

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

Finding Aid for

**Student Evangelism in Chinese  
Government Universities Records, 1938 – 1947**

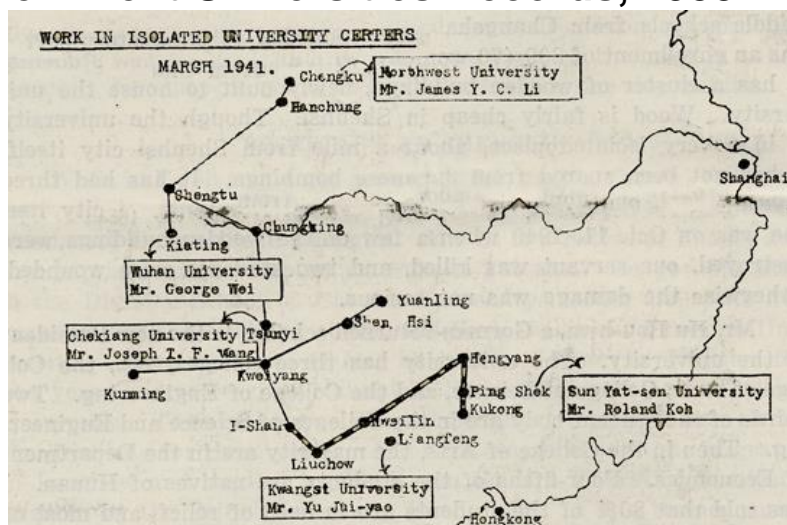


Image Credit: SECGU, MRL 6: Student Evangelism in Chinese Government Universities Records, 1938-1943, Box 1, Folder 5; Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Gregory Adam Scott, September 2009

Reviewed and updated by Sarah Davis, April 2014 with financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

**Summary Information**

Creator: Missionary Research Library  
Title: Student Evangelism in Chinese Government Universities Records  
Inclusive dates: 1938 – 1947  
Bulk dates: 1941 – 1943  
Abstract: Evangelization of Chinese Students in isolated University Centers, Period of the Second Sino-Japanese War, 1937 – 1945. Contains correspondence and Reports  
Size: 1 box, 0.25 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:** This collection was assembled from records in its possession by the Missionary Research Library before the Library's 1976 closure and transfer of archival contents to the Burke Library archives.
- 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 6: Student Evangelism in Chinese Government Universities Records, 1938-1943, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### History

In December 1937 the skirmishes and tensions which had existed between China and Japan since 1931 broke out into full-scale war. Before long the Japanese army had occupied the major city of Shanghai 上海 and the capital of Nanjing 南京, forcing the Nationalist government to retreat first to the central city of Wuhan 武漢, then to Chongqing 重慶 in the West of China. Universities and colleges also fled the Japanese invasion, setting up campuses in isolated centers throughout China's West and Southwest.

By late 1939 the National Christian Council of China met to address the problem of evangelizing university students who were attending classes on these refugee campuses. These documents reflect missionary efforts to continue to evangelize students of government-run universities who, to a much greater extent than students at Christian universities, were ever more difficult to reach because of the war.

### Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection largely consists of correspondence and reports documents relating to the following organizations and individuals:

#### American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions

The ABCFM was established in 1812 and was present in China from 1829. It sponsored a number of missionaries in China during its history. The main collection of records for the ABCFM is located at the Yale University Archives.

#### Foreign Missions Conference of North America: Committee on the Far East

The FMCNA was formally organized in 1911 as a voluntary cooperative association of mission boards in the United States and Canada. The Committee on the Far East was organized as early as 1932. Yale University Archives houses a collection of records on the FMCNA, as does

section 12 of the MRL group of collections of Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries.

#### National Christian Council of China: Committee on Student Evangelism

The N.C.C. of China was established in 1922 to take over the work of the China Continuation Committee, which was formed to coordinate the efforts of missionaries in China, the Edinburgh Committee, and mission boards in the West. Series 6 of the MRL collection has 2.25 lin. ft. of records from the council.

#### Jiang Wenhan 江文漢 (Kiang Wen-han), 1908 - 1984

Jiang was baptized in 1923, and went on to study at a number of universities in China, worked with the Chinese YMCA and would later receive a Ph.D. from Columbia University. During the war with Japan he coordinated relief work. After the establishment of the People's Republic he became one of the founders of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement (三自教會), the national government-sanctioned Protestant association in the PRC.

#### 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 photocopied on to acid-free paper and interleaved with acid-free paper as needed. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes.

In 2014, the collection and finding aid were updated as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant. The folders were reorganized chronologically, placed in new folders, and additional materials were added from an unprocessed collection.

#### Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1-5	Correspondence and Reports, 1938 – 1947, Unrecorded Years