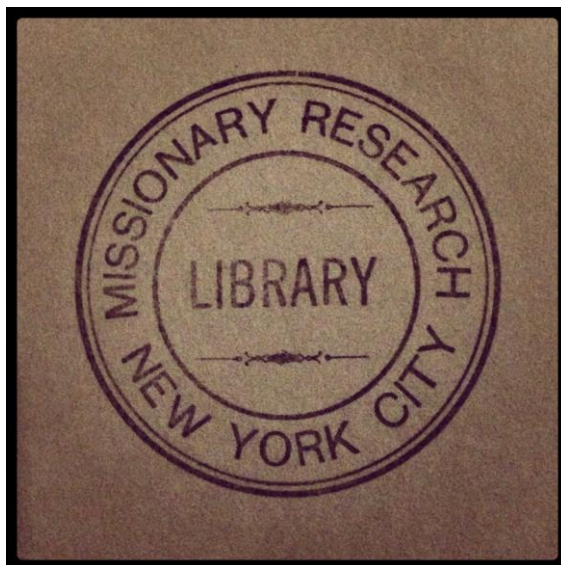


**The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,  
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

**Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 12**

Finding Aid for

**Missionary Research Library Scrapbooks, 1892 – 1956**



MRL Stamp. Credit to: MRL 12: Missionary Research Library Administrative Records, series 6, box 2, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Virginia Pastor, July 2013  
Updated by Brigette C. Kamsler, 2015  
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

**Summary Information**

Creator: Missionary Research Library  
Title: Missionary Research Library Scrapbooks  
Inclusive dates: 1892-1956  
Bulk dates: 1894-1907  
Abstract: Newspaper articles compiled by the Missionary Research Library on a variety of topics, including missionary work in China and India and mission ideology. The collection ranges from 1892-1956.  
Size: 6 boxes, 6.00 linear feet  
Storage: Onsite storage  
Repository: The Burke Library  
Union Theological Seminary  
3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
Email: [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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 Research Library Scrapbooks, box #. 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 not only as a resource for missionaries, but also as a means of documenting 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 originally located at the headquarters of the Foreign Missionary Conference of North America on Madison Avenue. With funding becoming scarcer throughout the 1920s, the Missionary Research Library moved to the Brown Tower of the Union Theological Seminary, New York City in 1929.

The Library was a valuable resource for active missionaries, who would consult the material while on furlough. Much of the MRL's success was due to the director and librarian, Charles H. Fahs. Upon his retirement in 1948, the MRL faced continual financial difficulties until it was finally integrated with the Burke Library's collections in 1967. In 2004, the Burke Library was finally 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 consists of 32 scrapbooks containing articles and newspaper clippings compiled by the Missionary Research Library. A wide array of topics is covered in the collection, mostly concerning specific geographical locations and their missionary activities.

Other material includes a bibliography comprised of clippings from *The International Review of Missions* and arranged by topic (1952-1956), Reverend Frank D. Gamewell's scrapbook compiled during his time as a missionary in China (1911), and a series of annotated drawings and illustrations of Africa.

### **Processing**

The collection is currently stored in record center cartons due to the size of the material. Some scrapbooks have been stored in acid-free boxes.

### **Further Sources**

The material found in the scrapbooks covers a wide variety of topics, ranging from specific geographical locations, religious movements, and mission ideology. The material is related to a number of collections found in the Missionary Research Library Collection and more information can be accessed at: <http://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke/archives/mrl.html>.

## Contents list

Box	Contents
1	Bibliography clipped from <i>The International Review of Missions</i> , 1952-1956 (arranged by topic) "Lecture V, No. 9", Asia: Scrapbook, 1900-1901 (includes Christmas Sermon from American Bible Society, 1962 in front) "Lecture V, No. 8" Newspaper clippings of Missions, 1899-1901 (International) China: 1901-1904 (plus OS map that was a supplement to the North-China Daily News) "China, No. 9" 1902-1907 Rev. Frank D. Gamewell Scrapbook: China, ca. 1911 (includes Gamewell bio at front – binding is broken and pages are loose)
2-3	Drawings and Illustrations from Africa (with annotations) "Pacific Islands No. 2" Newspaper clippings of Missions, 1894-1898 "South America, Central America, Mexico and West Indies, No. 3", 1896-1900 Newspaper Clippings of Missionary Work in India, 1894-1896 Book 6: Newspaper Clippings "Indirect Results of Mission, No. 1" 1892-1903 "Missions in General, No. 1" 1892-1893 "Untitled" Scrapbook, focus on China and Missionary Work, 1900-1902 "Lecture V, No. 7" newspaper clippings related to India Missions, 1898-1900
4	"South America, Central America, West Indies, and Mexico, No. 4" 1900-1904 "Lecture V, No. 12" 1903-1904 "Lecture V, No. 5" 1897-1898 "Mohammedanism, No. 1" 1892-1912 (plus an envelope inside that includes more clippings from ca. 1911) "Missions in General, No. 2" 1893-1894 "Lecture 2, No. 4", related to superstitions, witchcraft, immoral behavior, 1894- 1905 "Missions in General, No. 4", 1895-1896 "Untitled" Japan and Korea, 1895-1896 "Lecture V, No.?" 1896-1904
5	"Untitled" 1896-1897 Missions in India "Special Material on the Progress of the World, No. 3" [?] 1894-1900 "Missionary Problems, No. 1" 1892-1893 "China, No. 5" 1896-1897 "Theological and Religious, No. 1" 1893-1894 [covers completely separated from pages] "Work of Missions?" 1894-1897 "India, No. 2" 1892-1894
6	"Biographical, No. 1" [index is filled out] 1894-1896 India, 1906-1913