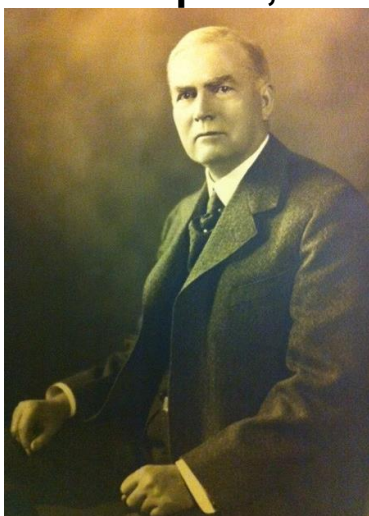


**The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 12

Finding Aid for

John R. Mott Papers, 1904 – 1955



Underwood and Underwood, New York; Credit to MRL 12: John R. Mott Papers, series 3,
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: John Raleigh Mott, 1865 – 1955

Title: John R. Mott Papers

Inclusive dates: 1904 – 1955

Bulk dates: 1910 – 1932

Abstract: Methodist layman, ecumenist and missionary leader instrumental in many organizations including Student Volunteer Movement, World's Student Christian Federation, the World Missionary Conference, International Missionary Council and World Council of Churches. Collection contains papers and materials documenting his various associations.

Size: 10 boxes, 4.50 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 12: John R. Mott Papers, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

John Raleigh Mott was born May 25, 1865 to parents John and Elmira (Dodge) Mott in Livingston Manor, New York. One of four children, the family soon moved to Postville, Iowa. John attended the Methodist institution Upper Iowa University, and then transferred to Cornell University as a sophomore. While at Cornell, Mott was president of the University Christian Association. After graduation in 1888, he travelled for one year as secretary with the Inter-Collegiate Young Men's Christian Association.

Mott married Leila Ada White in 1891. Together they would have two sons and two daughters.

He founded the Student Volunteer Movement in 1888 and would establish SVM chapters throughout the world. In 1895, Mott organized the World's Student Christian Federation. The YMCA, WSCF and SVM allowed Mott to travel the world. He was present at the founding of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America in 1893, and it was through this organization where he met J. H. Oldham. Mott and Oldham together would plan and lead the World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh in 1910. Mott was Chairman of the WMC and Commission 1, as well as head of the Continuation Committee.

During World War One, Mott worked to help German missions and missionaries functional. President Woodrow Wilson appointed Mott in 1917 on the Root Mission to Russia and was able to extend the ecumenical network to the Russian Orthodox Church. In 1920, Mott stepped down as leader of the Student Volunteer Movement and the World's Student Christian Federation, although he continued to remain involved with both organizations. In 1921, Mott chaired the International Missionary Council, and in 1926 became president of the World's Alliance of YMCAs.

John Mott received the Nobel Peace Prize with Emily Greene Balch in 1946 for his "earnest and undiscourageable effort to weave together all nations, all races and all religious communions in friendliness, in fellowship and in cooperation." He was named an honorary chair at the founding of the World Council of Churches in 1948.

John Mott was awarded several honorary degrees and various decorations from governments throughout the world during his lifetime. He wrote more than a dozen books focusing on topics such as missions and ecumenism. John passed away in Orlando, Florida on January 31, 1955 at the age of eighty-nine.

Sources:

Archival collection and the following:

Hopkins, C. Howard. "John R. Mott: A Biography." Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1979.

Hopkins, C. Howard. "The Legacy of John R. Mott." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 5:2 (April 1981): 70-73.

"John R. Mott – Biography." *Nobelprize.org*.

http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1946/mott-bio.html (Accessed January 31, 2012).

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection is organized in six series:

- **Series 1: World Missionary Conference, 1909 – 1910 (2 boxes, 0.75 lin. ft.)**

This series contains general records relating to the World Missionary Conference held in Edinburgh, Scotland June 14-23, 1910 as well as specific records gained while Chair of the World Missionary Conference.

The series contains a large amount of detailed correspondence in the months leading up to the conference in 1910, as well as after the conference was held. Some of the correspondence includes copies from Mott himself, as well as originals from others involved with the conference. Mott conducted a survey on the Condition of the Home Church between February and April 1910 which was presented at the conference.

- **Series 2: Continuation Committees, 1904 – 1917 (2 boxes, 1.00 lin. ft.)**

Series 2 contains records from the Continuation Committee, which was appointed during the World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh to "carry forward the investigations begun by the Commissions and to preserve and extend the atmosphere and spirit of the Conference." As Chairman of the Continuation Committee, Mott was tasked with visiting the mission fields throughout the world in order to spread the word of the Conference, the Continuation Committee and its Special Committees; and to study those in the mission field. Mott spent months devoted to this request and went on an extended tour of the principal mission fields in Asia from 1912 – 1913. Included throughout are Mott's handwritten notes, such as "Report of Goucher's Visit to Far East, 1910-11."

The Special Committee on Christian Literature includes items from the various sections throughout the world, including China, the American Section, and the European Section. Also in this subseries are records from a sectional conference in India. A total of eighteen sectional conferences were held so that Mott could accomplish more in his time.

- **Series 3: International Missionary Council, 1924 – 1947 (1 box, 0.50 lin. ft.)**
This series contains records from the International Missionary Council, which was generated from the World Missionary Conference's Continuation Committee in 1921. In the beginning, some early functions of the IMC were to study mission problems and disseminate information; to coordinate missionary activities; to unite Christian forces; and to organize area and world mission conferences. These missionary conferences were utilized to stimulate missionary thinking, missionary cooperation and missionary advance. Four notable world conferences were in Jerusalem (1928); Madras, India (1938); Whitby, Canada (1947); and Willingen, Germany (1952). The series includes correspondence, conference materials and other reports during Mott's association with the Council.
- **Series 3: Biographical Documentation, 1946; 1955 (Four Folders with Series 5)**
This series contains biographical information, notes and photographs focusing on the life of John Raleigh Mott. This small series also includes a pamphlet from a dinner held in honor of Mott's Nobel Peace Prize. Due to the small number of folders, it shares a box with series 5.
- **Series 5: Source Files, 1910 – 1946 (4 boxes, 1.75 lin. ft.)**
Within this series are printed material such as articles, newspaper clippings and pamphlets, as well as transcripts of articles and letters, and manuscript material including personal handwritten notes by Mott. These items trace the breadth of Mott's interest for world missionary and ecumenical events.

Mott maintained a large collection of source material for use in committees and for when he was preparing addresses and publications. He also collected these items when he was traveling throughout the world during his time as Chairman of the Continuation Committee for the World Missionary Conference.

Specific items of note are from Korea, 1912 – 1920, and Germany, 1913 – 1922. Mott was a member of the Commission on Relations with the Orient of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America and these records are also from his time as Chairman. The German mission materials include correspondence, pamphlets, notes and other general information on Germany from the time period indicated.

- **Series 6: General Correspondence, 1911 – 1940 (1 box, 0.50 lin. ft.)**
This series contains original correspondence organized alphabetically. While correspondence is available in the other sections specific to that series and topic, this correspondence deals more generally with Mott's long career with a variety of organizations.

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.

An item-level folder listing was created in 1981. Order was imposed and the collection was fully processed by Brigette Kamsler in January 2012.

Further additions are possible as the unprocessed collections are completed.

Related Collections

John Mott's personal papers and the archives of a number of organizations, which he founded and led, are held by Yale Divinity School Library. The finding aid for the John R. Mott Papers, Record Group No. 45, Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library can be found online here: <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.045>.

Also available at Yale is the collection of the Archives of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, Record Group No. 42, Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library: <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.042>.

Mott was an active member of the Young Men's Christian Association and also founded the World Student Christian Federation. Information on both organizations can be found through their official websites: YMCA (<http://www.ymca.net/>) and WSCF (<http://www.wscfglobal.org/>).

Mott's papers in relation to the YMCA can be found at the University of Minnesota as part of the Kautz Family YMCA Archives. <http://discover.lib.umn.edu/cgi/f/findaid/findaid-idx?c=umfa;cc=umfa;q1=mott;rgn=main;view=text;didno=yusa0013>.

The Burke Library offers many collections in which Mott was associated, including MRL12: International Missionary Council; MRL12: World Missionary Conference: Edinburgh, 1910; MRL12: Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions; MRL12: Foreign Missions Conference of North America; and in the William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives: World Council of Churches. There is also a folder on Mott in MRL12: Missionary Biographical Records in Box 4 Folder 20. Please contact archives staff by phone, fax or email burkearchives@library.columbia.edu if you would like to see these records.

Contents list

Series 1: World Missionary Conference, 1909 – 1910

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	Correspondence Pre-Conference, December 1909 – February 1910
1	1	2	Correspondence Pre-Conference, March 1910
1	1	3	Correspondence Pre-Conference, April 1910
1	1	4	Correspondence Pre-Conference, May 1910
1	1	5	Correspondence Pre-Conference, June 1910
1	1	6	Correspondence Post-Conference, June 1910
1	1	7	Correspondence Post-Conference, July 1910
1	1	8	Correspondence Post-Conference, August 1910
1	2	1	Questionnaire for World Missionary Conference on Condition of the Home Church, Mott's Notes and Sample Letters, 1910
1	2	2 – 13	Questionnaire, Condition of the Home Church, February – April 1910
1	2	14	Questionnaire, Condition of the Home Church, No Answers, 1910
1	2	15	Commission 1 Conclusions – Japan
1	2	16	Commission 1, Personal Notes, Edinburgh Conference 1910
1	2	17	Pamphlet, <i>Intercessors – The Primary Need: An Address by John R. Mott, with Related Selections from the Conclusions of Commissions of the World Missionary Conference at Edinburgh, 1910</i>

Series 2: Continuation Committees, 1904 – 1917

2	3	1	Continuation Committee Financial Information, 1913
2	3	2 – 4	Special Committee on Christian Literature, 1914 – 1917
2	3	5	Special Committee on the Church in the Mission Field, 1911 – 1915
2	3	6 – 7	Special Committee on Medical Missions, 1911 – 1917
2	3	8	Special Committee on Missionary Statistics, 1911 – 1913
2	3	9	Special Committee of the Statement of Principles underlying the Relations of Missions and Government, 1912
2	3	10	Special Committee on Work among Moslems, 1912 – 1913
2	3	11	Special Committee on Missionary Survey and Occupation, 1911 – 1912
2	3	12	Special Committee on the Development of Training Schools for Missionaries on the Field, 1912 – 1914
2	3	13 – 14	Special Committee Christian Education in the Mission Field, American Section, 1910 – 1912
2	3	15 – 16	Special Committee Christian Education in the Mission Field, European Section, 1910 – 1912
2	4	1	Special Committee on Education, 1911 – 1916
2	4	2	Christian Education in China – General Information, 1913 – 1916
2	4	3	Christian Education in India and Ceylon – General Information, 1908 – 1917
2	4	4	Christian Education in India – Board of Arbitration, 1904 – 1910

Series 2: Continuation Committees (Cont'd)

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
2	4	5	Christian Education in India and the East – Education of Women, 1910 – 1913
2	4	6	Christian Education in Japan – General Information, 1905 – 1913
2	4	7	Christian Education in Japan – Christian Literature Society, 1912 – 1913
2	4	8	Christian Education in South Africa, 1911
2	4	9	Christian Education in Syria and Palestine [191?]
2	4	10	Educational Institutions in China and Japan, 1912 – 1914
2	4	11	Booklet, <i>Experiences and Impressions During a Tour in Asia in 1912-1913, Being Extracts from Personal Letters of John R. Mott</i> , from Continuation Committee Conferences, 1913
2	4	12	Report, Financing National Religious Agencies [191?]
2	4	13	Unity in Korea, 1910 – 1913

Sectional Conferences

2	4	14 – 17	Papers Presented at Madras Conference, November 18-20, 1912
2	4	18 – 19	Pamphlets, Madras Conference, November 1912

Tour of Asia as Chairman

2	4	20	Notes on Tour, 1912 – 1913
2	4	21	Questionnaire Answers, India, December 1912
2	4	22 – 23	Questionnaire Answers, India, January 1913
2	4	24	Questionnaire Answers, India, February 1913
2	4	25	Questionnaire Answers, India, March 1913
2	4	26	Questionnaire Answers, China, March 1913

Series 3: International Missionary Council, 1924 – 1947

3	5	1 – 5	Proceedings of the General Conference of Christian Workers; Egypt, The Sudan, Abyssinia. Helwan, February 20 – 26, 1924. Chairman of Conference, Dr. John R. Mott, Representing the International Missionary Council
3	5	6 – 17	Pre-Madras Study, "What is Evangelism?" 1938, IMC Conference
3	5	18	Ad Interim Report of the Joint Committee on the Younger Churches, established between IMC and Provisional Committee of the World Council of Churches, December 1946
3	5	19	Correspondence, 1925 – 1947

Series 4: Biographical Documentation, 1946; 1955

4	6	1	Mott – Biography in Memoriam, 1955
4	6	2	Mott – Personal Notes [19??]
4	6	3	Mott – Photographs [19??]
4	6	4	Nobel Peace Prize – Pamphlet for a dinner in honor of Mott, 1946

Series 5: Source Files, 1910 – 1946

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
5	6	5	Addresses and Articles given by Mott, 1924 – 1946
5	6	6	Committee of Reference and Council, Foreign Missions Conference of North America, 1911 – 1913
5	6	7	Council of Federated Missions, Japan, 1914
5	6	8	Inter-College Board in America for Promotion of Higher Union Education in Mission Fields, 1916
5	6	9	International Reform Bureau, Inc. [191?]
5	6	10	Newspaper Articles, 1910 – 1927 [photocopies]
5	6	11	Translations of Articles and Letters from Danish, 1915 – 1928
5	6	12 – 13	Translations of Articles and Letters from Dutch, 1915 – 1930
5	6	14 – 16	Translations of Articles and Letters from French, 1915 – 1931
5	6	17 – 19	Translations of Articles and Letters from German, 1915 – 1932
5	7	1 – 7	Translations of Articles and Letters from German, 1915 – 1932
5	7	8	Translations of Articles and Letters from Italian, 1923 – 1932
5	7	9	Translations of Articles and Letters from Polish, 1927 – 1929
5	7	10	Translations of Articles and Letters from Spanish, 1923
5	7	11	Translations of Articles and Letters from Swedish, 1915 – 1929
5	7	12	Pamphlet, <i>Recommendations for Political Reconstruction in the Turkish Empire</i> , November 1918
Korea Conspiracy Case, 1912 – 1913			
5	7	13	Confidential Conference on the Situation in Korea, 1912
5	7	14	Newspaper Articles – The Chosen Conspiracy Case, 1912
5	7	15 – 16	Pamphlets, 1912 <i>The Korean Conspiracy Case</i> by Arthur Judson Brown <i>Persecution in Korea: Sidelights on the Japanese Case</i> by One of the “Persecuted” <i>The Situation in Korea</i>
5	7	17	Publications – <i>The Korean Conspiracy Case</i> by Albertus Pieters, 191[2?]
Korean Independence Outbreak, 1919 – 1920			
5	8	1	Addresses and Articles, 1919
5	8	2	Biographical and Historical Information on Korea [191?]
5	8	3	Correspondence, 1919 Franklin Brockman to J. R. Mott, October 16, 1919; includes Press Proof of an Open Letter, “To His Excellency Baron Saito...Signed on Behalf of Federal Council, September 29, 1919”
5	8	4	Correspondence from George Gleason and Report on Korean Uprising and Photographs (9) featuring Gleason with notes by Mott, 1919
5	8	5	Correspondence, Homer Hulbert: Copies of Documents appointing him Envoy of Emperor [191?]
5	8	6	Correspondence, 1919 – 1920

Series 5: Source Files (Cont'd)

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
			Korean Independence Outbreak (cont'd)
5	8	7	Korean Independence Outbreak beginning March 1, 1919 – Part 1: The Beginning of the Korean Independence Uprising March 1-5
5	8	8	Korean Independence Outbreak beginning March 1, 1919 – Part 2 through 4
5	8	9	Korean Independence Outbreak beginning March 1, 1919 – Part 5 through 10
5	8	10	Manifesto – “To the Spirit of Justice throughout the World, Korea Herein Expresses her Cause,” signed Young L. Park, seal of United Asiatic Society, 191[?]
5	8	11	Newspaper Clippings, 1919 – 1920
5	8	12	Pamphlets, 1919 <i>Korea's Appeal for Self-Determination</i> , by an American born in Korea <i>Japanese Diplomacy and Force in Korea</i> by Arthur MacLennan <i>The Korean "Independence Agitation"</i> – Articles Reprinted from the Seoul Press
5	8	13	Pamphlets, 1919 – 192[?] <i>The Korean Independence Movement</i> : pamphlet with photos, 192[?] <i>An Open Letter by the Women of Korea</i> , with photos, 192[?]
5	8	14	Pamphlets, 1919 <i>Korea Review</i> , September – October 1919
5	8	15	Pamphlet and Accompanying Items, 1919 <i>The Korea Situation: Authentic Accounts of Recent Events by Eye Witnesses</i> , issued by the Commission on Relations with the Orient of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America Note and Newspaper Articles to Members of Commission about Pamphlet, 1919
5	8	16	Pamphlets, 1919 – 1920 <i>More Light from Korea</i> , 1919 <i>Korea and Shantung versus The White Pearl</i> by Charles H. Sherrill; <i>The Anti-Japanese Agitation in California</i> by Colonel John P. Irish, 1920 <i>The Korea Situation</i> , Number 2; issued by the Commission on Relations with the Orient of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America <i>The Disturbances in Korea</i> , Department of the Christian Literature Society of Japan, reprinted from the “Japan Evangelist,” July 1919
5	8	17	Pamphlets, 1919 – 1920 <i>Korea's Fight for Freedom</i> by F. A. McKenzie, 1919 <i>The Other Side of the Korean Question: Fresh Light on Some Important Factors</i> by Frank Herron Smith, 1920 <i>Administrative Reforms in Korea</i> – Articles Reprinted from the Seoul Press, 1919

Series 5: Source Files (Cont'd)

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
5	8	18	The Peace Conference, Korean Delegation – Petition and Memorandum Pamphlets, April 1919
5	8	19	The Peace Conference, Korean Delegation – Correspondence, 1919
5	8	20	Proclamation and Demand for Continued Independence of the Korean Nation, 1919

Germany and German Missions, 1913 – 1922

5	9	1 – 12	1913 – 1922
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Series 6: General Correspondence, 1911 – 1940

6	10	1	Anderson, Herbert, October 6, 1914 Anet, Henri, January 20, 1915 with Pamphlet Axenfeld, K., October 31, 1914 Balfour of Burleigh, March 6, 1915 Barton, James L., September 10, 1917 Brown, J. G., August 2, 1912
6	10	2 – 6	Cheng, C. Y., 1926 – 1939
6	10	7	Secretary, Church Missionary Society, India, November 13, 1911 Coerper, H., January 15, 1915 Continuation Committee Members from Mott, March 9, 1911 Couve, Daniel, 1912 Edmunds, Charles K., August 1, 1912 Flothmeier, Fl., December 29, 1914 Gervinn, J. S., January 8, 1914 Glüer, October 19, 1914
6	10	8	Headicar, B. M., May 30, 1920 Hodgkin, Henry T., July 18, 1912 Kepler, A. R., 1932; 1940 MacLennan, Kenneth, 1914 Nyholm, H. U., October 12, 1914 Oehler, Thomas, March 14, 1911 Oldham, J. H., 1911 – 1915
6	10	9	Phildius, Christian, September 7, 1914 Phildius, Eberhard, August 1914 Richter, Julius, 1914; 1915 Rutgers, H. C., February 10, 1919
6	10	10	Schnell, Mary, August 5, 1914 Shore, T. E. Egerton, October 31, 1911 Tarkhanen, M., October 10, 1914 Watson, Charles R., 1911; 1914 Wilson, Charles Edward, November 8, 1913 White, J. Campbell, September 1914 Würz, Frederick, 1911 – 1914