

Amy O’Keefe Report on Columbia University Research Trip of August, 2013

Many thanks for a very fruitful trip to Columbia University’s Burke Library. Helpful staff enabled me to maximize my productivity during the short time I was there, and I came away thrilled with what I was able to accomplish. While in New York I went through a large amount of the materials in the National Christian Council of China papers, took photos of relevant items for future perusal, and obtained digital copies of much of the *China Bulletin*. I perused materials in the following boxes:

MRL 6: China / National Christian Council of China / Series 1: Records, 1919-1950

Series 2: Administrative Correspondence, 1928-1945

Series 3: N.C.C. China Bulletin, 1938-1941

Series 4: Publications, 1922 – 1940

MRL Pamphlets Collection, Folder 474, 475.

The materials that I gathered and began looking through while at the Burke Library helped me get a feel for the origins of the “Christianize the Home” movement begun by the N.C.C. in the 1920s, which I plan to make central in my dissertation. Through meeting minutes I was able to track this movement over a lengthy period, getting a feel for the movement’s link with religious education concerns. I similarly got a feel for major players in the N.C.C., and for some of the organizational struggles faced by this ambitious international and inter-faith organization. In this material-gathering trip, my hopes of finding documentation of the N.C.C.’s Christianize the Family movement were realized, as was my goal of obtaining access to the *China Bulletin*. Additional materials, including numerous wartime pieces of correspondence between N.C.C. leaders, promise to help me flesh out the story of inter-church interactions and the wartime goals of the Christian establishment in China.

I was able to sort through materials for the things that I would want to examine in my dissertation research, carefully taking notes to facilitate easy organization and later reference. I was thrilled to find the staff extremely accommodating and helpful. I was grateful to be informed that should I discover that I need some part of the N.C.C. files that I did not photograph, the staff at the Burke Library will be able to send me digital copies in the future – an invaluable service, as the rest of my dissertation research will be conducted in China and then back at the University of California, San Diego, probably too far for future trips, given my graduate student income constraints.

Again, I offer my deepest thanks for the generous Columbia University Library Research Grant, and for the very fruitful research trip that it funded. If I can provide any further information, or if more detailed feedback would be helpful at any point, I am more than willing to do all that I can.