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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 12

Finding Aid for

# **World Missionary Conference Records, 1883 – 2010**



Dr. John R. Mott Chairman of the World Missionary Conference, 1910

Finding Aid prepared by: John L. Grillo and Ruth Tonkiss Cameron, January 2006 Review and updated with additions by Brigette C. Kamsler, 2013 with funding from the Henry Luce Foundation.

#### **Summary Information**

Creator: World Missionary Conference, Edinburgh

Title: World Missionary Conference Records, 1883-2010

Inclusive dates: 1883-2010 Bulk dates: 1908-1918

Abstract: Records from a worldwide ecumenical conference of Protestant

missionaries taking place in Edinburgh, Scotland, 14 - 23 June, 1910, including those from the Continuation Committees established to continue work beyond the 1910 meeting: Questionnaires, missionary responses from the field, originals, transcripts; administrative correspondence, area reports and reports to Commissions, minutes; published findings and administrative records of the Area Conferences of the Continuation Committees. Also

includes anniversary records.

Size: 47 boxes, 21 linear feet

Storage: Onsite storage Repository: The Burke Library

Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway New York, NY 10027

Email: <u>burkearchives@library.columbia.edu</u>

#### Administrative Information

Provenance: Originally part of the independent Missionary Research Library, under the

direction of Charles H. Fahs, who was research assistant to John R. Mott and curator of the Missionary Research Library from its foundation in 1914 until 1948, 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. A number of papers were transferred from unprocessed records in 2013,

which added additional papers as well as source files.

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 12: World Missionary Conference Records, 1883-

2010, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological

Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### **History**

The World Missionary Conference, held at Edinburgh in 1910, was preceded by five interdenominational conferences convened by societies for foreign missions in both Great Britain and the United States. The first conference held in 1888 in London, England was the first attempt to study and distribute information regarding missionary work throughout the world. This was followed in 1900 by a larger, "ecumenical," meeting of delegates sent from societies for foreign missions based in the United States, Canada, Great Britain and Europe, intending to represent the work of Protestant missionaries in the whole of the inhabited world. This gathering took place in New York City at Carnegie Hall, with over 50,000 attending.

Many of those involved in the successful 1900 conference resolved that there should be another conference held in ten years on the other side of the Atlantic. On 29 January, 1907, thirty-seven delegates from twenty Scottish foreign missions committees or boards, unanimously agreed at a meeting held in Glasgow that a Missionary Conference should be held in Edinburgh in June of 1910.

This Conference would be structured largely on the model of the 1900 New York conference, being composed of delegates from foreign missions societies actively supporting missionaries in the field and spending no less than £2000 on their foreign work annually. Each society was entitled to send another delegate for every additional £4000 spent. With the constitution of the Conference decided, three points regarding the subject matter to be addressed during the Conference were agreed upon: The Conference would only deal with missionary work among non-Christian peoples; it would only address the most urgent and immediate problems facing

the Church; no opinion on ecclesiastical or doctrinal questions would be expressed by the Conference.

The Conference began to differ from previous gatherings in the truly international scope of its objectives. An international Committee of eighteen members was appointed from the United States, Great Britain and Canada, in order to frame the program and to oversee the arrangements for carrying it out. The first meeting at Oxford of this international committee decided: the choice of subjects on which the Conference would concentrate; the resolution to prepare and present these subjects through careful inquiry and study by appointed commissions; the selection of men and women to act on these commissions; the appointment of J.H. Oldham as the full-time Secretary for the preparation of the Conference. The meeting at Oxford established the overall structure and method of gathering, interpreting and presenting the information to the Conference. The subject themes were arranged according to eight Commissions (for details, see below).

The sessions of the World Missionary Conference were held from June 14-23, 1910 in Edinburgh, Scotland, with Dr. John R. Mott as Chairman. On Tuesday, 21 June, Commission VIII put a proposal before the Conference for the formation of a Continuation Committee to oversee the work begun by the Conference in the following years. The proposal received unanimous approval.

The work of the Continuation Committees continued from 1911 onward. The bulk of the Burke Library's records from these Committees date from 1911 to 1918. Geographically, the Continuation Committee and its sectional conferences took place worldwide, but there was a significant concentration of efforts on China, East Asia and India. The areas of concern to these conferences seemed primarily to be within Christian education and literature.

The 2010 conference was modeled after the eight-commission structure of the 1910 World Missionary Conference in order to conduct a thorough historical examination of Christian mission over the last 100 years and also to examine the current and future situation of a truly global Christianity. In June 2010, a delegate conference was held in Edinburgh with representatives from the Evangelical, Protestant, Orthodox and Pentecostal churches, and the Roman Catholic Church. It produced a Common Call to mission.

That same year, three other major conferences were held to commemorate Edinburgh 2010. The first was held in Tokyo; the second in Cape Town, South Africa and the third was held in Boston. The meetings in Edinburgh and Boston were more ecumenical in representation, and the meetings in Tokyo and Cape Town were primarily evangelical. The Tokyo meeting was organized and designed for evangelical mission leaders, and the Cape Town meeting was organized and designed for a broad representation of Church and mission leaders.

#### Sources:

World Missionary Conference, Edinburgh, 1910. *The History and Records of the Conference: Together with Addresses Delivered at the Evening Meetings.* Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier; New York: Fleming H. Revell, [1910?]. Available: Burke [UTS] Microfiche 84-B1 ATLA fiche 1986-0546.

Edinburgh 2010 sourced from <a href="http://www.edinburgh2010.org/">http://www.edinburgh2010.org/</a> [accessed March 26, 2013].

### **Collection Scope and Content Note**

The records of the World Missionary Conference, 1910 and its Continuation Committees consist of administrative correspondence, lists of delegates, questionnaires to and responses from missionaries in the field worldwide, records from preliminary meetings and promotional materials; reports and papers to the eight Commissions, minutes of the meetings at Edinburgh, 1910 and newspaper clippings; further administrative correspondence and other records from the Continuation Committees, printed findings and minutes of those meetings.

The collection is organized in three series:

### 1. Series 1: Commissions, 1883-[1955] (32 boxes, 14 lin. ft.)

This series contains documents and materials directly pertaining to the Commissions for the 1910 conference. It includes area reports, administrative correspondence, and lists of delegates, questionnaires and responses from missionaries in the field, reports to the Commissions, miscellaneous articles and newspaper clippings, materials from preliminary meetings and promotional materials.

This series is arranged by Commission:

#### Commission I: Carrying the Gospel to all the Non-Christian World

Area Reports Arranged Geographically:	boxes 1-10
2) General:	box 11
3) Committees and Subcommittees:	box 12
4.) Correspondence:	box 13-15

Correspondence includes attachments, such as the resolution of the German Executive Committee and the proposal for the Continental Missionary Societies, attached to the preliminary correspondence between Julius Richter and John Mott.

### Commission II: The Church in the Mission Field

Area Reports Arranged Geographically: boxes 16-18

Commission III: Education in Relation to the Christianization of National Life Final Reports Arranged Geographically: box 19

### Commission IV: The Missionary Message in Relation to Non-Christian Religions

1) Correspondence and Bound Draft Reports, vols. I-V (1-5) box 20-22

## Commission V: The Preparation of Missionaries

Correspondence and Questionnaires

box 23

#### Commission VI: The Home Base of Missions

boxes 24-30

Section 1: The Church's Concept of Her Mission [not represented in the published report] including Student Volunteer Movement and Young People's Missionary Movement

Section 2: The Spiritual Resources of the Church

Section 3: Promotion of Missionary Intelligence

- a.) Through Regular Church Services and Agencies
- b.) Newspapers and Periodicals
- c.) Through Special Literature
- d.) Through Mission Study Classes
- e.) Through Academic Instruction [Instruction in Academic Institutions]
- f.) Through Visits to the Mission Fields
- g.) Through Conferences, Exhibitions and Other Methods

Section 4: Enlistment of an Adequate Force of Missionaries

- a.) Demand of Supply of Candidates
- b.) Methods Employed
- c.) Qualifications Required [not in published report]
- d.) Motives
- e.) Student Volunteer Movement [not listed as a separate category in WMC records]

Section 5: Financial Support of the Missionary Enterprise

Section 6: Home Leadership

- a.) Clergymen and ministers
- b.) Laymen
- c.) Women
- d.) Mission board secretaries [not in published report]

Section 7: Problems of Administration

- a.) Relation of Needs Abroad and Receipts at Home
- b.) Women's Boards and Church Boards
- c.) Support and Use of Missionaries at Home [not in published report]
- d.) Relations of Executive Committee at Home to the Work Abroad [not in published report]
- e.) Co-operation at Home [not in published report]
  Missionaries at Home on Furlough [not in WMC records]
- f.) Native Missionaries
- g.) Special Gifts for Specific Objects (draft notes)

Science of Missionary Societies [not in WMC records]

Section 8: Fundamental Value of Missions to the Church [titled Reflex Influence of Missions on the Church in WMC records]

- a) Comprehensive View of Humanity and the World
- b) Sense of Human Brotherhood
- c) Adequate Basis of Unity
- d) New Spirit of Beneficence
- e) Renewed Evangelical Zeal

- f) Confirmed Faith
- g) Deepened Spiritual Life

### Commission VII: Missions and Governments

Summary Responses, Administrative Correspondence, Minutes and Draft Reports box 31

## Commission VIII: Cooperation and the Promotion of Unity

Instructions, Administrative Correspondence

box 32

The reports of the eight Commissions of the WMC were published as:
World Missionary Conference (1910: Edinburgh, Scotland) Report of Commission I-VIII.
9v.; 20cm. Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, and New York: Fleming H.
Revell, 1910. Burke Union Stacks NC 1910w J.

### • Series 2: Continuation Committees, 1886-1947 (12 boxes, 5.50 lin. ft.)

Commissioners from the WMC continued work after Edinburgh in conferences taking place around the world. This series contains reports, administrative correspondence, lists of delegates, papers, minutes, and printed and published materials from Continuation Committee meetings and Area Conferences after 1910. The concentration of efforts in China, Japan, and East Asia is apparent.

Korean, Japanese and Chinese additions are stamped with "Copied for Church Committee." It is apparent by the annotations and stamps on the records that they were included for informational purposes to members of WMC. The Congress on Christian Work in Latin America sources was also included in this same manner. The Congress on Christian Work in Latin America (CCWLA) was an unanticipated outcome of World Missionary Conference, Edinburgh, 1910. Bulletins from this collection indicate that the Congress was called in response to the Edinburgh Conference's lack of discussion on Latin American issues.

For WMC Special Committee on Statistics, see WMC 1910 Series 1: box 12.

### • Series 3: General, 1907-2010 (3 boxes, 1.50 lin. ft.)

This series contains administrative and any other records related to and involving the World Missionary Conference, which did not specifically involve the Commissions of the Continuation Committee. Series 3 also includes information on events leading up to and involving the 50<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the WMC.

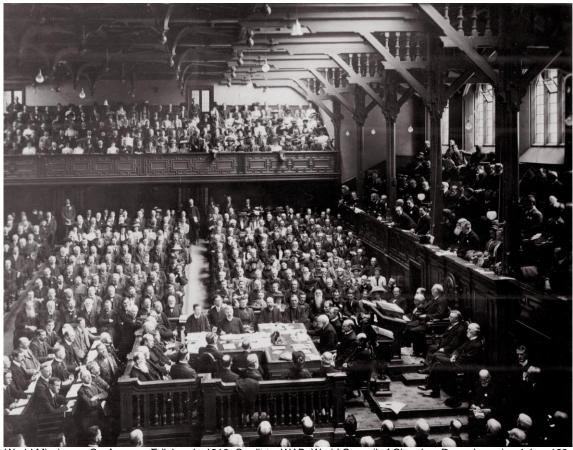
#### **Processing**

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. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes.

Collection was originally processed in 2006 and known as MRL12: World Missionary Conference Records, Edinburgh, 1910. The collection was updated with additions as part of the Henry Luce Foundation project in 2013. A number of papers were transferred from unprocessed records. At this time the name of this collection was changed to MRL12: World Missionary Conference Records, 1883-2010.

Due to rearrangement and addition of records, box numbers have changed from the finding aid created in 2006. Basic changes are as follows, further questions can be sent to archives staff:

2006 Finding Aid	2013 Finding Aid
Series 1, Commission 1	Series 1, Commission 1
Box 1-6: Area Reports	Box 1-10: Area Reports [including additions]
Box 7: Draft Reports to Commission	Box 11: General [includes draft reports]
Box 8-10: Correspondence, Special Committee on	Box 12: Subcommittee on Unoccupied Fields;
Statistics	Special Committee on Statistics
	Box 13-15: Correspondence
Series 1: Commission 2	Series 1: Commission 2
Box 11-13: Area Reports	Box 16-18: Area Reports
Series 1: Commission 3	Series 1: Commission 3
Box 14	Box 19
Series 1: Commission 4	Series 1: Commission 4
Box 15-16: Correspondence and Bound Drafts	Box 20-22: Correspondence and Bound
	Drafts
Series 1: Commission 5	Series 1: Commission 5
Box 17	Box 23
Series 1: Commission 6	Series 1: Commission 6
Box 18-22	Box 24-30
Series 1: Commission 7	Series 1: Commission 7
Box 23	Box 31
Series 1: Commission 8	Series 1: Commission 8
Box 23	Box 32
Box 24-25: "WMC Miscellaneous"	Moved to Series 3
Series 2: Continuation Committee	Series 2: Continuation Committee
Box 1-6	Box 1-10 [including additions]
Box 7: Name and Address Cards	Box 11: Name and Address Cards
Box 8: Towards 2010	Moved to Series 3
50x 0. 10walus 2010	Moved to Series 5
	Series 3: General
	Box 1-2 [former series 1, box 24-25]
	Box 3 [former series 2, box 8]



World Missionary Conference, Edinburgh, 1910. Credit to: WAB: World Council of Churches Records, series 4, box 103, The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries at Union Theological Seminary, New York.

#### **Further Sources**

The Missionary Research Library was founded by John Mott in 1914, an outcome of the World Missionary Conference. Therefore many of the collections contained within this record group pertain to WMC. Charles Luther Boynton Papers, John Mott Papers, the Foreign Missions Conference of North America Records, the Student Volunteer Movement Records, and the International Missionary Council Records are just a few offered in the Missionary Research Library. Pertinent collections are also available in the William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library Archives, such as the World Council of Churches Records.

Information on these records can be located through the Burke Library Archives website: <a href="http://library.columbia.edu/indiv/burke/archives.html">http://library.columbia.edu/indiv/burke/archives.html</a> or by contacting archives staff at <a href="mailto:archives@uts.columbia.edu">archives@uts.columbia.edu</a>.

For more information on the 100 Anniversary and "Towards 2010," please see <a href="http://www.towards2010.org.uk/">http://www.towards2010.org.uk/</a> and <a href="http://www.edinburgh2010.org/">http://www.edinburgh2010.org/</a>.

**Note:** Additional Records of Commission III: American section, including minutes of the section's meetings and correspondence, can be found in the Ernest deWitt Burton Papers at the University of Chicago Library.

#### **Contents list**

### **Series 1: Commissions, 1883-[1955]**

Series Box Folder Contents Commission I: Carrying the Gospel to all the Non-Christian World **Area Reports, 1883-1910** Africa: Nigeria Africa: Liberia; Togoland; Morocco, French Guinea, Gambia, Sierra Leone Africa: French Congo; Cameroon Africa: Belgian Congo Africa: Uganda Africa: Portuguese East Africa; Zululand Africa: British East Africa Africa: German East Africa Africa: Nyasaland Protectorate Africa: Madagascar Africa: Northern and Southern Rhodesia; Transvaal Africa: German South West Africa; Angola Africa: South Africa; Transvaal and Natal Africa: South Africa Abyssinia; Egypt; Eritrea, 1909-1910 Tunis; Morocco; Algeria, 1909-1910 East Arabia; Turkestan; Palestine; Arabia, 1909-1910 Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 1909-1910 Persia, 1909-1910 5-6 Syria, 1909-1910 Turkey; Turkey-in-Asia, 1909-1910 8-9 Asia and South Asia, 1883-1910 10-11 India: Preliminary Draft Report 2-3 India: Calcutta; Palamcottah; Punjab; Ebenezer, Bengal; Asrapur-Atari, Punjab; Central India 4-5 India: Punjab; Ceylon; Henzada, Burma; Bankipore; Bombay 6-7 India: Darjeeling: Battalagundu; Madras: Lahore India: Calcutta; Madras; Manipuri; Taloda, Khandesh; Kandy 8-9 India: Kottayam; Mysore City; Purulia, Bengal; Bombay 10-11 1-2 India: Landour, Mussoonii; Quetta, Baluchistan; Allahabad; Ahmednagar; Lahore: Pasumalai 3-4 India: Bombay; Pasumalai, Madura; Burma; Peshwar; Lahore; Ootacamund, Niligiri Hills 5-6 India: Allahabad; Azamgarh; Big Conjeeveram; Poona; Bamdah, Bengal 7-8 India: Tura, Assam; Srinagar, Kashmir; Neemuch; Teluguland; Kedgaon, Poona District India: Allahabad; Mangalore; Oudh; Rangoon; Jaffna, Ceylon; Madras 

			ions (Contra)
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1	5	3-4	India: Rangoon, Burma; Dohnavur, Tinnevelly; Miraj; Lucknow; Simla, Punjab
1	5	5-7	India: Ludhiana, Punjab; Madras; Cawnpore; Tinnevelly; Khasia Hills, Assam; Dohnavur, Tinnevelly; Chanapatia, Bengal; Calcutta
1	6	1-2	Dutch East Indies
1	6	3	New Caledonia and Dependencies
1	6	4	British and Dutch New Guinea
1	6	5	New Hebrides
1	6	6	Singapore Straits Settlements
1	6	7-8	Laos; Siam
1	6	9	Philippines
	6	10	Indonesia
1	O	10	Illuollesia
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1	7	2-3	China: Peking; Foochow; Tingchowfu; Yun-ch'eng; Shanghai
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1	7	5	China: Chefoo; Taikuhsien; Chengtu; Foochow; Shanghai; Chengtu; Kingkiang;
1	7	6	China: Shanghai; Peking; Hunan; Kingchowfu; Canton
1	7	7	China: Nanking; Hong Kong; Satsow; Changtehfu; Chefoo; Shanghai
1	7	8-9	China: Hwailuh; Hengchow Fu; Kiel China Mission; Kaifeng; Yungpingfu; Cheng-tu-fu; Tsungjen; Kan-chau-fu; Shanghai
1	7	10	China: Urumtsi, Chinese Turkestan; Sopingfu; Canton; Lao-ko-kau; Foochow; Kalgan; Yuen-chau-fu; Hwai Yuen
1	8	1-2	China: Pao-ting-fu; Peking; Hung-tung-hsien; Samho; Chang te fu; Shanghai; Weihsien; Ningpo
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1	Ŏ	8-9	China: Tsingtau; Foochow; Peking; Amoy; Yuanchow; Chinanfu; Shanghai; Lilong
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1 1 1	10 10 10 10	1 2 3 4	British West Indies; Belize; Peru Russia Greenland "Other Correspondents:" Edward Warren Capen; Lars Dahle; Rev. T. Lindhagen; Report by the Missionary Board of Directors of the United Brethren
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11	1 2 3-4 5 6 7 9-10 11-12 13-14 15-16	Commission I - General Draft Reports Recommended Members Lists and Correspondence, 1909-1910 Minutes, British Section and Advisory Council, 1909 Member Lists and Meeting Minutes, Sept 1908-Jun 1910 Suggested Questions and Methods for Gathering Data Questions and Members Lists, Methodology for Responses Reports on Questions 8-10, Correspondence, Pamphlet, 1909-[1955] Reports, Correspondence and Findings FRAGILE Statistics and Findings, London Missionary Society Drafts and Reports, Richter Indexed List of Responses to Commission I
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1	13	3	Mott and Eugene Stock, 22 Dec 1909 - 15 Apr 1910
1	13	4	Mott and Charles R. Watson, 21 Jan 1910 - 24 May 1910
1	13	5	Mott and Samuel Zwemer, 7 Jul. 1909 - 30 Mar 1910
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1	14	1-3	Mott and H.E. Wootton, 13 Jun 1908 - 4 Apr 1910
1	14	4	Mott and J.P. Jones, 12 Nov 1909 - 20 Apr 1910
1	14	5	Mott and Benjamin La Trobe, 21 Jan - 29 Mar 1910
1	14	6	Mott and Bishop John Robinson, 13 Nov - 9 Apr 1910
1	14	7	Mott and V. Sorensen, 12 Nov 1909 - 29 Mar 1910
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1	19	1	Commission III: Education in Relation to Non-Christian Religions Japan Reports and Correspondence, Edward C. Moore and Edward Warren Capen, 9 Feb - 11 May 1910
1	19	2	Japan and India Reports and Correspondence, 1909-1910
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1	20	2	Volume 1: Reports from Correspondents, Animism and Buddhism - Africa,
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1	22	3	Volume 5: Reports from Correspondents, Mohammedanism
			Commission V: On the Preparation of Missionaries
1	23	1	Microfilm, Hartford Theological Seminary Archives WMC Records copy
1	23	2	Copies of Papers from Hartford Theological Seminary
1	23	3	Correspondence, Notes and Minutes, 1909- 1910
1	23	4	Questionnaire and Instructions
			Commission VII. The Home Book. Consul American and British
1	24	1	Commission VI: The Home Base – General American and British
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1	24 24	3	Section 1: Church's Concept of her Mission: Student Movements
1			Section 2: Spiritual Resources of the Church
1	24	4	Section 3: Promotion of Missionary Intelligence
1	24	E	a) Regular Church Services and Agencies
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1		9	e) Academic Instruction
1	24	9 10	f) Visits to Mission Fields
1	24 24	10	g) Special Methods: Field Operations, Illustrations, and Exhibitions
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			,
			<ul><li>b) Methods Employed to Secure Candidates</li><li>c) Qualifications Required in Candidates</li></ul>
			,
			d) Motives

			ons (Conta)
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1	24	14	Section 6: Home Leadership
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			b) Laymen
			c) Women
			d) Mission Board Secretaries
1	24	15-16	Section 6: Home Leadership
			Scottish, American, and Canadian Reports
			List of Respondents
			Digest of Returns by Rev. Canon Bullock Webster
			Digest of Returns by Rev. Carlon Ballock Webster
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			a) Comprehensive View of Humanity and the World
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