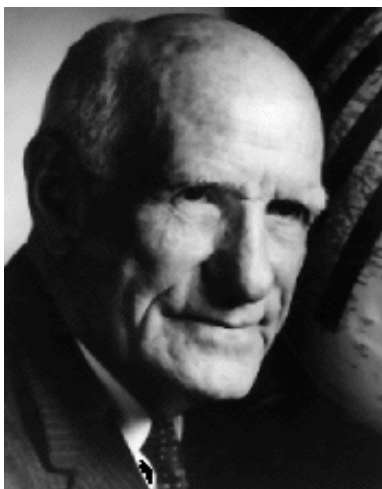


**The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 4

Finding Aid for

Frank C. Laubach Papers, 1924 – 1952



Frank Laubach, "Frank Charles Laubach," *Find A Grave*, 2002. Accessed 21 January 2013 at <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=6923472>

Finding Aid prepared by: Kristen Leigh Southworth, March 2013
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Frank C. Laubach, 1884 – 1970
Title: Frank C. Laubach Papers
Inclusive dates: 1924 – 1952
Bulk dates: 1930 – 1939
Abstract: Correspondence, reports, and teaching materials of Frank C. Laubach, Christian missionary and educator. Played a prominent role in world literacy by establishing the "Each One Teach One" literacy teaching method and founding the Committee on World Literacy and Christian Literature (FMCNA and NCC), World Literacy, Inc., and Laubach Literacy, Inc.
Size: 3 boxes, 2.75 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:** 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, 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 4: Frank C. Laubach Papers, box # and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Frank Charles Laubach was born in Benton, Pennsylvania on September 2, 1884. He graduated from Princeton University in 1909 and Union Theological Seminary in 1913. He married Effa Seely in 1912. After receiving his PhD from Columbia University in 1915, he and his wife traveled to the Philippines to serve as Congregational missionaries with the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Cagayan and Manila.

In 1930, Laubach began literacy work on the island of Mindanao and developed an alphabet for the Maranaws in their own Maranow language. Over the next forty years he traveled to more than one hundred countries and developed literacy primers for 312 languages, working with missions, private agencies, governments, USAID, the Peace Corps, and UNESCO. He developed a concept called "Each One Teach One" that encouraged every adult who learned the language to volunteer their time to teach others.

Dr. Laubach organized the World Literacy Committee in 1935 and helped to found the Committee on World Literacy and Christian Literature of the National Council of Churches in 1941. He also founded World Literacy, Inc. (now World Education) and Laubach Literacy, Inc. Laubach died on June 11, 1970.

Throughout his lifetime he received honorary degrees from Princeton, Columbia, Syracuse, and Temple Universities, and from Lafayette, Wooster, Muskingam, Marietta, Findlay, and Baldwin-Wallace Colleges. He has been recognized as the founder of the world-wide literacy movement and was honored in 1984 with a commemorative stamp by the United States Postal Service, as part of their "Great Americans" series.

Sources:

From the collection itself and:

“Biographical History,” Frank C. Laubach Collection Finding Aid, Special Collections Research Center, Syracuse University Library. Accessed 21 January 2013 at http://library.syr.edu/digital/guides/l/laubach_coll.htm.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection contains news clippings of published letters by Frank C. Laubach, notes, maps, pamphlets, reports, and other materials from the period of 1930-1938, when he began his literacy work in Dansalan, Lake Lanao, Philippines. One collection of letters was written, transcribed, and donated by Minnie K. Schultz, a colleague of Dr. Laubach, and describes their work on the field in Dansalan. Page 155/156 is missing from this group. Reports by Laubach include an early manuscript of his theology of religion and science, descriptions of his visit to Latin America from 1942-1943 and his tour of the Near East, northern Africa, and the British Isles in 1947, and reports entitled “Where the Lanao Literacy Campaign began and where it may end,” “Key System of Teaching Illiterates,” and “A Miracle in Lanao.”

The collection also contains correspondence, reports, and collected materials related to the FMCNA/NCC Committee on World Literacy and Christian Literature. Items of interest include: the committee’s 1943 financial statement, The Commonwealth of Australia’s 1933 annual report on the Territory of Papau, and “A Digest of Christian Statistics of Protestant Missions: Educational and Medical Work,” based on the World Christian Handbook of 1952. The collection primarily includes alphabet charts, teaching instructions, language primers, and lesson books for the Marathi, Maranaw, and Nagari (Sanskrit) languages. Some of these charts have been placed in an oversize box. Among Laubach’s other translation documents are an early English-Maranao [Maranao] Dictionary and a translation of the best-loved Lanao Moro epic story, “How Bantugan Died in the Land Between Two Seas.”

Processing

A number of the papers were transferred from unprocessed records. 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. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes.

Related Sources:

Laubach, Frank C., *Christ Liveth In Me and Game With Minutes*, Westwood, NJ: F. H. Revell Co., 1961.

Laubach, Frank C., *Forty Years with the Silent Billion: Adventuring in Literacy*, Old Tappan, NJ: F. H. Revell Co., 1970.

Laubach, Frank C., *How to Teach One and Win One for Christ*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1964.

Laubach, Frank C., *India Shall Be Literate*, Jubbulpore, India: F. E. Livengood at the Mission Press, 1940.

Laubach, Frank C., *The People of the Philippines: Their Religious Progress and Preparation for Spiritual Leadership in the Far East*, New York: George H. Doran Company, 1925.

Laubach, Frank C., *Prayer: The Mightiest Force in the World*, Westwood, NJ: F. H. Revell Co., 1946.

Laubach, Frank C., *The Silent Billion Speak*, New York: Friendship Press, 1945.

Laubach, Frank C., *Toward a Literate World*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1938.

Further Sources

The Special Collections Research Center of the Syracuse University Library holds a large Frank C. Laubach Collection, as well as the Laubach Literacy International Records. The finding aid for this collection can be found at http://library.syr.edu/digital/guides/l/laubach_coll.htm.

The Missionary Research Library also contains the [Foreign Missions Conference of North America \(FMCNA\) Records](#) and the [National Council of Churches \(NCC\) Records](#), which both contain papers from the World Literacy Committee and the Committee on World Literacy and Christian Literature.

The Missionary Research Library also contains the collections of three other missionaries to Southeast Asia in Series 4 including: [Munshi Abdullah](#), [Bertha Davis](#), and [R. E. Hume](#).

The Burke Library also houses the records of Union Theological Seminary, where Laubach was educated. More information can be found:

<http://library.columbia.edu/indiv/burke/archives/uts.html>.

Columbia University's Rare Book and Manuscript Library can provide records relating to Laubach's attendance for his PhD: <http://library.columbia.edu/indiv/rbml/findingmaterials.html>.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Committee on World Literacy and Christian Literature Reports, 1924-1952
1	2	Correspondence and Reports, 1932-1943
1	3-4	Published letters of Frank C. Laubach from Dansalan, 1930-1936
1	5	Diaries and letters of Frank C. Laubach from Dansalan, 1933-1938
1	6	Letters of Minnie K. Schultz from Dansalan, 1933-1938
2	1	Teaching Instructions and Charts, 1931-1936
2	2	Language Primers and Lesson Books, 1937-1939
2	3	Lanao Translation Documents [193?]
OS	1	Correspondence, 1934
OS	2	Nagari (Sanskrit) Letter Chart [193?]
OS	3	“Spread of Literacy: Dr. Laubach, His Simple Method,” Book One [193?]
OS	4	Marathi Letter Chart [193?]