

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 8

Finding Aid for

Korean Conspiracy Case, 1912 – 1913

Finding Aid prepared by: Aram Bae, Feb 2008

Summary Information

Creator: Korean Conspiracy Case, 1912 – 1913
Title: Korean Conspiracy Case
Inclusive dates: 1910 – 1913
Bulk dates: 1912 – 1913
Abstract: Correspondence of PCUSA Foreign Missions board members re continuation committee, conspiracy trial, and missionary presence in Japan and Korea; exhibits including statements, summaries, and reports of trial; police examinations; news articles and publications of proceedings
Size: 2 boxes, 1 linear foot
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-851-5612
Fax: 212-851-5613
Email: archives@uts.columbia.edu

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. A scrapbook of newspaper clippings arranged by John Gaskin Dunlop was donated by Floyd Shacklock in June 1950.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by phone, fax or email archives @uts.columbia.edu, as far in advance as possible.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to readers except for certain papers which are in fragile condition. These restrictions are indicated on the folders. Please note however that within the collection, the acid free copies of the original restricted documents can be consulted.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, MRL 8: Korea Conspiracy Case, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library Archives (Columbia University Libraries) at Union Theological Seminary, New York.

Historical Note

Also known as the “105 Incident,” the Korean Conspiracy Case characterizes the contentious relationship between Japan and Korea during a time of imperial colonization. Prior to the Korean Independence Movement in 1919, the Conspiracy Trial signaled a pivotal change in the course of Korean history. With heightened tensions between Korean Christians and Japanese control, the Japanese governor Count Terauchi grew suspicious of both the American missionary presence and steady growth of the Christian church in Korea. Convinced that the Korean Church was acting as an underground headquarter for revolutionary insurrection, the Japanese government reacted forcefully. Arrests were made, and prominent missionaries such as George S. McCune and Samuel A. Moffett were blamed for instigating rebellious attacks against Japanese control.

On June 28, 1912, the Japanese government accused 123 Koreans of treason and assassination attempts against the Japanese Governor-General. During the time of detainment, defendants were tortured, and more than 600 others were arrested. Accounts of brutal beatings have been recorded, some resulting in death. One hundred and five men were convicted and sentenced to hard manual labor, and six sentenced to prison. In April 1913 the case was appealed on grounds of injustice and falsified evidence.

Collection Scope and Content

The collection, organized in one series, consists of two boxes containing materials describing the Korean Conspiracy Case during Japanese colonial rule in Korea during the early twentieth century. A significant proportion of the collection involves exhibits most likely associated with the confidential meeting in New York on October 11, 1912, which prompted the Foreign Mission Boards to involve itself in the situation in Korea.

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Some reordering of the contents was made necessary by the confusion in this previously unprocessed collection from the Mission Research Library.

Contents

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	<p>Extract from letter to Arthur J. Brown from Samuel A. Moffett, Pyeng Yang, 1911;</p> <p>Correspondence between James L. Barton and A.J. Brown, 1911 – 12</p> <p>Correspondence of Philip L. Gillett, New York, 1912;</p> <p>Correspondence of PCUSA Board of Foreign Missions (J.R. Mott, A.J. Brown, Stanley White), New York, 1912 – 1913;</p> <p>Extract from letter to Speer from G.W. Fulton, Japan, 1912</p>
1	2	<p>Letter from Sa Ilwhan to John R. Mott, Seoul, Mar 24, 1913, with translated documents re Chosen Central YMCA, 1912 – 13;</p> <p>Letters signed H.G. Underwood & others to J.R. Mott, Seoul, 1913;</p> <p>Copy of letter: P.L. Gillett to E.C. Jenkins, Seoul, Jan 27, 1913 (2 copies);</p>
1	3	<p>Letter re arrangements for conference of missionaries in Korea, 1913;</p> <p>Letters to Dunlop from [A. Shamuel?], Sen Sen, 1913</p>
1	4	<p>Minutes of confidential conference on situation in Korea [joint meeting of political, academic, and mission board representatives], New York, 1912;</p> <p>“Call to Prayer for Korea,” private circulation, Dec 30, 1912</p>
1	5	<p>Exhibit 1: Reports of conference between officers of YMCA & government officials, Seoul, 1912;</p> <p>Exhibit 2: Letter from Zumoto to P.L. Gillett re “Edinburgh Letter,” Seoul, 1912;</p> <p>Exhibit 3: Letter to government of Korea acknowledging responsibility for “Edinburgh Letter,” Seoul, 1912;</p> <p>Exhibit 4: Newspaper editorials from “Seoul Press” combating statements of “Edinburgh Letter,” Seoul, 1912</p>
1	6	<p>Exhibit 5: Statements made to P.L. Gillett by missionaries re relation of police force to the Christian movement, Seoul, 1911 – 12;</p> <p>Exhibit 6: Instances affording circumstantial evidence re torture of uncondemned persons undergoing police examinations in Korea, Seoul, 191[2?];</p> <p>Exhibit 7: Articles written by missionaries who fluently speak Korean and attended all sessions of the conspiracy trial, Seoul, 191[2?];</p> <p>Exhibit 8: Poem ascribing worship to the emperor, Seoul, 1912</p>
1	7	<p>Constitution of Japanese YMCA, 1912;</p> <p>Constitution & bylaws of Chosen Choong Ang YMCA, Seoul, 1913;</p> <p>Calendar of events in conspiracy case, 1910 – 1911;</p> <p>Interview notes of J.L. Gerdine, P.L. Gillett and M. Komatsu, Seoul, 1913</p>

Box	Folder	Contents
1	8	Korean Conspiracy Case, by A. Pieters, 191[2?]; Conspiracy trial reports (exhibits 1 – 7) prepared by Albertus Pieters, Oita, Japan, 1912 – 1913 (Most reports in 2 copies)
1	9	Protocol of examination of Kim Hyon-sik, 1913, [Original restricted, copy available]; Records of police examinations of Baron Yun Chi-ho, Kang Moon-su, and Yi Chi-keun, 1913, [Original restricted, copy available]; Documents re Korean Conspiracy Case: summary of charges, extract from annual report of McCune re story and death of Ham, statement by twelve missionaries after first trial, copy of letter from A. Pieters to Yman Abbott), 1913, [Original restricted, copy available]
1	10	Copy of memorandum on the Korean Conspiracy Case by A. Pieters, 1913; Copy of records of the police examinations of Baron Yun Chi-ho, Kang Moon-su, & Yi Chi-keun, 1913; Copy of documents re Korean Conspiracy Case: summary of charges, extract from annual report of McCune re story and death of Ham, statement by twelve missionaries after first trial, letter from A. Pieters to Y. Abbott), 1913; Two copies of protocol of examination of Kim Hyon-sik, 1913; Statement to public, Taikyu, Korea, 1913;
1	11	“Is Japan Persecuting Christians in Korea?” by George Kennan in <i>The Outlook</i> , Dec 14, 191[2?]; “Is Japan Persecuting Christians in Korea?” by George Kennan, reprinted in <i>Seoul Press</i> , Jan 10, 1913 (2 copies)
1	12	“Korean ‘Conspiracy’ Case” by Richard Arthur Bolt, <i>Japan Chronicle</i> , Oct 31, 1912; “Internal Discord of the Korean YMCA” by Komatsu, Korean news article, Mar 9, 1913; Black & white portrait photograph of unidentified woman, [194?]
1	13	Scrapbook of newspaper clippings from <i>Japan Advertiser</i> , Dec 1912 – Apr 1913
2	1	Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, arranged by John Gaskin Dunlop, presented by Floyd Shacklock, Nov 1912 – Dec 1913
2	2	Newspaper clippings, loose from J.G. Dunlop scrapbook collection, 1913
2	3	<i>Korean Conspiracy Case</i> by Arthur Judson Brown, New York, 1912; <i>Situation in Korea</i> , printed report, 1912
2	4	Korean Conspiracy Trial: full reports of the proceedings, from <i>Japan Chronicle</i> , 1912 – 1913: Trial report, 1912; Trial report at Appeal, 2 copies, 1913