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W88-0301. Board of World Missions. Records, 1857-1980. 4.00 linear ft.

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W88-0301. Board of World Missions.
Records, 1857-1980. 4.00 linear ft.

Abstract

The Board of Foreign Missions (later, World Missions) was organized by the General Synod in 1832. The board was under the direction of the RCA but was also under the authority of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. David Abeel led the first mission of the RCA to the island of Borneo in the Dutch East Indies in 1836. Missions also sprouted in four primary target areas: Japan, India, China, and Arabia. In 1857, the board broke away from its ties with the American Board of Missions and established independent missions. Under its current name, the board is still active. This collection consists of annual reports (1857-1968); foreign mission conference proceedings (1899-1944); materials from individual missions; articles and serial publications; minutes; photographs; and booklets and brochures. Materials also include the board constitution; a memoriam for Isaac Chamberlain; missionary address list; missionary profiles; and a facsimile program for an 1864 ceremony at Holland's Black Lake, entitled "Laying the Keel."

Accession No: W88-0301
Provenance: Western Theological Seminary
Donor: Western Theological Seminary
Photographs: 2 images (Box 2)
Processed by: Michael Douma, June 2001

History

The Board of Foreign (later, World) Missions was organized by the General Synod in 1832. The board was under the direction of the RCA but was also under the authority of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. David Abeel led the first mission of the RCA to the island of Borneo in the Dutch East Indies in 1836. This mission was largely a failure and a new one was begun in Amoy, China, in 1842. Another successful mission was founded in 1853 in Arcot, India. Missions to Japan, Arabia, and Mesopotamia followed in the decades to come. In 1857 the board broke away from its ties with the American Board of Missions and established independent missions. Under its new name, the board is still active.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of annual reports (1857-1968); foreign mission conference proceedings (1899-1944); materials from individual missions; articles and serial publications; minutes; photographs; and booklets and brochures associated with the RCA Board of World Missions. Materials also include the board constitution; manuals; a memoriam for Isaac Chamberlain; publications; missionary address list; missionary profiles; and a facsimile program for an 1864 ceremony at Holland's Black Lake, entitled "Laying the Keel."

Container List

Box 1

100th Anniversary (1832-1932), 1932
Addresses and Sermons, 1885, 1936, n.d.
Africa, General, 1946-1982
Agenda, Minutes, 1945-1963
Articles, 1927-1978
Bibliography on Christian Missions, n.d.
Board of Missionary Preparation Publications, 1914-1918
Board of Missionary Preparation, Third Report, 1914
Books
 Roadbuilders, Sue Weddell, 1932
 The Worldwide Christian Mission, 1932
Booklets
 Foreign Missions at the Cross Roads, c. 1926
 The Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America: The Year's Story Illustrated, 1914
 General, 1894-1966
Brochures, 1943-1956, n.d.
Bulletins, 1931
Centennial, 1896
Certificates of Contributions, 1884
"Christian Mission Digest" magazine 1965
Constitution and By-Laws, 1957, 1965
Conference on Unity and Cooperation, 1914
Correspondence/Mailings, 1904-1968
Executive Committee Minutes, 1961-1968
Facts and Opinions concerning the Far East, 1940
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Handbook, "Open Gates," 1952
Historical Materials, 1864, 1932, n.d.
Inter-Cultural Missions, 1979
International Missionary Council Minutes, 1923, 1932
"Laying of the Keel," 1864 facsimile program, 1908
Laymen's Foreign Missions Inquiry Report and Related Articles, 1923-1932
Layman's Missionary Movement Publications, 1908, 1909, n.d.
Manuals, 1909, 1948, 1956
Meeting Agenda, Reports, Financial Report, 1962
Memoriam, Rev. William Isaac Chamberlain, 1938
"Minister's Exclusive" newsletter, 1948-1962
Minutes, 1961-1971
"Mission Monthly" newsletter, 1878-1880

Box 2

Missionary Address List, 1980, 1981

“Missionary Monthly” newsletter, 1933, 1956
Missionary Profiles, 1946-1950, n.d.
Missionary Review of the World, 1893, 1894, 1937
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“Our Work in Asia” newsletter, 1905, 1907
Pamphlets, 1926-1960
Papers, 1961-1978
Philippines, Articles, 1956-1972 (scattered)
Photographs, 1960-1966 (2 images)
Soviet Union, Articles, 1963-1978 (scattered)
Spain, Article, 1963
Student Volunteer Movement Publications, 1908, 1917
Taiwan Articles, Releases, Correspondence, 1962-1980 (scattered)

Box 3

“The Reformed Church in the East” Annual, 1911-1931
World Student Christian Federation Publications, 1899, 1900-1901
Zendingsfeesten Conferences, 1916-1924
Foreign Missions Conference Proceedings, 1899-1944 (11 folders)

Box 4

Annual Reports, 1857-1949 (Dutch language version included for 1908 and 1915)
(17 folders)

Box 5

Annual Reports, 1950-1968 (3 folders)