

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 12

Finding Aid for

Missionary Personnel Records, 1929 – 1963

Finding Aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, October 2011
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Missionary Research Library
Title: Missionary Personnel Records
Inclusive dates: 1929 – 1963
Bulk dates: 1948 – 1963
Abstract: Studies on preparation, recruitment, psychological testing and turnover of missionary personnel. Also includes handbooks and instruction manuals for missionaries. Included are papers and pamphlets.
Size: 2 boxes, 0.75 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: Originally part of the independent Missionary Research Library, 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.
- 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: Missionary Personnel Records, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

History

The Missionary Research Library was created by John R. Mott in 1914 after the World Missionary Conference, held in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1910. It was created in order to be not only a resource for missionaries, but a means to document the missionary movement. With funding from John D. Rockefeller, Mott stated,

“We are now ready to go ahead full steam on the plan to secure the most complete and serviceable missionary library and archives in the world. I desire it to be thoroughly interdenominational, ecumenical and international. It should be made preeminently rich in source material.”

It was located at the Madison Avenue headquarters of the Foreign Missionary Conference of North America. By the 1920s, funding was becoming scarcer; therefore it was moved to the Brown Tower of the Union Theological Seminary, New York City in 1929.

The Library was an important center of information and research. Active missionaries would consult the material of the Missionary Research Library while on furlough. Much of the Library's success was due to the director and librarian, Charles H. Fahs. Upon his retirement in 1948, the MRL's financial difficulties continued until it was finally integrated as one with the Burke Library's collections in 1967. In 2004, the Burke Library was fully integrated with the Columbia University Library System.

Sources:

Anderson, Gerald H. “To The Ends of the Earth: American Protestants in Pursuit of Mission.” *A Century of Church History: The Legacy of Philip Schaff*, edited by Henry W. Bowden, 168-215. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1988.

- Anderson, Gerald H. "Research Libraries in New York City Specializing in Christian Missions." *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 25, No. 4 (Aug. 1966), 733-736.
- Frame, Cynthia. "Missionary Research Library Collection: From Idea to Special Collection," *Union News*, Summer 1998.
- Price, Frank W. "Specialized Research Libraries in Missions." *Library Trends* 9 (2) 1960: Current Trends in Theological Libraries: 175-185.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection is organized in two series:

- **Series 1: Studies, 1929 – 1963 (1 box, 0.25 lin. ft.)**
This series contains studies conducted by various committees, including the Committee on Research in Foreign Missions; the Committee of Lay Training; and the Committee on Missionary Personnel of the Division of Foreign Missions. Missionary preparation and training involve readying the missionary before they leave, but also during their first post and their first furlough. Training also refers to learning the local language.
- **Series 2: Handbook and Instruction Manuals, 1939 – 1953 (1 box, 0.75 lin. ft.)**
Within this series contains booklets compiled for use by missionaries throughout the world. These booklets include detailed information on outfit lists which the missionary needed to bring with them. The outfit lists could include not only clothes but personal effects, clothing, and furnishings. Other information provided for the missionary was household items required, differences for singles versus married couples; food needed; recreation allowed, and other such information in order to familiarize the missionary with each custom before arriving. The manuals were used as a guide. The manuals were compiled in 1953 but have information from previous years.

These booklets were compiled and bound by the Missionary Research Library. Correspondence is included to show who sent the materials.

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Further materials are possible as the unprocessed collections are completed.

Contents list

Series 1: Studies, 1929 – 1963

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	Recruitment, 1957 – 1964
1	1	2	Psychological Evaluation, 1960
1	1	3	Testing and Selection, 1929 – 1933; 1960
1	1	4	Preparation and Training, 1956 – 1963
1	1	5	Lay Training, 1949 – 1953
1	1	6	Turnover of Foreign Missionary Personnel, 1953 – 1957

Series 2: Handbook and Instruction Manuals, 1939-1953

2	2	1	American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society Outfit Suggestions for Assam, 1950 Equipment List for Married Couples to Bengal-Orissa, 1953 Outfit List for Burma, 1951 Outfit List for the Congo, 1952 Outfit List for India, 1949 Outfit List for Japan, 1951 Outfit List for Philippines, 1946-1953
2	2	2	Augustana Lutheran Church, Board of World Missions Outfit List for Tanganyika, East Africa
2	2	3	Brethren in Christ Church, Foreign Mission Board Outfit List for India, 1952
2	2	4	Church of the Brethren: General Brotherhood Board, Foreign Mission Commission India Handbook, Received 1953
2	2	5	Congo Inland Mission (Mennonite) Outfit List
2	2	6	Evangelical Lutheran Church, Board of Foreign Missions Outfit List for Japan Outfit List for Madagascar Outfit List for The Sudan
2	2	7	Evangelical Mission Covenant Church of America, Board of Missions Instructions for New Missionaries Instructions for Missionaries returning to the field after furlough Handbook for Covenant Missionaries to Alaska, 1947 Handbook for Missionaries to the Congo, 1949 Outfit List and Instructions for the Congo, 1953 Outfit List for Ecuador Supplementary Advice for Formosa Outfit List for Japan
2	2	8	General Council Assemblies of God, Foreign Missions Department Outfit List for Africa, 1945

Series 2: Handbook and Instruction Manuals (Contd.)

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
2	2	8	Outfit List for Japan Outfit List for Middle East and India
2	2	9	Methodist Church – The Division of World Missions of the Board of Missions and Woman’s Division of Christian Service of the Board of Missions, Department of Work in Foreign Lands Outfit List for Africa Outfit List for North Africa Outfit List for Central Congo Outfit List for Southern Congo Outfit List for Cuba Outfit List for India and Pakistan Outfit List for Korea Outfit List for Latin America Outfit List for Malaya Outfit List for the Philippines Outfit List for Southern Rhodesia Outfit list for Southeast Asia
2	2	10	Presbyterian Church in the United States – Board of Foreign Missions Outfit List for Mexico, 1940 Outfit List for Guatemala, 1947 Outfit List for San Jose, Costa Rica, 1950 Outfit List for Colombia, 1949 Outfit List for Venezuela, 1945 Outfit List for Brazil Outfit List for Chile, 1940 Outfit List for Syria-Lebanon, 1952 Outfit List for Iran, 1948 Outfit List for Iraq Outfit List for India and Pakistan, 1951 Outfit List for Thailand, 1940 Outfit List for the Philippines (Damagueta), 1949 Outfit List for Japan, 1951 Outfit List for Korea, 1939 Outfit List for China, 1948
2	2	11	Presbyterian Church in the United States – Board of World Missions Outfit List for Brazil Outfit List for the Congo Outfit List for Japan Outfit List for Korea Outfit List for Mexico
2	2	12	United Presbyterian Church of North America and The Women’s General Missionary Society (Pittsburgh) Outfit List for Egypt, 1952 Outfit List for Ethiopia, 1946

Series 2: Handbook and Instruction Manuals (Contd.)

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
2	2	12	Outfit List for Pakistan – India, 1946 Outfit List for South Sudan, 1947 Outfit List for North Sudan, 1947
2	2	13	United Lutheran Church in America – Board of Foreign Missions Outfit List for Argentina Outfit List for British Guiana Outfit List for India Outfit List for Liberia Outfit List for Malaya
2	2	14	Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society, Foreign Department Outfit List for Africa – Sierra Leone, West Africa