Great Britain and North America organize to study Christian higher education among men in India. This proposal was approved by the International Missionary Council (IMC) in 1929. The Commission was created with two Indians appointed by the National Christian Council; two British appointed by the Conference of Missionary Societies of Great Britain and Ireland; and two Americans appointed by the Foreign Missions Conference (FMC) through the Committee of Reference and Counsel. Dr. Alexander D. Lindsay of Oxford, after whom the Commission was named, was appointed Chairman and the Secretary was Oscar M. Buck, both of the IMC. Dr. William Adams Brown (WAB) served as vice-chairman of the organization.

The Commission was tasked with reviewing the current conditions of the Christian colleges and to suggest ways to become more efficient; to suggest cooperation to stop duplication of efforts and for the standards to be improved; to consider how the needs of the Christian colleges could be presented to those in Britain and America; and finally to report back to each of the respective boards. Before visiting in-person, each college completed a questionnaire, which was received before the Commission went to India. The work of the Commission culminated with a final conference in Bombay. Certain topics such as women's education, medical education and teacher's training were unable to be analyzed during the short time period allotted to the Commission.

Following on the recommendations of the Lindsay Commission, the Committee on Christian Higher Education in India continued the work and became a more permanent entity. It was appointed by the Committee of Reference and Council of the Foreign Missions Conference of

North America (FMCNA). In 1950 the FMCNA joined the National Council of Churches (NCC) where its activities were assumed by the Division of Foreign Missions.

Sources:

Information pulled from the records themselves as well as the following:

Brown, William Adams. *A Teacher and His Times: A Story of Two Worlds*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1940.

Brown, William Adams. *Toward a United Church: Three Decades of Ecumenical Christianity*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1946.

*Report of the Commission on Christian Higher Education in India: An Enquiry into the Place of the Christian College in Modern India*. London Oxford University Press, H. Milford, 1931.

Riddick, John. *The History of British India*. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 2006.

### Collection Scope and Content Note

All records were collected by Dr. William Adams Brown and it is organized in two series:

- **Series 1: Lindsay Commission, 1912 – 1946 (4 boxes, 2.00 lin. ft.)**

This series contains records of the Commission on Christian Higher Education in India, also known as the Lindsay Commission. The purpose of the Commission was to study the impact of Christian higher education on India and Burma. It was found that generally, Christian higher education had mainly helped the Indian nationalists and their hope for political reform. However the lack of funds and staff for the institutions led to an overall diminished impact in the area. The Commission ultimately recommended that a new mission for higher education be the goal to prepare future leaders of the Church in India.

The series contains a variety of documents showing the need for the Commission in India; the preparation and collaboration beforehand; as well as findings during the tour and ultimate results afterwards. Also included are the returned reports from each institution, minutes, pamphlets, and correspondence related to the committee. The work culminated with a final conference in Bombay. The series includes an address given by Brown to the secretaries of the American Foreign Missionary Boards in June 1931.

- **Series 2: Correspondence, 1930 – 1938 (2 boxes, 1.00 lin. ft.)**

This series contains correspondence and related materials received or sent by William Adams Brown. The materials relate to the Commission specifically, as well as general educational endeavors in India. Many letters include carbon copies of other letters and a variety of attachments. Records are in reverse chronological order.

Brown was instrumental in assisting John Banninga with his quest to establish a Union Theological Seminary in South India, with many letters in support of this venture. The correspondence has a basis in Brown's work in India with the Lindsay Commission and continued years afterwards. Included are records from outside India which were used as models for the educational work in South Asia.

### Processing

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. A small number of records were pulled from the unprocessed collections.

### Further Resources

For information on and records related to the personal history and biography of William Adams Brown, see the Union Theological Seminary Collection:

[http://library.columbia.edu/content/dam/libraryweb/libraries/burke/fa/uts/ldpd\\_5636420.pdf](http://library.columbia.edu/content/dam/libraryweb/libraries/burke/fa/uts/ldpd_5636420.pdf). The Burke Library also offers the William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives, founded in 1945. A listing of available collections can be found here:

<http://library.columbia.edu/content/libraryweb/indiv/burke/archives/wabrown.html>. One collection of note is the National Council of Churches collection:

[http://library.columbia.edu/content/dam/libraryweb/libraries/burke/fa/wab/ldpd\\_8631339.pdf](http://library.columbia.edu/content/dam/libraryweb/libraries/burke/fa/wab/ldpd_8631339.pdf). For more information on these or any other collection please contact [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu).

The Missionary Research Library at the Burke Library, Union Theological Seminary offers many collections related to Boards mentioned in the scope and content and biographical note, including the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM); the International Missionary Council (IMC); the Foreign Missions Conference of North America (FMCNA). Please contact the archives if you would like to see these records at [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu).

The main repository of archival records of the National Council of Churches of Christ USA is the Presbyterian Historical Society. The Foreign Missions Conference of North America Records, 1887-1951 can also be researched at the Presbyterian Historical Society:

<http://www.history.pcusa.org/>.

## Contents list

### **Series 1: Lindsay Commission, 1912 – 1946**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	Articles, [1930?] – 1931
1	1	2	Articles, Modern Missions in the Far East: A Report prepared by William Adams Brown for the Board of Directors, January 1917
1	1	3	Aims of Commission, 1930
1	1	4	Conference, Union Theological Seminary, Saharanpur, February 10, 1931
1	1	5	Conference, All-India Conference on Christian Education, Bombay, March 20, 1931
1	1	6	Controversy, Alwaye and Kottayam Colleges, 1931
1	1	7	Correspondence, 1930
1	1	8	Correspondence, 1931
1	1	9	Correspondence Addressed to WAB, Reflections on Theological Education in India, 1930 – 1931
1	1	10	Final Report Documents [1931?]
1	1	11	Letters and Statements from Colleges, 1931
1	1	12	Meetings of Commission: Itineraries, Letters and Plans, 1930 – 1931
1	1	13 – 14	Minutes, 1931 – 1937
1	1	15	Newspaper Clippings [1930?]
1	1	16 – 17	Official Documents Submitted to Conference [1930 – 1931?]
1	1	18	Pamphlets [193?]
1	1	19 – 21	Preliminary and Background Information on Institutions in India, 1912 – 1931
1	2	1	Proposals by Commission, 1930 – 1946
1	2	2	Reports, 1932 – 1933
1	2	3	Reports from Academies and Schools, 1929 – 1930
1	2	4	Reports on Locations in India [1931?]
1	2	5	Resolution and Minutes requesting commission, 1929
1	2	6 – 7	Supplementary Information on Locations, 1930 – 1947
1	2	8	Survey by Commission Members on Voyage to India, October – November, 1930
1	2	9 – 10	Theological Education, 1930 – 1931
1	2	11	WAB Address to the Secretaries of ABCFM, 1931
1	2	12	WAB Personal Notes on Commission, 1931
1	2	13	WAB Board Secretaries File [1930?]
1	2	14 – 15	WAB Notes on Meetings with Colleges and Universities, 1930 – 1931
1	2	16 – 17	WAB Typed Notes on Meetings, 1930 – 1931
<b>Reports from Schools and College Principals to Questionnaire of the Commission and Recommendations, 1929 – 1930</b>			
1	3	1	List of Replies
1	3	2	American College, Madura, Madras
1	3	3	Andhra Christian College, Guntur, Madras

**Series 1: Lindsay Commission (Cont'd)****Series Box Folder Contents****Reports from Schools and College Principals to Questionnaire of the Commission and Recommendations, 1929 – 1930 (Cont'd)**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	3	4	Bareilly Theological Seminary of the Methodist Episcopal Church
1	3	5	Bishop Heber College, Trichinopoly, Madras
1	3	6	Bishop's College, Calcutta
			Bishop's Theological Seminary, Nazareth, South India
1	3	7	Christ Church College, Campore, United Provinces
			Cuttack Training College for Christian Workers, Cuttack, Orrissa
			Diocesan College, Calcutta, Bengal
1	3	8	Diocesan Theological and Training Institution, Kettayam, Travancore
			Divinity School, Nesik, Bombay
			Dornakal Divinity School, Dornakal, Andhra
1	3	9	Edwards College, Peshawar
			Ewing Christian College, Allahabad, United Provinces
1	3	10	Findlay College, Mannargudi
			Florence B. Nicholson School of Theology, Baroda
1	3	11	Forman Christian College, Lahore, Punjab
1	3	12	Gordon College, Rawalpindi, Punjab
			Hislop College, Nagpur, Central Provinces
1	3	13	India Methodist Theological College, Jubbulpore
1	3	14	Indore Christian College, Indore, Central India
			Isabella Thoburn College, Lucknow, India
1	3	15	Judson College, Burma
1	3	16	Karen Theological Seminary, Insein, Burma
			Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore
1	3	17	Kottayam College, Madras
1	3	18	Lucknow Christian College, Lucknow, United Provinces
1	3	19	Madras Christian College, Madras
1	3	20	Malabar Christian College, Calicut
			Malwa Theological Seminary, Indora
			Murray College, Sialkot, Punjab
1	3	21	Noble College, Masulipatam, Madras
			Oxford Mission Hostel of St. Luke
1	3	22	Presidency College, Madras
			Ramapatnam Baptist Theological Seminary, Ramapatnam
1	4	1	St. Andrew's College, Gorakhpur
			St. Christopher's Training College, Madras
1	4	2	St. Columba's College, Hazaribagh
1	4	3	St. John's College, Agra
1	4	4	St. John's College, Palamcottah
1	4	5	St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College, Calcutta
1	4	6	St. Stephen's Mission College, Delhi
1	4	7	Sarah Tucker College, Palamcottah

**Series 1: Lindsay Commission (Cont'd)****Series Box Folder Contents****Reports from Schools and College Principals to Questionnaire of the Commission and Recommendations (Cont'd)**

1	4	8	Scott Christian College, Nagercoil, Travancore Scottish Churches College, Calcutta
1	4	9	Serampore College, Serampore, Bengal
1	4	10	Union Christian College, Alwaye, Travancore
1	4	11	Union Christian Training College, Travancore Union Kanarese Seminary, Tumkur
1	4	12	United Theological College, Bangalore
1	4	13	United Theological College, Saharanpur
1	4	14	Voorhees College, Vellore Wesley College, Royapettah
1	4	15	Wesleyan College, Bankura Wilson College, Bombay
1	4	16	Women's Christian College, Madras Women's Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, Punjab YMCA Students Hostel, Calcutta
1	4	17	General Theological Education Responses, December 1930

**Series 2: Correspondence, 1930 – 1938**

2	5	1	January 1938 – February 1937
2	5	2	September 1937 – October 1936
2	5	3 – 4	February 1936 – February 1935
2	5	5 – 7	December – October 1934
2	5	8 – 9	October – April 1934
2	5	10 – 11	March 1934 – August 1932
2	5	12 – 13	December – March 1932
2	6	1	March – January 1932
2	6	2	December – October 1931
2	6	3	October 1931
2	6	4	September – August 1931
2	6	5	August – June 1931
2	6	6 – 7	June 1931 – May 1930
2	6	8 – 9	April 1930 – January 1932