

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 7

Finding Aid for

Japan General Records, 1902 – 1981



Elementary School Scrapbook, 1953. Credit to: MRL7: Japan General Records, box 3, and folder 1,
The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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

Creator: Missionary Research Library
Title: Japan General Records
Inclusive dates: 1902-1981
Bulk dates: 1932-1946
Abstract: General information on missions, education, subject files, Christianity, religion, missionaries, committees and reports in Japan. Contains papers, photographs, and scrapbooks.
Size: 5 boxes, 2.25 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, MRL7: Japan 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 Japan. The items were pulled from unknown locations and have no relationship to one another other than they contain information that is generally related.

The collection is grouped by the topic the material covers. The topics are missions and missionaries; Christianity, churches and religion; committees and conferences; reports and bulletins; education; three-dimensional objects and photographs; and subject files.

Processing

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

Further Sources

The Burke Library Archives offers other collections related to Japan. For more information, please [see the website](#).

Columbia University Libraries also has the Starr East Asian Library, which contains collections specific to the study of East Asia, China, Japan, Korea and Tibet. For more information, please see [their website](#).

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
Education		
1	1	Letters on Education to Japan and Teachers Missions Group Meeting, 1933-1934
1	2	Ernest D. Burton Materials: Kyoto; Correspondence and Reports on Christian Schools in Tokyo; Osaka; Yokohama, 1902-1909
1	3	Japanese Christian Students, 1941-1942
1	4	"A Seminary in Transition," Tokyo Union Theological Seminary, 1969-1970
Committees and Conferences		
1	5	Committee on Christian Education in Japan, International Missionary Council, 1932-1933
1	6	Inter-board Committee for Christian Work in Japan [195?]
1	7-8	Resettlement of Japanese Americans, Committee on Home Missions Council, 1944-1946
Christianity, Churches, Missions and Religion		
2	1	Missionary Presence in Japan, 1963-1970
2	2	Hong Kong Christian Industrial Committee, 1981
2	3-5	Christians in Japan, 1941-1962
2	6-7	Missions in Japan, 1937-1944
2	8	Church of Christ in Japan, 1931-[194?]
2	9	Property Loss, work of Missions in the Far East, 1937-1938
2	10	Infringement of Religious Liberties, 1939-1940
2	11	Church Committee for Japanese Work, 1942-1944
Photographs, Scrapbooks and Books		
3	1	Elementary School Scrapbook, 1953
3	2	Buildings of Hokusei Gakuen Scrapbook, 1965-1967
3	3	Leaves from a Japanese Calendar from the Women's Missionary Society, 1927
Subject Files		
4	1	Speeches and Addresses, 1963-1970
4	2	Kobe, 1909
4	3	Battle of Shanghai, 1932
4	4	Correspondence, Sino-Japanese Conflict, 1943
4	5	Effects of the Sino-Japanese Conflict, 1938
4	6	Sino-Japanese Relations, 1928
4	7	Excerpts of Communication from M. S. Bates, 1939
4	8	Excerpts of Communication from Y. T. Wu, 1939
4	9	Japanese Resettlement, 1940-1949
4	10	Far East Settlement Group, 1943-1946
4	11	Boycott against Japan, 1937-1938

Box	Folder	Contents
		Subject Files (Cont'd)
5	1	Mukden Incident, September 18, 1931
5	2	Attitude of Japanese Authorities in Occupied China, 1937-1939
5	3-5	Conflict in the Far East, 1931-1939
5	6	Economics, America and the Far East, 1938-1939
5	7	Japanese Occupation in Java, 1946
5	8	America and the Far East, 1937-1943
5	9	Prisoners of War in Japanese-Controlled Areas, 1942
5	10	Radio Report on the Far East, 1943
5	11	Clippings