

Guide to the Walter Russell Lambuth Papers

1907- 1924

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0.23 cu. feet

gcch.ms.4569

The purpose of this finding aid is to help you understand the nature of this collection and to assist you in the retrieval of material from this collection. The following pages contain a brief biographical history of the person, or persons, who created or collected these papers, followed by a general description of the collection in the scope and content note. If more detailed information is warranted then series descriptions also appear. The container listing appears last and is the listing of material in each box, or container, of this collection. To request material you need to turn to the container listing section. It is essentially a listing of file folders, or artifact items, in the collection. Each folder, or item, has a call number associated with it. Each folder also lists the inclusive dates of the material in the folder. On the material request form list both the call number and the folder, or item, title. Use a different line for each folder, or item, requested. When your request sheet is complete, or full, bring it to the archivist and the material will be retrieved.

Biographical Note

Walter Russell Lambuth (1854-1921), an American bishop, medical doctor and missionary, was born in Shanghai on November 10, 1854, the son of missionary parents, James William and Mary Isabella (McClellan) Lambuth. In 1859, he was sent to his relatives in Tennessee and Mississippi for his early education. His parents returned during the Civil War, and the Lambuth went back to China with them in 1864 and remained five years. He graduated from Emory and Henry College in 1875, studied theology and medicine at Vanderbilt University and received a medical degree.

In 1877 he was ordained an elder in the Tennessee Conference and was sent to China, where he worked in Shanghai and adjacent areas. During that same year he married Daisy Kelly. Mrs. Lambuth was born in Huntsville, Alabama, on February 24, 1858. Lambuth returned on furlough in 1881 and studied at Bellevue Hospital Medical College in New York and received a second degree of doctor of medicine. He returned to China in 1882 and organized medical and hospital service at Soochow and Beijing. In 1885, with his father, he founded the Japan Mission of his church and established the notable Kwansei Gakuin and the Hiroshima Girls' School. In 1891 he was assigned to field service in the United States and became editor of the *Methodist Review of Missions*. In 1894 he was elected general secretary of the Board of Missions, headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee. In this capacity he helped to unite Methodism in Canada and to form the autonomous Japanese Methodist Church, a union of all Methodist bodies working in that field.

Lambuth was elected bishop by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South in 1910 and was assigned to Brazil. In the same year the Board of Missions projected a mission in Africa and in 1911 Lambuth, accompanied by John W. Gilbert of Paine College and a leader in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, went to that continent. They traveled 2,600 miles by boat and rail and 1,500 miles on foot through the jungles to the village of Wembo Nyama in the Belgian Congo. Their cordial reception by Chief Wembo Nyama convinced Lambuth that he had been providentially led to the Batetela tribe, and he proceeded to arrange for a mission. After more than a year, he returned home and recruited a group of missionaries, whom he took to the Congo in 1913. For his travels through Africa he was made a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society in London. During World War I, Lambuth went to Europe, visited the front, and made arrangements for establishing Southern Methodism in Belgium, Poland and Czechoslovakia. In 1921 he took a party of missionaries to Siberia and founded a mission there, but it met opposition and was of short duration. He served briefly on the Pacific coast and for a period resided at Oakdale, California. Bishop Lambuth participated in the Ecumenical Methodist Conferences, the World Missionary Conference and other movements involving the cooperation of the churches. He wrote three books on medical missions, the Orient and the missionary movement. Lambuth died at Yokohama, Japan, on September 26, 1921, and his ashes were buried by the side of his mother in Shanghai. Daisy Kelly Lambuth died on May 24, 1923 in Oakdale, California.

Scope Note

The Walter Russell Lambuth collection reflects the Bishop's activities outside the United States in a series of manuscripts, articles and letters. There is one typed manuscript of his book, *Medical Missions: The Twofold Task*. There is a good chance that most, if not all, of the other typed manuscript articles of Lambuth's trips around the world were published by the Southern Methodist Church in their various periodicals. The correspondence is addressed to family, friends, colleagues and associated groups. Clippings are either death notices and/or tributes for both Lambuth and his wife.

Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner. The collection is arranged by record type with a sub-arrangement by geographic area when necessary. The dates recorded for each folder does not necessarily reflect all the potential dates for the documents in a given folder. There are a number of documents that have no date but still contain important information.

Related Material

Walter Russel Lambuth Collection, Millsaps College, Jackson Mississippi.

Paul Bentley Kern Collection

Mission Biographical Collection

United Methodist Church (U.S.). General Board of Global Ministries. Mission Education and Cultivation Program Department Collection

Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Board of Missions Collection

Papers of Harold S. Williams, National Library of Australia

John R. Mott Papers, Yale University Divinity Library, New Haven, Connecticut

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding this collection.

Restrictions on Use

Detailed use restrictions relating to our collections can be requested from the office of the archivist at the General Commission on Archives and History. Photocopying is handled by the staff and may be limited in certain instances. Before using any material for publication from this collection a formal request for permission to publish is expected and required.

Preferred Citation

When citing material from this collection please use the following format: Direct reference to the item or its file folder, Walter Russell Lambuth Papers, United Methodist Church Archives - GCAH, Madison, New Jersey. Do not make use of the item's call number as that is not a stable descriptor.

Subject Terms

Subject Names - Personal

Lambuth, Daisy Kelly

Wagner, Ellasue.

Subject Topics

Missions, Medical
Missions, Medical.
Missions-Africa
Missions-Brazil
Missions-India
Missions-Japan
Missions-Japan, Nagasaki
Missions-Korea

Subject Geographic

Africa
Brazil
Congo (Democratic Republic).
Hawaii
India
Japan
Korea
Mexico
South America

Genre

Articles
Clippings.
Correspondence
Manuscripts

Occupations

Bishop
Missionary.

Container List

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1554-2-2:1	Africa	1911-1914
1554-2-2:2	Brazil	1913
1554-2-2:3	Hawaii	Undated
1554-2-2:4	India	Undated
1554-2-2:5	Japan	1907
1554-2-2:6	Korea	1907-1919
1554-2-2:7	Mexico	Undated
1554-2-2:8	Siberia	Undated
1554-2-2:9	Death Notices	1921-1924
1554-2-2:10	Correspondence	1912-1921
1554-2-2:11	Medical Missions Manuscript	1920