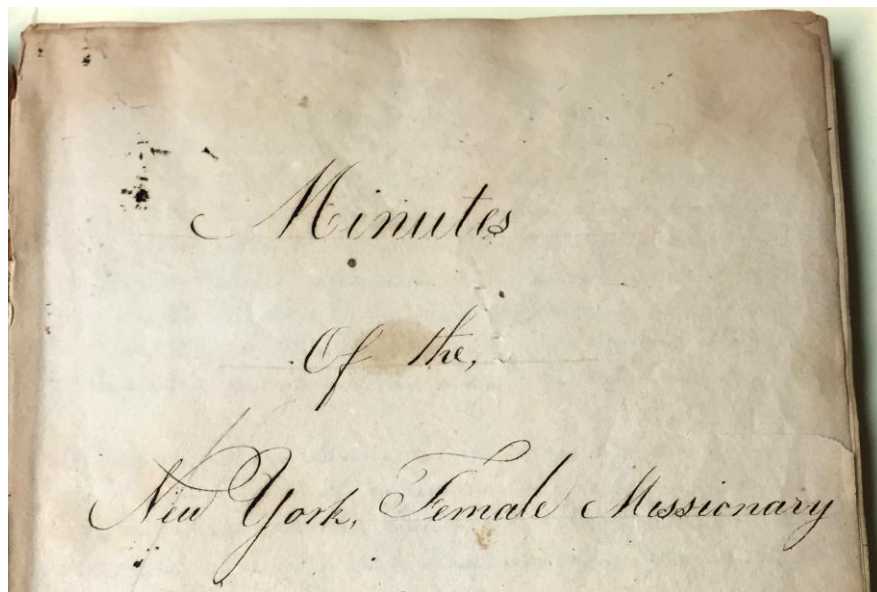


The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 10

Finding Aid for

North America General Records, 1819 – 1963



Minutes Book of the New York Female Missionary and Bible Society. Credit to: MRL10: North America General Records, box 2, 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: North America General Records
Inclusive dates: 1819-1963
Bulk dates: 1920-1961
Abstract: Records on a variety of organizations, conferences, committees, education. Collection contains papers, minutes, correspondence and reports.
Size: 4 boxes, 2.00 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, MRL10: North America 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 North America. 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 contains many other special collections as well as general library collections pertaining to the topics covered in this collection. For more information, please see the [Burke Library website](#).

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1-9	American Bible Society Files, 1880-1959
2	1	American Friends Service Committee: Toward a Peaceful Society [195?]
2	2	Northern Baptist Convention: Board of Missionary Cooperation, 1930-1931
2	3	Conference on Missionary Education, Yonkers, NY, 1925
2	4	American Tract Society, 1920
2	5	Minutes Book of the New York Female Missionary and Bible Society, Auxiliary to the Missionary and Bible Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in American, 1819-1836
2	6	Conference on the Church and the Jewish People in America, 1949
2	7	Correspondence, H. B. Sharman, 1941
2	8	American Legion New York City Records, William H. Chandler Post no. 865, 1920
2	9	Packard Manse Annual Report of Directors, 1963
2	10	Board of Missions and Church Extension of the Methodist Church
2	11	Methodist Episcopal Church, Board of Foreign Missions, Delaware Conference, 1931
3	1	Elizabeth Davis Autograph Book, Mount Holyoke Seminary, 1855-1856
3	2	North American Ecumenical Conference, 1941
3	3	National Catholic Welfare Conference, 1961
3	4-8	Presbyterian League of New York and Vicinity, 1912
Subject Files		
4	1	Religious Life of Mexicans in Chicago
4	2	Government Personnel, 1942-1944
4	3	Indian Study, Oklahoma [1939?]
4	4	United States Department of State News Releases, 1937-1941
Education		
4	5	Report on Schools for American Children, 1926
4	6	Boston University School of Theology Syllabi, 1955-1958