

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 1

Finding Aid for

All Africa Christian Conference Records, 1959 – 1972



Second Assembly of the All Africa Conference of Churches, held at University of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Sept. 1969.
Credit to Ceta/Trav, BP8453, MRL1: All Africa Christian Conference, box 1, folder 12,
The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, January 2012
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: All Africa Christian Conference
Title: All Africa Christian Conference Records
Inclusive dates: 1959 – 1972
Bulk dates: 1963 – 1969
Abstract: All Africa Christian Conference Records showing involvement and organization of conference, and other directed programs such as Urban Africa, Religion and Education in Africa. Contains correspondence, photographs, publications, minutes and other papers; some records in French.
Size: 1 box, 0.50 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, MRL 1: All Africa Christian Conference Records, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

History

The Churches of Africa met at Ibadan, Nigeria for the first time in 1958; the establishment of a permanent organization of the Church of Africa was introduced at this time. The All Africa Christian Conference, also known as the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), was formed in April 1963 during the second meeting of the Assembly of the Churches of Africa held in Kampala, Uganda. This ended the missionary era and ushered in the independence of African Churches.

The third meeting of the Churches of Africa met in 1969 during the Second Assembly. Since then, the Assembly has met in 1974; 1981; 1987; 1992; 1997 and 2003. The AACC served as a regional ecumenical body cooperating with the World Council of Churches. The organization now consists of a total of 173 members in 40 African countries comprised of churches, national Christian councils, theological and lay training institutions and other Christian organizations.

The headquarters of AACC is based in Nairobi, Kenya and directs programs in the following fields: The Life of the Church in Africa; Urban Africa; Communications; Social Development and Change; Family Life; Inter-Church Aid; Christian Education; Youth; and International Affairs.

Sources:

Biographical information found in the collection records as well as the official AACC website: http://www.aacc-ceta.org/en/default2.asp?active_page_id=57 [Accessed January 11, 2012].

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection is comprised of records that show the early composition and goals of the Conference. Available through the collection are correspondence, memos, publications and other documents from the conferences. Also present are supporting documents from before a

meeting, such as from the Second Assembly at the University of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, held September 1-12, 1969, and reactions after the Conference. Other items support the goals of the organization as a whole, such as developing programs focusing on religion, theology and education in Africa. Some records are written in French.

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. Photographs as well as items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes.

One box of AACC records were noted missing in May 2004.

Further Sources

The All Africa Christian Conference has ties to the William Adams Brown ecumenical collection for the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA through their "Africa Department." There are AACC materials involving the Congo with other Congo apartheid items in the NCCC-USA collection.

The Yale University Library offers a collection of All Africa Conference of Churches collection, which can be found through their website here:

<http://neworbexpress.library.yale.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=3117595>.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	AACC Headquarters in Nairobi, 1964 – 1967
1	2	AACC Pamphlets, 1967; 1972
1	3	American Committee on Africa, 1966 – 1971
1	4	America Negro Leadership Conference on Africa, 1967
1	5	Commissioned Reports, Studies and Consultations, 1963 – 1965
1	6	Ecumenical Programme for Emergency Action in Africa (EPEAA), 1965-1969
1	7	Minutes, 1967
1	8	Presentations, 1965 – 1967
1	9	Religion and Education in Africa, 1962 – 1969
1	10	Second Assembly of the All Africa Conference of Churches, University of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, held Sept. 1-12, 1969
1	11	Related Publications - Second Assembly of the All Africa Conference of Churches, University of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, held Sept. 1-12, 1969
1	12	Photographs - Second Assembly of the All Africa Conference of Churches, University of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, held Sept. 1-12, 1969
1	13	Supplemental News Articles, 1959 – 1969
1	14	Urban Africa Programme, 1968 – 1969
1	15	Bulletins, issues 21; 24 – 28; - Urban Africa Programme, 1968 – 1970