

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

William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives Group

Finding Aid for

**Interchurch World Movement Records, 1919 – 1921; 1962**



Interchurch World Movement Pamphlet, 1920. Credit to WAB: Interchurch World Movement Records, box 1, folder 2, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

**Summary Information**

Creator: Interchurch World Movement, 1918 – 1920  
Title: Interchurch World Movement Records  
Dates: 1919 – 1921; 1962  
Abstract: Interchurch World Movement founded under Foreign Mission Board and allied agencies to unite and coordinate Protestant churches and their programs in North America. Bulk of collection includes manuscript of Movement's history, correspondence, reports, minutes, pamphlets, and notes documenting Movement's attempt at reorganization in 1920.  
Size: 2 boxes, 0.75 linear feet  
Storage: Onsite storage  
Repository: The Burke Library  
Union Theological Seminary  
3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
Email: [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu)

### Administrative Information

- Provenance:** The collection is part of the William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library, which was established in 1945 within Union Theological Seminary's main library to hold ecumenical materials.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto: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, William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives: Interchurch World Movement Records, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### History

The Interchurch World Movement (IWM) began on December 17, 1918, when 135 representatives of the Home and Foreign Missions Boards and allied agencies gathered for a conference under the aegis of the Foreign Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church of the United States. The purpose of this conference was to discuss the feasibility of a united Christian campaign. The Movement was a direct response to the end of World War I; initial considerations for this movement were begun by the Executive Committee of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church days after the signing of the armistice between the Allies and Germany. The purpose of the Movement was to unite Protestant churches in North America and coordinate Christian services and programs.

In 1919, the Interchurch World Movement formed the Interchurch Department of Industrial Relations in order to take an active role in the Great Steel Strike of 1919-1920. The Industrial Relations department was specifically concerned with objectively documenting and studying industrial disputes and their social consequences. On October 5, 1919 the Interchurch Department of Industrial Relations formed a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the steel strike because of concerns from Protestant church leaders that the public was misinformed about the basic facts surrounding the steel strike. In 1920, the Movement published its findings in a book titled, *Report on the Steel Strike of 1919*, which countered popular views of the steel strike and highlighted the poor wages and working conditions of steel workers. This report and its supplementary volume are considered to have influenced U.S. Steel's decision to improve workers' hours and wages.

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1920 at the General Committee Meeting in Cleveland, a sub-committee was appointed and charged with the complete reorganization of Interchurch World Movement in order to curtail expenses and decrease the Movement's growing debt. However, by the end of 1920, the Interchurch World Movement was disbanded and its assets liquidated due to financial difficulties.

Sources:

- Decker, J W. 1964. "Christian Ambassador: A Life of A Livingston Warnshuis." *International Review Of Mission* 53, no. 212: 509-511. *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials, EBSCOhost* (accessed June 1, 2012).
- Ernst, Eldon G. 1970. "Interchurch World Movement and the great steel strike of 1919-1920." *Church History* 39, no. 2: 212-223. *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials, EBSCOhost* (accessed June 1, 2012).
- Green, David I. 1924. "Analysis of the Interchurch World Movement report on the steel strike." *Anglican Theological Review* 7, no. 2: 221-222. *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials, EBSCOhost* (accessed June 1, 2012).
- Harvey, Charles Edward. 1982. "John D Rockefeller, Jr and the Interchurch World Movement of 1919-1920 : a different angle of the ecumenical movement." *Church History* 51, no. 2: 198-209. *ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials, EBSCOhost* (accessed June 1, 2012).

**Collection Scope and Content Note**

The collection is divided into two series:

- **Series 1: Administrative Records, 1919 – 1921 (1 box, 0.25 lin. ft.)**

This series contains the records of the IWM, including papers from A.L. Warnshuis' as they pertain to the Movement. Also within this collection are pamphlets, typed and handwritten notes regarding the reorganization of the Movement, budget proposals, reports and minutes, a survey of the IWM in Japan, newspaper clippings, and correspondences arranged chronologically to A.L. Warnshuis from various board members of the Interchurch World Movement.

Abbe Livingston Warnshuis was born in Clymer, New York and educated at Hope College in Michigan and New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Jersey. Warnshuis served as an Amoy missionary in the Fujian province of China from 1900 to 1915 and from 1915-1920 was the National Evangelistic Secretary of the China Continuation Committee in Shanghai. From 1920 until his retirement in 1943, Warnshuis served as Secretary of the International Missionary Council.

Although it is unclear specifically how Warnshuis was involved in the Interchurch World Movement, Warnshuis was an active member of several church organizations and councils. It is likely that one of these organizations was an allied agency of the Foreign Mission Board and therefore by extension, the IWM.

- **Series 2: History [192?]; 1962 (1 box, 0.50 lin. ft.)**

This series contains an unbound ten-chapter manuscript documenting the history of the Interchurch World Movement. Also included in this series are notes and correspondence to and from Barbara Ann Griffis, the Ecumenical Librarian at Union Theological Seminary in 1962, which notes missing pages in the Union copy and her attempt to locate the

omitted pages. The cover page of the manuscript notes that it is an official document of the Interchurch World Movement but does not note a specific author or publisher.

### **Processing**

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and newspaper clippings photocopied. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes.

### **Further Sources**

Further related Interchurch World Movement sources can be found in the papers of John Raleigh Mott located at the Divinity School Library at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. Mott was Executive Committee Chairman of the Movement and worked extensively with the organization. This collection holds various Interchurch World Movement records including minutes and memoranda, notebooks, and correspondence.

The following is a link to the John R. Mott finding aid:

<http://drs.library.yale.edu:8083/HLTransformer/HLTransServlet?stylename=yul.ead2002.xhtml.xsl&pid=divinity:045&query=john%20mott&clear-stylesheet-cache=yes&hlon=yes&filter=&hitPageStart=1>

Additionally, the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania houses the records of the New Era Movement, an organization that was closely related to the Interchurch World Movement. This collection contains some information and correspondence regarding the indebtedness and subsequent financial liquidation of both Movements.

Link to the New Era Movement finding aid:

[http://www.history.pcusa.org/collections/findingaids/fa.cfm?record\\_id=105](http://www.history.pcusa.org/collections/findingaids/fa.cfm?record_id=105)

The Burke Library Archives also houses a Mott collection, but it does not include Interchurch World Movement records. Information on John R. Mott can be found here:

<http://clio.cul.columbia.edu:7018/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=4492668>

The Burke Library Archives houses a separate collection of Warnshuis material, which can be found here:

[http://library.columbia.edu/content/dam/libraryweb/libraries/burke/fa/mrl/ldpd\\_6277110.pdf](http://library.columbia.edu/content/dam/libraryweb/libraries/burke/fa/mrl/ldpd_6277110.pdf).

## Contents list

### **Series 1: Administrative Records 1919 – 1921**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	Budget Proposals of Foreign Survey Division, 1919
1	1	2	Pamphlets, 1919 – 1920
1	1	3	Survey, Japan, 1919
1	1	4	Reports and minutes, 1919-1920
1	1	5	Correspondence, 1920
1	1	6	Notes [192?]
1	1	7	Newspaper clippings, 1920 – 1921

### **Series 2: History, [192?]; 1962**

2	2	1	Note; Correspondence, 1962
2	2	2 – 11	History of Interchurch World Movement, Chapters 1-10 [192?]