

**The Burke Library Archives
At Union Theological Seminary, New York**

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 9

Finding Aid for

**Records of the
Congress on Christian Work in Latin America,
Panama 1916**

Finding Aid prepared by:
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Summary Information

Creator: Congress on Christian Work in Latin America, Panama 1916
Title: Records of the Congress on Christian Work in Latin
America, Panama 1916
Inclusive dates: 1914 -1916
Bulk dates: 1916
Abstract: Congress on missionary work in Latin America. Records
including newspaper articles, questionnaires, field reports
and final reports of the eight commissions; correspondence,
and minutes.
Size: 11 boxes, 5.5 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-851-5612
Fax: 212-851-5613
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Administrative Information

- Provenance:** Originally part of the independent Missionary Research Library, under the direction of Charles H. Fahs, who was research assistant to John R. Mott and curator of the Missionary Research Library from its foundation in 1914 until 1948, 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 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, MRL 9: Records of the Congress on Christian Work in Latin America, Panama 1916, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library Archives at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York.

Organizational History

The Congress on Christian Work in Latin America (CCWLA) was an unanticipated outcome of World Missionary Conference, Edinburgh, 1910. Bulletins from this collection indicate that the Congress was called in response to the Edinburgh Conference's lack of discussion on Latin American issues. From 1910-1916, Rev. W.F. Oldham was chairman of the committees whose purpose was to determine topics for discussion and create corresponding commissions.

The CCWLA was intentionally modeled on the Edinburgh Conference of 1910 and was held in Panama City from February 10-20, 1916. The attendees included officers and members of mission boards, missionaries, Latin American church leaders, Christian laypersons from North American and Europe, along with businessmen from Latin America in sympathy with the missionary's efforts. Each of the eight commissions' reports were presented and discussed during the daily sessions, while the night and Sunday sessions consisted of inspirational speeches and devotional services.

Each commission's final report reflects a weighty collection of information from missionaries in Latin America. The eight commissions created separate questionnaires and sent these to correspondent missionaries in Latin America. The missionaries' responses were reviewed and incorporated into the final report of each commission.

In order to implement the resolutions of the CCWLA, sectional conferences were later held in Peru, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, and Mexico from March to April of 1916. These conferences were to serve two purposes. First, they allowed for a local discussion of the issues raised by the commissions' final reports. Secondly, they served to bring the resolutions of the conference into the mission churches operating at the local level.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The records of the Congress on Christian Work in Latin America consist of the reports, correspondence, publications, and other related administrative records of this congress spanning the years from 1914 -1916.

The majority of the collection consists of the commissions' questionnaires along with the reports received from Protestant missionaries in Latin America and final reports of the Commissions. This collection also includes minutes from the congress, newspaper articles reflecting on the significance of the congress, along with some materials from the later sectional conferences described above.

The bulk of the collection consists of missionaries' reporting on a wide variety of subjects corresponding to the theme of each commission. The arrangement is in a single series following the eight Commission themes:

Commission I. Survey and Occupation

This entailed a survey of Latin America's physical, industrial, moral, social and religious conditions. It also gives a broad description of the occupation of Protestant missions in Latin America.

Commission II. Message and Method

This examined problems facing missionaries in their presentation of the gospel in Latin America. It especially focuses on Protestant missionaries' potential contributions to Latin America's Roman Catholic and indigenous faith practicing populations.

Commission III. Education

This evaluated the potential of mission schools as opposed to state and Roman Catholic institutions. Special focus is paid to religious education through Sunday schools, along with the potential for higher theological education.

Commission IV. Literature

This analyzed the influence of evangelical literature in Latin America with the goal of expanding its circulation.

Commission V. Women's Work

This tells of the position and influence of women in Latin America. It determines methods for helping Latin America in those social problems affecting the life and work of women.

Commission VI. The Church in the Field

This analyzed the organization of Latin American mission churches. Attention is paid to membership, forms of financial support, the development of leaders, the spiritual life of these congregations, and

the mission church's relationship to each country's respective governments.

Commission VII. The Home Base

This promoted interest and financial support for Latin America in the U.S. home base. Concerns about publicity, educational materials, and the promotion of mission work among U.S. Christian students are addressed.

Commission VIII. Co-operation and Union

This studied the cooperation among Protestant denominations' missionaries in the areas of literature, education, and occupation of the territory. The problem of Christian union is addressed while hope is expressed for continuing cooperation as modeled by the congress.

Processing

When the Burke Library acquired the Congress' papers, an attempt was made to maintain the original order imposed on the contents.

Folded materials were flattened. Newspaper clippings were photocopied onto acid free paper. Staples, rubber bands, and metal clips were removed and replaced with plastic clips. All materials were placed in acid-free folders and boxes.

The information relating to two former partial numbering sequences of folders is retained in this finding aid and these numbers, where available, are to be found at the end of each folder description, in the form [14 / A. 920] or [A. 942] .

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Newspaper clippings, 1916
1	2	Newspaper clippings, 1916
1	3	Newspaper clippings, 1916
1	4	Articles from newspapers, magazines, and other sources
1	5	Articles from newspapers, magazines, and other sources
1	6	Photocopies of newspaper clippings, 1916
1	7	Photocopies of newspaper clippings, 1916
2	1	Commissions I-VIII: Lists of members & correspondents [1]
2	2	Regional Conferences: Peru, Argentina, Cuba, Chile, Brazil
2	3	Attitude of North American church to missions in Latin America
2	4	Commission resolutions and related materials
2	5	Misc. material of different commissions
		<u>Commission I. Survey and Occupation:</u>
2	6	Comm I: Reports on Waldensians in Latin America [3]
2	7	Comm I: Reports on general and special subjects [4 / A. 910]
2	8	Comm I: Questions for corresponding members [5 / A. 911]
2	9	Comm I: Reports on Argentina [6 / A. 912]
2	10	Comm I: Reports on Bolivia [7 / A. 913]
2	11	Comm I: Reports on Brazil [8 / A. 914]
2	12	Comm I: Reports on Brazil II [9 / A. 915]
3	1	Comm I: Reports on Chile I [10 / A. 916]
3	2	Comm I: Reports on Colombia [12 / A. 918]
3	3	Comm I: Reports on Cuba [13 / A. 919]
3	4	Comm I: Answer of Dr. Nogueira, Paraguana
3	5	Newspaper articles on congress, 1915-1916
3	6	Daily bulletins of congress, Feb 10-20, 1916. [A. 942]
3	7	Bulletins on missionary congress, [A. 943]
3	8	Comm I: Reports on Ecuador [14 / A. 920]
3	9	Comm I: Reports on Guatemala [15 / A. 921]
3	10	Comm I: Reports on Haiti [16 / A. 922]
3	11	Comm I: Reports on Mexico I [17 / A. 923]
3	12	Comm I: Reports on Mexico II [17 / A. 924]
3	13	Comm I: Reports on Peru [18 / A. 925]
3	14	Comm I: Reports on Porto Rico [19 / A. 926]
3	15	Comm I: Reports on Santo Domingo [20 / A. 927]
3	16	Comm I: Reports on Surinam [21 / A. 928]
3	17	Comm I: Reports on Uruguay [22 / A. 929]
3	18	Comm I: Reports on Venezuela [23 / A. 930]

Box	Folder	Contents
		<u>Commission II. Message and Method:</u>
4	1	Commission II: Questionnaire & analysis of replies [1 / A. 931]
4	2	Comm II: Preparatory studies and reports, [2 / A. 932]
4	3	Comm II: Message and method of Final report
4	4	Comm II: Reports on Argentina [3 / A. 933]
4	5	Comm II: Reports on Brazil [4 / A. 934]
4	6	Comm II: Reports on Chile I [5 / A.934]
4	7	Comm II: Reports on Chile II [6 / A. 935]
4	8	Comm II: Reports on Chile III [7 / A. 936]
4	9	Comm II: Reports on Colombia [8 / A. 937]
4	10	Comm II: Reports on Cuba [9 / A. 938]
4	11	Comm II: Reports on Guatemala [10 / A. 939]
4	12	Comm II: Reports on Mexico [11 / A. 940]
4	13	Comm II: Reports on Mexico [12 / A. 941]
5	1	Commission II: Reports on Panama [13 / A. 827]
5	2	Comm II: Reports on Peru [14 / A. 828]
5	3	Comm II: Reports on Puerto Rico [15 / A. 829]
5	4	Comm II: Reports on Uruguay [16 / A. 830]
5	5	Comm II: Reports on Venezuela [17 / A. 831]
5	6	Comm II: Reports from various countries
5	7	Comm II: Reports from outside Latin America [18 / A. 832]
5	8	Comm II: Reports from outside Latin America [19 / A. 833]
5	9	Comm II: Reports from outside Latin America [20 / A. 834]
5	10	Comm II: Reports from outside Latin America [21 / A. 835]
		<u>Commission III. Education:</u>
6	1	Commission III: Reports on education from various countries
6	2	Comm III: Reports from various countries
6	3	Comm III: Rev. Browning reply to questionnaire, Chile
6	4	Comm III: General information on surveyed schools
6	5	Comm III: Reports on Mexico
6	6	Comm III: Rev. Browning treatise on questionnaire, Chile
6	7	Comm III: Reports from various countries
		<u>Commission IV. Literature:</u>
7	1	Commission IV: Reports on literature [A. 945]
7	2	Comm IV: Misc. materials
7	3	Comm IV: Misc. materials
7	4	Comm IV: Misc. materials
7	5	Comm IV: Misc. materials
7	6	Comm IV: Final report on Literature

Box	Folder	Contents
		<u>Commission V. Women's Work:</u>
8	1	Commission V: Reports on women's work in Latin-America
8	2	Comm V: Reports from various countries
8	3	Comm V: Reports from various countries
8	4	Comm V :Outline report
8	5	Comm V: Reports from various countries
8	6	Final report of commission V: Women's work
		<u>Commission VI. The Church in the Field:</u>
9	1	Commission VI: Reports on the field from various countries
9	2	Comm VI: Reports from various countries
9	3	Comm VI: Reports from various countries
9	4	Comm VI: Reports from various countries
9	5	Comm VI: Final report
9	6	Misc. materials on commissions VI-VII
		<u>Commission VII. The Home Base:</u>
10	1	Commission VII: The Home Base: Final report
10	2	Comm VII: Misc. materials
10	3	Comm VII: Analysis of replies to questions [A. 948]
10	4	Comm VII: Correspondence and other materials
10	5	Comm VII: Correspondence and other materials
10	6	Comm VII: Correspondence and reports
10	7	Comm VII: Correspondence and reports
10	8	Comm VII: Misc. material
10	9	Comm VIII: Misc. material
		<u>Commission VIII. Co-operation and Union:</u>
11	1	Commission VIII: Cooperation and Union: Final report
11	2	Comm VIII: Replies to questionnaire [A. 949]
11	3	Comm VIII: Replies to questionnaire [A. 949]
11	4	Comm VIII: First draft of final report [A. 950]
11	5	Minutes of congress: February 10, 1916
11	6	Minutes of congress: February 11, 1916
11	7	Minutes of congress: February 12, 1916
11	8	Minutes of congress: February 13, 1916
11	9	Minutes of congress: February 14, 1916
11	10	Minutes of congress: February 16, 1916
11	11	Minutes of congress: February 17, 1916
11	12	Minutes of congress: February 18, 1916
11	13	Minutes of congress: February 19, 1916