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Union Theological Seminary, New York

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 9

Finding Aid for

**Committee on Cooperation in Latin America (CCLA)
and
Congress on Christian Work in Latin America (CCWLA) Records,
1914 – 1956**



Letterhead, 1928. MRL 9: Committee on Cooperation in Latin America and Congress on Christian Work in Latin America Records, 1914-1956, series 1, box 1, folder 11, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by Miguel Escobar, July 2006

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

Summary Information

Creator: Committee on Cooperation in Latin America
Title: Committee on Cooperation in Latin America and Congress on Christian Work in Latin America Records
Inclusive dates: 1914-1956
Bulk dates: 1914-1916
Abstract: Committee on Cooperation in Latin America began in 1913 as a result of the Edinburgh World Missionary Conference of 1910. Committee held the Congress on missionary work in Latin America in Panama in 1916. Records including newspaper articles, questionnaires, field reports and final reports of the eight commissions; correspondence, and minutes.
Size: 13 boxes, 6.00 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, under the direction of Charles H. Fahs, who was research assistant to John R. Mott and curator of the Missionary Research Library from its foundation in 1914 until 1948, 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. In 2014, the collection was updated as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant.
- 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 9: Committee on Cooperation in Latin America and Congress on Christian Work in Latin America Records, 1914-1956, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

History

The Committee on Cooperation in Latin America (CCLA) began in 1913, an unanticipated outcome of World Missionary Conference, Edinburgh, 1910. The CCLA represented the missionary agencies at work in the West Indies, Mexico, Central and South America. It later became a Division of the Foreign Missions of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States.

The CCLA organized and held the Congress on Christian Work in Latin America (CCWLA) first in 1916. Bulletins from this collection indicate that the Congress was called in response to the Edinburgh Conference's lack of discussion on Latin American issues. From 1910-1916, Rev. W.F. Oldham was chairman of the committees whose purpose was to determine topics for discussion and create corresponding commissions.

The CCWLA was intentionally modeled on the Edinburgh Conference of 1910 and was held in Panama City from February 10-20, 1916. In correspondence it is referred to as the "Panama Conference." The attendees included officers and members of mission boards, missionaries, Latin American church leaders, Christian laypersons from North American and Europe, along with businessmen from Latin America in sympathy with the missionary's efforts. Each of the eight commissions' reports were presented and discussed during the daily sessions, while the night and Sunday sessions consisted of inspirational speeches and devotional services.

Each commission's final report reflects a weighty collection of information from missionaries in Latin America. The eight commissions created separate questionnaires and sent these to

correspondent missionaries in Latin America. The missionaries' responses were reviewed and incorporated into the final report of each commission.

In order to implement the resolutions of the CCWLA, sectional conferences were later held in Peru, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, and Mexico from March to April of 1916. These conferences were to serve two purposes. First, they allowed for a local discussion of the issues raised by the commissions' final reports. Secondly, they served to bring the resolutions of the conference into the mission churches operating at the local level.

Sources: Information was pulled from the archives records themselves.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection is set up in two series:

- **Series 1: Committee on Cooperation in Latin America, 1915 – 1956 (2 boxes, 1 lin. ft.)**
This series contains information on the planning of the CCLA, correspondence, conferences and other information relevant to the organization. It sets the preliminary stages for the Congress on Christian Work in Latin America, as well as shows the continued work of the organization after 1916.
- **Series 2: Congress on Christian Work in Latin America, 1914-1916 (11 boxes, 5 lin. ft.)**
The records of the Congress on Christian Work in Latin America consist of the reports, correspondence, publications, and other related administrative records of this congress spanning the years from 1914 -1916.

The majority of the collection consists of the commissions' questionnaires along with the reports received from Protestant missionaries in Latin America and final reports of the Commissions. This collection also includes minutes from the congress, newspaper articles reflecting on the significance of the congress, along with some materials from the later sectional conferences described above.

The bulk of the collection consists of missionaries' reporting on a wide variety of subjects corresponding to the theme of each commission. The arrangement is in a single series following the eight Commission themes:

Commission I. Survey and Occupation

This entailed a survey of Latin America's physical, industrial, moral, social and religious conditions. It also gives a broad description of the occupation of Protestant missions in Latin America.

Commission II. Message and Method

This examined problems facing missionaries in their presentation of the gospel in Latin America. It especially focuses on Protestant missionaries' potential contributions to Latin America's Roman Catholic and indigenous faith practicing populations.

Commission III. Education

This evaluated the potential of mission schools as opposed to state and Roman Catholic institutions. Special focus is paid to religious education through Sunday schools, along with the potential for higher theological education.

Commission IV. Literature

This analyzed the influence of evangelical literature in Latin America with the goal of expanding its circulation.

Commission V. Women's Work

This tells of the position and influence of women in Latin America. It determines methods for helping Latin America in those social problems affecting the life and work of women.

Commission VI. The Church in the Field

This analyzed the organization of Latin American mission churches. Attention is paid to membership, forms of financial support, the development of leaders, the spiritual life of these congregations, and the mission church's relationship to each country's respective governments.

Commission VII. The Home Base

This promoted interest and financial support for Latin America in the U.S. home base. Concerns about publicity, educational materials, and the promotion of mission work among U.S. Christian students are addressed.

Commission VIII. Co-operation and Union

This studied the cooperation among Protestant denominations' missionaries in the areas of literature, education, and occupation of the territory. The problem of Christian union is addressed while hope is expressed for continuing cooperation as modeled by the congress.

Processing

When the Burke Library acquired the Congress' papers, an attempt was made to maintain the original order imposed on the contents.

Folded materials were flattened. Newspaper clippings were photocopied onto acid free paper. Staples, rubber bands, and metal clips were removed and replaced with plastic clips. All materials were placed in acid-free folders and boxes.

The information relating to two former partial numbering sequences of folders is retained in this finding aid and these numbers, where available, are to be found at the end of each folder description, in the form [14 / A. 920] or [A. 942] .

In 2014, the collection was updated as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant. It was also during this time that additions from a group of unprocessed and unorganized material were integrated. The original materials are now included in series 2: Congress on Christian Work in

Latin America, along with a few additions. Series 1: Committee on Cooperation in Latin America is newly available and integrated into the collection.

Further Sources

The Burke Library offers a collection for the World Missionary Conference, which is what the CCLA and CCWLA were based upon. The finding aid for the collection is [available online](#).

The Burke Library offers a number of other collections related to missions in Latin America, as well as the people who were involved such as Samuel G. Inman. To view the finding aids and to find more information on these collections, please see the [Burke Library Archives website](#).

Contents list

Series 1: Committee on Cooperation in Latin America, 1915 – 1956

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1-2	Surveys of Churches and Missions, 1918-1920
1	1	3	Surveys and Programs, [1920?]
1	1	4	Conference on Cooperation in Venezuela, 1923
1	1	5	Conference in the Caribbean, [192?]
1	1	6	Reports, [19??]
1	1	7	Reports, Educational Bulletin, 1924
1	1	8	Research for Commissions: Indians, Education, 1915-1916
1	1	9-10	Proceedings of the Conference on an Adequate Five-Year Program for Latin American Missions, 1920
1	1	11	Correspondence, Harry Wade Hicks, 1915
1	1	12	Correspondence, Samuel G. Inman, 1928
1	1	13	Mission Board Reports issued by CCLA, 1923-1931
1	1	14	Conference of the Evangelical Association of Puerto Rico with Mission Board Representatives, Santurce, Puerto Rico, 1935
1	1	15	[FRAGILE] Newspaper Clippings, 1928
1	2	1	Reports and Correspondence, 1924-1928
1	2	2-3	Minutes and Reports, 1927-1940
1	2	4	Correspondence, 1928-1938
1	2	5	Bulletins and Bibliographies, 1928-1930
1	2	6	Education and Cooperation in Peru, 1927-1932
1	2	7	Committee on Cooperation in Brazil, 1927-1930
1	2	8	41 st Annual Meeting, Reports for 1956
1	2	9-10	Articles, [192?]-[193?]

Series 2: Congress on Christian Work in Latin America, 1914 – 1916

2	1	1-3	Newspaper Clippings, 1916
2	1	4-5	Articles from Newspapers, Magazines, and Other Sources
2	1	6-7	Photocopies of Newspaper Clippings, 1916
2	2	1	Commissions I-VIII: Lists of Members and Correspondents [1]
2	2	2	Regional Conferences: Peru, Argentina, Cuba, Chile, Brazil
2	2	3	Attitude of North American Church to Missions in Latin America
2	2	4	Commission Resolutions and Related Materials
2	2	5	Preparatory Studies and Materials, 1915-1916
2	2	6	Material of Different Commissions
			Commission I. Survey and Occupation
2	2	7	Reports on Waldensians in Latin America [3]
2	2	8	Reports on General and Special Subjects [4 / A. 910]
2	2	9	Questions for Corresponding Members [5 / A. 911]

Series 2: Congress on Christian Work in Latin America (Cont'd)

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
Commission I. Survey and Occupation (cont'd)			
2	2	10	Reports on Argentina [6 / A. 912]
2	2	11	Reports on Bolivia [7 / A. 913]
2	2	12	Reports on Brazil [8 / A. 914]
2	2	13	Reports on Brazil II [9 / A. 915]
2	3	1	Reports on Chile I [10 / A. 916]
2	3	2	Reports on Colombia [12 / A. 918]
2	3	3	Reports on Cuba [13 / A. 919]
2	3	4	Answer of Dr. Nogueira, Paraguana
2	3	5	Newspaper Articles on Congress, 1915-1916
2	3	6	Daily Bulletins of Congress, Feb 10-20, 1916. [A. 942]
2	3	7	Bulletins on missionary congress [A. 943]
2	3	8	Reports on Ecuador [14 / A. 920]
2	3	9	Reports on Guatemala [15 / A. 921]
2	3	10	Reports on Haiti [16 / A. 922]
2	3	11	Reports on Mexico I [17 / A. 923]
2	3	12	Reports on Mexico II [17 / A. 924]
2	3	13	Reports on Peru [18 / A. 925]
2	3	14	Reports on Porto Rico [19 / A. 926]
2	3	15	Reports on Santo Domingo [20 / A. 927]
2	3	16	Reports on Surinam [21 / A. 928]
2	3	17	Reports on Uruguay [22 / A. 929]
2	3	18	Reports on Venezuela [23 / A. 930]
2	3	19	Lists of Members and Excerpts, 1916
2	3	20	Final Report Proof Copy, 1916
Commission II. Message and Method			
2	4	1	Questionnaire and Analysis of Replies [1 / A. 931]
2	4	2	Preparatory Studies and Reports [2 / A. 932]
2	4	3	Preparatory Correspondence, 1915
2	4	4	Message and Method of Final Report
2	4	5	Reports on Argentina [3 / A. 933]
2	4	6	Reports on Brazil [4 / A. 934]
2	4	7-9	Reports on Chile I [5 / A.934-936]
2	4	10	Reports on Colombia [8 / A. 937]
2	4	11	Reports on Cuba [9 / A. 938]
2	4	12	Reports on Guatemala [10 / A. 939]
2	4	13	Reports on Mexico [11 / A. 940]
2	4	14	Reports on Mexico [12 / A. 941]
2	5	1	Reports on Panama [13 / A. 827]
2	5	2	Reports on Peru [14 / A. 828]
2	5	3	Reports on Puerto Rico [15 / A. 829]

Series 2: Congress on Christian Work in Latin America (Cont'd)

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
			Commission II. Message and Method (cont'd)
2	5	4	Reports on Uruguay [16 / A. 830]
2	5	5	Reports on Venezuela [17 / A. 831]
2	5	6	Reports from Various Countries
2	5	7-10	Reports from Outside Latin America [18 / A. 832]-[21 / A. 835]
			Commission III. Education
2	6	1	Directories and Notes, 1916
2	6	2-6	Reports from Various Countries
2	6	7	Reports on Mexico
2	6	8-9	Browning Reply to and Treatise on Questionnaire, Chile
2	6	10	Notes, Reports and Correspondence, Inman and Browning, 1915-1916
2	6	11	Final Report Proof Copy, 1916
2	6	12	General Information on Surveyed Schools
			Commission IV. Literature
2	7	1	Reports on Literature [A. 945]
2	7	2-5	General Materials
2	7	6	Final Report on Literature
			Commission V. Women's Work
2	8	1-10	Reports from Various Countries
2	8	11	Final Report Proof Copy, 1916
			Commission VI. The Church in the Field
2	9	1-4	Reports on the Field from Various Countries
2	9	5	Final Report Proof Copy
2	9	6	General Materials on Commissions VI-VII
			Commission VII. The Home Base
2	10	1	Final Report
2	10	2	General Materials
2	10	3	Analysis of Replies to Questions [A. 948]
2	10	4-11	Correspondence, Reports, Studies and Outlines
2	10	12	Provisional List of Members
			Commission VIII. Cooperation and Union
2	11	1	Final report
2	11	2-3	Replies to Questionnaire [A. 949]
2	11	4	First Draft of Final Report [A. 950]
2	11	5-13	Minutes of Congress: February 10-19, 1916