

# BURKE LIBRARY

Spring/Summer 2013

# NEWS

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK \* COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

## Creating a Vision for the Burke Library

By: **Beth Bidlack, Director**

On several occasions I have been asked to describe my vision for the future of the Burke Library. This question was first posed during my interview process. My answer, perhaps to the chagrin of the person asking it, was that I would not have a clear vision until I have been in the job for a while. In order to develop a vision, I need to get to know the people, spaces and collections. I have found that one vision does not work for all situations. I have worked in a number of contexts and my vision for each context has been different. At Bangor Theological Seminary Library, for example, my vision was not for a newly constructed library building (something the search committee mentioned), but rather for a smaller collection that supported the mission of the Seminary—to prepare and equip women and men for ministry within northern New England. When I was at the University of Chicago Library, my vision was to meet the research and teaching needs of the faculty and students of the Divinity School and other departments on campus. Given the complexities of the information world and the large size of the Library's collection, I focused on expanding services. I held many individual research consultations and embedded myself in some graduate student workshops where students presented chapters of their dissertations. Overall, my goal was to broaden users' understandings of what a library and librarian can offer.

I am still learning about the Burke Library, Union Theological Seminary, and Columbia University.

Since my arrival, I have talked with a number of faculty, students, and staff, but still have much to learn. One recurring theme is that the Burke and its staff have a reputation of being a well-kept secret. I do not want to keep the secret; I want everyone to know about the Burke's great collections, services, spaces, and events. I want to expand awareness at Union and Columbia, within Morningside Heights, and beyond. I also want to expand awareness about the variety of services and expertise librarians can provide. Librarians can help clarify research questions, identify resources and evaluate them, and develop strategies for sharing research with the larger scholarly world. Librarians can help with all this and much, much more.

I invite you to join me in creating a vision for the future. I would love to hear your experiences of being in the Burke Library. I am looking for opportunities to strengthen our collections, expand our services, and enhance our space. Long-term I would like to have a larger exhibition space, endowed acquisitions funds, an endowed librarian position, funding for the conservation of rare books, manuscripts, and archival collections. I welcome your continued support of the Burke Library and look forward to working with you in creating and implementing a vision for the future.

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## From Archives to Indonesia: Living the Luce Legacy

By: Kristen Leigh Southworth

M.Div. Student



Kristen

In January 2012, I began working with the archival collections of the Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, helping to preserve, process, and make available the materials contained within the now-inoperative Missionary Research Library and William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library, both housed in Brown tower. These collections included a large number of unprocessed rare materials gathered from all over the world by missionaries, missionary boards, and ecumenical councils that played a major role in shaping the international vision and spread of Christianity during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

What began for me as a curious but agreeable part-time work-study job to accompany my academic studies at Union and my career as a folk singer and songwriter, over the course of a year has come to play a significant role in my theological education and vocational development. My encounters with hundreds of diary entries, letters, reports, news clippings, and pamphlets from the height of colonialism to the fall of communism and everything in between have forced me to reckon with the complexity surrounding the question of “Christian missions” within the real history of international ecumenical and interreligious relations, a history that is much richer and more nuanced than any secondary accounts on the subject would seem to suggest.

Every finding aid that I publish bears the name of Henry R. Luce, president, founder, and editor-in-chief of *Time*, *Life*, *Fortune*, and *Sports Illustrated* magazines. This man who built a multimedia empire seems to have become something of a benefactor to me through the philanthropic foundation he established in 1936, in honor of his parents who were both missionary educators in China. The Henry Luce Foundation not only funds the overall project for the Missionary Research Library, but it is also now sending me, through a separate grant, to live in Indonesia for the summer, where I will have the opportunity to live out my own story of discovering what it feels like to travel into the midst of an utterly different cultural and religious context and try to make sense of my encounters with humanity and with God as a minority and a stranger.



From June-July 2013, I will be living in the ancient city of Yogyakarta on Java, conducting a research project through the Center for Religious and Cross-Cultural Studies Graduate School at Gadjah Mada University. In a Western context, my academic work has tried to highlight the theological depth in a diversity of artistic approaches to meaning-making across multiple genres and contexts, to complicate our notions of the categorical distinction between “the sacred” and

“the secular,” a vocabulary that is often used by religious and non-religious people alike in Western culture to reinforce the perception that these two spheres of life are radically distinct and opposed. Indonesia offers an opportunity to research how these categories do or do not apply in this particular non-Western and non-Christian context.



Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

This will mean getting to know the diverse cultures and people of Yogyakarta in order to understand perceptions about music and the relationships between the arts, religion, culture, and the Divine. It will mean allowing

myself to grow as an artist by listening carefully to the sounds of the region and letting them influence my ears and inspire new thinking about the arts, the creative process, and what music in particular can do. It also means confronting questions of cultural assimilation, artistic appropriation, and exploitation as they arise, and learning to navigate issues of power with relation to my ethnicity, nationality, and gender.

One of the most profound insights resulting from my work with the Missionary Research Library archival collections has been the humanization of history. It is important to look back at the choices and decisions of our ancestors to see in retrospect how those choices have contributed to cycles of oppression and violence that have played out in our world. The missionaries who worked “on the field” in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries were, in many ways, terribly short-sighted and as a result made decisions that helped contribute to genocide, oppression, cultural imperialism and other forms of violence.

Yet, that is not the entire story of missionary work. I have not found in the stories and writings of history the wholly arrogant, ignorant, racist, condescending people of my postcolonial imagination, but people who were also in many ways humble, compassionate, thoughtful, radically self-aware, and critical of cultural imperialism and those in power. At the end of the day, I noticed, people then were not very much different from people now: conflicted, confused, and frustrated with the limitations of their situation...yet still hopeful, basically well-intentioned, and striving in the best way they knew how in order to achieve positive outcomes in their lives and in the lives of others.

Thanks to my work in the archives I will go to Indonesia aware that I am likely to be not very much different from them: a representative of my culture and a product of my moment in history, limited, and imperfect, but still intent and hopeful to encounter That Which I Know Not with all the humility and grace I can muster.

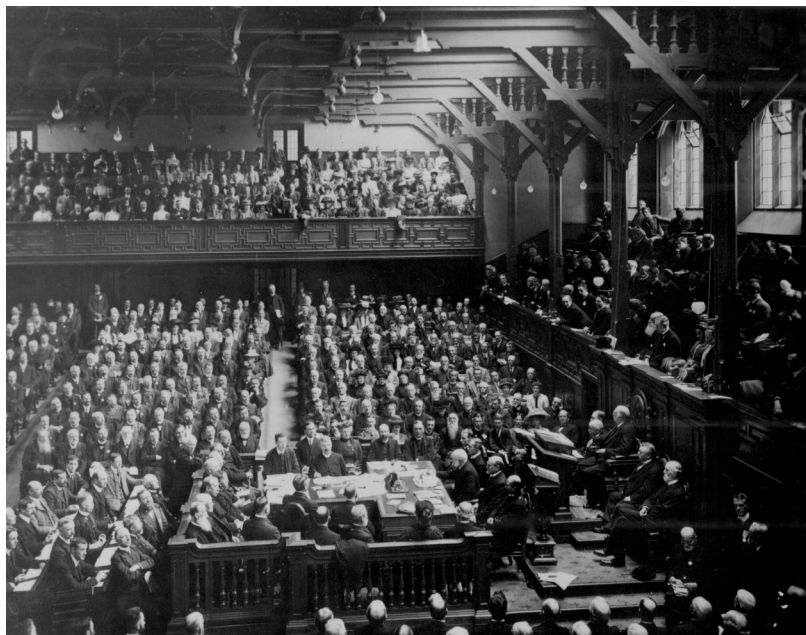


## Luce Project Update

The finding aids are steadily going up on the website with many new collections available for use on a regular basis. The following collections are now available to researchers, new since last publication:

### Missionary Research Library

- MRL1: Albert Schweitzer Records
- MRL2: Near East Relief Committee Records, 1904-1950
- MRL2: Near East College Association Records, 1928-1943
- MRL3: "A Church is Born": Church of South India Inauguration Records, 1947-1948
- MRL3: Memorandum on the Further Development and Expansion of Christianity in India, 1921
- MRL3: F.G. Davis Papers, 1876-1883
- MRL3: A. R. Ram Papers, 1947-1955
- MRL3: CP Bush Papers, [18??]-[1880?]
- MRL3: Views in Lucknow Records, 1890-1919
- MRL3: Henry Ballentine Papers, 1888



World Missionary Conference 1910, from World Council of Churches Records



Near East Relief Committee Records

- MRL3: William Wilberforce Chapin Papers, 1860-1865
- MRL4: Frank Laubach Papers, 1924-1952
- MRL4: R.E. Hume Papers, 1817
- MRL6: Hunter Corbett and Harold F. Smith Papers
- MRL10: American Home Missionary Society Records (Was H.W. Ripley), 1860-1869
- MRL10: John Dunbar Papers, [1836?]; 1904
- MRL12: World Missionary Conference Records, 1883-2010
- MRL12: Laymen's Missionary Movement Records, 1906-1956

### William Adams Brown

- National Council of Churches of Christ USA Records, 1948-1973
- Interchurch World Movement Records, 1919-1921; 1962
- Ecumenical Programs Records, [197?]-1993

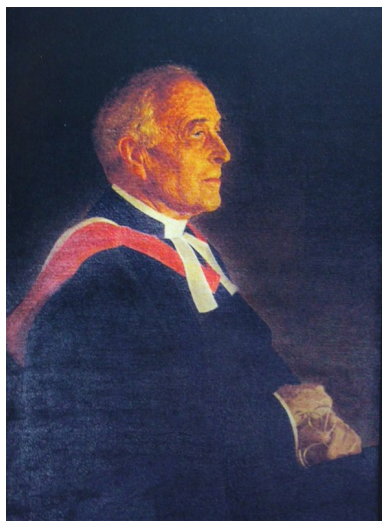
### Academic Year:

**37 Collections Processed**  
**223.25 Linear Feet**

### Total:

**82 Collections Processed**  
**371 Linear Feet**

## Archives Update



Henry Sloane Coffin

With grateful thanks to work study students, Ben Perry and Maxim Astashinskiy and graduate archival intern Todd (Thurman) Willison, this academic year has seen the completion of the processing for access of a total of 135.5 linear feet of Union archival collections.

Available since last newsletter publication:

- Heinrich Emil Brunner, Hines fellow at UTS, 1919-20, Swiss Reform pastor, University of Zürich Professor
- Sam and Dorothy Franklin (more below)
- Henry Sloane Coffin, famous Pastor for more than 20 years of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, President of Union, 1926-1945, known as Uncle Henry by the students
- H. Richard Niebuhr, Yale's *Sterling Professor* of Theology and Christian Ethics, 1954-62. This is the "cleverer brother" as Reini called him, whose collection in UTS archives contains 13 typescript essays.

### Collections Under Construction

Plans are under way for the processing for access of the collections of the Evangelical and Ecumenical Women's Caucus (EEWC) Records, George [Bill] Webber Papers and further well known names from the Archives of Women In Theological Scholarship and from Union.

### Sam and Dorothy Franklin - the last years found!

This is one of those, "Have you looked in the attic recently" stories.

The Sam and Dorothy Franklin Papers, mainly comprising correspondence of two remarkable people, has been consulted by a number of researchers since it was donated and processed for access in 2004. It was clear that a substantial amount of correspondence covering the years of the Second World War and other areas was missing and was assumed to be lost after a number of house moves across the continents.



Sam and Dorothy Franklin

Until the day 5 years later that Kathy Todd, the Franklins' daughter, contacted us to reveal that she had discovered a number of packing boxes in her attic, which she thought we should look through. To our delight this discovery consisted of all the missing correspondence which has completed a fascinating and inspiring story told first hand. The newly completed finding aid will be accessible from The Burke library's revised website in early June.

Sam and Dorothy Franklin, after being missionaries in Japan in the late 1920s, returned to New York where Sam studied for an STM at Union. Both later worked in the remarkable Delta and Providence Co-operative Farms founded to address the poverty and landlessness of African Americans in Mississippi, a project founded by Reinhold Niebuhr and Sherwood Eddy.

More about this fascinating story and how it progressed to receiving medals from the Japanese Emperor can be read on the Finding Aid:

[http://library.columbia.edu/content/dam/libraryweb/locations/burke/fa/uts/ldpd\\_5637344.pdf](http://library.columbia.edu/content/dam/libraryweb/locations/burke/fa/uts/ldpd_5637344.pdf)



## Public Services Dispatch

### SPRING 2013 EVENTS

This spring at the Burke we held a number of events, which were all well attended. Four concerts highlighted the creative talents of our UTS/Columbia University community, as well as members of the local Morningside Community; and brought in patrons, many of whom had not previously known about the Burke and its collections. Two lectures in February included the Rev. Jamie Howison (Winnipeg, Canada), who spoke about his new book “God’s Mind in that Music: Theological Explorations through the Music of John Coltrane,” and Prof. Rochelle Rives, who discussed her recent book “Modernist Impersonalities: Affect, Authority, and the Subject.”



Renaissance Concert

The four concert-events this semester included the March 20th Renaissance-era music performance “Orpheus Returns” put on by “What a Neighborhood!” Vita Wallace (lira da braccia and baroque violin), Beth Anne Hatton (soprano), and Grant Herreid (lute and voice) performed an outstanding reinterpretation of Orphic hymns through theater.

In April we had two exceptionally beautiful “Burke Study Break Concerts” featuring the talents of UTS community members. On April 16th at 6PM, Rosalind Gnatt (M.Div. 2013), who is a renowned soprano, formerly with the Washington Opera, sang the

Rosalind Gnatt

“Hermit Songs” of Samuel Barber and “Des Knaben Wunderhorn” of Gustav Mahler; Dayle Vander Sande performed with her as pianist and tenor, and performed one work he composed a decade ago title “Priez pour Paix” with text by Charles, Duc d’Orleans (1394-1465). On April 26 at 4PM,

Troy Messenger and Eve Weiss







Final Concert of the Year

Dr. Troy Messenger, Director and Visiting Assistant Professor of Worship at UTS, performed duets on oboe with guitarist Eve Weiss. They performed works by Towner, Handler, and Coste.

The final concert of the academic year was on May 4th, 2013 at 3PM, and performed by the Collegium Musicum of Columbia University, and featured Eleftherios Eleftheriadis, Eric Rice, and Mahir Cetiz. This final concert was co-sponsored by the Columbia University Music Department, the Axion Estin Foundation, and the Burke

Library. We've had tremendous turnout this season, and this capstone concert of Latin and Byzantine Chant drew in a near-record audience of approximately 90 people. We want to take this opportunity to thank especially Prof. Susan Boynton of the Columbia University Music Department for all of her support and partnership with the Burke Library.

There are currently no events planned for the summer of 2013 at Burke, but we are in the process of coordinating fall 2013 events. Thank you to all who have participated, helped, and enjoyed the Burke special events and concerts!

### Admitted Students Day

This year, we welcomed admitted students to the Burke Library by setting out a selection of items for them to peruse. Beth, Ruth and Anthony presented the works and discussed all the Burke Library could offer to them in their studies should they choose to attend Union. It was well-attended and we look forward to more events such as this!



Admitted Students Day

## Getting to Know You

Because of recent staff changes, we thought it would be a good idea to have all the members of the staff answer five questions to allow everyone to get to know them a little bit better. This series will be spread out over a few different issues. To begin here are Anthony and Liz.

### Elizabeth (Liz) Ridout Miraglia Collections Assistant

#### 1) How/why did you decide to become a librarian or archivist?

During my last year at Union I had to seriously think about what I wanted to do after graduation. My original "plan" to go on to doctoral work didn't work out. I realized that part of my issue was that I was interested in too many, often disparate, subject areas. I had a sort of "aha" moment in the stacks and decided to look into librarianship. I love being able to support researchers and have an inherent knack for organizing and finding information. I also don't mind spending an afternoon putting stamps and stickers on things, so that helps. To be honest, it all just sort of fell into place.

#### 2) What are 5 of your favorite books? (or, a few of your favorite books)

Right now the top of my list would be: Tale of Two Cities, Me Talk Pretty One Day, Alice in Wonderland, The Corinthian Body and Leviticus (seriously).

#### 3) What "interesting" thing(s) do you do outside of your job that people might not know about?

I've recently taken up archery and have re-started yoga.

#### 4) Where is a place you'd like to travel to, that you haven't already been? And how come?



I would love to go to India. Everything about it fascinates me: its history, mix of languages and cultures, the food, all of it.

#### 5) Favorite ... (Reference) Question? Collection at the Burke? Favorite thing you've worked on here?

My favorite collection is hands-down the rare manuscripts, I'm a sucker for old texts in dead languages.



## Anthony Elia

### Public Services Librarian

#### 1) How/why did you decide to become a librarian or archivist?

I had taken a job at the American Theological Library Association, and there were many people around me in the library field, with library degrees. My girlfriend at the time had suggested I think about it, as she was also a librarian. I applied, got in, and went to library school. It was a good decision!

#### 2) What are 5 of your favorite books? (or, a few of your favorite books)

- a) Almost anything of the "Modernist" period, by Woolf, Joyce, or Proust.
- b) Leo Strauss, "Persecution and the Art of Writing"
- c) Augustine, Early Writings and Confessions.
- d) Wu Cheng'en (Attributed), "Journey to the West"

#### 3) What "interesting" thing(s) do you do outside of your job that people might not know about?

I like the outdoors, especially wilderness areas, like those found in Canada. Especially when you live in a city...you want to be exposed to "cleaner air" occasionally. When you travel to areas that are unpopulated, you get a different perspective of the world—through sight, scent, and sound. As a composer (which I think most people know I am), I find interest in natural sound creations, which many times are far more evocative and beautiful than human-constructed sound.

#### 4) Where is a place you'd like to travel to, that you haven't already been? And how come?

Armenia. I've studied the language, history, and culture since my days traveling in the Middle East. I even met with the Patriarch of Jerusalem and the magnificent choirs of St. James in Jerusalem. Armenian history can be complex and enchanting. And the language and music is very rich.

#### 5) Favorite ... (Reference) Question? Collection at the Burke? Favorite thing you've worked on here?

Someone once told me they got a question which went like this: "What was Jesus's blood type?" I never got anything that incredible. But I did get a question about St. Augustine and "The Confessions." I get a lot of questions about Augustine. This one specific man was in his late 70s, and when I tried to determine the true nature of his question, he told me: "I want to purge myself of my sinfulness and lust...and Augustine will do that for me!"



## New Cataloging Rules

By: **Matt Haugen**

Rare Book Cataloger

When searching in the online catalog, look out for these recent changes which may affect your search results:

### The New Pope:

The access point for official communications issued on behalf of the Catholic Church by pope emeritus Benedict XVI has changed from:

Catholic Church. Pope (2005- : Benedict XVI) to  
Catholic Church. Pope (2005-2013 : Benedict XVI)

Works by and about pope emeritus Benedict XVI as an individual remain under his existing access point: Benedict XVI, Pope, 1927-.

As they are issued, access points for official communications issued on behalf of the Church by the new Pope Francis will appear under: Catholic Church. Pope (2013- : Francis).

Works by and about Pope Francis will now be found under: Francis, Pope, 1936-.

This includes works formerly found under the access point for his given name: Bergoglio, Jorge Mario, 1936-.

### Sacred Scriptures:

Throughout 2013, Columbia Libraries and other libraries nationwide are transitioning to a new cataloging standard called Resource Description and Access (RDA). Going forward, most new records in CLIO will reflect this new standard, and where possible, older records will be converted over time. In early March, the Library of Congress began large-scale automated revisions of their authority files, which will affect the way names and titles are represented as access points in the catalog. While many of the changes are slight, one thing you may notice is that many abbreviations will be spelled out, and many Latin terms will be translated to English.

Of particular relevance to the Burke Library collections are the following changes to access points and subject headings used for sacred scriptures as well as commentaries, translations, and other works about sacred scriptures.

Access points beginning with Koran will be replaced by Qur'an.

Access points for the Old and New Testaments of the Bible will expand from Bible. O.T. and Bible. N.T. to Bible. Old Testament and Bible. New Testament.

However, access points for individual books of the Bible or groups of books (such as Pentateuch) will no longer include the intermediate testament designation O.T. or N.T.

For example, works previously filed under Bible. O.T. Ruth. will now be found under Bible. Ruth.

If you forget, don't worry; the prior form of the access point should redirect you to the new RDA form when performing searches.





## Comments/Questions

Have a comment/question/concern on this or future newsletters?

Would you like to receive this digitally (and in **full color!**)?

Please contact Brigitte by phone or email:

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## Burke Library News

Spring/Summer 2013

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