

Guide to the American Lutheran Church Women in World Mission Oral History Project / Evangelical Lutheran Church Women in Global Mission Oral History Project Records

RG 100



Compiled by Brad C. Pohlman and Martha Lund Smalley

1994

409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-5301

divinity.library@yale.edu

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-5301
divinity.library@yale.edu
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

CALL NUMBER: RG 100

CREATOR: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

TITLE: American Lutheran Church Women in World Mission Oral History Project /
Evangelical Lutheran Church Women in Global Mission Oral History Project
Records

DATES: 1920-1991

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2 linear feet (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The American Lutheran Church Women in World Mission Oral History Project, and its continuation, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Women in Global Mission Oral History document the work of women missionaries serving under these church bodies (or predecessor bodies) from 1921-1991. This collection contains oral history transcripts of Lutheran women missionaries.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.100>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.100>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

American Lutheran Church Women in World Mission Oral History Project / Evangelical Lutheran Church Women in Global Mission Oral History Project (RG 100), Special Collections, Yale Divinity Library.

Biographical / Historical

The American Lutheran Church Women in World Mission Oral History Project, and its continuation, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Women in Global Mission Oral History Project, document the work of women missionaries serving under these church bodies (or predecessor bodies) from 1921-1991. The goals of the Women in World Mission Oral History Project were stated as follows:

- (1) To preserve for future researchers the oral narratives of American Lutheran Church (and predecessor bodies) women whose participation in the church's world mission effort began, ended, or took place during the period of 1930 to 1980;
 - (2) To provide a historical record of what it was like to be a woman in the missionary setting of the countries and period of the project;
 - (3) To provide supplemental and historical data about the role and activities of missionaries in general, and women missionaries in particular, in the countries and period included in this study project.
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Scope and Contents

[I. Stage 1](#)

[II. Stage 2](#)

[III. Stage 3](#)

[IV. Addendum](#)

There were 247 potential narrators for the oral history project, a potential narrator being a woman (married or single) who served at least 10 years as a missionary between 1930 and 1980, in the countries covered by the project. The potential narrators were divided into three groups:

- Stage I (38) Women born 1910 and earlier
- Stage II (43) Women born 1911-1920
- Stage III (166) Women born 1921 and later.

Of the potential narrators, sixty-three from Stages I and II were interviewed during the years 1985 to 1987. Countries of service represented by these women were Brazil, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Nigeria, South Africa and Taiwan. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America continued the project during the years 1990-1993, interviewing an additional thirty-four women. In order to accommodate important women representatives from predecessor churches not included in the American Lutheran Church project, the ELCA included some women born prior to 1930 in Stage III. Additional countries represented in Stage III include Argentina, Chile, Ethiopia, Guyana, Liberia, Nepal, and Tanzania. It should be noted that although China is listed as an area of service for several women, China was not officially included in these oral history projects; many Lutheran missionaries to China had already been interviewed by the Midwest China Center.

The Addendum contains oral histories of two of the directors of the world mission divisions of predecessor bodies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church: Theodore P. Fricke and Rolf A. Syrdal.

The oral transcripts are listed alphabetically by narrator within each stage. The listing also indicates country and dates of missionary service.

Information about copyright and permission to quote from the narratives is found in the introductory material preceding each transcript.

The Yale Divinity School Library's copy of this project is missing transcripts of two women present in the list provided for Stage II: Vera Eld and Frieda Foegel.

Arrangement

- I. Stage 1
- II. Stage 2
- III. Stage 3
- IV. Addendum

Collection Contents**Series I: Stage 1, 1921-1970**

b. 1, f. 1	Anderson, Adelia; China, Hong Kong	1921-1970
b. 1, f. 1	Bly, Stella, China; Taiwan	1926-1968
b. 1, f. 1	Boyum, Bernice; China, Japan	1946-1977
b. 1, f. 2	Burton, Laura; Cameroon, Central Africa	1936-1969
b. 1, f. 3	Danielson, Helen; Colombia	1939-1972
b. 1, f. 3	Eide, Emma; South Africa, Zimbabwe	1938-1971
b. 1, f. 3	Erickson, Lenorah; Tanzania	1940-1973
b. 1, f. 4	Fliehler, Lydia; Papua New Guinea	1930-1943
b. 1, f. 5	Hallanger, Alvilde; Madagascar	1928-1971
b. 1, f. 5	Helland, Muriel; India	1926-1952
b. 1, f. 5	Hennum, Gunda; Madagascar	1937-1969
b. 1, f. 6	Hoeger, Agnes; Papua New Guinea	1935-1965
b. 1, f. 7	Jensen, Cornelia; Colombia	1959-1970
b. 1, f. 7	Kettner, Gertruth; India	1937-1971
b. 1, f. 7	Kuder, Louise; Papua New Guinea	1934-1973
b. 1, f. 8	Larson, Pearl; Cameroon	1936-1975
b. 1, f. 9	Lovaas, Alta; Madagascar	1924-1950
b. 1, f. 9	Mager, Alice; Papua New Guinea	1937-1950
b. 1, f. 9	Matthias, Erma; Papua New Guinea	1947-1974
b. 1, f. 10	Nelson, Doris; South Africa	1929-1946
b. 1, f. 11	Norlie, Solveig; Madagascar	1937-1975
b. 1, f. 11	Nybrotten, Magnhild; Madagascar	1936-1966
b. 2, f. 12	Olson, Opal; Colombia	1944-1977
b. 2, f. 12	Rindahl, Laura; South Africa	1930-1971
b. 2, f. 13	Thompson, Milla; Madagascar	1954-1969
b. 2, f. 13	Vaagenes, Hanna; Madagascar	1920-1960
b. 2, f. 14	Winther, Maya; Papua New Guinea	1928-1969

Series II: Stage 2, 1951-1968

b. 2, f. 14	Aamodt, Elvira; Japan	1951-1968
b. 2, f. 15	Arnston, Norma; Papua New Guinea	1963-1977
b. 2, f. 15	Brandt, Ameer; Papua New Guinea	1945-1980
b. 2, f. 16	Bergh, Joyce; Colombia	1947-1970
b. 2, f. 16	Ditmanson, Joyce; Taiwan	1957-1981
b. 2, f. 17	Eastvold, Alice; Cameroon	(n.d.)
b. 2, f. 17	Frerichs, Sylvia; Papua New Guinea	1946-1975
b. 2, f. 18	Hall, Margaret; South Africa	1952-1966
b. 2, f. 18	Hanse, Eleanor Japan	1946-1948
b. 2, f. 19	Hyland, Judy; Japan	1940-1980
b. 2, f. 19	Jacobsen, Helen Margaret; Nigeria	1942-1984
b. 2, f. 20	Johnson, Camilla; Madagascar	1948-1976
b. 2, f. 21	Johnson, Caroline; Madagascar	1946-1976
b. 2, f. 21	Johnsrud, Carolyn; Japan	1950-1967
b. 2, f. 21	Kjome, June; South Africa	1945-1964
b. 2, f. 22	Knutson, Judith; Madagascar	1947-1967
b. 2, f. 22	Larsen, Florence; Cameroon	1950-1981
b. 3, f. 23	Lee, Kathryn Brazil	1958-1968
b. 3, f. 23	Lovaas, Evelyn; Madagascar	1946-1978
b. 3, f. 24	Mild, Frieda Papua New Guinea	1936-1958
b. 3, f. 24	Mitchell, Anna Marie Japan	1950-1982
b. 3, f. 25	Monke, Mildred; India	1938-1961
b. 3, f. 25	Morck, Hildur; Colombia	1946-1976
b. 3, f. 26	Nissen, Margaretha Nigeria	1943-1975
b. 3, f. 26	Olson, Mellie Japan	1951-1973
b. 3, f. 27	Pedersen, Lois; Japan	1950-1975
b. 3, f. 27	Rossing, Anna; Madagascar	1937-1967
b. 3, f. 27	Sand, Beryl; Cameroon	1943-1974
b. 3, f. 28	Scherle, Edna; Papua New Guinea	1946-1980

b. 3, f. 29	Sherer, Ruth; Papua New Guinea,	1946-1960
b. 3, f. 29	Smith, Margaret; Central African Republic	1953-1983
b. 3, f. 29	Stovner, Harriet; Cameroon	1947-1979
b. 3, f. 30	Tang, Cleone; Japan	1950-1968
b. 3, f. 31	Winter, Theora; Papua New Guinea	1947-1969

Series III: Stage 3, 1952-1977

b. 3, f. 31	Brown, Della; Tanzania	1952-1977
b. 3, f. 32	Coleman, Margaret; India	1939-1983
b. 3, f. 32	Ehrhart, Miriam; Liberia	1954-1966
b. 3, f. 33	Erickson, Helen; Tanzania	1944-1983
b. 3, f. 33	Faust, Louise; Tanzania	1949-1975
b. 4, f. 34	Halvorson, Marian; Tanzania	1946-1977
b. 4, f. 34	Hansen, Ruth; Guyana	1948-1982
b. 4, f. 35	Jacobsen, Evelyn; Madagascar	1955-1990
b. 4, f. 35	Johansson, Alice; Nepal, Tanzania	1954-1965
b. 4, f. 36	Knutson, Arlene; South Africa	1954-1972
b. 4, f. 36	Leidenfrost, Jane; Liberia	1956-1989
b. 4, f. 37	Miller, Margaret; Liberia	1954-1987
b. 4, f. 37	Nelson, Evelyn; China, Hong Kong	1944-1984
b. 4, f. 38	Nelson, Irene; Japan	1952-1991
b. 4, f. 38	Neudoerffer, Theodora; India	1935-1976
b. 4, f. 39	Neve, Muriel; Japan	1948-1988
b. 4, f. 39	Olson, Louise; Tanzania	1946-1989
b. 4, f. 40	Olson, Miriam; Japan	1950-1990
b. 4, f. 41	Peery, Marinelle; India	1947-1988
b. 4, f. 41	Sadler, Roslyn; Indonesia, Liberia, Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)	1940-1978
b. 4, f. 41	Sanoden, Alice; Japan	1952-1989
b. 4, f. 42	Schaeffer, Trudy; Ethiopia, Hong Kong, India	1955-1989
b. 4, f. 43	Schaffer, Elizabeth Liberia	1959-1974
b. 4, f. 43	Sigmon, Ruth; India	1945-1988
b. 5, f. 44	Slifer, Ruth; India	1948-1980
b. 5, f. 44	Solvik, Clarice; Liberia, Nepal	1949-1964
b. 5, f. 45	Spehr, Lydia; Liberia	1964-1990
b. 5, f. 45	Tack, Minnie; China, Hong Kong	1921-1968
b. 5, f. 46	Townsend, Virginia; Argentina	1949-1967

b. 5, f. 46	Wagner, Elaine; Guyana	1947-1983
b. 5, f. 47	Walck, Marion; Papua New Guinea	1947-1972
b. 5, f. 48	Wangen, Dorothy; Brazil	1956-1991
b. 5, f. 48	Wilke, Myrtle; China, Peru	1927-1973

Series IV: Addendum, 1994

b. 5, f. 49 Oral histories of directors of world mission divisions: Theodore P. Fricke and Rolf 1994
A. Syrdal

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Missionaries
Oral history
Women -- Missions

Corporate Body

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America