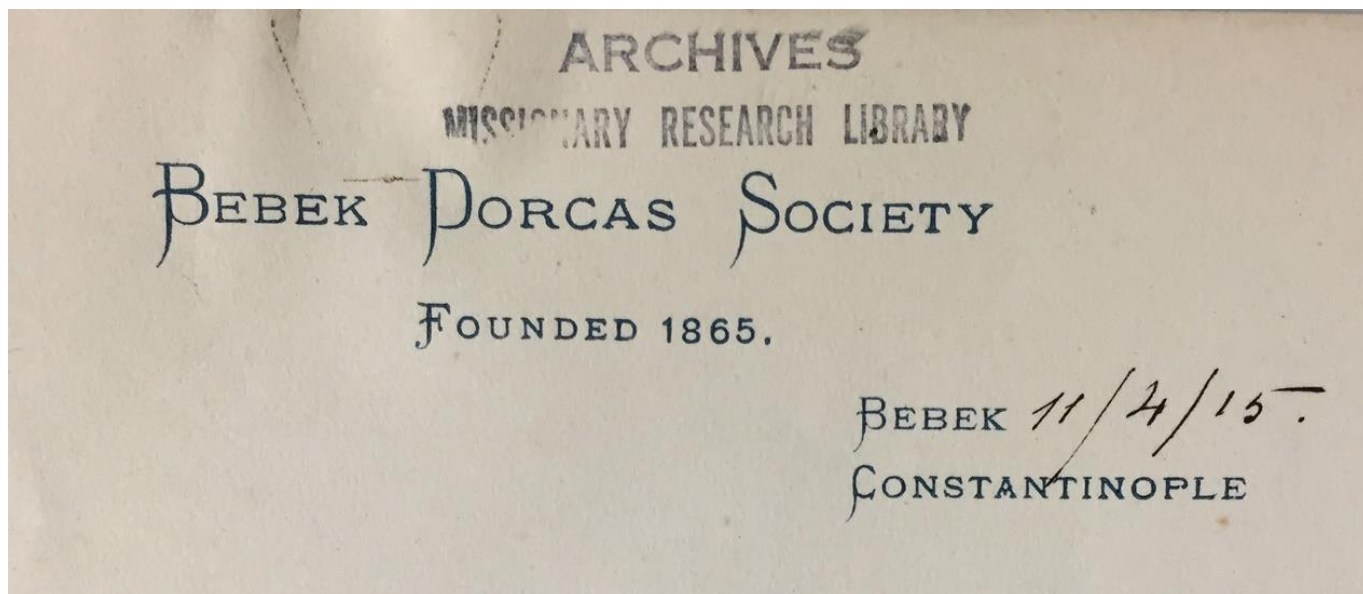


The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 2

Finding Aid for

Near East General Records, 1911 – 1941



Correspondence, 1915. Credit to: MRL 2: Near East General Records, box 1, folder 5,
The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, December 2014
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Missionary Research Library
Title: Near East General Records
Dates: 1911-1941
Abstract: Contains general information on mission work in the Near East.
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. The materials were part of a large group of unprocessed records; this collection was made available in 2014.
- 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 2: Near East General 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...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

This collection contains general information on missions in the Near East that did not fit within specific collections. The majority of materials pertain to educational records. The Near East School of Theology records were transcribed by the Syria-Palestine Translation Service. The remaining material in box 2 contain other miscellaneous items that MRL collected and are described at the folder level.

Processing

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes.

Further Sources

The Burke Library offers many other collections related to missions in the Near East. For more information, please see the [Burke Library Archives website](#).

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1-3	Syria-Palestine Translation Service: Near East School of Theology, 1935-1940
1	4-6	Robert College, Constantinople, 1916-1920; 1930-1939
2	1	Legal Status of Women in Turkey, Newspaper Clipping [19??]
2	2	Organizations in Turkey, 1911-1930
2	3	Constantinople Christian Workers Union, 1921-1925
2	4	Minutes, Armenian Missionary Council of America, 1941
2	5	Pamphlets and Reports, Turkey, Egypt, Beirut, 1930-1936