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Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 8

Finding Aid for

Henry Gerhard Appenzeller papers, 1883 - 1902



Finding Aid prepared by: Aram Bae 2007

Summary Information

Creator: Henry Gerhard Appenzeller, 1858 - 1902
Title: Henry Gerhard Appenzeller Papers
Inclusive dates: 1883 - 1902
Bulk dates: 1884 - 1898
Abstract: A pioneer Methodist missionary to Korea, founder of the Pai Chai School in Seoul, member of the Board of Bible Translators, editor of *The Korean Review* and supporter of Korean independence; journals, correspondence, addresses, essays, sermons and short stories.
Size: 4 boxes, 1.75 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
Email: archives@uts.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance:** The MRL archives were 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. 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. A [Microfilm](#) of this collection exists at The Burke Library and can be consulted by admitted readers without appointment.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, MRL 8: H.G.Appenzeller Papers, series number, box number, folder number, The Burke Library Archives (Columbia University Libraries) at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York

Biography

A pioneer Methodist missionary to Korea, Henry Gerhard Appenzeller was born in Sonderton, PA on February 6, 1858. In 1882 he graduated from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA and continued his education at Drew Theological Seminary in Madison, NJ. In 1879 he married Ella Dodge.

In 1884 the Methodist Episcopal Board of Missions appointed Appenzeller to Korea, and he arrived a year later. He settled in Seoul and served as assistant superintendent of the Mission from its foundation until 1887, when he became full superintendent.

In 1886 he founded the Pai Chai School in Seoul, working as the principal for many years. He gained fluency with the Korean language and joined the Board of Bible Translators. He also served as pastor of the Union Church in Seoul. With Rev. Ohlinger Appenzeller established the Methodist Printing House and became editor of *The Korean Review*, successor to the *Korean Repository*.

Appenzeller was a great traveler, explorer, teacher, organizer and evangelist. He died in a shipwreck on June 11, 1902. His papers, deposited in the Mission Research Library before 1922, represent the early history of Protestant missionary work in Korea, specifically its Methodist beginnings, and reveal his support for the independence of Korea.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection retains original item numbering from the Mission Research Library and the numbers are retained thus () in the Finding Aid. The papers are organized in five small series:

- **Series 1: Journals (1 box, 0.5 lin. ft.)**
This series consists of ten journals, dating from 1883 – 1901, which contain personal entries, field observations, and Korean language practices. As the journals are extremely fragile, researchers are requested to use the microfilm copies rather than the originals.
- **Series 2: Correspondence, 1884 - 1902 (2 boxes, 0.75 lin. ft.)**
Series 2 in box 2 and 13 folders of box 3 includes four large letter copy books containing letters sent by Appenzeller, including a few by Ella Dodge Appenzeller. Correspondence topics include his appointment to Korea, creation and publication of the Korean Repository, Methodist mission board, diplomatic relations, and the independence of Korea. Letters are sent to prominent leaders in foreign missionary work such as J.M. Reid, C. H. Fowler, G. H. Jones, A. B. Leonard, H. N. Allen, W. B. Scranton and S. A. Moffett. The bulk of the correspondence dates from 1884 – 98.
- **Series 3: Sermons, (1 box, 0.25 lin. ft)**
This series from Boxes 3 - 4 contains over forty sermons by Appenzeller, arranged mainly chronologically, 1883 – 1900. The majority of the sermons were preached at Union Church in Seoul. Other sermons were delivered in the United States, such as at Grace Reformed Church in PA, Leidy's Reformed Church, Drew Seminary Chapel, Franklin and Marshall Chapel, and several in Green Village, NJ. Funeral addresses for Ms. Jacobson, Clarence R. Greathouse, and Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Clifford, including one given by H. G. Underwood are included.
- **Series 4: Korea Missions, (11f., 0.15 lin. ft)**
Box 4 of the collection contains both series 4 and 5.
Series 4 contains addresses given by Appenzeller in Korea, essays on the beginnings of Methodist missionary work in Seoul, sermon notes, notes on missionary life, and short stories. Items date from 1888 – 1901.
- **Series 5: Korea General, (6f., 0.10 lin. ft)**
Box 4 of the collection contains both series 4 and 5.
This series contains general items, ranging from 1885 – 1897 and including an editorial piece for the Korean Repository, notes on the history of Korean dynasties, Korean names, international relations with China and Japan, and a report on the health of Seoul by Dr. H.N.Allen. Other items include correspondences from R.H.Shufeldt, conversation notes with Mr. E.Hioke, an address delivered on Founder's Day, and loose papers from various dates.

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. 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.

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