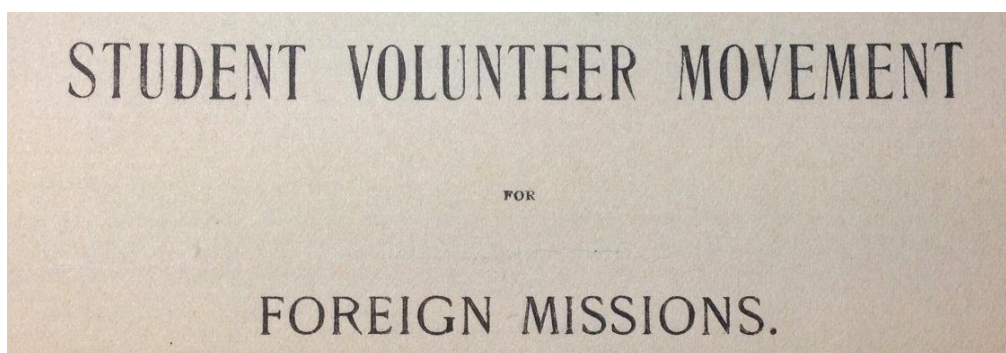


The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 12

Finding Aid for

**Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions Records,
1893 – 1946**



Pamphlet, Report of the Executive Committee presented at Second International Convention, 1894.
Credit to MRL 12: Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions Records, box 1, folder 8,
The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, November 2012

With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions
Title: Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions Records
Inclusive dates: 1893-1946
Bulk dates: 1893-1899
Abstract: Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions began in 1886 with intention to meet needs of boards and missionary societies by nurturing students to become missionary candidates, and to emphasize need for missionaries throughout the world. Collection includes correspondence, articles, manuals and other papers relating to SVM in the United States.
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 12: Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions Records, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

History

The Student Volunteer Movement (SVM) began in 1886 at a Young Men's Christian Association student conference at the Mount Hermon School in Massachusetts. According to Beahm, the conference "was attended by 251 delegates from eighty-eight schools in twenty-two states and Canada." John Raleigh Mott and Robert P. Wilder were in attendance as delegates. Wilder worked for two years informally gathering volunteers to the movement. Mott was named chairman of the SVM when it officially came into existence in 1888. The SVM was a complementary part of the larger Protestant Christian student movement, which was growing in popularity and membership during the last two decades in the 1800s. This allowed each SVM throughout the world to take on distinct characteristics of the geographic location.

The original goal was to nurture students in North America to become missionary candidates in order to meet the needs of boards and missionary societies, as well as to train those already planning on living in foreign countries to emphasize the need for missionaries throughout the world. According to Johanna M. Selles, the idea of "...well-trained students, disciplined in spiritual practices and committed to action in the world..." continued to develop over several decades. As a result of the SVM, thousands of students pledged to volunteer as foreign missionaries.

The movement was popular until the 1920s when membership lagged. After World War Two, membership increased again. The movement continued until 1959, when it became the Commission on World Mission of the National Student Christian Federation of North America.

Sources:

From the records themselves and the following materials:

- Beahm, William M. "Factors in the Development of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions." Chicago: University of Chicago Libraries, reprinted from Schwarzenau, Vol. III, No. 1, October 1941.
- Boyd, Robin. "The Witness of the Student Christian Movement." London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 2007.
- Selles, Johanna M. "The World Student Christian Federation, 1895-1925." Eugene, Oregon: Pickwick Publications, 2011.
- Showalter, Nathan D. "The End of a Crusade: The Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions and the Great War." Lanham, MD: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1998.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection is organized in two sections, organizational records and correspondence.

The organizational records span 1893-1946 and contain the earliest material for the Student Volunteer Movement, including from the Student Volunteer Union of New York and Brooklyn and the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor. The Student Volunteer Union was organized in 1894 to "deepen the missionary spirit among Student Volunteers, and to promote the same spirit among other Christian students." These records also indicate the manifestation of the SVM on the local level.

The second section contains correspondence for James B. Cochrane and Horace Tracy Pitkin. Pitkin, a graduate of Yale and of Union Theological Seminary (1894) and former travelling secretary for SVM, was killed during the Boxer rebellion in China in 1902. Individuals of note whose letters are included are Henry Winters Luce, Harlan P. Beach, John R. Mott, and traveling secretary Robert E. Lewis. Topics of discussion involve furthering the mission of the Student Volunteer Movement, and also generally the mission field throughout the world. Pitkin's records include a list of missionaries and a brief summary of their education and missionary history. Harvey D. Griswold, George Cornwell, Frank Hoskins and Willis P. Elwood are some of the individuals.

Processing

Folded items were flattened and placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes.

Further Sources

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

John Mott's personal papers and the archives of a number of other organizations, which he founded and led, are also 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: <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.045>.

The Burke Library has a collection of John Mott material. The finding aid can be found here: http://library.columbia.edu/content/dam/libraryweb/libraries/burke/fa/mrl/ldpd_4492668.pdf.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
		Organizational Records, 1893-1946
1	1	Articles, 1936
1	2	Bibliography, 1935
1	3	Calls to Missionary Service [1946?]
1	4	Correspondence regarding Early Organization, 1893-1899
1	5	History, 1902-1906; 1928-1937
1	6	Meetings, 1941-1943
1	7	Membership and Minutes [189?]
1	8-9	Publications, 1893-[19??]
1	10	Student Manual [193?]
		Correspondence
1	11	Horace Tracy Pitkin, 1893-1894
1	12-25	James B. Cochrane, 1896-1899