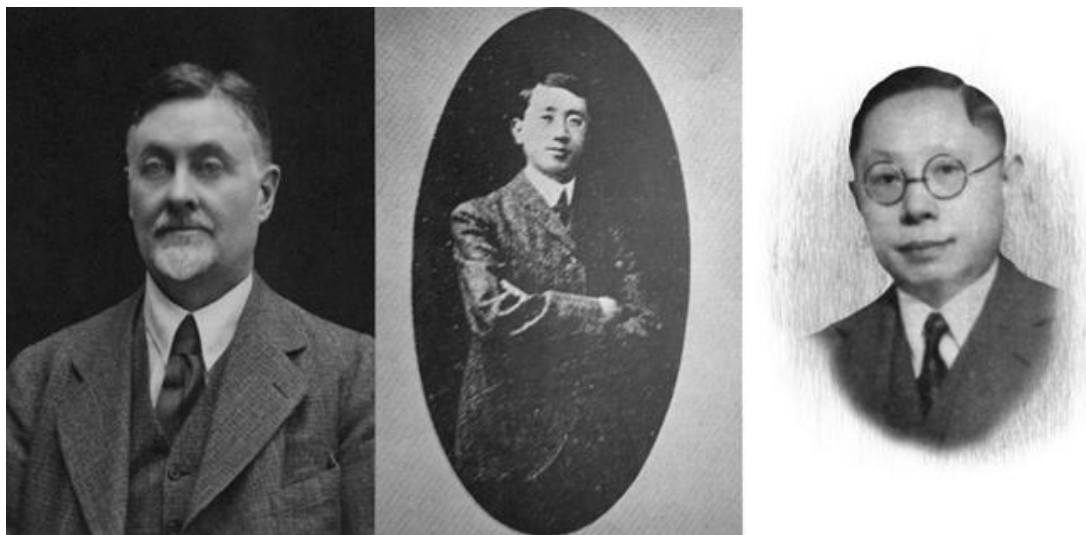


The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

Finding Aid for

Conference on American Relations with China Records, 1925



Charles Richard Crane (ca. 1930s), Alfred Sao-ke Tse (1901), and Kuo Ping-wen (ca. 1920s)
Image of C.R. Crane courtesy of Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Libraries

Finding Aid prepared by: Gregory Adam Scott, June 2010

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

Summary Information

Creator: Missionary Research Library
Title: Conference on American Relations with China Records
Dates: 1925
Abstract: Unofficial conference held in 1925, attended by over 200 business, diplomatic, academic and missionary leaders to discuss Sino-American relations, focused on issues relating to extraterritoriality and tariff autonomy.
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@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance:** The records were part of the formerly independent Missionary Research Library prior to its closure in 1976, when the collections were accessioned to the Burke Library.
- 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. Acid free copies of fragile materials originally in folder 13 are accessible. The acidic originals, transferred to folder 15, are **RESTRICTED**.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, MRL 6: Conference on American Relations with China Records, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

History

The conference was initially planned in July 1925 by a group in New York, and soon involved a sponsoring committee of over 100 business, missionary, and diplomatic leaders. Committee members included industrialist Owen D. Young, clergyman and broadcaster Rev. S. Parkes Cadman, lawyer and writer Raymond B. Fosdick, Catholic social justice advocate Msgr. John A. Ryan, and secretary of the International Missionary Council Abbe Livingston Warnshuis. The conference itself was open to 221 invited attendees, with Charles Richard Crane, former American Minister to China, serving as chairperson, and John Leighton Stuart, president of Yenching University, acting as speaker. Part of the impetus for the event was the Customs Conference scheduled to meet later that year in Beijing.

The Conference on American relations with China was held at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland from September 17th to 20th 1925. The conference opened with presentations by the only two Chinese speakers: Dr. Alfred Sao-ke Tse 施肇基, Chinese Minister to the United States, and Kuo Ping-wen 郭秉文, president of Southeastern University in Nanjing. Their message to the conference was that China was suffering unjustly under treaties forced upon it by Western powers, and that unless the situation was addressed, the rising tide of nationalism would threaten the stability of international relations. Although the conference had initially intended not to publicize any opinions on the issues discussed, by the last day of the conference the attendees overwhelmingly voted to issue a statement. This came in spite of opposition from a group of businesspeople within the conference.

The final “expression in substance of the views of the conference” supported the abolition of extraterritoriality for foreign nationals in China, and the restoration of tariff autonomy to China. It also urged the United States to take a leadership role in enacting these reforms.

Abbe Livingston Warnshuis, whose report as committee chair formed the basis for this opinion, defended these positions as part of a move toward equality between China and other nations.

Collection Scope and Content Note

A report on the conference was published in 1925 outlining the central issues of the event, and it reproduces both the papers presented at the conference, as well as the resolutions adopted at the close of the meeting:

Conference on American Relations with China, *American relations with China; a report of the Conference held at Johns Hopkins University, September 17-20, 1925, with supplementary materials, and arranged to be of use to discussion groups, current events clubs, and university classes* (Baltimore, Md., Published for the Conference on American Relations with China by the Johns Hopkins Press, 1925.)

This archival collection includes a typewritten draft of the conference papers, early versions of the discussion questions, and an extensive bibliography, all of which retain handwritten notes and annotations. These papers also include some of the draft material from which the published report was produced.

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed, and acidic items were photocopied on to acid-free paper. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes.

Some acidic documents from folder 13 were replaced with acid-free photocopies. The very **FRAGILE** originals were placed in folder 15.

In 2014, the collection was updated as part of a grant funded by the Henry Luce Foundation. Folder 16 was added at this time.

Further Sources

The Burke Library contains a number of other collections related to mission work in China and Japan. Please see: <http://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke/archives/mrl.html>

The Missionary Research Library Pamphlets (MRLP) collection has a number of printed copies of the papers that were presented at the conference. These can be found in MRLP folders [446](#), [488](#), [496](#), [537](#), [538](#), [539](#), and [597](#). (Links to online Columbia Libraries catalog CLIO)

The [Donald M. Brodie Miscellaneous Papers, 1919 - 1941](#), held at the Hoover Institution, has several folders on the conference.

Conference chairperson [Charles Richard Crane's papers](#) are to be found at Columbia University Libraries.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Pamphlet and Draft Outline, 1925
1	2	Conference Bibliography, [1925?]
1	3	Draft Outline, Preliminary Papers, [1925?]
1	4	Editorial Information Committee: Bulletin, Nos. 1 - 5, Sept 10 - 15, 1925
1	5	Essay by Charles Hodges, Chronology, Bibliography, 1925
1	6	Conference Papers, Meeting Transcripts, 1925
1	7	Postmortem Notes, Collected Editorials on Conference, [1925?]
1	8	Preliminary Report on Conference, First Draft, [1925?]
1	9-12	Typewritten Draft of <i>Conference on American Relations with China</i> , [1925]
1	13	Notes for Publication, [1925]
1	14	Index Markers and Notes for folder 13
1	15	[FRAGILE] Originals from folder 13
1	16	Correspondence, July – August, 1925