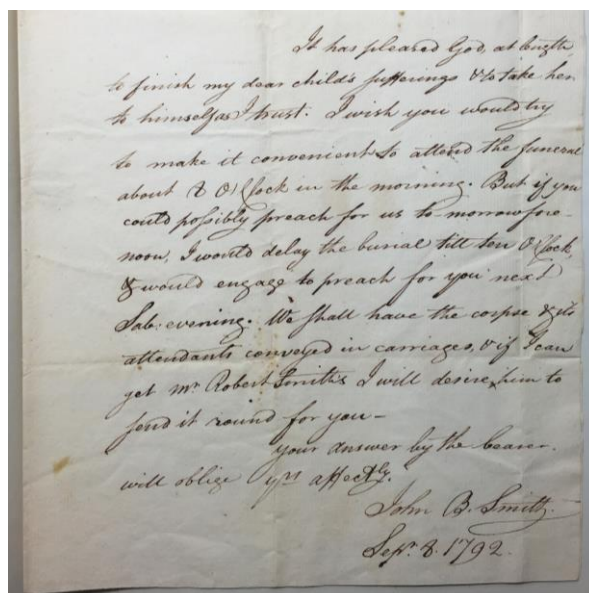


The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,  
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 12

Finding Aid for

**Ecumenical/World General Records, 1792 – 1990**



Letter from 1792. Credit to: MRL12: Ecumenical/World General Records, Series 6, Box 12, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, December 2014  
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

**Summary Information**

Creator: Missionary Research Library  
Title: Ecumenical/World General Records  
Inclusive dates: 1792-1990  
Bulk dates: 1910-1960  
Abstract: Collections pertaining to committees, conferences, education, churches, Christianity, religion, missions, missionaries, and other subjects and topics on a worldwide, ecumenical scale. Collection contains reports, minutes, papers, photographs, negatives and maps.  
Size: 30 boxes, 14.00 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:** 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](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, MRL12: Ecumenical/World General Records, series #, box #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### History

The Missionary Research Library was created by John R. Mott in 1914 after the World Missionary Conference, held in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1910. It was created in order to be not only a resource for missionaries, but a means to document the missionary movement. With funding from John D. Rockefeller, Mott stated,

“We are now ready to...secure the most complete and serviceable missionary library and archives in the world. I desire it to be thoroughly interdenominational, ecumenical and international. It should be made preeminently rich in source material.”

It was located at the Madison Avenue headquarters of the Foreign Missionary Conference of North America. By the 1920s, funding was becoming scarcer; therefore it was moved to the Brown Tower of the Union Theological Seminary, New York City in 1929.

The Library was an important center of information and research. Active missionaries would consult the material of the Missionary Research Library while on furlough. Much of the Library's success was due to the director and librarian, Charles H. Fahs. Upon his retirement in 1948, the MRL's financial difficulties continued until it was finally integrated as one with the Burke Library's collections in 1967. In 2004, the Burke Library was fully integrated with the Columbia University Library System.

### Sources:

- Anderson, Gerald H. “To The Ends of the Earth: American Protestants in Pursuit of Mission.” *A Century of Church History: The Legacy of Philip Schaff*, edited by Henry W. Bowden, 168-215. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1988.
- Anderson, Gerald H. “Research Libraries in New York City Specializing in Christian Missions.” *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 25, No. 4 (Aug. 1966), 733-736.

Frame, Cynthia. "Missionary Research Library Collection: From Idea to Special Collection," *Union News*, Summer 1998.

Price, Frank W. "Specialized Research Libraries in Missions." *Library Trends* 9 (2) 1960: Current Trends in Theological Libraries: 175-185.

### Collection Scope and Content Note

The Missionary Research Library created and collected many individual items to document a specific topic. This is one such collection, which focuses on world missions and international ecumenism. The items were pulled from unknown locations and have no relationship to one another other than they contain information that is generally related.

The collection is grouped by the topic the material covers.

- **Series 1: Committees and Conferences, 1921-1964 (3 boxes, 1.50 lin. ft.)**
- **Series 2: Education, 1909-1970 (3 boxes, 1.25 lin. ft.)**
- **Series 3: Churches, Christianity and Religion, 1910-1973 (3 boxes, 1.25 lin. ft.)**
- **Series 4: Missions and Missionaries, 1867-1972 (6 boxes, 2.75 lin. ft.)**
- **Series 5: Photographs and Maps, 1909-1986 (2 boxes, 1.00 lin. ft.)**
- **Series 6: Subject and Topic Files, 1792-1990 (13 boxes, 6.25 lin. ft.)**  
Note that the earliest records are housed in this series and pertain to Presbyterian Moderators of the General Assembly.

### Processing

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. The collection was organized following the "More Product, Less Process" method. This means that the collection was generally organized, but not taken to the folder level of description. The clips and staples were also left in the folders. This allows the collection to be made available more quickly and gives researchers a general idea of what is available in the collection.

### Further Sources

The Burke Library Archives offers other collections related to all of these topics. For more information, please [see the website](#).

## Contents list

### **Series 1: Committees and Conferences, 1921-1964**

Series	Box	Contents
1	1	Fourth Conference on Science, Philosophy and Religion, Hunter College, New York, 1943
1	2	Conference on Missionary Societies; National Study Conference on the Church and International Situation; Advisory Committee Christian Higher Education; Friends World Committee; National Peace Conference; Ecumenical Conference on Christian World Mission; 1937-1964
1	3	American Committee on Preservation of the Sacred Places in the Holy Land; Committee of the Inquiry; Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief; Belgian Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church; Citizens Committee of One-Thousand; Intermountain Conference of Evangelical Churches; Committee on Missionary Education; 1921-1945

### **Series 2: Education, 1909-1970**

2	1	Four Books - Reports of the Oriental Educational Commission of the University of Chicago, Ernest DeWitt Burton and Thomas Chrowder Chamberlin, 1909
2	2	Christian Colleges; Missionary Education; Theological Colleges; Board of Christian Education; Institute of International Education; Problems in Administration of Missionary Education; Sunday School; 1921-1970
2	3	Religious Education; Theological Schools; 1920-[194?]

### **Series 3: Churches, Christianity and Religion, 1910-1973**

3	1	Presbyterian Church of the United States; Brethren of Christ; Christians throughout the World; Christian Witness; Christian Bases of World Order; Undenominational Fellowship of Christian Churches and Churches of Christ; Aid to Churches in Other Lands; Christian Union Quarterly; 1910-1963
3	2	The Church and the Urban Industrial Revolution; Protestant Churches in Europe; Christian Relations with Muslims; Christian Relations with Post-War Europe; International Christian Movements; World Affairs of Christian Churches; Constitutions of Councils of Churches; 1919-1966
3	3	Catholic Societies; Church in Modern Society; Church Social Relations; Christian Literature; 1929-1973

**Series 4: Missions and Missionaries, 1867-1972**

Series	Box	Contents
4	1	Missionary Bulletins; World Missions; Biographies of Women and Pioneer Missionaries; United Mission in Mesopotamia; Language Study Courses for Missionaries; Paris Missionary Society; German Evangelical Mission; 1933-1972
4	2	Correspondence from Missionaries; Missions and World Affairs; Agricultural Missions; 1867-1960
4	3	Worldwide Missions; Orphaned Missions; Study of the Turnover of Missionaries; World Atlas of Christian Missions; Statistics of Mission Work; Board of World Missions; Missionary Orientation Center Workbook; Furlough Address of Missionaries; 1911-1965
4	4	Agricultural Missions; General Conference Concerning Missions; Education of Missionary Children; 1878-1934
4	5	Conference on Missions and Ecumenism, 1900
4	6	Mission Fields and Stations; Christian Missions and Other Religions; Veterans for Missions; Missionary Giving; Rural Missions; 1935-1954

**Series 5: Photographs and Maps, 1909-1986**

Series	Box	Contents
5	1-2	Maps; Photographs; Photo Album of Lepers; Missionary Education Exposition; Church Missionary Entertainment; Souvenir Pins; 1909-1986

**Series 6: Subject and Topic Files, 1792-1990**

Series	Box	Contents
<b>Geographic Locations</b>		
6	1	Canada; Asia; Japan; Korea; Europe; Africa [19??]
6	2	Index Cards pertaining to Mission Work Worldwide [19??]
6	3	China; Japan; Korea; India; Africa; Europe [19??]
<b>General</b>		
6	4	Statistics; Agency Data; American Baptist Foreign Missions; Baptist Young People's Union; Homiletics; Thesis by Robert Lee; 1926-1968
6	5	World Order; Post-War; Relief and Rehabilitation; 1925-1947
6	6	Presbyterian Church; Race Relations; Clippings; Dramas and Pageants; 1911-1990
6	7	World Affairs; Franklin H. Littell; Social Problems; Measurement of Social Attitudes and Personality Traits; Litton Report; Language of Ikoka; Williamstown Meeting Minutes; 1929-1972
6	8	Pamphlets; Anti-Opium Information Bureau; Church Union in Canada; Frank Millican; The Catholic Church Problem in Mexico; Address by Pope Paul 1920-1965

**Series 6: Subject and Topic Files (Cont'd)**

Series	Box	Contents
		<b>General (cont'd)</b>
6	9	Translation Documents; Sermons and Poetry; Ancestor Worship and Filial Piety; Anti-Christian Movement; United Clearing Board; 1922-1946
6	10	American Relations with Asia; John Milton Society for the Blind; History of American and South Asian Contacts; Government; John Mackay and Robert Speer Correspondence; Communism through Europe and Prussia; 1900-1946
6	11	Correspondence, Letters and Articles; International Relations Commission; Post-War Planning; Evangelism; Mussolini; Seventh-Day Adventists; Christian Libraries in New York City; Reformed Church in America; 1929-1956
6	12	World Presbyterian Alliance; International Living; Presbyterian Moderators; United Church Board for World Ministries; 1792-1954
6	13	Methodist Episcopal Church; Plays, Pageants and Religious Dramas; Far East Opium Report; Moving Pictures Abroad; 1927-[193?]