

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

Finding Aid for

Joseph Whiteside Diaries, 1899 – 1929



Image Credit: Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York

Finding Aid prepared by: Gregory Adam Scott, February 2010

Updates by Brigette C. Kamsler, 2011 with funding from the Henry Luce Foundation.

Summary Information

Creator: Rev. Joseph Whiteside, 1868 – 1950

Title: Joseph Whiteside Diaries

Inclusive dates: 1899 – 1929

Bulk dates: 1899 – 1929

Abstract: Joseph Whiteside, missionary and professor at Soochow University 東吳大學: Manuscript diaries, including clippings, correspondence and other ephemera, 1899 - 1929

Size: 7 boxes, 3.50 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:** No provenance information is available for the collection at this time. These records were part of the then-independent Missionary Research Library prior to its closure in 1976, when the records were accessioned to the Burke 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 materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, MRL 6: Joseph Whiteside Diaries, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography¹

Joseph Whiteside was born in Calhoun County, Alabama on September 18, 1868. He attended school in Piedmont, and in 1885 joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in White Plains. He studied at Oxford College in Oxford, Alabama, and taught school part time before receiving his A.B. degree in June 1891. After traveling and teaching at a village school that he had helped to establish, Whiteside entered the Biblical department at Vanderbilt University, and was granted the B.D. degree in June 1898. He preached for several months in Montana, and sailed for China in August 1899 under the auspices of the American Southern Methodist Episcopal Mission, arriving in Shanghai on September 18. A few weeks later he moved to Suzhou 蘇州, 75 miles west of Shanghai, to begin his mission posting.

In 1905 he was married in Shanghai to Mary Van Schoonhoven, daughter of the Rev. Henry V. S. Myers. At some point before 1902, Whiteside became a professor at Soochow University 東吳大學,² a school which had been established by Methodists in 1900. In 1902 he resigned to teach elsewhere in the Shanghai area, but at some point before 1914 he returned to the faculty of Soochow University, and taught there until his retirement. In 1914 he edited Li Ung Bing's *Outlines of Chinese History*, which was published by the Commercial Press in Shanghai. Whiteside left China in June 1929 and settled in Ohio with his wife and children. By 1946 Whiteside was living in Claremont, California. He passed away in Los Angeles on December 27, 1950.

¹ This data is based on the autobiographical sketch provided on pp. 5-6 of the diary for 1899, as well as a few references to Whiteside in the *Chinese Recorder* (Shanghai: American Presbyterian Missions Press).

² Then known as Teng Wu College 東吳大學堂.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of 31 diaries written by Whiteside during his thirty years in China. From 1899 to 1905 he used the series *The Imperial English and Chinese Diary and Almanac* (華英日記) by Kelly & Walsh, Limited. Many of these diaries contain newspaper clippings, correspondence, and other ephemera pasted on to their pages. After 1906 he used *The Missionaries' Anglo-Chinese Diary*, published by the American Presbyterian Mission Press in Shanghai.

The diaries describe Whiteside's experiences living and working in China, and are often very personal in tone. They recount emotional experiences including episodes of illness, frustration related to his work, and his attempts to master the Chinese language.

Processing

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Pages with acidic content were interleaved with acid-free paper. Any fragile and loose inserts were removed and foldered separately.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Diary, 1899
1	2	Diary, 1900
1	3	Diary, 1901
1	4	Diary, 1902
2	1	Diary, 1903
2	2	Diary, 1904
2	3	Diary, 1905
3	1	Diary, 1906
3	2	Inserts from 1906 Diary - originals and acid free copies
3	3	Diary, 1907
3	4	Diary, 1908
3	5	Diary, 1909
3	6	Diary, 1910
3	7	Diary, 1911
4	1	Diary, 1912
4	2	Diary, 1913
4	3	Diary, 1914
4	4	Diary, 1915
4	5	Diary, 1916
5	1	Diary, 1917
5	2	Diary, 1918
5	3	Diary, 1919
5	4	Diary, 1920
5	5	Diary, 1921
5	6	Ms. Note [191?]
5	7	Inserts from 1920 Diary - originals and acid free copies
5	8	Inserts from 1921 Diary - originals and acid free copies
6	1	Diary, 1922
6	2	Diary, 1923
6	3	Diary, 1924
6	4	Diary, 1925
6	5	Diary, 1926
6	6	Insert from 1926 Diary - original and acid free copy
7	1	Diary, 1927
7	2	Diary, 1928
7	3	Diary, 1929