

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

Finding Aid for

Alice Browne Frame Papers, 1905 - 1971



Image courtesy of [Mount Holyoke Historical Atlas](#), original photograph part of Mount Holyoke College archives

Finding Aid prepared by: Gregory Adam Scott, September 2009

Updated with additions, July 2010

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

Summary Information

Creator: Alice Browne Frame (Alice Seymour Browne), 1878 – 1941

Title: Alice Browne Frame Papers

Inclusive dates: 1905 – 1971

Bulk dates: 1905 – 1941

Abstract: Mount Holyoke College Alumna, Missionary worker in China, teacher and Dean at North China Union Women's College, Beijing; Woman's Board of Missions, Yenching University 燕京大學

Size: 1 box, 0.50 linear feet

Storage: Onsite storage

Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance:** This collection was added to the Missionary Research Library before 1971, and consists of copies of the original letters. In 1976 the records were accessioned to the Burke Library archives with the closure of the MRL. In July 2010 additional material from this series was discovered at The Burke Library, adding 14 letters which had not originally been part of the collection, a number of duplicate letters, and a pamphlet program for Frame's memorial service.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkearchives@libraries.cul.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: Alice Browne Frame Papers, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Frame was born Alice Seymour Browne on October 29, 1878 in Harpoot, Turkey where her parents were missionaries. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1900 and from Hartford Seminary in 1903. In 1905 she went to China to begin her mission work, supported by students and alumnae of her college. In 1913 she married Murray Scott Frame, a missionary evangelist associated with the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, but he died of typhus fever in 1918.

Also in that year she began teaching at North China Union Women's College in Beijing, and became dean of the college in 1922 as it became affiliated with Yenching University 燕京大學. In 1931 she was pressured to resign to allow the appointment of a Chinese dean. In the spring of 1941 she had an operation in Beijing to remove a malignant tumor, and recovered from the operation, but in April it was decided that she should return to America. She died of cancer in Newton, MA on August 16, 1941.

Throughout her life she wrote to her former classmates and current students of Mount Holyoke College, sending her letter via the Woman's Board of Missions in Boston, MA.

Collection Scope and Content Note

This collection was donated from two unknown sources, possibly members of the Mount Holyoke College mailing list who received mimeographed copies of the letters. The [main collection of Frame's letters](#) is at the Mount Holyoke College Archives. Although an index of letters references a collection at the Houghton Library at Harvard University, no such collection

has been traced there today. Folder 3 and the bound volume contain indices which cross reference the letters held by the MRL and Houghton Library collections.

The 14 letters discovered in July 2010 (see provenance information above) have been inserted into folders 4 and 9, but as these were not part of the original collection they do not appear in the original indices found in folder 3. The pamphlet has been placed in folder 10, while duplicate letters have been collected in folder 11.

Further Resources

Frame was also author of *A Woman Missionary Comments on Recent Adventures in Rural China*, 1931, which can be found in folder [2192](#) of the MRL Pamphlets collection. Additional publications are held in folders [830](#) and [1094](#). For records related to the organization with which her husband was associated, please see our collection on [the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions](#).

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. The letters had been previously copied and bound into a volume. Original 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. As the collection was reorganized in September 2009, legacy folder numbers, where applicable, are given in square brackets [f1].

In 2014, the collection and finding aid were updated as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant. Additional material was added from an unprocessed collection.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Biographical Notes on Alice Seymour Browne Frame, 1969
1	2	Bound Volume of Letters with Introduction and Indices, [1971?]
1	3	Introductory Material; Correspondence re Provenance, 1971 [f1]
1	4-9	Correspondence: Letters #1-64, 1905-1941 [f2-f6]
1	10	Pamphlet for Memorial Service, October 1941
1	11-12	Duplicate Letters, 1905-1911; 1914-1938