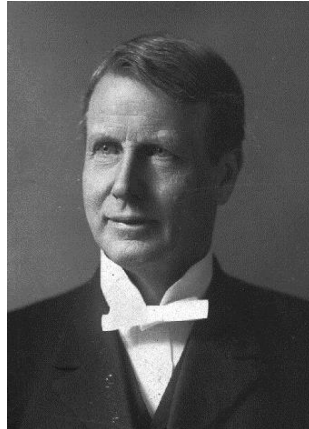


**The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

Finding Aid for

James Whitford Bashford Diaries, 1905 – 1918



Credit to: Portrait photo of James Whitford Bashford [1887?], MRL 6: James Whitford Bashford Diaries, box 4, folder 4, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Daniel Asen, July 2007

Reviewed and Updated by Brigette C. Kamsler, January 2014 with financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: James Whitford Bashford, 1849 – 1919
Title: James Whitford Bashford Diaries
Inclusive dates: 1905 - 1918
Bulk dates: 1906 - 1912
Abstract: Resident bishop in Shanghai and Peking; president of Ohio Wesleyan University. Contains diaries; notes on religion, lands, people, and history of China; index to diaries; photographs.
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@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance:** The James Whitford Bashford diaries were deposited in the Missionary Research Library circa 1920. The MRL was an independent institution, initially under the direction of Charles H. Fahs, research assistant to John R. Mott and curator of the MRL from its foundation in 1914 until 1948. These archival 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@libraries.cul.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 6: James Whitford Bashford Diaries, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Known for his work as a resident missionary bishop in China, Bashford was born on May 29, 1849 at Fayette, Wisconsin. He received his A.B. degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1873, and graduated from the Boston University School of Theology in 1876. He was awarded the Ph.D. from Boston University in 1881. In 1878 he married Jane M. Field. After several pastorates in the Methodist Episcopal Church serving in Boston, Massachusetts, Portland, Maine and Buffalo, N.Y., Bashford was elected president of Ohio Wesleyan University in 1889.

In 1904 he was elected bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church and in the same year went to China as resident bishop, first in Shanghai. From the summer of 1908 onwards, Bashford served in Peking. Bishop Bashford began his missionary career in China when the country had just experienced the Boxer Uprising. In 1911 the monarchy was overthrown and the Republic of China established. Bashford advocated recognition of the Republic by the U.S. Government. It was Bashford's belief that hope for China lay in Christianizing its civilization.

A man of wide influence, he approached the problems of church administration as churchman, educator and statesman. As Methodist churchman his attitude towards members of other denominations was ecumenical, but he advocated worldwide denominations rather than national churches. He died in Pasadena, California on March 18, 1919.

His published works include *God's Missionary Plan for the World* (1908), *China and Methodism* (1908), and numerous pamphlets on the "Awakening of China," as well as on other subjects. His major literary work is *China, an Interpretation* (1916).

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection contains 54 volumes of diaries which Bashford wrote during his life in China. The Diaries contain notes on his work, travels, interviews with public figures and reflections upon readings, as well as notes on history and events of his day. He also compiled extensive notes on the religions, land, people, and history of China. These appear in a separate notebook. The entire collection exists as one series.

The bulk of the collection consists of Bashford's diaries. Diaries 1-10, which cover May 1904 to October 1905, have been designated as missing since 2004 following a water incursion incident into the archives' stacks. Diaries 18 and 19, April 8 – September 5, 1907 do not form part of this collection. Because the index for his diaries does mention Diaries 18 and 19, it is most likely that they did actually exist. See collection notes in Folder 1 Box 1 for an alternate explanation of their absence.

The collection contains an index for Bashford's diaries. Some entries are in the form Diary number: page number. Most entries simply have four digits. For these entries the first two digits refer to the diary number. The remaining digits refer to the page number within that diary.

The collection also contains a portrait photo of Bashford and a photo of buildings at Peking University.

Processing

All materials were placed in acid-free folders, envelopes and boxes. Paper clips were removed from diaries. A printed portrait and six photographs of Peking, Peking University and family groups, which originally belonged to the MRL 6: I.T. Headland Papers were found in the Bashford boxes when processing began and were returned to the Headland photographic collection.

In 2014, the collection and finding aid were updated as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant. The original Box 1 contained Diaries 1-10, May 1904 to October 1905. This has been missing since February 2004. In 2014, box numbers were reallocated for easier access and storage, as well as overall understanding of the collection. A legacy finding aid showing original organization and box number is available.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Collection Notes, 1969
1	2	Diary 11, October 7 – November 13, 1905 Diary 12, November 15, 1905 – January 29, 1906
1	3	Diary 13, February 1 – March 13, 1906 Diary 14, March 21 – May 5, 1906
1	4	Diary 15, May 5 – August 19, 1906 Diary 16, August 21 – November 22, 1906
1	5	Diary 17, November 24, 1906 – January 27, 1907 Diary 20, April 8 – June 4, 1907
1	6	Diary 21, June 10 – September 5, 1907 Diary 22, September 7 – October 9, 1907
1	7	Diary 23, October 13 – November 18, 1907 Diary 24, November 21, 1907 – February 1, 1908
1	8	Diary 25, February 3 – March 26, 1908 Diary 26, March 30 – July 19, 1908
2	1	Diary 27, July 27 – November 1, 1908 Diary 28, November 1, 1908 – January 20, 1909
2	2	Diary 29, January 6 – May 8, 1909 Diary 30, May 10 – September 1, 1909
2	3	Diary 31, September 1 – November 19, 1909 Diary 32, November 19, 1909 – March 17, 1910
2	4	Diary 33, March 18 – November 9, 1910 Diary 34, November 9, 1910 – February 1, 1911
2	5	Diary 35, February 1 – April 20, 1911 Diary 36, April 20 – September 30, 1911
2	6	Diary 37, October 1 – November 29, 1911 Diary 38, November 29, 1911 – April 7, 1912
3	1	Diary 39, April 9 – September 10, 1912 Diary 40, September 10 – December 20, 1912
3	2	Diary 41, December 20, 1912 – April 20, 1913 Diary 42, April 20 – August 17, 1913
3	3	Diary 43, August 19, 1913 – February 3, 1914 Diary 44, March 1 – August 30, 1914
3	4	Diary 45, September 2, 1914 – January 23, 1915 Diary 46, January 31 – May 30, 1915
3	5	Diary 47, June 1 – October 12, 1915 Diary 48, October 12, 1915 – June 9, 1916
3	6	Diary 49, June 15 – November 13, 1916 Diary 50, November 21, 1916 – August 14, 1917
4	1	Diary 51, August 14, 1917 – January 6, 1918 Diary 52, January 1 – April 20, 1918

Box Folder Contents

4	2	Diary 53, April 29, 1918 – January 11, 1919 Diary 54, May 1 – August 25, 1919
4	3	Book 55, Notebook on Religions, Land, People and History of China Book 56, Index for Diaries
4	4	Portrait Photo of James Whitford Bashford [1887?]
4	5	Photograph of Peking University Campus after Post-Boxer Reconstruction, 1900