

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

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 6

Finding Aid for

**Christian Evangelistic and Religious Educational Posters
and
Christian Scrolls and Bible Verses
[1930? – 1949?]**



Image Credit: MRL 6: Christian Evangelistic and Religious Educational Posters;
Christian Scrolls and Bible Verses, Series 1, Box 7 OS, Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary,
Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Gregory Adam Scott, June 2010

Reviewed and updated by Sarah Davis, May 2014 with financial support from the Henry Luce
Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Missionary Research Library
Title: Christian Evangelistic and Religious Educational Posters
Christian Scrolls and Bible Verses
Inclusive dates: [1930? - 1949?]
Bulk dates: [1935? - 1945?]
Abstract: Posters and scrolls produced as visual aids to education and proselytization
by Protestant missionaries working in China. Most scrolls include Chinese
text and use images specifically designed for the Chinese mission field.
Size: 1 Manuscript Box, 7 OS Boxes, 15.50 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance: These records were part of the independent Missionary Research Library prior to its closure in 1976, when the records were accessioned to the Burke Library.
- Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkearchives@libraries.cul.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. All posters, however, are in a fragile condition, and this necessitates **Restriction** in handling. Please consult the CDs of digital copies in Series 2 Box 1.
- Preferred Citation: Item description, MRL 6: Christian Evangelistic and Educational Posters; Christian Scrolls and Bible Verses, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

History

Printing and publishing were important aspects of the Christian mission to China from its earliest days. With the advent of modern printing technologies, however, missions gained the ability to produce large-format posters and scrolls in large numbers and at low cost. These printed images were an important tool in the missionaries' programs of proselytization and education. Several institutions, groups and organizations contributed to the production of large-format printed images in China in the early twentieth-century, many of them also publishing pamphlets, tracts and books.

Founded in 1877 as the Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge among the Chinese, in 1906 the society changed its name to the Christian Literature Society for China 廣學會. Based in Shanghai, it was instrumental in publishing works on Western science and religion in Chinese, and cooperated with other organizations such as the American Presbyterian Mission Press 美華書館. The society was responsible for publishing most of the posters in Series 1 in cooperation with Jinling Seminary 金陵神學院. Also known as Nanjing Theological Seminary, this school was founded in 1907 by the Presbyterian Church in the United States and the PCUSA. It later gained the support of the Disciples of Christ, the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the MEC, South. In 1952 it was reformed into the Jinling Union Theological Seminary, and continues to be active today.

The Religious Tract Society for China 基督聖教書會 was established in 1921 through the merger of the Religious Tract Society for North and Central China, and the Chinese Tract Society. It was supported by British, Canadian and American Tract societies, and in its first year of combined operation had a reported circulation of more than two and a half million. The society published many of the posters in Series 1, and all of the items in Series 2. One year after the society's founding in 1922, the National Christian Council of China 中華全國基督教協進會 was established as a non-denominational consultative body for Protestant mission organizations in China. It is cited as having been involved in producing some of the posters in Series 1.

Two American artists are represented in the collection through their work for the United China Relief organization. James Montgomery Flagg 裴雷葛, 1877 - 1960, was an artist and illustrator, perhaps best-known for his depiction of Uncle Sam in an American recruitment poster from the First World War. Martha Sawyers, 1902 - 1988, was famous for her illustrations of foreign peoples and places, and produced a number of illustrations for posters and advertisements featuring Chinese figures.

Collection Scope and Content Note

Originally comprised of two separate collections, in June 2010 they were processed together as they contain very similar types of material. To preserve their archival integrity, however, their distinct identities have been maintained, and they appear as Series 1 and 2 of this Finding Aid.

Nearly all the items in this collection attempt to convey a specific message to the viewer, whether it is connected to the war effort, religious teachings, proper morality and behavior, or the lyrics and music of a song. Some images were copied directly from European models, but most feature Chinese figures, scenes and text, the messages having been tailored to a Chinese audience. The posters in Series 1, boxes 4-6 appear to have been intended for use as part of Sunday school education, while those in Series 2 were specifically directed toward children. Overall the items in this collection offer a window into the visual depiction of Christian teachings and Western culture in China, something that reflects the input of both Western missionary and Chinese converts regarding how this intercultural communication ought to take place.

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened or put into rolled storage. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes.

The entire collection has been digitally photographed and the images recorded on to CDRs with metadata. As the original posters are fragile, patrons are requested to consult the digital images of the posters, using the metadata sheet as a guide.

In 2014, the collection and finding aid were updated as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant. Additional materials were added from an unprocessed collection.

Further Sources

Several related collections can be found elsewhere in The Burke Archives MRL Series 6. The [Elwood G. and Donald G. Tewksbury Papers](#) contain a number of Sunday school posters similar to those found here. The [Phonetic Promotion Committee Records](#) also has a number of educational posters. Finally, there are 2.75 lin. ft. of records on the [National Christian Council of China](#). Also of interest are the [United China Relief Records](#).

Contents List

Series 1: Christian Evangelistic and Religious Educational Posters, [1930?-1949?]

Series	Box	Item	Contents
1	1 OS	1	Untitled [Popular deity on horseback with attendant]
1	1 OS	2	Untitled [Popular deity on tiger]
1	1 OS	3	Untitled [Popular deity on dragon]
1	1 OS	4	Untitled [Dongchu Siming 東廚司命 (Eastern Stove God, Lord of Fate)]
1	1 OS	5	Untitled [Buddhas and Ten Kings of the Underworld]
1	2 OS	1	"China... Looks to Us!" [United China Relief Poster]
1	2 OS	2	"China First to Fight!" [United China Relief Poster]
1	2 OS	3	Untitled [Chart]
1	2 OS	4	基督化家庭運動週 ["Christianize the Household" Movement Week]
1	2 OS	5	Untitled
1	2 OS	6	基督化家庭不可少的精神 [The Essential Spirit for Christianizing the Household]
1	2 OS	7	Untitled
1	2 OS	8	耶穌之友 [The Friends of Jesus]
1	2 OS	9	改造新人 [Reform into a New Person]
1	2 OS	10	女界祈禱圖 [Diagram of Prayer for Women]
1	2 OS	11	耶穌基督 [Jesus Christ]
1	2 OS	12	求主使我們的家庭生活真能基督化 [Please Lord make our household life truly able to be Christianized]
1	2 OS	13	罪人死 [Sin and Death]
1	2 OS	14	久暫悲樂圖 ["The Temporal and the Eternal"]
1	2 OS	15	條屏頁尺 [Consecration Hymn: "A Vessel Filled with Living Water"]
1	2 OS	16	謹慎自守免去一切貪心 ["Rich Fool"]
1	2 OS	17	接交心友 ["Meeting New Friends"]
1	2 OS	18	來受新福 [Come Receive New Blessings]
1	2 OS	19	懷新目的 [Thinking of a new goal]
1	2 OS	20	Untitled [Selections from Psalm 182]
1	2 OS	21	出死入生 ["Unto Life"]
1	2 OS	22	抬頭是福 [Raising one's head is a blessing]
1	2 OS	23	"Help China! China is Helping Us" [United China Relief Poster]
1	2 OS	24	"Enemy Sowing Tares"
1	2 OS	25	"The Sower"
1	2 OS	26	"The Wedding Feast (2)"
1	2 OS	27	"The Light Under a Bushel etc."
1	2 OS	28	"The House on the Rock"
1	2 OS	29	"Dives and Lazarus"
1	2 OS	30	"The Wedding Feast (1)"
1	2 OS	31	Teacher's Certificate, Lanao Folk Schools, Province of Lanao, Philippine Islands

Series 1: Christian Evangelistic and Religious Educational Posters (Cont'd)

Series	Box	Item	Contents
1	2 OS	32	Untitled
1	3 OS	1	Untitled [Group of Popular and Daoist Deities]
1	4 OS	1	感謝 [Thankfulness]
1	4 OS	2	忠實問題 [A Question of Loyalty]
1	4 OS	3	好撒瑪利亞人 [The Good Samaritan]
1	4 OS	4	那一種是正當的遊戲 [Which one is a Proper Game?]
1	4 OS	5	做工讀書 [Working and Studying]
1	4 OS	6	招待客人 [Entertaining Guests]
1	4 OS	7	父母的恩惠 [The Kindness of Parents]
1	4 OS	8	錢的用法 [The Way of Using Money]
1	4 OS	9	耶穌一生 [The Life of Jesus]
1	4 OS	10	慶祝聖誕 [Celebrating Christmas]
1	4 OS	11	願意幫助人 [Willing to Help People]
1	4 OS	12	窮的問題 [The Problem of Poverty]
1	4 OS	13	約瑟故事 (一) [The Story of Joseph (1)]
1	4 OS	14	約瑟故事 (二) [The Story of Joseph (2)]
1	4 OS	15	我們的大朋友 [Our Great Friends]
1	4 OS	16	看戲與做戲 [Seeing a Play and Putting on a Play]
1	4 OS	17	兒童的愛好 [Children's Hobbies]
1	4 OS	18	兒童衛生 [Children's Hygiene]
1	4 OS	19	中國名人 [Famous People of China]
1	4 OS	20	合作的好處 [The Benefits of Cooperation]
1	4 OS	21	新式和舊式的喪禮 [New and Old Style Funerals]
1	4 OS	22	草花護愛 [Protecting Plants]
1	4 OS	23	耶穌保護小孩 [Jesus Protects Children]
1	4 OS	24	承認錯處 [Admitting Mistakes]
1	4 OS	25	遊戲健康 [Playing is Healthy]
1	4 OS	26	摩西故事 [The Story of Moses]
1	4 OS	27	中國人的四種病 [Four Types of Sickness for Chinese People]
1	4 OS	28	怎樣除滅蒼蠅 [How to Eradicate Flies]
1	4 OS	29	兒童禱告 [Children Praying]
1	4 OS	30	Title Missing [Map of Western Hemisphere]
1	4 OS	31	Title Missing [Map of Eastern Hemisphere]
1	5 OS	1	Untitled [Quotes from Numbers 6:24-26; Genesis 31:49]
1	5 OS	2	Untitled [1 Samuel 3:9; Psalm 51:10 Psalm 119:105]
1	5 OS	3	Untitled [1 Samuel 16:7; Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 5:8]
1	5 OS	4	Untitled [Micah 6:8; Luke 10:29]
1	5 OS	5	Untitled [Matthew 19:13-15]

Series 1: Christian Evangelistic and Religious Educational Posters (Cont'd)

Series	Box	Item	Contents
1	5 OS	6	Untitled [Joshua 1:9; Isaiah 41:10; Psalm 121:7-8]
1	5 OS	7	Untitled [Psalm 19:1; Matthew 6:26, 28, 29]
1	5 OS	8	Untitled [Psalm 34:13; Proverbs 16:32; James 4:11]
1	5 OS	9	Untitled [John 3:16, 13:24-25, 15:13]
1	5 OS	10	Untitled [Psalm 67:1-2; Psalm 103:1-2]
1	5 OS	11	Untitled [Matthew 5:5,7,9]
1	5 OS	12	Untitled [Matthew 6:9-13]
1	5 OS	13	Untitled [Matthew 7:12; Acts 20:35; Matthew 5:16]
1	5 OS	14	Untitled [Matthew 20:26-28; Galatians 6:2]
1	5 OS	15	Untitled [Luke 2:40,52; 1 Timothy 4:12]
1	5 OS	16	Untitled [Luke 16:10; Ephesians 4:25]
1	5 OS	17	Untitled [Acts 17:24,25,28; John 4:24; 1 John 4:16]
1	5 OS	18	Untitled [Romans 12:9,17,21; Philippians 4:13]
1	5 OS	19	Untitled [Luke 2:51; Ephesians 6:1-2]
1	5 OS	20	Untitled [Luke 2:8-14]
1	6 OS	1	步行歌 [Walking Song]
1	6 OS	2	放學歌 [School is Out Song]
1	6 OS	3	我願意幫助別人 [I am Willing to Help Others]
1	6 OS	4	小農人撒種歌 [Little Farmers Spread the Seeds Song]
1	6 OS	5	遊戲歌 [Playing Song]
1	6 OS	6	請看農夫 [Please Look at the Farmers]
1	6 OS	7	感恩詩 [Poem of Thanksgiving]
1	6 OS	8	好少年 [Good Children]
1	6 OS	9	兩個小眼 [Two Small Eyes]
1	6 OS	10	孩童晨禱 [Child's Morning Prayer]
1	6 OS	11	謝飯歌 [Thanks for Food Song]
1	6 OS	12	孩童晚禱 [Child's Evening Prayer]
1	6 OS	13	快樂好家庭 [Happy and Good Household]
1	6 OS	14	主保護 [Lord Protect]
1	6 OS	15	孩童獻捐禱 [Children Collect Donations Prayer]
1	6 OS	16	主耶穌的話 [The Word of Lord Jesus]
1	6 OS	17	我為耶穌朋友 [I am a Friend of Jesus]
1	6 OS	18	打魚歌 [Fishing Song]
1	6 OS	19	聖誕歌 [Christmas Song]
1	6 OS	20	天下兒童歌 [All the Children of the World Song]
1	7 OS	1	出坑之法 ["The Horrible Pit"]

Series 2: Christian Scrolls and Bible Verses, [1930?-1949?]

Series	Box	Item	Contents
2	1	1	Pictures for Children's Services; Fourteen Pictures by Pastor Jen Chao Hai [Items 01-18 are bound together]
2	1	2	Untitled [Quotes from John 10:14; Psalm 55:22; Psalm 23]
2	1	3	Untitled [Psalm 19:8, 33:18]
2	1	4	Untitled [Psalm 94:9; Isaiah 59:1]
2	1	5	Untitled [James 1:26; Psalm 34:13]
2	1	6	Untitled [Psalm 24:4; 1 Timothy 2:8]
2	1	7	Untitled [Psalm 19:1; Genesis 1:6]
2	1	8	Untitled [Psalm 40:2; Proverbs 4:26,27]
2	1	9	Untitled [Matthew 8:20; Proverbs 6:5; Job 12:7]
2	1	10	Untitled [Psalm 32:8, 121:4]
2	1	11	Untitled [Matthew 7:16; Ephesians 5:9]
2	1	12	Untitled [Genesis 1:16,28; Psalm 8:7, 104:10,11]
2	1	13	Untitled [Proverbs 19:26; John 9:2]
2	1	14	Untitled [Proverbs 21:25, 31:27]
2	1	15	Untitled [Proverbs 24:10; Psalm 46:1]
2	1	16	Untitled [Isaiah 1:18; Psalm 51:7]
2	1	17	Untitled [Hebrews 9:22; Ephesians 1:7]
2	1	18	Untitled [Jeremiah 17:9]
2	1	19	人生禍福 (一) "Peace and Trouble 1" [Psalm 71:1,3,7]
2	1	20	人生禍福 (二) "Peace and Trouble 2" [Israel 12:2,3]
2	1	21	人生禍福 (三) "Peace and Trouble 3" [Israel 57:30,31]

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
2	1	1	2 CDRs with Digital Images of Posters, Metadata
2	1	2	Minutes from Religious Tract Society Meetings, 1931