

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

Finding Aid for

Margaret H. Brown Papers, [194?] - [196?]



Image Credit: Margaret H. Brown, *MacGillivray of Shanghai* (Toronto: The Ryerson Press, 1968).

Finding Aid prepared by: Gregory Adam Scott, May 2010

Reviewed and Updated by Brigitte C. Kamsler, January 2014 with financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Margaret H. Brown, 1887 - 1978

Title: Margaret H. Brown Papers

Dates: [194?] - [196?]

Abstract: Margaret H. Brown was a missionary in China under the auspices of the United Church of Canada, and worked as an editor for the Society of Christian Literature in Shanghai. These papers are an unpublished, manuscript history of the UCC mission in Henan province, central China, from the 1880s to 1951.

Size: 3 boxes, 1.25 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: These records were part of the formerly 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: Original documents in box 3 of the collection are **RESTRICTED** because of their fragility and are not accessible to researchers. The remainder of the collection is unrestricted to readers and accessible acid free copies of the fragile originals replace those documents within the original sequence.
- Preferred Citation: Item description, MRL 6: Margaret H. Brown Papers, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Margaret H. Brown was born in 1887 near Tiverton in Kincardine Township, Ontario, Canada. She worked as a teacher for about four years before travelling to Henan 河南, China in 1916 under the auspices of the Women's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. In 1925 the WMS had twenty-nine missionaries working in the province. In 1929 Brown was appointed to the staff of the Christian Literature Society 廣學會 in Shanghai 上海 and worked there as an editor. While there she published a number of books in Chinese, including *Stories of Jesus* 神人異蹟 and *Mrs. Wang's Diary* 王夫人的日記, which was published in English in 1936. In 1941 she was supported by a fellowship from Union Theological Seminary, New York.¹

Brown retired in 1956, after which she devoted her time to researching and writing, publishing an account of the life and work of the Canadian Presbyterian missionary Donald MacGillivray in 1968. She died in 1978 and is buried in Tiverton, Ontario.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of a typewritten manuscript entitled *History of the Honan (North China) Mission [Presbyterian] of the United Church of Canada*, compiled over a period spanning the 1940s to the 1960s. In her 1968 book, Brown mentions that she had just completed this project, so by then it had likely taken its present form. The work chronicles the history of the Canadian mission to central China, first under the Presbyterian Church and later as part of the United Church of Canada, from the 1880s to 1951 when the mission was forced out. The chapters each center on a particular theme, and though they are presented in a roughly chronological order, subsequent chapters will often jump back to begin its narrative from an earlier date. There is also an appendix with a list of missionaries who served in the mission.

¹ See *The Chinese Recorder*, Vol 72 (June, 1941), pp. 336-337.

This work, or a version similar to it, was bound as *History of the Honan (North China) missions of the United Church of Canada, originally a mission of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1887-1951* in 4 volumes, and is held by the United Church of Canada archives. The UCC archives also contain 1.08 meters of Brown papers.

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper. Some fragile acidic sections were replaced with acid-free photocopies in 2010. The originals are retained in box 3 of the collection.

The collection was reorganized, and any former folder numbers are noted in square brackets following the folder description, e.g. [f14].

In 2014, the collection and finding aid were updated as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant.

Contents list

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	<i>History of the Honan (North China) Mission [Presbyterian] of the United Church of Canada</i> [HHM], Typed ms., Introduction and Contents, [194? - 196?]
1	1	2-13	HHM, Chapters 1 - 60
1	2	1-11	HHM, Chapters 61 - 115 [f14 - f24]
1	2	12	HHM, Chapters 116 - 118, Epilogue, Bibliography, Abbreviations [f25]
1	3	1-3	RESTRICTED Fragile Originals