

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

Finding Aid for

Frank Joseph Rawlinson Papers, 1924 – 1937



Image Credit: *The Chinese Recorder*, Vol. 46, January, 1915.

Finding Aid prepared by: Gregory Adam Scott, May 2010

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

Summary Information

Creator: Frank Joseph Rawlinson, 1871 - 1937
Title: Frank Joseph Rawlinson Papers
Inclusive dates: 1924 - 1937
Bulk dates: 1924 - 1928
Abstract: Frank Joseph Rawlinson was a Baptist missionary and lecturer in China, and for over two decades served as editor of *The Chinese Recorder*. The papers feature notes and drafts of his lectures and research on Christianity in China and Chinese religious culture, and includes correspondence with Abbe Livingston Warnshuis.
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@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance: These records were part of the independent Missionary Research Library prior to its closure in 1976, when the records were accessioned to the Burke Library. Some annotations were added in the 1970s by John Lang Rawlinson, the son of Frank J. Rawlinson.
- 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. A number of fragile papers have been replaced by copies. The originals gathered in folder 10 are restricted and are marked **RESTRICTED**.
- Preferred Citation: Item description, MRL 6: Frank Joseph Rawlinson Papers, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography¹

Frank Joseph Rawlinson 樂靈生 was born in 1871 in Langham, Rutland County, England. In 1889 he and his younger brother came to the United States, and he soon became a member of a Baptist church in Baltimore. He studied at Bucknell University from 1895 to 1899, after which he married Carrie Dietz and entered Rochester Theological Seminary. He graduated in 1903; that same year he was ordained, became a U.S. citizen, and was appointed as a missionary to China under the auspices of the Southern Baptist Convention. He arrived in Shanghai on October 16, 1902 and began work with the Central China Mission.

In June 1911, Rawlinson secured a place on the editorial board of *The Chinese Recorder* (教務雜誌), and in 1914, he was appointed to the executive committee of the China Continuation Committee; he replaced the retiring editor-in-chief of the periodical. In 1917 while on furlough in America, his wife died and he was remarried the same year to Florence Lang. Also in 1917 he earned an M.A. from Teacher's College of Columbia University, and was awarded an honorary D.D. from Bucknell University. From 1918 he lectured at the Nanking University School for Missionaries, and from 1921 regularly lectured at the North China Union Language School in Beijing. His liberal views on Christian and Chinese beliefs antagonized the Southern Baptist Mission Board, however, and in 1921 he was dismissed from his pastorate of Grace Church in Shanghai.

In May 1922 Rawlinson was accepted to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and evidently did not regret leaving his former mission affiliation. He became involved with the National Christian Council of China and edited their *Chinese Christian Yearbook* from 1922. From 1924 to 1925 he studied and lectured as a McFadden Mission Fellow at Union

¹ See Lian Xi, *The Conversion of Missionaries: Liberalism in American Protestant Missions in China, 1907-1932* (University Park, Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1997), pp. 59-93.

Theological Seminary in New York City. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s he continued lecturing, writing, and serving as editor of *The Chinese Recorder*. On August 14 1937, during a Japanese attack on Shanghai, Rawlinson was killed when a bomb was accidentally dropped on to a busy intersection by a damaged Chinese plane.

Collection Scope and Content Note

This collection covers a period from Rawlinson's year of instruction and study at UTS to his death. Most of the material relates to his studies of Christianity in China and of Chinese religious culture and history.

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. Fragile items in folders 8 and 9 were replaced with acid-free photocopies and the originals separated into restricted folder 10.

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

Further Sources

Additional material by Rawlinson can be found in the Burke Library's Missionary Research Library Pamphlets collection, folders 0484, 2161, 2192, and 2357. Search [Columbia's Library Catalog, CLIO](#), for more information and availability.

The Burke Library contains many other collections relating to the topics and organizations associated with Rawlinson, such as the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions and the Union Theological Seminary Records. For more information, please see the [Burke Library Archives website](#).

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1-2	Lecture Notes, 1924 - 1925
1	3	Correspondence to Abbe Livingston Warnshuis, 1924 - 1932
1	4	Correspondence, Notes, Article, 1924 - 1937
1	5	Ancestor Worship: Notes, Drafts, [1925? - 1937?]
1	6	"Revolution and Religion in Modern China": Typewritten Ms., 1928
1	7	Typescript Articles, 1931 - 1937
1	8	Lecture Notes, Annotations by John Rawlinson, [1932?] - [1936?]
1	9	"Correspondence from China," Typescript Articles for <i>Christian Century</i> , March 1 - August 1, 1937
1	10	[RESTRICTED] Originals