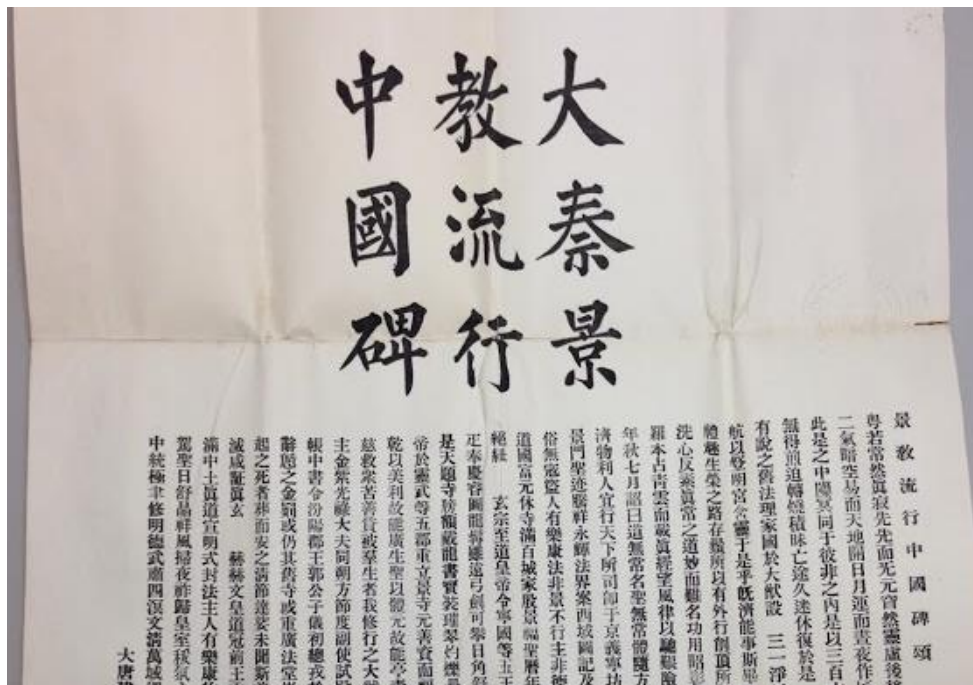


The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,  
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

Finding Aid for

**Nestorian Tablet Copy, [1937?]**



MRL 6: Nestorian tablet copy, box 1, and folder 1,  
The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Cécile Queffélec and Brigitte C. Kamsler, April 2014  
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

**Summary Information**

Creator: Missionary Research Library  
Title: Nestorian Tablet Copy  
Dates: [1937?]  
Abstract: Print copy of a Chinese text from [781 AD] on Nestorian stele found in Sianfu, Shensi, China. Printed in the 1930's.  
Size: 1 box, 3.00 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:** The copy was mailed from China to the librarian at the Missionary Research Library. It was 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 6: Nestorian tablet copy, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### History

The Nestorian tablet is a stone monument in Sianfu, Shensi, China. It was found in 1625 by Chinese laborers. Its text, in Syriac and Chinese, relates the Nestorian Christian missions in China from 635 to 781, the year during which the tablet was erected.

The original tablet is now in the Forest of Stones Museum in Xi'an, China.

### Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of the printed copy of the stone tablet, showing only the Chinese text, and the envelope in which it was received from China. The envelope is stamped 1937.

### Processing

The tablet copy was partially unfolded and put in a larger box.

### Further Sources

The Burke Library has other collections related to Missions in China. For more information, please see the [Burke Library Archives webpage](#).

A wax rubbing of the Nestorian tablet, including the Syriac inscriptions can be found [at Pitts Theology Library \(Nestorian tablet of Sian-fu, MSS 195, Archives and Manuscripts Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University\)](#).

**Contents list**

| Box | Folder | Contents   |
|-----|--------|--|
| 1   | 1      | Copy of Stone Tablet at Sianfu, China, Reporting the Introduction of Nestorian Christianity into China in 634, AD. |
| 1   | 2      | Envelope, 1937   |