

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 11

Finding Aid for

Australia and Oceania General Records, 1910 – 1956



Rev. Anthony Wilson Thorold's Sketchbook. MRL11: Australia and Oceania General Records, box 2, folder 3,
The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, December 2014

Additions by Erin Campbell, October 2015

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Summary Information

Creator: Missionary Research Library
Title: Australia and Oceania General Records
Inclusive dates: 1910-1956
Bulk dates: 1928-1946
Abstract: Church and mission work in Australia, the Philippines and Indonesia.
Contains reports, correspondence and minutes.
Size: 3 boxes, 2.75 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 sketchbook in box 2 folder 3 and Report in box 3 were purchased by the Burke Library in 2010.
- 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, MRL11: Australia and Oceania 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

The Missionary Research Library created and collected many individual items to document a specific topic. This is one such collection, which focuses on the missions that took place in East Asia. The items were pulled from unknown locations and have no relationship to one another other than they contain information that is generally related. The majority of materials are about the Philippines. E. K. Higdon was chairman of the Philippine committee of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America (FMCNA). This encompassed the first 14 folders in the collection.

An addition in 2015 included two items: a sketchbook and a missionary's account from Polynesia with special emphasis on Hawaii. The sketchbook was kept by Rev. Anthony Wilson Thorold, Bishop of Rochester and later Bishop of Winchester, while on board the S.S. *Australia* and S.S. *Parramatta*. Present are views of Van Dieman Land, North Cape, Bay of Islands, Cape Brett, and Auckland, New Zealand; Honolulu, Diamond Head, and Waikiki, Oahu; the Suez Canal; Botany Bay, New South Wales; a missionary house in Samoa; Golden Gate, San Francisco, and more.

The second item is a Report on the Progress of the Gospel in Polynesia in 1840. It is a 14 page folio manuscript in the hand of A.B. Putnam of his transcription of a speech by P.C. Colgrove given before the Society for Inquiry on December 7, 1840. It reports on atrocities but with emphasis on how missionaries have managed to convert many of the natives and how education and Christianity have spread.

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. These materials were part of a large grouping of unprocessed and disorganized boxes. The order is imposed.

The sketchbook and Progress of the Gospel in Polynesia in 1840 were an addition in 2015.

Further Sources

The Burke Library Archives offers other collections related to missionaries and mission work in Australia and Oceania. Burke also offers a collection for the Foreign Missions Conference of North America. For more information, please [see the website](#).

Contents list

| Box | Folder | Contents |
|------------|---------------|---|
| 1 | 1 | Australia: National Missionary Council of Australia, 1935-1945 |
| 1 | 2 | Indonesian National Council of Churches, 1955-1956 |
| 1 | 3 | Philippine Islands: Reports, 1910; 1930 |
| 1 | 4 | Philippine Islands: National Christian Council Minutes and reports, 1932-1935 |
| 1 | 5 | Philippine Islands: Samuel Catli Correspondence, Minutes and Reports, 1945-1947 |
| 1 | 6 | Philippine Islands: Rural and Agricultural, 1942-1946 |
| 1 | 7 | Philippine Islands: Union College, Manila, 1939-1940 |
| 1 | 8-9 | Philippine Islands: E. K. Higdon Correspondence, Minutes and Reports, 1946-1947 |
| 1 | 10 | Philippine Islands: Conferences and Committees, 1933 |
| 1 | 11 | Philippine Islands: Christian Work, 1929-1940 |
| 1 | 12 | Philippine Islands: National Christian Council and Union Theological Seminary of the Philippines, 1928-1934 |
| 2 | 1 | Philippine Islands: Relief for Americans, 1943-1945 |
| 2 | 2 | Philippine Islands: Women's Work and Social Welfare, 1940 |
| 2 | 3 | Rev. Anthony Wilson Thorold's Sketchbook |
| 3OS | | Report on the Progress of the Gospel in Polynesia in 1840 |