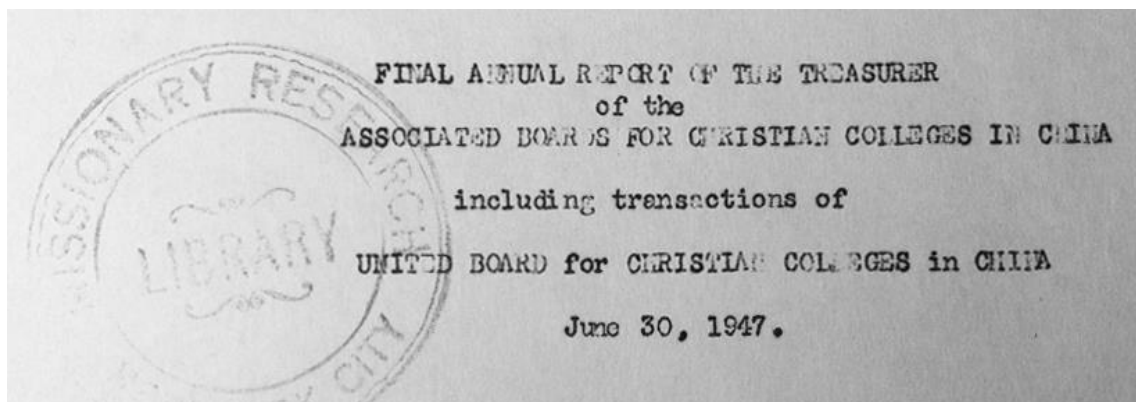


The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 5

Finding Aid for

United Board for Christian Colleges in China Records, 1931–1959



Credit to: MRL5: United Board for Christian Colleges in China Records, box 1, folder 2,
The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, October 2012
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: United Board for Christian Colleges in China
Title: United Board for Christian Colleges in China Records
Inclusive dates: 1931–1959
Bulk dates: 1947–1959
Abstract: United Board for Christian Colleges in China (UBCCC) established to support and coordinate activities of Protestant colleges and universities in China. Following establishment of the People's Republic of China, UBCCC focused educational efforts throughout Asia. Collection includes annual reports and supporting information such as correspondence and budgets relating to overall activities.
Size: 3 boxes, 1.25 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:** The independent Missionary Research Library moved to the Brown Memorial Tower of Union Theological Seminary in 1929. In 1976 the archival 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, MRL5: United Board for Christian Colleges in China Records, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

History

The first joint conference held among boards and organizations supporting colleges in China began in 1918. In 1923, boards of trustees from thirteen universities and colleges officially organized. Those schools were:

Fukien Christian University	Ginling College
Hangchow University	Huachung University
Hwa Nan College	Lingnan University
Nanking University	Saint John's University
Shantung Christian University	Soochow University
University of Shanghai	West China Union University
Yenching University	

The group was known as the United Board for Christian Colleges in China (UBCCC) as well as the Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China. Active members included Dr. Henry P. Van Dusen (Professor and later President of Union Theological Seminary), who served as president of the organization; Emory Ross; Edward H. Hume; A. L. Warnshuis; and Henry R. Luce.

The four most important issues that faced the UBCCC was first, to identify the ideal basis of cooperation or union among those sharing in the work of Christian higher education in China; second, how the groups should organize; third, how would potential reorganization affect the special interests of each individual institution and how to safeguard individual interests; and fourth, how could the active interest of individual friends be retained and strengthened under any proposed reorganization.

The UBCCC was unable to continue its work in China after 1951, at which point it became the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia and continued and extended the work of the UBCCC. The name became official in 1955 to show the expanded operations of the organization at this time.

After that, according to the official website (see link below),

The United Board shifted its efforts to areas outside the mainland, becoming the largest single source of funding support of Tunghai University in Taiwan and providing major support to Chung Chi College in Hong Kong in its early years. Elsewhere in Asia, the United Board provided critical assistance to International Christian University in Japan, Yonsei University in Korea, and Silliman University in the Philippines. In the 1970s, the United Board began working with institutions in Thailand, Indonesia, India, and several other countries. The United Board was formally invited to return to China in 1980.

The United Board is still in existence today, and continues to work with many educational organizations throughout thirteen countries and regions in Asia.

Sources:

The material itself and:

“History,” United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia,

<http://www.unitedboard.org/ABOUTTHEUNITEDBOARD/History.aspx> [accessed September 27, 2012].

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection documents the UBCCC’s support of and activities with Protestant colleges and universities first in China and later expanding throughout Asia. The records in the collection revolve around the Annual Meetings and indepth discussions held at multiple sessions. Topics of discussion, apart from those specific to education at each individual school, include job placement, medical work, research and publications.

The materials may be of particular interest to researchers because the focus of the records is directly before and immediately after the change from the UBCCC to the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia. One can also see the interactions and activities of members, including Henry P. Van Dusen. Included are minutes, reports, correspondence and financial information on typescript.

Processing

Items were removed from three-ring binders. Metal clips and staples were removed from select materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes.

Further Sources

Yale University Divinity School Library offers an extensive collection of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia. More information on the records can be found through the finding aid, accessible online, at <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.011>.

Contents List

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Special Committees and Early History, 1931-1945
1	2	Annual Meeting, 1947-1948
1	3-4	Annual Meeting, 1949
1	5-6	Annual Meeting, 1950
1	7-8	Annual Meeting, Book 2, 1950
1	9-10	Annual Meeting, 1951
1	11-12	Annual Meeting, 1952
2	1-2	Annual Meeting, 1953
2	3-4	Annual Meeting, 1954
2	5	Annual Meeting, 1955
2	6-7	Annual Meeting, 1956
2	8	Annual Meeting, 1957
3	1-3	Annual Meeting, 1958
3	4	Annual Meeting, 1959